

JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

AFRICAN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES APPEAL

THE AFRICA BUREAU, 69 GREAT PETER STREET, LONDON, S.W.1. Telephone: ABBEY 4946

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MR. PETER LAKE, MR. GILLMORE LEE, RT. HON. LORD PAKENHAM, REV. CANON C. E. RAVEN, D.D., REV. DR. W. E. SANGSTER, REV. MICHAEL SCOTT

27th June 1955.

To: Mr. Justice F. A. W. Lucas
Professor E. H. Harris
Alan Paton Esq.

Dear Alan - many thanks for yours -

The Trustees have asked me to write and say that they would be very grateful if you could give your corporate judgment in connection with an application they have had from Mrs. Myrtle Berman, the Hon. Sec. of the Working Committee Re Bantu Education. Another member of the Committee appears to be Helen Navid, while a letter of invitation to a meeting, out of which the Committee apparently developed, was signed by them and by Father Trevor Huddleston C.R., Father John Shand C.R., Marion Friedman, Robert Resha and Violet Weinberg. Mrs. Berman describes a number of private schools and cultural clubs for African children which are helping to cater for the 7,000 children who have lost their places in Government schools. She estimates the needs for schools in Alexandra, Germiston and Sophiatown as arising from a shortfall of £26 per month on income from pupils and £173 per month for teachers still required. For cultural clubs in Benoni and Brakpan £65 per month is required.

Mrs. Berman said in her application that she was asking Professor Harris and Father Huddleston to endorse it, but no such endorsement was enclosed. However, I have today heard from Father Huddleston that he recommends urgent assistance to these schools.

Your advice would be much appreciated. For your information and in case I may have cut across letters from you to Adams College, in view of the conflicting advice given by Dr. Webb, the Trustees asked me to write to the Principal of Adams to enquire whether he was in need of financial assistance. I have written to him today.

Since my letter of 9th June we were informed that the information that the school in Sophiatown had been closed arose from a mistaken report from Johannesburg, and that in fact it is working and in need of assistance.

.../

The Trustees made a grant of £500.

In view of advice from Mr. Paton (dated 15 June) and today from Father Huddleston (who said that St. Peter's School is in urgent need) the original advice of Judge Lucas and Professor Harris concerning a grant to St. Peter's is being put before the Trustees.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. ...

Secretary.

11.45

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asff

27th July 1955.

Dear

Alan

This is just a short note to let you know that the Trustees have today sent a cheque for £1,000 to the "Save St. Peter's Fund", and also a cheque for £200 to Father Huddleston for transmission to the Working Committee on Bantu Education. The Trustees preferred to send the latter amount through Father Huddleston as they have not yet had further information about the Committee and its members and, at this time at any rate, we are not anxious to have this particular grant publicised as they were not sure whether it might prejudice grants to others in the present situation out there. It will be much easier to discuss all this with Judge Lucas when he is here next month, but I hope in the meantime you will understand the reasons for sending the grant in this way.

We have heard from Adams College and expect to have further information from them. With regard to the Roman Catholic schools, we have seen Archbishop Hurley's statement that they intend to do without the Government grant, so we look forward to getting further information about their needs from Alan Paton. Some of our Trustees wonder whether it would be advisable to have a Roman Catholic to join you in giving us advice - what do you think, and if you think it might be a good idea could you suggest anyone?

Yours sincerely,

Pxi

Secretary.

To the Advisers.

18
Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

9th August, 1955.

Dear Pixie,

1. I do not really think that I can give you advice in connection with the Working Committee on Bantu Education. As you can no doubt guess, I am all in favour of any private effort that might be made to help the seven thousand children who lost their places in Government Schools, but as I do not live in Johannesburg, I do not know anything about the policy or quality of the actual schools themselves.

I would make one suggestion to you, however, and that is that you consider a proposal from me that the Institute of Race Relations should suggest the name of an investigator to give a report on the position.

2. I note that Fr. Huddleston has already recommended that assistance be given, but I would guess that this recommendation was based on his approval in principle of the general scheme. An investigation should not cost much, and I myself favour it.

In reply to your second letter, I have been to see Archbishop Hurley and had a talk with him about the whole position. He will shortly make some suggestions and I think that he accepts the fact that specific objects will probably win more than general ones. It seems to me that I took the right course in approaching the Archbishop direct and that it would have been presumptuous for me to have attempted to make recommendations without his assistance.

Support → I would suggest that you leave the matter of the appointment of a further adviser in abeyance at the moment, but bring the matter up again if you think it right to do so, at which point we could make suggestions to you.

I expect to hear from you personally sometime.

Yours ever,

Alan

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