

P. O.Box 10144
Johannesburg 2000

30th March, 1990

Dr. Nelson Mandela,
Vice President,
African National Congress

Dear Dr. Mandela,

We are writing to you to let you know that you have our wholehearted support for the forthcoming talks and to assure you of our prayers for the successful outcome of them. We are sure, too, that a great many people share our support and join in prayer.

We highly appreciate your call for an end to violence and for the young people to return to their studies.

Above all it is our hope that these talks may result in full scale negotiations and consultations leading to a new dispensation granting equal justice to all, regardless of their colour, or any other group affiliations.

We profoundly believe that much as this country needs a completely new political structure, we need even more to find a cure for the prejudice, hate, arrogance, greed and fear which bedevil so many of our deliberations. Then can we fashion the new South Africa in which there is justice for all, a fair sharing of the available resources, and where no one need live in fear because we have learnt indeed to love our neighbour as ourselves. Or as Martin Luther King said, "We must resolve to live together as brothers or perish together as fools".

Further we believe that:

the one real hope for the races to live together in peace and harmony will be realised through a genuine change of heart in both black and white, rich and poor;

black and white alike cannot outwardly enjoy a stable relationship until they have inwardly prepared for it;

forgiveness is nobler than hate and reconciliation stronger than revenge;

national strength springs from the spirit of the people rather than from military might;

negotiations need to be conducted on the basis of "what is right" rather than "who is right";

we South Africans should take heed of William Penn's adage "Men must choose to be governed by God or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants";

if we find the solution to our own problems we will be able fulfil our destiny towards the rest of Africa.

We have also written a similar letter to the State President. May God bless you as you work for our future.

Yours sincerely,

Ds. George Daneel Prof. Cornelius Marivate Mxolisi Pono Judge John Trengove