August 21, 1979: letter to Gay Wilmore from Bishop Tutu re. invitation

Fall, 1979: development of proposal and selection of study team

April, 1980: first visa application; team investigated by South African government

July 29, 1980: on eve of trip, no visas; visas officially denied the day after intended departure

"South Africa Delays Visas; Trip Off" Democrat and Chronicle (D&C)

"South Africa Denies Visas for Local Group" The Times Union (TU)

Francios Bill responds to denial in Rand Daily Mail

July 30, 1980: "South Africa Denies Visas to Local Group" D&C

"I can only say the visa applications have been turned down." Abe Happenstein, Consul General to S.A. Embassy in Washington

July 31, 1980: "The Trip's Off" interview with David Romig--City Newspapers

August 1, 1980: "Visas Refused" N.Y. Times (Johannesberg)

August 9, 1980: "Take No Chances" Editorial D&C

Summer, 1980: Informal personal contacts by members of the team with South African officials in Washington and New York. Team members feel encouraged to try again.

Fall, 1980: "South Africa Visit Postponed" article by Frank Anderson in GEM Newsletter

team regroups and decides to try again

September 16: letter to Francois Bill from Frank Anderson re: a January, 1981 visit

October 23, 1980: letter to Frank Anderson from Francois Bill re. suggested time of visit

November 8, 1980: letter from Bishop Tutu with itinerary of visit to Gay Wilmore

November 24, 1980: letter to Gay Wilmore from Bishop Tutu re: new verification of invitation

December 15, 1980: notes from group meeting including changes of group membership and change of sponsorship from S.A. Council of Churches to black Dutch Reformed Church (exact name)

December 18, 1980: Memo to Team and South African hosts from Gay Wilmore re: purpose and itinerary
SOUTH AFRICA TRIP CHRONOLOGY (2)

January 13, 1981: letter to friends stating purpose of trip and seeking further funding

January 16, 1981: Memo to News Media from team re. solidarity with the black community (in response to increased racial incidents in nation and local community)

February 10, 1981: "Cleric's Trip to South Africa Is On Again" TU

February 13, 1981: "Eleven from Rochester Try Again for Visas to Visit South Africa" D&C

letter to Abe Hoppenstein from Gay Wilmore re: visa application

second visa applications submitted

March 3, 1981: team met with Andre Brink of Consulate in N.Y.C. He submitted a list of those whom he would like us to visit. Intimated that previous refusal may have been due to S.A. feeling our itinerary was a "one-sided" one. It would be "hard" for government to turn us down again if we agreed to meet listed people. Team later agreed to make contacts with list and request visits.

March 12, 1981: letter to Sam Buti re. setting up these visits from Frank Anderson (letter never arrived).

March 24, 1981: Memo to team from Frank Anderson re. airplane tickets and future meeting.


April 21, 1981: Frank Anderson phoned Francois Bill re. specifics of group plans and need to visit consulate's suggested people.

letter to Andre Brink re. Kodak and Xerox visits

April 22, 1981: letter to Brink from Jim Pritchard re. letters to groups and persons he suggested we visit.

April 23, 1981: letter from Ian Guthrie (International Information Director) to Jim Pritchard confirming appointments to visit Kodak facilities.

April 24, 1981: telegram from Francois Bill to Frank Anderson re. correspondence not reaching Buti.

April 29, 1981: letter from Jim Pritchard to Robert Schneider, Xerox V.P. for Public Affairs thanking him for setting up Xerox appointments.

letter from Jim Pritchard to Andre Brink re. arrangements to visit Kodak and Xerox facilities.
SOUTH AFRICA TRIP CHRONOLOGY (3)

May 2, 1981: phone call to Francois Bill re. arrangements

May 5, 1981: telegram to Frank Anderson confirming arrangements for meetings required by Brink.

May 5-16, 1981: flurry of phone calls to Andre Brink, U.S. State Department, South African Embassy, to expedite visa application. Official word they are "being processed." Apparently there is some conflict between Interior and Foreign Ministry. Former is "suspicious." Word from Embassy that there are no requirements on whom we must visit.

May 16, 1981: scheduled date of departure; visas are "being processed" and it might be completed with decision in next two weeks. Group faces $5000 penalty for ticket change. Trip called off. Press conference called.

Meeting to plan future action.

Telegram to President Reagan protesting treatment

May 17, 1981: "South Africa Tour Cancelled -- Rochester Group Is Denied Visas" D&C

May 18, 1981: Meeting with editorial board of Gannett Newspapers

May 19, 1981: "South Africa Delays Visas, Ending Trip for Local Clergy" D&C

"No New Plans for South Africa Trip" TU

Telegram from Bishop Tutu protesting South African government action; "A Deplorable Incident"

May 20, 1981: Letter to Editor by Gay Wilmore TU

"Inviting Trouble" Editorial TU

"South Africa Delays Visas Ending Trip for Local Clergy" D&C

May 21, 1981: Article criticizing government action by normally pro-government Beeld newspaper in South Africa (TU)

May 22, 1981: "Group Won't Try Again to Get South African Visas" D&C