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27th May, 1980.

The Hon. P. W. Botha, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN
8000.

Dear Mr. Botha,

According to Press reports you are considering either a Commission of Inquiry into Education in South Africa or a Committee that would possibly be able to report back more speedily.

The Black Sash wholeheartedly endorses the need and the urgency for such an inquiry, and wishes to put forward some proposals for your consideration.

1. With regard to the composition of such a commission or committee, it is of the utmost importance that it should be fully representative of all sections of the community, for all have a stake in education.

It should consist of a wide spectrum of people, educationists, representatives of the private sector, practical people and academics, and not only politicians.

Consideration should be given to appointing a judge with educational interests as chairman of such a commission or committee.

2. Its terms of reference should include the examination of a unitary system of education and how it can best be implemented, for this is what the people want and this is what the country needs if it is to provide the work force demanded by the technological age.
3. Special attention should be directed to teacher training and recruitment, and to the possibility of paying competitive salaries in order to attract the best candidates.
4. Time is of the essence, and a reasonable time limit should be set.

As mothers we are deeply concerned about the education of all the children in our country, for dissatisfied and ill-educated children grow into angry and resentful adults, and this is not in the best interests of anyone.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and that you will note our suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

JOYCE HARRIS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.