Interview with Richard Caborn by Shijia Yu, 16 December 2013, for the Anti-Apartheid Movement Archives Committee project Forward to Freedom
http://www.aamarchives.org/

Shijia Yu: Can you tell me a little bit about yourself? Your full name, when and where you were born?

Richard Caborn: Yes, I'm Richard Caborn, born in Sheffield in the United Kingdom in 1943. I was educated and worked in Sheffield, and then became the Member of the European Parliament in 1979, of which I was a member, representing Sheffield for five years until 1984. But then in 1983 I was elected for Sheffield Central to the House of Commons.

SY: And have you been involved in any other political movement or activities apart from the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

RC: Oh yes. I was in many, many organisations – on Central America, in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, it's a single issue organisation, and many other single issue campaigns and political campaigns over the years, but the central one was the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which I've been active in since the late '60s and early '70s.

SY: When and how did you first become aware of the situation in Southern Africa?

RC: I was a trade union official in the steel works in Sheffield. And it was through the trade union movement that we became aware of the apartheid regime in South Africa, particularly as members of our union, the AEU, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, also had members around the world, in many of the Commonwealth countries like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada we had branches, international branches, of the union, and it was through the union that we learned about the apartheid regime in South Africa and the way it was treating trade unionists as well. So that's how I became involved – through the trade union movement.

SY: So you said that you became involved through the trade union. Why did you feel that you should do something?

RC: Because it is against all trade union principles to have people with a right to self-determination, irrespective of their colour or creed, and that was being denied to people in South Africa, and that was fundamentally wrong. And Mandela and others at the Rivonia trial had been committed to life imprisonment for asking for the basic human right of self-determination.

SY: And how did you first become involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

RC: I became involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement through the trade unions, and then I joined the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the '70s and became actively involved as an elected member in 1979, when I became a member of the European Parliament and I was on the Executive of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. In my own

town, Sheffield, I was obviously a member of the Sheffield Anti-Apartheid Movement in in my own city. And then I became involved with the Anti-Apartheid Movement nationally in the late 1970s, early 1980s.

SY: So you described several places that you became involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement. What was your role?

RC: Well, my role at a local level in my own city was to develop the Movement, spread the message of why apartheid was bad and wrong, and why we should have campaigns to make sure that the message was actually brought out, and people understood that was happening in a Commonwealth country, in South Africa. That was one point. The second point was to also make representations to the national government and isolate the apartheid regime in South Africa. So there was a number of facets to that, local, national and international.

SY: And you mentioned the campaigns were important. Were there any campaigns that you were involved in?

RC: Oh, we did many campaigns. There were campaigns of writing to political prisoners, there were boycott campaigns, there were petitions that we, ordinary people, signed. We did letter writing, we sent Christmas cards to political prisoners, we used the media extensively, by involving the churches, trade unions, political parties and ordinary people. We had the boycott campaign, boycott of the banks, Barclays, boycott of South African goods, boycott of artists going to South Africa, to sing or to dance. There were many different campaigns that we had to first of all isolate the regime politically and made it a pariah internationally, and also spread the message to ordinary people, of the abhorrence of apartheid.

SY: And are there any incidents or activities through these campaigns or the whole Anti-Apartheid Movement that you particularly would like to talk about?

RC: There are many. In 1979, I became a member of the European Parliament for Sheffield, and that gave me an elected forum, a political platform, in the European Parliament, and I was very privileged to take the then President of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, to Strasburg where the Parliament met, for him to again tell the members of the European Parliament the abhorrence of apartheid, but more importantly, how important it was to make sure there was maximum participation in the campaign against apartheid internationally by ordinary people and their organisations. If we were going to bring the apartheid regime down, we needed international solidarity to do that. And that was the message that Oliver Tambo gave to members of the European Parliament, not only to the Parliament, to oppose the apartheid regime, but also make sure that it was used in a wider political network as well.

SY: Can you describe what you think in these campaigns were the high points and low points?

