

From Benjamin Foxman,  
213 Diamond Building  
125 William Street,  
Johannesburg,  
6th November, 1963.

Mr. Robert M. Robinson,  
c/o Officer Commanding,  
Robben Island Gaol,  
Robben Island,  
CAPE TOWN.

My dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of October 20 which reached me on November 5. I was distressed to read about the delays you are experiencing in receiving your letters and I quite understand your concern. I was, frankly, surprised about the delays: as we know, the Robben Island authorities have always done their best to ensure your comfort within the limits of your detention. Holding back letters from your wife seems pointless. At the same time, I recall that you have repeatedly told me about delays in letters reaching you. I assume that you have taken up the matter with the prison authorities, and that you have decided on court action after failing to achieve any satisfactory solution.

In accordance with your instructions, I have written to lawyers in Cape Town and have asked them to act on your behalf. It will be necessary for them to have your Power of Attorney and possibly also to see you. Could you therefore please write direct to Mr. Barney Zaskow, Zaskow and Birken, Rembrandt House, Burg St., Cape Town. He is a good friend of mine.

I have discussed the matter also with Eric and he is drawing up an Opinion immediately. This will be sent to Barney Zaskow.

My trip to Natal and Bushbuckland was a fiasco. A couple of days after reaching Durban I became ill, and had to leave by car there and fly back to Johannesburg. It was found that I had glandular fever and I have just got up after spending the last few weeks in bed. I am feeling much better but am still rather weak. I plan to leave again next week and will be away for up to three weeks. Any letters which come from you in that time will be forwarded to me by my office.

/cc you.....

As you no doubt know, your wife was refused a passport to attend the Jewish independence celebrations. I am sorry I could not give her any assistance in this. She telephoned me shortly after I returned to Johannesburg, but I was so ill that I was barely able to talk to her coherently.

In your letter you omitted two matters about which I had written to you: the non-delivery of the weekly fruit parcels to you, and the "Reader's Digest" renewal (I asked you to send me the subscription form). The subscription to the London "Observer" has been taken out anew and copies should start reaching you shortly.

There is little else to tell you. My work has taken a heavy knock because of this illness and I am trying to get on with it again.

I hope this letter finds you in better heart.

My warmest good wishes to you.

Sincerely,

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