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P.O. Box 1138,  
JOHANNESBURG.

2nd February, 1969.

Mr Japie Basson, M.P.,  
House of Assembly,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Japie,

As arranged, I am writing to ask for your kind help on behalf of the Sobukwe family.

The Government allows them to visit Mr Sobukwe on Robben Island twice a year, for a fortnight at a time. In practice, Mrs Sobukwe goes down for a fortnight on her own in mid-year, and she and her four children go together in January.

Despite an approach to the Minister of Justice, they have to pay their own train fares. When Mr Sobukwe was first detained on the Island in 1963 it was understood that the Government would provide his family with rail warrants to enable them to visit him, but this has been refused. I say "understood" because there is some confusion as to just what was promised at the time.

It is only since 1967 that the family has actually been allowed to live on the Island. They apparently are provided with food from the warders' mess -- and must pay for it. The cost for their last visit was R42. It is about R10 when Mrs Sobukwe goes on her own. It's a negligible amount for the Government, and it does seem mingy to charge for the food.

Any help which you can give will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN POGRUND

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