RC: Well, there were some terrible low points, when we were making representations for comrades on death row. We made representations, it was a very brutal regime

and there was great suffering in South Africa, not just political, but also at a human level, of how people were treated not as human beings but as animals. And there were low points, no doubt. And as far as our campaign went, although we kept going through the ’70s and into the ’80s, we felt sometimes that we weren’t effective in getting the message across, in trying to bring down this regime. But that started changing during the 1980s, the late 1980s, and from this country’s point of view, I think the highlight or the change of attitudes came through the big concert that we held in 1988 for Madiba’s 70th birthday. And I think that also, what became … we campaigned for the release of political prisoners and the removal of the apartheid, the downfall of apartheid, I think in the middle ’80s the campaign became more personalised, around one person, even though that was symbolic of all the wrongs of apartheid and the imprisonment of political prisoners. But because you could communicate around one individual, Nelson Mandela, it focused the campaign. The whole campaign was about the release of Nelson Mandela, and the implication of that was obviously the downfall of the apartheid regime. So in 1987, when the discussion took place about how can we celebrate Madiba’s birthday, his 70th birthday, while he was in prison, the idea was to have a big concert at Wembley, which we organised, and it ran for ten hours, from midday to 10 at night, this great concert, 860 million people around the world, broadcast live in the UK, from midday to 10 o’clock at night, and was replayed on New Year’s Eve that same year. And that was a fantastic event, in that it got the message across in probably the most effective way – through song. ‘Free Nelson Mandela’, the song written by Jerry Dammers, Simple Minds wrote a special song for the event. It was a huge success, as I said, 860 million people around the world. However, on the Wednesday, I think it was before that event, the right-wing MPs here in the House of Commons, along with an organisation called the Freedom Movement, it tried to stop the BBC broadcasting the event, which it could not, because the BBC did not accept it that it was breaking its Charter. And the concert went ahead and we got even more publicity because they were trying to stop the concert going ahead. The other interesting thing, which will show solidarity, we were in difficulties financially about the concert, and the week before we were told that they were going to declare us bankrupt, the organisation that was organising the concert, a company called Freedom Productions, and it was the trade union movement that actually saved the concert by providing £20,000 two days, three days, before the concert was taking place, the Transport and General Workers Union provided us with £20,000, which financially bailed us out, and we were able to put the concert on, which once it had gone on, was hugely successful and made a lot of money. But it was a crucial time just before the concert, when we hadn’t got enough money and were going to declare the organisation bankrupt, but the trade union movement, in an action of solidarity, saved us financially.

SY: And since then you have been an MP?

RC: Yes, I became an MP in 1983, and it was at that stage that we started campaigning here [Sheffield], that we started many campaigns, representations to ministers, but we created an all-party group. There was a group in the House of Commons called the Southern Africa Group, which was run by an MP called John Carlisle, who was the member for Luton, and he was a supporter of the apartheid regime. He was an apologist for Pretoria, but we called a meeting, the annual general meeting, of the all-party Southern Africa group here, in about 1985, I think it

was, probably '84, and we defeated all their officers and we took the group over. And we had a all-Party group, Tories, Liberals, Labour were all in that group, and then we built that group over a couple of years to be quite an effective group in the House of Commons, where we fostered debate on the floor of the House, where we made representations to ministers, where we held the campaign for Nelson Mandela, and the downfall and isolation of the apartheid in the first instance, and its ultimate downfall. We also worked through organisations like the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth was important, and obviously the Queen being the Head of State and being Head of the Commonwealth we thought it important that we also involved … we had a lot of connections with a lot of Commonwealth countries. We were very supportive of the Commonwealth Heads of State when they signed the Gleneagles Agreement, which was to boycott South African sport, the sports boycott. And there were many campaigns that we were directly and indirectly involved in, and many MPs were very supportive of our campaigns.

SY: You just mentioned the all-party committee. I wonder if there were any Conservatives involved and what would their attitude be?

