



# Anti-Apartheid Movement

13 Mandela Street London NW1 0DW Tel 01-387 7966

**President**  
Most Revd Trevor Huddleston CR

**Vice Presidents**  
Sir Hugh Casson KCVO  
Jack Jones CH  
Joan Lester  
Rt Hon David Steel MP

**Sponsors**  
Lord Brockway  
Ray Buckton  
Basil Davidson  
Professor Dorothy Hodgkin OM  
Alex Kitson  
Rt Hon Jeremy Thorpe  
Pauline Webb

*The Anti-Apartheid Movement  
is in Consultative Status with  
the Economic and Social Council  
(ECOSOC) of the United Nations*

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

12th February 1985

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

When we met on the eve of the visit of Mr P.W. Botha to Britain we discussed the continued imprisonment of Mr Nelson Mandela. I was grateful to you for having raised his case with Mr Botha when you met.

As you know Mr Botha has now put forward conditions for Mr Mandela's release which are clearly unacceptable.

This and other developments are taking place at a time of acute crisis in South Africa with the rejection of the new Constitutional proposals by the Indian and Coloured communities and the virtual collapse of local African administrative organs. Since the visit of P.W. Botha several hundred lives have been lost as a result of police and military action against unarmed protests. In this situation I believe peace can only be brought about with the immediate release of Nelson Mandela who remains the acknowledged leader of the Black majority population. Mr Mandela has himself in the statement released on his behalf this weekend set out the conditions necessary to achieve peace.

In this situation I would urge you to consider the possibility of representations at the highest level by Her Majesty's Government with the South African authorities with the aim of securing the release of Nelson Mandela without any conditions.

We believe this could make an enormous contribution to avoiding unnecessary suffering and preventing the escalation of violence in South Africa.

I very much hope that you will give this proposal serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Huddleston + CR  
President