

**AJ23**



Embassies

Box "A 123"

31 October 1984

Dear Madam/Sir

All indications point to a deepening crisis in South Africa. The government seems to be increasingly less willing to address the just demands of our people and is becoming more reliant on repressive and para-military measures.

Thus, their refusal to address the demands of the Vaal Civic Association for affordable rentals and their refusal to accede to the demands of high school students serve only to exacerbate the conflict. Clearly, in the context of this conflict, military manoeuvres like Operation Palmiet amount to acts of bravado and not solutions to the problem. The decision to allow Community Councillors to establish their own police force must be seen in exactly the same light.

Democratic popular organisations like the UDF and its affiliates have been met with the same 'kragdadigheid'. Minister Le Grange's threat to ban the UDF is an example of this. We believe that the threat was not executed only because it was inopportune for the government to take such an arbitrary action at that point. However, we see the effect of the threat played out in different ways. Firstly, more UDF officials are being sought by the Security Police, possibly for a further wave of detentions. Secondly, the government is now using its surrogate bantustan leaders to execute Le Grange's threats. The UDF, COSAS and AZASO have now been banned in the Transkei. More recently, Gatsha Buthelezi's war-mongering indicate that more such acts might be in the pipeline.

In essence, this amounts to full-scale war on the UDF and, indeed, on the people of South Africa. All of this is geared to silencing the democratic voice of the people.

The UDF urges you to bring these facts, and the context within which they occur, under the attention of your government. We would highly appreciate it if your government could voice their protest with the South African government.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Manuel  
Acting General Secretary

**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

**©2012**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.