



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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Mrs Hilda Berstein
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29 July 2002

Dear Hilda and family

It was with a deep sense of personal sadness and loss that Louise and I heard of Rusty's death recently. As you all know, I have the fondest memories of him, and real affection for the Bernstein family. He was a loved and valued friend of the Asmals for years.

Rusty's courage, steadfastness and moral commitment throughout our friendship were tremendously buoying as we went about our lives. He was more than a comrade. He was a beloved friend.

We shared a long history, and, throughout, I found his quiet confidence and his intellectual grasp lodestars in the awesome times in which we lived. I look back with real pride and pleasure that I was able to play a part at the launch in Cape Town of Rusty's memoirs, so aptly titled *Memory Against Forgetting*. I recall that evening on the Middle Campus at UCT, in the company of Rusty with affection and nostalgia.

Rusty never pursued fame or honour for their own sakes, but was always motivated by a deep and abiding sense of humanity. In this, he set an example to others with a social conscience. I will never forget his generosity of spirit and his ever-green nature, even in political adversity. It is sometimes not easy to write sincerely about those who have passed on (bearing in mind Voltaire's admonition that to the living we owe respect but to the dead only truth). The facility with which I write this letter bears testimony to Rusty's abiding commitment to the good of all humankind.

Although politics took up much of his life, there was so much more to him than the public domain. In a day and age when domestic values are often treated with cynicism, Rusty was, above all, a family man whose concern for his family's well-being was always at the forefront of his mind. His love for you and the children was manifest. I

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Ndzawulo ya Dyondzo, Muhasho wa Pfunzo, Mnyango weFundo, Isebe leseMfundo, Litiko leFemfundo.

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remember him as a highly intelligent, shy, gentle, generous and wise friend. We do miss him.

Please accept the sincerest condolences of Louise and I, and of our family. South Africa has lost a patriot, a thinker and a superb human being.

With my best wishes *and my love*

Yours sincerely

Kader

Professor Kader Asmal, MP
Minister of Education