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Tübingen, 20 April 2021

Dear Vice-Chancellor Phakeng,

To our greatest regret, we have learned of the devastating fire on the University of Cape Town campus yesterday morning and we wish to express our deep sympathy regarding the tragic events that unfolded on your campus this past weekend.

Apparently, several of UCT's building on Upper and Middle Campus were heavily damaged, among them Jagger Library, and we are deeply saddened to hear that many precious and rare documents of the African Studies Library Special Collections may be lost forever.

Furthermore, we have come to learn that a call for researchers and academics has been released via Google Docs to share photocopies, photographs and other images that have been taken of documents housed in Jagger Library's African Studies Library Special Collections. As a sign of hope and support, we will be circulating this call and the link amongst our researchers and professors. Hopefully, they will be able to assist in securing images of many of the lost documents.

Please rest assured that the University of Tübingen, as a long-standing partner institution of the University of Cape Town, will stand by your side, especially in these difficult times.

In deep solidarity and with our kindest regards,

Yours

Professor Dr. Bernd Engler
President and Vice-Chancellor