

hill house
1 penzance road
mowbray
7700
(021) 47-3127
522351
REG. NO.: 870079/08

I D A S A
I D A S A
I D A S A
I D A S A
I D A S A

Mrs Isobel Douglas Jones
P.O. Box 2767
North End
PORT ELIZABETH
6000

Dear Isobel

This has reference to your letter to Dr Slabbert dated 20 August 1987. I appreciate the fact that you sent me, and others, copies of the aforementioned letter as it enables me to clear up a few obvious misunderstandings.

My presence on the platform had nothing to do with any intentional overriding of the decisions made between the parties who organised the meeting. Following numerous threats to the Dakar delegates and Dr Slabbert in particular I took it upon myself to be armed at the meeting in question. This was done due to the fact that the P.E. meeting was Dr Slabbert's first public appearance since our return from Dakar. I hope that you understand my concern for the safety of Dr Slabbert and others. Having been well aware of the sensitivities in P.E. I declined Rosemary Smith's offer to close the meeting.

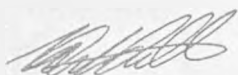
With regards to the "ignoring of sensitive local conditions" I believe that I was well aware of the issues well ahead of time, as a result I flew to Port Elizabeth a day ahead of time in an attempt to diffuse the problem. The "sensitive local issue", as you are probably aware, revolved around the mischevous deeds of a few members of a well known local family who were attempting to sabotage the meeting.

I believe that if I had not confronted them with a few hard facts which were brought to my attention by local community leaders, they would have continued with their efforts to make the meeting a failure.

Nevertheless the meeting was a success despite the problems encountered before hand. I hope that I have managed to explain myself with regards to my involvement in the pre-meeting arrangements. I believe that problematic issues should be talked through with those concerned before pen is put to paper. Such a procedure will invariably help to do away with misunderstandings and preconcieved ideas.

In conclusion I would like to say thank you to the Black Sash for your co-operation in past projects. We believe that Idasa and the Black Sash have a lot in common and therefore we should strive hand in hand towards a non-racial democratic South Africa.

Regards



Wayne Mitchell
National Co-Ordinator

C.C. Dr F. Slabbert
Mary Burton / Keith Wattrus