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national union of south african students
nasionale unie van suid-afrikaanse studente



TELEFOON 2-7831 TELEPHONE
KABELS NATUSAS CABLES

ST GEORGESSTRAAT 148 ST. GEORGE'S STREET
KAAPSTAD CAPE TOWN

8th January, 1964.

Dr. A.Paton,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF
Natal

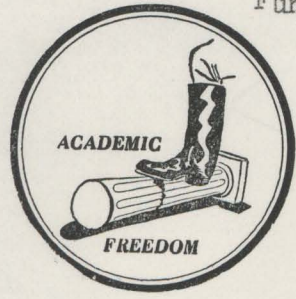
Dear Dr. Paton,

I believe that when you were in Cape Town you talked to Miss Spilhaus of the Cape Town Defence and Aid about an emergency loan which NUSAS recently made to Mr. George Mbele's wife, on the understanding that Cape Town Defence and Aid which in due course repay NUSAS for the money which we have advanced to Mrs Mbele.

I expect you already know most of the details of this particular case. Mr. Mbele was a student at the university of Natal and was detained under the "90 Days Plus Clause" of the 1963 G.L.A. Act. His wife who is a professional nurse applied through the courts on a writ of habeus corpus for his release. Her case failed and she had to pay costs. Fellow students of Mr Mbele tried to assist by raising funds and when they found they could not raise enough to meet the court costs applied to NUSAS urgently for assistance. I advised the Durban students to apply to Natal Defence & Aid at which stage they phoned me and informed me that Defence and Aid does not exist in Natal, I then went to Miss Spilhaus and she did not deny that the Durban Defence & Aid did not exist. Because it would take some time for Cape Town Defence & Aid to assist Mrs Mbele I suggested that we should give the money to Mrs Mbele ourselves and then apply to Cape Town Defence & Aid for a refund.

However Miss Spilhaus then wrote to me to tell me that the Durban Defence & Aid did exist and that this committee was the one which should be dealing with Mr Mbele's case. I am therefore approaching you to find out if it would not be possible for the Durban Defence & Aid Fund to refund NUSAS the R40 which it sent to Mrs Mbele.

I attach to this letter two photostats sent to me by Mr. W.T. Mhlambiso who acted as the contact between NUSAS and Mrs. Mbele. From these you will see that Messrs. Arenstein and Fehle were the attorneys who handled the case.



I think that if you were to contact them they would be able to give you more of the financial details of the case.

I look forward to hearing from you about this.

At the same time, since you are an honorary Vice-President of NUSAS, I hope you will not consider it an impertinence if I suggest to you that it might be well worthwhile to bring a couple of Natal students on to your Defence and Aid Committee in Durban. Adrian Leftwhci, Peter Horwitz and I all work for the Defence and Aid Committee down here and whatever the value of this has been to the Defence and Aid committee it has been of value to NUSAS particularly as far as assistance to Fort Hare students is concerned. Since Natal students are at the moment taking quite a beating for political offences I do think it would be very useful from our point of view to have someone working on your committee. Possibly your committee might find the students themselves of some use; they are quite often able to to work which other people arent so willing to do.

The people I would recommend as possibilities to serve on the committee are as follows:

1. Darkie Sepopedi, President of the SRC at UN.NE a fourthyear medical student with a Bsc. from Fort Hare.
2. Thami Mhlambiso, former president of the SRC of UN.NE and a former Vice-President of NUSAS. I am not sure if Thami is still a student but I think you know him already as an able an intelligent person.
3. Bala Mudaly, a UN.NE student with a B.A. and a U.Ed. who is Director of Studies on the NUSAS executive.
4. Tony Levy , former President of the SRC at NN.D. , at present Director of Training College affairs in NUSAS, and probably destined for a high position in NUSAS.

Darkie Sepopedi is on vac at the moment but he should be back in February and can be contacted through the SRC. Marian Buildings, 35 Lancers Road, Durban. Bala Mudaly's address is 20 Rathlin Road, Mayville, Durban. Tony Levy's address is 108 Bel Aire, Snell Parade, Durban. Thami is at the moment staying with Mawa Ramgobin, 75 Dunnottar Avenue, Durban. If by any chance you want a student from Pietermaritzburg, John Rabb (care of SRC) is the Director of Student Relations on the NUSAS Executive.

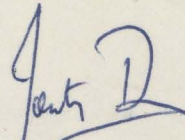
I hope you are not annoyed either at these suggestions or at the fact that I had not realised that your very hardworking (as I gather from Bill Hoffenberg and Miss Spilhaus) committee in Durban existed.

At the moment we are making desperate efforts to prepare ourselves for the new academic year during which we expect renewed attacks on NUSAS from Vorster and his colleagues. I am afraid that with the usual Christmas celebrations this office has got rather behind with its work and is now paying for it.

I hope to be in Natal in April and hope very much that you will be able to spare the time to see me when I am there.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Jonty Driver
President

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23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

28th January, 1964.

Dear Jonty,

When NUSAS announced its intention of establishing a fund, it was a great relief to the Defence & Aid Committee in Durban. We are a poor and struggling fund, and were very encouraged to hear that the mighty NUSAS was coming to our aid. So it comes as a bit of a shock that you should want us to pay R40.00 which you sent to Mrs. Mbele. I think that as a matter of propriety you should withdraw your request.

One of the most active members of the Committee is Fern Levy, who is a sister of Tony. She is a first-class girl and is a student herself. I can assure you that if we need more student help we shall certainly ask for it.

Both Mrs. Paton and myself send you our sympathy in the loss of your father. We were staying at Bill's on the night when you made your trip to Bloemfontein, and you were very much in our thoughts then and on the following day.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

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