RC: … ironically, the person who chaired the group for a good many years was a guy called Ivan Stanbrook, he's dead now, Ivan Stanbrook, he was quite a right-wing member of the Conservative Party. But he had worked in South Africa and he had met a number of ANC members in exile and he became a great supporter of the ANC and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. And that was very useful, because he was a conduit who we used between our group and Margaret Thatcher, because he obviously knew Margaret Thatcher very well, and when we wanted to make representations privately to Margaret Thatcher – sometimes you have to do things privately – Ivan Stanbrook was the man who carried the message to Thatcher about comrades on death row to make representations, and that we did on a number of occasions. How successful were they? Well, nobody will ever know. But we did that, and Ivan Stanbrook was an important part of that. There were others, like Peter Temple Morris, he was another Tory, very much to the left of the Tory Party, Peter Bottomley, who is still with us, he's still an MP, he was a member, and on the Liberal side David Steel was also a member. Another supporter was Lynda Chalker, she's Baroness Chalker now, but she was Lynda Chalker then, and she was a Conservative. David Steel was a Liberal, Simon Hughes was a Liberal, and so there were many, for all sorts of different reasons, were against the apartheid regime, and were prepared to publicly support a group like the all-party group. And that went on for a good number of years. In fact in 1988, no in 1990, in April of 1990 when Mandela had been released in the February of 1990, Mandela asked us to put on another concert, which we did, in April 1990. The first concert took us 18 months to organise, the second concert took us 54 days to organise, because Madiba wanted a concert to thank the world. And he came to London … I remember that Mandela had only been released in February that year, in 1990, there was still tensions in the ANC about whether he should actually visit Britain, because they called it Thatcher's Britain, Thatcherism was obviously at its height. And he came, but he didn't meet Thatcher, but we, the all-party group, and myself as Secretary organised for Mandela to visit the House of Commons in April 1990. And the advice of some of the officials in the House of Commons was that: 'Did he really ought to come in the precincts of Parliament, and to the Grand Committee Room to speak?' We said 'Yes, he must'.

But there was opposition to that, quite a lot of opposition. But he came and he spoke, and he laid out at that meeting exactly what the rainbow nation was. And what we've got to remember is that at that time there were still some in the press that saw South Africa being a bloodbath. They never did believe that you could actually bring forward a regime, a democratic regime, that would see a peaceful transition in South Africa. And Mandela laid out that day exactly what, and it was in total contradiction to what many what reporters said at that time about the bloodbath of South Africa. And he called for the rainbow nation by democratic means. It took nearly four years to negotiate the final constitution that would allow all people, of whatever colour and of whatever religion, whatever political position, to be able to vote in a free and democratic election in South Africa, which it did in 1994. And Mandela was laying that out. And I said in Westminster Hall, on the final week, and I spoke, had the privilege of speaking, had those critics listened to Mandela that day, they would have seen a very sincere person, a man of great stature, massive intellectual ability, but who more importantly had the confidence of the people that he led, and that brought around the peaceful transition in South Africa which many believed could not take place. And so it was quite a momentous meeting, I believe, in Westminster Hall. And what was so pleasing also was that in this great hubbub, all the waitresses in the members' tea room – we had a tea room – and many of them were of West Indian origin and they all wanted to meet Mandela. And Mandela was actually given a guard of honour as he walked out through the back door of Westminster Hall by all these young West Indian girls, and he kissed every one of them as he went through the door and thanked them for being there, which was fantastic. Six years later, in that very same hall, Westminster Hall, he returned as President of South Africa and the Hall was packed, television cameras, everybody that was anybody in the United Kingdom was there on that day. In April 1990 we weren't allowed television cameras in the Grand Committee Room, and [inaudible] which Mandela told the world how serious he was. He was phenomenal.

SY: Certainly one of the high points …

RC: It was phenomenal. I met Mandela on a number of occasions, and I've been very privileged to do that. And I suppose the last time, no not the last time, I met him on his 90th birthday, but in 2005 we in this country in London, we were bidding for the Olympics, and Madiba was a great lover of sport. I was then the Sports Minister and I was asked if I could get Mandela to support London's bid for the Olympics, in Singapore, in July 2005. So I went down to see him, Madiba, in South Africa, in Johannesburg, and he in his teasing way, he said to me: 'Ah Richard, there are many countries that are bidding – Moscow, Paris, New York'. And I said to Madiba, 'But there's only one Commonwealth country in this bidding'. And I said 'That is London'. And he said 'Yes, and the Queen is the Head of the Commonwealth', and that is why, with that little smile and that warmth, the man is phenomenal. And he said, 'And that's why I'm supporting London'. And he supported London. He gave me a lovely letter, with fantastic photographs, and that was used extensively in our campaign to win the IOC's support for London's bid for the 2012 Olympics. Unfortunately Madiba couldn't make it, he was not well then and therefore couldn't make it. But that was a nice personal event.

SY: Just to go back a bit to the Conservatives' involvement in the All-Party Committee. I wonder if there was any difference in terms of their attitude compared to the Liberals.

