Anti-Apartheid Movement

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nomic and Social Council
COSOC) of the United Nations

19 August 1982

Mrs Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing St,
London SW1.

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

Two days ago agents of the South African regime struck again killing Ruth First, a leading opponent of apartheid, who was lecturing in Maputo the capital city of Mozambique. Ms First lived and worked for many years in Britain and had many ties with this country.

Last March it was the turn of our capital city, London, when the offices of the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress, were bombed. Miraculously nobody was killed or seriously injured.

These acts of international terrorism are only part of an escalating pattern of agression and destabilisation by apartheid South Africa aimed in particular at the Frontline and neighbouring African states.

We are amazed by your silence amd that of your government in the face of repeated acts of aggression as well as assasinations carried out by the Pretoria regime and its agents.

We can no longer accept that the Government can stand idly by as South Africa unleashes a reign of terror and violence within its own borders and in Namibia as well as in sovereign independent African states.

Is is not surely time for the Government to take some effective action both unilaterally and collectively through the "Ten" and the United Nations? We would suggest i med-iately that the British Ambassador in Pretoria conv a formal protest to the Pretoria regime.

Yours sincerely,

Abdul S. Minty,
Honourary Secretary.