

From: Benjamin Pogrud,
804, Doromo,
Van der Merwe Street,
Hillbrow,
JOHANNESBURG.

5th February, 1966.

REGISTERED POST

Mr Robert M. Sobukwe,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gaol,
ROBBER ISLAND;
via Cape Town.

My dear Bob,

I was most distressed to hear from your wife this week that you are not well. Your wife explained that, apparently you did not wish her to tell me about it, but she is so upset that she felt she had to advise me of the situation. After thinking it over I decided that the best thing to do would be to write direct to the Minister of Justice. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I have sent to him. I hope you will not be angry with me for having done this. I can only say that I share your wife's concern, and that, as far as I am concerned, the paramount consideration is that you should receive whatever medical treatment you need with the least delay.

Also enclosed is the list of the study books which you sent me. As stated in my last letter to you, written last month, some of these books have already been posted to you and I hope they have reached you safely. The books you already have (i.e. from your previous year of study), I have marked with an "S". I have also marked off the ones sent to you last month. The ones I have placed on order for you are marked with an "O" and a "D". (the difference in marking is because I did it at different times and forgot what symbol I had used). All being well, these books should be getting to you quite shortly. Will you let me know if the choice of books has your approval? I had difficulties in deciding what to select in the special studies of particular subjects. I thought it best here to return the list to you and to ask you to decide which special studies you wished to undertake and to advise me which of the listed books you wanted. So will you let me know about this as soon as possible? I have kept a copy of the lists so don't worry about returning the original to me.

I have not yet, at the time of writing, heard from you about my letter of December 7. Did it reach you?

My friend, there is little I need say about the Government's announced decision this week to detain you for a further year. You know my feelings. I pray only that the courage and strength of heart and will which have sustained you up to now, are still with you. Those of us who know you and cherish you know the truth.

Coming at a time of bad news about you, your letter of January 3 gave me great joy. Reading your first page, I clucked my tongue in displeasure when I came to your reference to yourself as an "African" -- and the one thing Africans could do was to say thank you. But I chuckled when I turned the page and read...."speaking as one African to another".....and saw that you had neatly trapped me into a line of racial thinking. No thanks needed, as you know. I am only delighted that the records and books have given you pleasure. I hope to send some more records soon.

Forgive me if I do not write any more in this letter. I was anxious to let you know about my letter to the Minister and to return your book lists and I shall write at greater length when I next hear from you.

You are in my nightly prayers.

G-d bless you.

PUBLISHER:

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

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Ba4-10**

Document Title:- **Letter (registered) to Sobukwe, Robben Island (copy) and transcript**

Author:- **Benjamin Pogrund**

Document Date:- **5 February 1966**