

And then, on 28 November, Roberts kicked lower than ever, before finally falling completely silent, posting on his blog under the title ‘Aids denialist Brink’s loony letter to Mbeki’ an apologetic letter I’d written to Mbeki four days after being burned in the *Mail&Guardian*.

Having repeatedly rejected the use of the expression ‘AIDS denialist’ in his book as a ‘smear-word’ and a ‘tired label’, now he embraced it – invoking the *Mail&Guardian*’s favourite soubriquet for me as a ‘loony’ too, after having twice deplored it in his email to me as ‘gross unfairness’. In his descent into ugly, dishonest verbal flailing, you could read his fatally cornered desperation.

As Roberts shamelessly states, I’d given the letter to him to deliver to Mbeki, under the impression he’d given me that he was flying up to see him (in fact he was on his way to see Pahad). On his return from Pretoria to Cape Town, I enquired whether he’d delivered the letter as he’d undertaken

to do, and he told me he had – when in truth he'd stolen it, opened it, and it kept it, unbeknown to me throughout the almost two years that I thought we were friends. And then, with nothing to say to refute my lying and thieving charges, he put it on the internet to embarrass me – thereby confirming that he's a liar and thief as charged. I think Roberts's actions here are as clear an indication as can be that he's a liar and a thief of stunning depravity, and that he cannot be trusted by anyone with anything, on anything, ever.