

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 2/13

To: Stephanie Street
Nicole Bilkon for NSC

From: The Staff Secretary

The attached re: South Africa
came in through Nancy's office.
She wanted to make sure it
got the appropriate attention.

Phil

Chron



SARA LEE CORPORATION

Staff Sec.

98 FEB 13 AM 8:34

February 11, 1998

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-2000

*Three First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60602-4260
(312) 558-8627*

*Gary C. Grom
Senior Vice President -
Human Resources*

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you about a chance to reach out and give added hope to millions of school age children in South Africa. Our chairman and CEO, John Bryan, one of your early and strong supporters, would be writing this letter were he not out of the country at this time.

It is our understanding that you will be visiting South Africa March 23-25, 1998. These dates present a rare opportunity in which you may be interested. We are planning to launch the second phase of the South Africa Book Project in the Province of Natal next month. This is the second largest province in South Africa and includes Durban, the country's second largest city.

Through the support of Mayor Daley in Chicago, as well as school superintendents in North Carolina, we have managed to gather tons of books which are now being stored in a Sara Lee warehouse in Durban. We are working with local volunteers, educators and other leaders in order to make this important project a success.

Our original date for the launch is March 8, but if your schedule permits and you are interested, we would be willing to postpone that date to correspond with your visit. We expect to have several thousand people at the launch.

It seems like such an appropriate event for you since you have made education, improved race relations, and global responsibility hallmarks of your presidency. We just thought it would be a marvelous thing for you to reach out to countless numbers of black children who have had no books to read for generations. Incidentally, on one of his trips to South Africa, Vice President Gore carried a shipment of the books on his plane.

It is, however, urgent that we know whether you would like to pursue this project because of the time constraints involved in preparing for the event.

We look forward to hearing from your staff at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Grom