

1. *W. L. G. to*
Received
16/2/68.

Robben Island Gaol,
1. O. Robben Island.

24th July, 1968.

Mr Benjamin Pogund,
1. O. Box 1128,
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

Before all else thank you for Jenny's photographs. I was tempted to write directly to her and tell her she is developing into a regular Rose of Sharon and that we shall have to consider entering her for the Miss Universe contests. But then she has shown promise as an actress as well and we shall have to decide whether the stage should be her career. Please tell her all this from me. She is really sweet, Benjie Congrats.

Thank you also for the "academicians". You fellows look quite donnish. So this is Ernie? He looks quite amiable. I agree with you, though, he should shed a few pounds.

Please tell him also that now that

the record-player is back I have been able to play the records he sent me, as well as your lot. What a feast; what a feast, Benjie. Thank you fellows.

I have had some further trouble with the record-player; with the turn-table grinding and some records scraping against the arm. I sent a telegram to this effect to Eulalie. But it has been suggested to me here that the trouble might lie with the records: they may be out of alignment. I find myself persuaded as it is not all ^{the} records that give this trouble; and the turn-table some-times performs smoothly the whole day. I shall hold back them and see how-things develop. Unfortunately, the records which are the culprits are, among others: Mozart Concerto No 1 in G Major and No 21 in G Major. Haydn Symphony no 100 & no 102 as you can see, absolute class! These two, at least, I'll give to Veronica to take back with her so that you guys may doctor them if you can. I received all the articles mentioned by you as coming from Eulalie - Incidentally,

I am taking the liberty of calling her by her first name because you do so!

The picture by Binetie looks good. Unfortunately as far as "fine arts" go I am like the English described by the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. He said the English love music. They don't understand it: but they find the noise pleasant: Same with me. I am moved by music and pictures without being able to analyse ~~it~~ ^{them} - more so with pictures.

The sculpture, too, even in the photographs breathes a primitive power and force. Thanks for them all, young fellow.

I am sorry about Norma. I hope she recovers completely and soon.

Briefly about the observations of Shimon Lee. Firstly, have you read the works of C. P. Snow? They are brilliant. And yet I always read them reluctantly. He is pitiless. His characters stand before you naked and vulnerable. And my chief weakness - and strength - is that I never enjoy looking on the nakedness of another. I am tempted to cover them. Secondly, in the rivals, a play by Sheridan, Sir Anthony gives his son,

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Captain Absolute, a tongue-lashing. He in turn
lambasts his ~~servant~~ ^{page} who complains to himself
that it is unfair for superiors to work off their
frustrations on their subordinates. Just then the
"boy" comes in and makes some cheeky
observation. The page kicks him down the
stairs telling him the while to remember his
place. This was in the 18th Century I think. but
you can see how well the dramatist knew
human nature.

C. P. Snow and Pines have this in common
that they claim to be realists. But such a
creature does not exist. Life would be
impossible for the realist. We all of us live
because we hope for better things to come.
When, under the reign of Nicholas I, Visamon
Belinsky said: "Our lot puts the cowl
on us. We must suffer. that life may be
easier for our grandchildren. We must
renounce all happiness, because destiny
is cruel to its instruments"; and
when Robespierre on the occasion of the
Austrian invasion, addressed himself
to posterity, they were being extremely
optimistic: "tomorrow will be better."

The only "realists" I have known are victors who are piecing themselves and those who climb on the bandwagon.

Throughout his speech Peres says: "we told them..." Just imagine Hussein in Peres's place, with the roles reversed, saying "we told the Jews..." and taste it in your mouth.

In any case his analysis is superficial, I think. Hussein does not want peace. He wants his land back. He realizes that he is not militarily strong enough to take it back: so he will consider a peace settlement which will restore it to him. But he will be waiting for his opportunity. Israel is asking him to choose between them and the Arabs - his people.

As for Nasser, his popularity arises from the fact that he is committed to war with Israel. And far from the intelligentsia holding him back, they are pushing him forward. It is the intelligentsia who feel humiliation most - not the masses. All answers Peres point by point take, Benji. So long for now.

Yours affectionately,
Bob.

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