

P.O. Box 1133,
Johannesburg,
SOUTH AFRICA.

1st June, 1969.

Dear Charlotte,

Thank you so much for your letter, which was welcome as always. I hope you had a good trip.

As you probably know, Bob has been released from Robben Island, but has been consigned, under house arrest and a stack of other restrictive orders, to Kimberley. I haven't yet been able to get down to see him, because of the trial, but will be going within the next week or so. But the information I have received, from his wife and brother-in-law, is alarming in the extreme, because it is clear that he finally began to break under his continued imprisonment in isolation, and is now suffering from paranoid delusions. I saw a psychiatrist about it this afternoon and am taking urgent steps to ensure that he receives treatment. I am satisfied at this stage that the authorities released him as soon as they realised what they done to him. I might say that, shortly before his release, I received information that all was not well with him and I had inquiries made. The Minister concerned gave his personal assurance that Bob was fine.

I would ask you please to treat what I have written above as highly confidential. If you write to Bob, will you also please not refer to his being ill? The issue is extremely delicate at the moment, particularly as there will have to be negotiations with the Government to ensure that Bob is allowed to move to Johannesburg to receive treatment. He remains utterly lucid, but these paranoid ideas (which revolve around his belief that a "machine" has been and is being used on him) must be tackled without delay.

If you would like to write to him (and he can, of course, now receive as many letters as he pleases), his address is: 6 Naledi Street, Galeshewe, Kimberley, Cape, South Africa. I am sure that he would be delighted to hear from you.

Bob's release, so-called, has brought with it even greater financial burdens. The Government is supposed to be assisting him until he finds a job, but this assistance is not very substantial. Already I have received an urgent request for £100 which I have sent to him. The children, as far as I know, will continue to go to school in Lesotho, which means the outlay of quite a lot of money. But overshadowing all this at present is the fact that he is going to require medical treatment, which will be prolonged and expensive, even though the psychiatrist I saw is willing to assist by keeping his fees to a minimum. But within the next few weeks it will be necessary for the psychiatrist probably to fly to Kimberley and spend at least a day there with Bob -- and this is going to cost a lot.

Whenever I write to you about money, I stress that you have done enough and I ask instead whether it is possible to approach any other people you may know for help. If anything is available

it can still be sent to me, in the first place for payment of the likely medical fees, and in the second place, if enough is available, to assist Bob to settle down again to as normal an existence as possible.

The trial drags on, but will be ending either by the end of this week or early the following week. Although we have done tremendously well --- far better than we had hoped to do --- I don't think that we shall be acquitted. In fact, the outlook at present is decidedly bleak. I rather fear that our original belief that I am going to be singled out for special attention will be proved correct.

All good wishes to you,

Sincerely,

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Ba7-49**

Document Title:- **Letter to Charlotte (copy)**

Author:- **Benjamin Pogrund**

Document Date:- **1 June 1969**