

17th August, 1957.

My dear

Last night, the day I wrote to you and the other

address you sent me. Received to reply & I do not know

what the position is. Has any reply come?

Received a wonderful letter from Miss B. handed her report

and extracts from letter to New Age. Miss B. says

and write their story in their own way and own words.

It will be terrific!

... looking forward to hear from you.

Yours,

Please write in future to

Mrs. Mrs. Lorne

c/o A. Farnish

Level 10 Centre, 133-137, Main

Street, C.T.

do not type the envelope, but write it

inside envelope

Helen Joseph.

Please, let us know when you are receiving our friends.

You can send a wire to my house,

19th August, 1955.

My dear,

Your letter dated 12th received to-day, have not seen the envelope so I cannot explain the long delay in reaching me. Your letter dated 29th July addressed to Box was stamped from your end on the 11th and reached us on the 13th. Nevertheless am very sorry that we slipped up in not sending you a message, decided to do so, but not done. Please accept my sincere apologies.

Am sorry that your conference was not the success it deserved. Had no news from the Congress of Mothers bar the wonderful report from Lillian which I mentioned to you in my last letter.

Re-their return - just received a letter from London dated 6th just saying D. & L. are with us will soon return to you how & when not stated. Am writing to day asking for more details and when I receive news will communicate with you.

Re appeal for affiliation to Burban friends, have done it at the same as to the others but received no reply up to-day. It is sickening, how these people never acknowledge letters or report on anything.

Have you reminded the Laundry ' Textiles to affiliate? I know how extremely busy you are I do wish more appreciation was shown to the importance of our organisation.

By the way a friend of ours is prepared to give £25.0.0

per annum for a bursary to the Rev. Huddlestons school. Could you let me have particulars to whom the money is to be sent and the general conditions. Best regards, yours

FSAW
25th August, 1955.

My dear,

This is to confirm that I received your tel. & telephone message, I immediately arranged for our friends accompanied by our attorney to meet her. But ~~xxxx~~ there were also the "boys" however, they did not question her, ~~xxx~~ just followed her to her house and remained watching the place for some time. This afternoon we met. Her heart is not too good and it is worrying me, we will have to spare her. The women in her area are not leaving her alone, this morning early they convened a mass-meeting, but being exhausted from yesterday, she sent in a written speech. I appealed to her to look after herself so she will be well enough for Saturday and other meetings that we organised for her. It is such a relief for me that she is back home! Her illness was a great worry to us.

Now, we must get into action. Can Lil, be taken off from work and become an organiser for our Federation? I submit this proposal, I suggested it to the few of us this afternoon and they were all glad. Let us not waste time and get on with organising our women and build our Federation. We will have to raise money ie her salary and organising expenses. Am certain that she would prove an excellent worker. Please discuss it with her and others & let us have your decision, as we are meeting next week to work out a programme of work, and to get a fuller report to the full Committee.

The other suggestion which I made in a previous letter to you is that both Lil & Dora should write a book on their experiences in their own languages in their own style. Tis they must get down to do it right now. Dora undertook to start doing it. By the way, this weeks New Age has a lot on us - Lilis letter to me and her report is good work! Next week they will have from Dora, I suggest we should keep on having interviews from them alternatively every week, so that they are constantly before our women readers. And we will issue an appeal to our women to read, sell the New Age.

Are we getting the machine from you this week-end? please let us have it as soon as possible and also I see this International Exhibition held by the S.A. Federation of Women - where was it held & when?

Dora told us that the W.I.D.F. H.O. has not received our reports we sent to the Geneva Conference ie on Peasant Women and position of our Children. This is strange, I myself sent over 4 copies. However, you have my only one copy and I still appeal to you to bring it out in a duplicated ~~wxxx~~ pamphlet and we will be able to sell it. This material is essential to our comrades in their work.

I enclose a letter to Lil. I sent off a note yesterday to H. to assure you that she has arrived.

Have not received yet the money from M. nor any papers on the Congress of Mothers.

With my very best wishes,

Yours,

25 FSAW B II 29/8/55

Dear Helen.

Just a note to thank you for the machine and 2 films. We shall make use of same. As soon as you have a chance please reply to my previous letters at the new address I gave you i.e. Miss. ~~Miss. [redacted]~~

c/o M/s ~~[redacted]~~
157, Plain Street,
~~Capetown, C.~~

Saturday's conference was well attended with great spirits - report received on Saturday night. Have not seen credentials yet, will see it some time today. Dora was kept on her feet speaking ^{replying} questions for 1 1/2 hours. ^{well yesterday.} ~~she was not too~~ Have not received the money yet from Nobby.