RC: There were very few Conservatives backed the campaign, let me be clear on that. There were only a handful of Conservatives. There were probably half a dozen max, you know, out of the 300, 360, they had then, so keep thinking proportion, there were massively more against our campaign than there were for it. Anyway, during the campaign, the Young Conservatives were calling for the hanging of Mandela. At that time Thatcher was saying that Mandela and the ANC was a terrorist organisation, from the dispatch box of the House of Commons she denounced the ANC, she rejected all sanctions against South Africa in whatever form in the UK. She was hostile to the Commonwealth Eminent Persons report, which became a point of conflict for the Commonwealth member states. So there was a lot of opposition too and they were apologists of the apartheid regime in many many ways. I mean the apartheid regime was seen as a sound economic model, because you treated people as commodities, within the economic structure, which was fundamentally wrong.

SY: And how about the AAM's lobbying activity?

RC: Well, we lobbied a lot. We made representations on the floor of the House, we had debates on the floor of the House, we had parliamentary questions down, we were raising issues all the time, we were calling for the isolation of the regime, within the precincts of Parliament. Outside because of our ability to attract the media, we ran a number of campaigns. We supported the Anti-Apartheid Movement march to Hyde Park, we did all sorts of press calls, we poured South African wine down the grating before the television cameras, in the middle of Luton, John Carlisle's constituency. We went there to support the boycott, the boycott of South Africa. We went to meet Cliff Richard to try to persuade him not to go and sing in Sun City. We campaigned against the England cricket team touring South Africa, we made strong representations to the MCC. So we did the sports boycott, there was a sports boycott, we did a cultural boycott, we did a trade boycott. We did a lot of campaigning. Everything was geared to two things: one was be sure to get the message out to ordinary people about the abhorrence of apartheid, and the second was to try to isolate the regime, so it became inoperable. And eventually in the 1990s, late '80s, '90s, de Klerk understood that the world saw South Africa as a pariah, and the argument for the Commonwealth, the United Nations member states, more and more the pressure was on South Africa, and it was about isolating South Africa as much as possible and assisting ANC, to release their prisoners, and to sit down to negotiate. And that was important as well, because Mandela could have come out of jail probably two years earlier, no, not two years, a year earlier, had he agreed to come out with strings attached. He said 'No, no strings, I'm a free man'.

SY: And about these lobbying activities, can you tell us more about how the MPs' relationship was with them?

RC: Well, obviously there were many campaigns that the Anti-Apartheid Movement started. There were petitions to Parliament, which was lobbying Parliament, the government of the day, to take decisive action. There was lobbying of the

Commonwealth countries, the Heads of State of the Commonwealth. There was the lobbying of the big sports institutions like the International Olympic Committee, the big organisations, although many sports stopped their teams going to South Africa. Some were less reluctant, but others, like football, rugby, but cricket was the last one to put the boycott in place. And we also isolated South Africa culturally, although that was more difficult, but we had the cultural boycott, but there were artists like Cliff Richard who went to Sun City, and that was used to promote the regime. But eventually it became smaller and smaller and smaller, people campaigned to expose the abhorrence of apartheid, and more and more was being shown on television as well, more films were coming out, more pictures coming out, more authoritative statements by the church were coming out, so there was a whole series of activities that were eventually accumulating in the concert in '88. Before that we had the big Hyde Park one which was '84, and that led to the one in '88. '88 was probably the biggest impact, because we went worldwide with that. We broadcast that worldwide, we had some of the best artists of the day, we had Whitney Houston, Dire Straits, Simple Minds, Jessye Norman, Hugh Masekela, all those people were on that programme. I've still got that programme today, the '88 programme. You know, Jerry Dammers wrote a song, 'Free Nelson Mandela', Sting was there, all those great artists were there.

SY: And so, on the government's part, or the MPs part, was there a lot of support for these kind of lobbying activities?

