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97 Aandblom st
Uitenhage
6230
01/09/86 (spring)
R.S.A.

Dear Mr President

As you probably gathered by the above address that I am a South African (white) As you also probably gathered by my handwriting that I am a kid, in std 6, (14 years old) from a public school, Muir College Boys High school here in Uitenhage. I play rugby, hockey, cricket and some squash and badminton

The reason why I'm writing this letter is just to congratulate you on your country's achievements. It's probably nothing new, especially coming from a kid. Well, my whole family agrees with me, and probably most of South Africa. You see, yesterday, a documentary on Malawi was shown on "Network". (Sunday on *TV 1*). I don't usually

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watch 'Network', but when it started I just couldn't get away because it was so interesting. Your country must be the envy of virtually every Black state in Africa!

I really think your country is a fantastic example to Black Africa and what they can achieve if they really try! (and have a good leader as well, of course.)

Like my father says: "I take my hat off to you!"

About South Africa; I'm not too sure what you hear about us up there, but I'm sure it is not always the truth!

My dad gets plenty of letters from missionaries from all over the world, including (the) Kenya. And we also have some friends in England and America, and believe me, they hear everything but the truth! (Although they think they do!)

All colonies had trouble with the original population, including North America. They had their problems in the 1800's too. We're unfortunately having ours in the 20th century, when most people are settled, and

now they want to try and tell us how we could run our country! Some people, only after a few weeks here in S.A., are trying to tell us (~~how~~) what to do! Can you believe it!

✱ Believe me, we are doing the most sensible, most just and quickest changes to abolish Apartheid that can be made. We know we can't correct our mistakes over night are we are changing. Even here in Titenhage we are forever hearing about new places being opened to all races. eg. The Town Hall, library hall, beaches, swimming pools etc.

The used to be "whites-only" swimming pool is now open to all races, although the non-white swimming pool is not open to us.

I'm not too well-advised on the sanction scene, but one thing I do know and is common knowledge here; Non whites are without a doubt ^{going} to get the ~~the~~ hardest hit by them.

My father works for an automobile company - Volkswagen, which employs over 3000 ^{blacks} out of * about 5000 employ. , which will definately be the first to lose their jobs, as ~~the~~ most of

them work on the assembly-line.

I really do admire the sensible people who are against sanctions, as they will only lead to more unrest.

Most whites are trying to improve relationships with non-whites by learning their languages. So far we have had ~~two~~ African language courses on English TV. And many books are sold in bookshops on African languages.

Every country has some bad apples, including some South Africans who don't want to change, but the majority want to change as everyone will benefit from it. I do ask you to not take notice of the stupid South Africans, please.

I've always dreamt about going overseas, to Paris, London, North America on tours, and seeing the wonders of the world. Unfortunately, as I get older, reality comes to me, and I realize that there is no way I can see them all. But last night, when I saw the bit about Lake Malawi, I realized that I can

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see a whole lot of wonders here in Africa.
One of my friends uncle has been to Malawi and
I saw some photos. I do wish I could see
your country some time when I get older.

Once again I say what a great job you've
done, and I really do love your country.
You've got lots and lots to be proud of!
Before I end of, I'd like to say that when
I saw the programme on Malawi, your people
remind me of one big happy family!
Keep it that way!

Yours sincerely
Kevin Vermaak (one of many admirers of your
country)

P.S. could you please send me a letter or
something back just so I know that you
got my letter! Thanks!

P.S.S. I wrote to your tourism-board to
get some more information as well.