Regards
Hall.

FSAW P 1

Did you hand a letter to Leslie? as yet received no reply.
3rd September, 1955.

My dear,

Thank you for your undated letter received yesterday afternoon. You will know the letter I refer to: In reply I have to state as follows:

1. Thank you for your copy of letter sent out to A.N.C.W.L., S.A.I.N.C. & SACPO re dep. to Pretoria.
2. Re return of ~~exp~~ fare: please explain to me how much & what for? Her address is c/o CAFDA, RETREAT. I wish the money would come as I have to pay back the loan for Gladys fare & Doras Allowance.
3. Received machine, bulb has been fixed up and we will be using it shortly. Will ask for material from London.
4. Dora is keeping up having meetings wherever she can and is wonderful. Her interview was excellent! Is Ruth doing an interview with Lil?
5. Re Lil's salary: She must be made to understand to raise her salary through organising new groups and not just by donations from European friends. The African women are capable of raising money for their churches and if they will be convinced of the importance of our Federation, the money will be raised. We will undertake to raise a certain amount every month, but naturally will expect to see results in the building up of our Federation. I know how busy you are, but there is such a great need of reading material, so, I leave it to you. Have you been to Durban, what is the position? Is it possible for Lil to go up to Durban during a week-end. Dora is writing in the meantime personal letters to our special friends in P.E. Durban E.L. Kimberley & Cecilia Kuse. Will have a meeting again on Monday and will let you know of our decision re-amount we undertake for Lil's sal.

Best regards to you and all our friends,

Yours,

FSW
4th September,

replied 30 September

My dear,

Many thanks for your letter dated 22nd ult. and article by Lilian, received on the 29th ult. Am very sorry that I did not reply earlier, but was not well.

Now, my dear, have made enquiries about the remarks of the C.T. C.O.D., their delegate in her report used that phrase, you know what young people are pick up a phrase and often use it indiscriminately, please, do not allow this to upset you, and do not suggest about your leaving us. Please, forget about it! The organisation means somuch to you & you. It is organisational & leadership problems that worry me and ~~you~~ not being fully aware of the position, you will please forgive me if my suggestions should not suit the situation.

The problem as I can see from your letter is the Nat. Sec. & Tvl. Region Sec. This, as said to you, in July cannot be held by one person. You have been elected Nat. Sec. at Conference and the job is a big one and will require all your attention, time & energy to build the Federation on a national basis and bring ~~xxx~~ other centres up to the Tvl. region level. The question is who is to take on the job of the Tvl. region sec. you mention M. G. she is European and has just joined us recently, surely we should be able to find an Indian or African woman comrade who will have the respect and will with assistance be able to carry out the tasks.

My dear, in our country, we have to strain every nerve of ours to train non-European leaders, rather slow and painstaking at first, but in the long term policy will yield better results, therefore my dear I would like you to discuss these points and let me have your views & decisions. By all means, concentrate to see that the N.E.C. meets regularly and discuss fully all matters, so it is a joint responsibility of leadership and all comrades are able to do their share of work in organising & uniting the women in our country.

At the same time, see that your Tvl. Region has been left with the necessary forces to do the good work it has been and still has to do.

Please, correspond direct to the local region, I mean address a circular letter to them telling them when the minutes will be sent and enquire what the effects of the con. & dem. is having on our women. They have been having a great many of Report back meetings and seem enthusiastic, they must be made to realise that they are part of the great family.

Your question to me whether I wanted H.O. in Johburg. Of course, that is why I pressed for the conference as you were not prepared to take it last year in June, when I proposed.

Lilian's article excellent, please congratulate her from me. It is being printed somewhere at least a portion of it, I hope she will not mind. Yours,

tion League to go to Bloemfontein
spokesman of the league in Job

Star

S.A. Native woman is now M.P. in *19/9* Uganda

From Our Correspondent

KAMPALA, Thursday.—A Xosa woman, Mrs Pumla Kisosonkole, aged 44, was today appointed the first Native woman member of Uganda's Legislative Council under a reorganization giving Natives 30 of the 60 seats

Mrs. Kisosonkole, the daughter of a Transkei clergyman, graduated at Fort Hare and spent six years teaching at Adams College, Natal.

She joined the staff of the New School, King William's Town in 1937 where she met her husband. They were married in South Africa in 1939 and then left for Uganda.