RC: Oh yes, very much so. I mean the Labour MPs were very solid, absolutely, and most of the Liberals were very solidly supportive. Trade unions were very supportive, the churches, to be fair, were also, particularly the Methodist Church, the non-conformists, and a great leader of ours, who was our president, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, sorry, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, he was a great leader, and he was of the cloth, obviously, he was a very respectable person, and he led our Movement, he was the President. So the churches, the trade unions, civil society and political parties, outside the Conservative Party, were all supportive, over a period, not on day one, but over the period, we kept building, effectively over two decades, probably three decades. In 1964, '63, when he went into jail and in 1990 … 30 years! 27 years he was incarcerated, on Robben Island … so yes, for four decades, back into the 1940s, the elections in South Africa. So for the whole building of that, which, you know, in the '70s, it wasn't as great … you know, Mandela went to jail, he was seen as a terrorist by many people, the vast majority of the world saw this man as a terrorist. Now he is a freedom fighter, now he's a man who was calling for one person one vote. He had been talked about in the media as a terrorist, you know, because of his actions, the armed struggle, which was not against people, it was against economic installations like power stations and transport, because they haven't been taken seriously in trying to negotiate a reasonable settlement around the table, around the negotiating table. They were driven, because of the brutality of the regime, which we saw at Sharpeville, Soweto, many parts of the country. And it drove them to the next stage, which was the armed struggle, which Mandela led, which we argued was absolutely justified. But some of the churches were … well, the Quakers, on the one hand they were supportive, on the other hand the means, they challenged the means, not the end. The end they agreed with, but the means they had some difficulties with.

SY: How about the resistance to the lobbying activities? From the MPs, from the government?

RC: Oh, the resistance was absolutely from the government, no doubt, I mean right up to Mandela's release, Thatcher defended, I'm not saying that she defended the apartheid regime, but she defended Pretoria, Botha and then de Klerk, to do what she believed they had every right to do. And that was the weakness of the government. They did not put pressure on for regime change, and it needed regime change, and that was how the big divide took place, in this country, you got Thatcher, and then you got Reagan in the US, the world of a lot of right-wing leaders in the '70s, and into the '80s, which made it more difficult to get traction to change the regime, because they were supportive; and secondly, to do the South Africa campaign that we did. As I said, in '88 the right-wing Tories tried to stop the BBC broadcasting our concert. So yes, there was a right-wing political consensus across the world, of tacit support for the regime.

SY: And about these lobbying activities, is there anyone that particularly stands out?

RC: Well, Mike Terry was the orchestrator in this country of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. He was the Chief Executive, he was a phenomenal man. His political feel, and his ability to bring everybody together, and I mean that, across the political spectrum, he was the man who ran many campaigns. We went from Hyde Park, through to Wembley and again to Wembley, they were big political points, and it was also in that … major political activities, of diplomatic activities, of getting people to come out and speak out against the apartheid regime. We were able to get a lot of support from people like that. That lobbying, the lobbying itself was only part of getting that message across, the exposure to the media, for example, you know, all the boycotts outside South Africa House, the 24-hour picket outside South Africa House got a lot of publicity. The boycott of Barclays Bank got a lot of publicity. So there was a lot of activities that got the media as well. So besides just the boycott, we were actually also getting maximum publicity as well, that was important.

SY: Back to when you mentioned solidarity, I wonder how would you describe the general dynamics in these sorts of Anti-Apartheid Movement groups or committees you were in?

RC: Solidarity, in terms of the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

SY: Yes, the committee or group that you were involved in?

RC: Oh, the House of Commons one. I was involved locally with the Anti-Apartheid Movement, I was involved nationally with the Anti-Apartheid Movement. But as a parliamentarian, I was also involved in the Group here, setting the Group up here. I worked in Europe and then here, in setting up the Group and continuing to use my political platform, which I had been elected on, to prosecute the case for the Movement and against apartheid, which is one of the things I saw was important to do, and which we did for a good number of years. But all the time, we had two things to achieve for the people that we were supporting: one was to expose, the other was

to isolate and that was it. Everything we did had those simple ingredients in it. That's what good campaigning is about. And good campaigning and lobbying and propaganda, all that was to try to achieve those objectives.

SY: And how would you describe the general dynamic in those groups?

RC: I think that, depending … a lot, when you saw things like Sharpeville here, and that got on television, the big change came politically here in terms of the mass participation, I would say it was the '88 concert, we had the biggest influx of membership in the Anti-Apartheid Movement, we were the biggest single issue organisation in the country by a long way. And people rallied round that and saw a cause that was just and could be supported. And things we did in terms of petitions, Parliament, of writing letters to political prisoners, sending Christmas cards to political prisoners, that … during that last bit into the '80s, was really the push, to oust the regime. That really started being … that two, three, four years before 1990 saw a marked change in terms of participation. Therefore the lobbying that you mentioned, the campaigning, the demonstrations all got bigger and bigger and bigger.

