

4 Ulysses Road
London NW6 1EE
29 October 1990

Editor
Natal Witness

Dear Sir

One of the complaints of your reviewer, Martin Williams, about my book, "Sobukwe and Apartheid" (Natal Witness, 29 August 1990), concerns what he says is the "lack of information about Sobukwe's relationship with leaders from rival organisations who were also on the island".

That's a startling complaint in view of the fact that one of the main points of the book is that Mr Sobukwe was in virtual solitary confinement on Robben Island and had no contact with other prisoners.

But my chief purpose in writing to you is not merely to deride the silliness of your reviewer but, more seriously, to object strongly to his use of my book as a platform for attacking Zeph Mothopeng (who has since died).

Yes, Mr Mothopeng had grown old and it was indeed sad to see him in his last months. But only someone massively ignorant of the anti-apartheid struggle and of what Mr Mothopeng endured in his life in the cause of freedom in South Africa could have written as harshly about him as did your reviewer. Only someone of acute insensitivity could have written in such scurrilous terms about Mr Mothopeng without the slightest reference to the damaging effects of torture, repeated solitary detention and years-long imprisonment.

Yours truly

BENJAMIN POGRUND

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