FSAW VII

Mrs. Pumla Kisosonkole Legislative Council Kampala Uganda

(The Report)

Federation of South African Women congratulates you on appointment Legislative Council stop Your appointment proves our contention all South Africans irrespective race colour ^{Sx} capable participating in government of our country

~~Exp~~ Helen Joseph Secretary Box 10876 Johannesburg.

Dear Helen,

The above is a suggestion and that we then issue it to press with accompanying statement. If you think it is a good idea, and that we do not need to consult anybody, we should give it to Ruth this morning.

v.

P.S. Can we afford the cable - otherwise it could be a letter.

MRS. Joseph

FSAW - B II

21st October, 1955.

My dear,

Further to my previous notes to you
Enclosed please find unsigned letter received
to-day. Discussion taking place to organise
campaign on increase in price of bread. You
will hear more about it from circular. Please
let us have material which was forwarded to you
you and not to us on Presi. birthday as well
10th anniversary.

Please, let us have a report on
things in your centre so it could be circulated
and stimulate others to activities.

Regards,

Please hand enclosed note to Eli.

Did you hand the previous notes
to H.L. & P. Please ask them to
reply.

Ad 1.2

IO677b,
Orlando West. 2.
Johannesburg.
26 - IO - 55.

To The Fed Of S. A. Women.

Dear Friends,

I have been ordered to resign from our Federation and not to attend gatherings or take part in the activities of Forty Eight (48) organisations. for the next five years.

My health has been a great barrier and has deprived me of my activities, but when one is told to shut -up in the face of bitter times ahead; When our women are going to be forced to carry passes, Our children pushed back from the spark of light that they were enjoying to the dark days of Africa when they will only be able to serve their masters, all these laws and legislations that bind us and force us to hold our tongues shall come to an end one day. Never were the minds of human beings controlled. Never were the eyes of human beings closed to what is happening unless that person goes blind. It is therefore natural that every living soul will ultimately see and follow the road to FREEDOM.

Josie or no Josie the struggle will go on and ours will be the day of victory.

Ever yours in mind,

Josie Palmer

FSAW
2nd November, 1955.

Dear,

Please accept my hearty congratulations on the fine unique show you put up. Hi, it is fine! It shows us what is possible.

I wish I could see you and discuss matters with you. We must plan an all-in womans conference say for April 1956 to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the formation of the Federation, and have our Federation really well established. We must get proper affiliations.

Please write to me, and by all means do a circular on how it was all done so we could circulate to all friends.

Yours

17th November, 1955.

Dear,

Your undated letter received this evening. I cannot describe the pleasure your letter gave me. Received copies of documents. Please let me have one more set as I handed this set over to our committee. Now my dear, words fail me! I feel so indebted to you for the wonderful work you are doing. You have put the Federation on the map.

Re P.E.: Gladys will go up in January. We must try and get Lilian there too at the same time, so it will be in preparation for the Conference. Having inspired P.E., P.E. will assist in bringing women up in East London, Kingwilliamstown, Alice etc, i.e. suggest P.E. establishes a Nat. Conference preparatory committee and undertakes to make the conference known to these women. The same pattern should be followed for the Transvaal Region, Durban and Cape Western.

Re National Conference - Peoples sufferings. We must start on our National Conference now and link it up with every campaign we have, and campaigns there are plenty with all the wrongs the Government does to our people. These mass removals of women, the breaking up of homes - this cruelty they are committing to women and children must be exposed. The 27th October has proved that. Our Federation, born with the burning desire to organise our women against racial and national oppression and discrimination is there to organise and lead the oppressed women to freedom. This Pretoria march must be made known all over S.A. and therefore your idea for a booklet on how it was done, etc will be a useful instrument in the work. The fact that the women have raised £800 and that you have a deficit only of £12.10.0. is a proof that the movement has become a part of the people and shows what they are capable of. I am convinced that the 27th affair will make many organisations who in the past ignored our letter, to reconsider their attitude. Therefore we must soon come out with a statement on our National Conference. Perhaps we should not now press for affiliation. Let them all send delegates to the Conference and cast the constitution etc. We must be flexible. We have nothing to be afraid of - the women gathered will, I am sure, arrive at correct decisions.

