



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 October 1984

Dear Mr. Hughes,

Thank you for your letter of 11 October about the three South African leaders who are still in the British Consulate in Durban.

When the men first sought refuge in our Consulate we decided, for humanitarian reasons, not to evict them. But we cannot ignore the changing circumstances surrounding their stay. When the Natal Supreme Court rejected their appeal we thought it right to point out that all that could be done had been done and that it was hard to see what purpose was served by their remaining in the Consulate.

There have also been a number of instances in which the three have indulged in political activity, which is clearly an abuse of Consular premises. We asked the men for an assurance that such activity would cease but this has not been forthcoming. In view of this, and given the growing disruption to the Consulate's work, we have had no choice but to take measures designed to end further exploitation of our premises for political purposes and to reduce considerably the Consulate's work.

I should stress to you that our attitude to detention without trial and to the other repressive measures associated with apartheid remains unchanged. It is regrettably the case that our ability to communicate with the South African Government on these broader issues is at present inhibited by the situation in the Durban Consulate.

/It remains

31 OCT 1984

- 2 -

It remains my hope that a satisfactory solution can be found to this difficult problem.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Shalika

Robert Hughes, Esq., M.P.