

### 'Honesty and Clear Analysis'

The racist South African state continues on its well-trying way: propaganda and terror. Mr Steyn (letters Aug 16) attempts to convince us of the 'undeniable spirit of reform and renewal in South Africa today'; on August 17 Ruth First is murdered by South African agents. Many of us know which speaks more realistically of South Africa.

Those of us who were privileged to study under and work with Ruth will carry on the struggle until victory is achieved. During her years as lecturer at Durham University, many students witnessed her dedication, determination and brilliance. Always she strove for truth, honesty, and clear analysis. There are not many people who could surpass her in these qualities. I was fortunate to have been a research student under her supervision. She was a very demanding and exacting supervisor and I benefitted greatly from her attention—even though I did not appreciate it at the time. I hope that my life can be even marginally as dedicated to the struggle for freedom and justice. Her murder has shocked and dispirited us but the South Africans must know that they can never extinguish what she stood for. The African National Congress will continue its struggle

Guardian (UK) (Letter NC Josephs ) 21.8.82

In common with so many others who knew and worked with her in the struggle against apartheid, I was deeply shocked and angered at the murder of Ruth First. The tactic of the letter bomb is one which South African agencies have used before; I recall only too clearly the one sent to me at my Putney home in June 1972 which, fortunately had a slight technical fault and was eventually defused. Others have been less lucky. Ruth was someone with that rare ability to combine relevant academic work with activism. She commanded respect throughout the anti-apartheid movement, not least with younger, radical elements for whom she was always an inspiration and to whom she showed such sensitive sympathy. Let her tragic death serve as a warning to those who imagine South Africa has moderated or apartheid's hit squads have retreated.

Guardian (UK) (Letter Peter Hain) 21.8.82