On the question (a) where the Conf. should be, I feel it should be in Johannesburg, again the 27th affair proves that you deserve the honour and are capable of organising it. (b) When? April, Easter weekend proved a suitable date. Please discuss these points and let us have your views so that a circular can go out to our very few contacts. Am looking forward to seeing you. Please make an effort to come here in Feb. It is good weather, winds are down and am sure you need the holiday. Will arrange accommodation for you. All my love to you and my special regards to your fine group of workers who make the 27th possible.

Yours

FSAW 01.3 Ad 1.2
FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
19/11/55

The Hon. the Minister of Justice,
Union Buildings,
Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

The Executive Committee of the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women has asked me to send our strongest protest against the banning of our Chairman, Mrs. Josie Palmer.

Mrs. Palmer has always worked for the good of the people as a whole. Her removal as our Chairman cannot prevent us continuing with our work and activities. We deeply resent your action and assure you that our work will go from strength to strength, regardless of the banning of individuals.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Secretary, Tvl. Region, Federation
of South African Women.

FSAW

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O.Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
19/11/55

Mrs. Josie Palmer,
10677b,
Orlando West. 2.,
Johannesburg.

Dear Josie,

It is with sorrow that we are forced to accept your resignation from the Federation, as naturally we have no alternative but to accept it.

Our Committee wants to thank you most sincerely for your activities in the past. You have had a long experience of work and struggle for the cause of freedom, and we know that whatever you can still do, you will. We see today new people arising all the time to take the place of those who are forced to retire by the government. Many lack the experience of our older fighters, but the experience comes, for the spirit is there.

We believe the day is nearer than most people think when you and the others who have been banned will once more take your places in our progressive organisations, and lead the people to that victory over oppression which must, and will come.

Our thoughts are with you!

Yours in the struggle,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Secretary, Tvl. Region.

FSAW BT II

Berlin December 6th 1955

My Dear Helen,

Many thanks for your letter, and what a letter. I cannot tell you what excitement there was here about it. It has been read and re read, quoted in speeches of which there have been many, as we are right in the middle of the tenth anniversary celebrations here. At the press conference which we held on December 2nd here, we gave a very full report of your letter and all that it contained.

For the moment this is a personal letter, but you will of ~~course~~ course be hearing officially. On the cash. I have written to the friends in London to make sure that they have received the money from the air line. In a previous letter they had indicated that there was only about 70 to come from the air line, but I cannot believe that this is the total amount which is due. So I have written again asking them to check. I am sorry for all the delay, but as you can imagine we are not anxious to pay out twice, and we cannot let the air line get away with any thing which it would seem they are trying to do. I shall be going home at the end of the month for my holiday so I hope to be able to clear things up while I am there. If everything proves to be O.K. then I will make arrangements immediately to see that the money gets to you.

We have had a very nice letter from D. Her banning must have been a great blow to you, but not entirely unexpected. We wrote her congratulating her on her statement when the banning notices were served. From L or G we have heard nothing. We appreciate that they must be very busy, but a line from them occasionally would be very much appreciated here.

I was sorry to hear that you are not receiving the magazine. While I am home I will check on a number of things, and one of them will be to see that some copies are posted to you from there. Maybe you will not get it, but anyway we can try.

Please excuse this very short note. Am just leaving for Paris to take part in the tenth anniversary celebrations there.

My love to you and to all our friends who are working with you, and congratulations on your magnificent work,

Mosby

FSAW 1 1

Helen. Enclosed letters, since not already sent, might as well be signed by you. You may want to make changes!

John Matsabe contacted me yesterday with a long story re troubles between the women, but which boiled down to: what can I suggest to overcome these differences and get everyone working and co-operating together again? My suggestion was that we hold a meeting of the committee of the Federation, to which we invite Doreen, Virginia, Elizabeth, and anyone else sincerely concerned with the question of co-operation, and hold a free and frank discussion on ~~our~~ the various grievances nursed by all parties concerned, and see if we can't overcome our differences and agree to work together in future. I said that as far as Ida is concerned, and those responsible for the "Chain" letter, they had revealed personal vindictiveness and we ~~would~~ should not be prepared to have discussions with such people, but I granted there may be some who aligned themselves with the 'opposition' and now feel they ~~are~~ were mistaken, or may still think they have grievances, but are anxious to clear them up and co-operate

I told John I would approach Lilian on this question this afternoon, and see what she has to say, then let him know on Thursday.

I don't know what you think of this, but if you have any ~~fixed~~ rooted objections to meeting Virginia and Co, perhaps you had better ring me before this afternoon.

There is a lot I would like to say to you on the question, but no good for a letter!

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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