

P.O. Box 1138,
JOHANNESBURG.

4th September, 1969.

My dear Veronica,

I am sorry that we did not have the chance to see each other properly last week. I hope that, by now, you are feeling better.

Apart from anything else, I was very anxious to talk to you about Bob. It seems to me -- and this is also the view of Dr Wynberg -- that it is essential for Bob to have as stable and normal an existence as possible for the next few months. The same applies to you. You have both been through a terrible ordeal, and you both need a quiet time in which to find yourselves again.

I know your strong views about not wishing to remain in this country, and I can well appreciate them. I have the same feelings in regard to myself! But Bob has, for the time being at least, decided that he must stay here, and I beg you, for both your sakes, to accept this, and to give both you and he a chance to live quietly together. Wouldn't it be a good idea to leave any decision about going for say, six months, and then to take another look at the situation? In the meantime, concentrate on being happy at being with Bob again!

You displayed such incredible spirit and courage for so long. For so many years you waited, day after day, for the one thing that you wanted more than anything else: Bob's release. Now he is with you. I know the conditions are not ideal. But you are together, and that is the most important thing of all.

I have been very worried because Bob told me that you were thinking either of going overseas soon with the children, and waiting for him to follow, or else that you were planning to go to Lesotho for a while. I think that to do either of these two things would be extremely harmful for Bob: he needs you, and he needs the stability and the goodness of a settled home.

And if he feels the need to smoke at present, won't you let him? He is feeling the strain of adjusting to leading an ordinary existence, and cigarettes are one way in which he can relieve the tension. No woman likes to smell tobacco on her man all the time! But it's a small price to pay for having Bob with you!

I hope that you will not mind my writing to you so frankly. I am worried in case my writing so frankly will offend you. I hope that it will not.

All being well, I look forward to being in Kimberley again sometime next month, and I hope that we can see each other properly then.

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