SY: So the whole thing really …

RC: You got the tipping point. And then you started moving. You put to bed that Mandela was a terrorist, and the justification of why he did what he did, and that was accepted. And there's the justification of why we should isolate South Africa. The argument that Thatcher used to use, which was that you will deny the blacks a job if you have a boycott – you will deny the black a job in South Africa. That's what she said! Well that might deny them a job, but that also denied them freedom as well at the same time.

SY: Just looking back, what are your feelings about your involvement in the Anti-Apartheid Movement campaigns?

RC: I was very proud to be part of that, I really was. I mean I've been involved as a trade unionist and as an ordinary member of the public, and then as a politician, both in Europe and here in the UK and been very active as Treasurer, for many years, of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, I was the national Treasurer for about 14 years, something like that. I was very proud on the day that Mandela came out of prison. I never ever thought he would … we had many discussions, many discussions about what happens if Mandela dies in prison. Where is the leadership, what's going to happen to South Africa. Because Mandela could have died in prison and South Africa still had a brutal regime, called apartheid, that needed to be dealt with, and that's important. In some senses, that was the tactical decision that you take. You know, actually do you bring everything around one person, and that person dies in prison, and whilst that in itself allows many platforms, international platforms. So we discussed a lot, what do we if Mandela is killed or dies or whatever. What would happen to South Africa? There could have well been a bloodbath because the leadership was locked up, in prison. That could be the signal for a totally different South Africa to the one you have got today. That was the debate. So I suppose that when Mandela walked out of jail, on that February Sunday in 1990 you had fantastic

mixed emotions. Great relief that he was out, that he'd come out a free man, and that he was going to lay out the agenda for change. But that was not easy. There was a lot within the ANC that wanted retribution, and you could see why. There was a lot calling for different actions to the ones that Mandela … Mandela was very very inclusive, he said the rainbow nation, and he meant the rainbow nation, there's no doubt about that. When he came here in 1990, and he told the MPs and the research officers who came to the meeting, how he saw what the rainbow nation was, it was a vision, a vision of a man who is determined to have a peaceful transition in South Africa. He loved his country and he loved his people, people there of every colour. So that was … 1990 was … when he walked out of prison, that was the day that every … And we all have been very lucky to have someone like Mandela, to see that peaceful transition, and it's been a great privilege to be part of it. As someone would say that this is being on the right side of the argument.

SY: And just as a summary or conclusion, do you have anything to add about this?

RC: Yes, well, there's a lot of personal stuff in it. I was very privileged to have met Mandela on a number of occasions. I chaired here, in the early '90s, the all-party Trade and Industry Group, which was an official group. And we did a report on trade with South Africa, which I think was very helpful. I also helped to raise a quarter of a million pounds to help them to send researchers, four researchers, one Liberal, three Labour, to the ANC and Inkatha – one to Inkatha and two to the ANC – to help them to draft the new bills that they wanted to send to the new Parliament. So we helped them build up from a revolutionary to a democratic stage, we helped them. I raised a quarter of a million pounds to send researchers down from here, to help them, the ANC and Inkatha and to build the capacity in that country, which was very … But personally I took a cricket team to South Africa, the all-party cricket team. And we played, after 1994, no, about 1993, and they said, the cricket team said: 'Could we meet Mandela?' And I said: 'Yes, we'll try to meet him', I'd speak to him, I knew his office. And I went to see Mandela, and he said 'Yes, OK', and we arranged, I took the cricket team, and when he arrived, I think the Pope had been there, to South Africa. And there was a big table, and we all sat there, and Mandela came around and made a little speech about cricket and about being beaten by the team from Soweto, which was a bit of humiliation for English cricket. And I said to Madiba about these young Sowetans who were playing fantastic cricket, and then he went around the table, and he shook hands with everybody. And he came to my wife, Margaret, and I said: 'Madiba, this is my wife, Margaret'. And he got over to her and hugged her and kissed her, and she started crying. She never said a word to Mandela … and he just … he thanked her for all that she had done for the Anti-Apartheid Movement. So that was a lovely, lovely thing. And obviously I went down to see him in 2005 about the Olympics. So I've got a lot of personal memories about Madiba, a great man, a truly great man.

SY: And on that note, I think we can end today.