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23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal, South Africa.

2nd January, 1961.

Dear George,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 10 and your condolences. No I was not too much surprised.

Now I must ask you to help me in an important matter. The SABC alleged that I had invited some countries or governments - I can't remember which - to bring South Africa to her knees. You will remember that when I came to the States I undertook to speak for the American Committee about the South African situation, and to ask their help for the Defence & Aid Fund. You will also remember that I decided that I would not speak about or advocate the boycott but would not shirk answering questions if they were put to me. I hope that you have a clear remembrance of this, because I might ask you for a statement if I thought it would help. It seems clear to me that our Government officials attended my meetings in New York and Toronto. For the rest I think I must rely largely on Press cuttings. The trouble is that we do not know what Press cuttings they have, nor do we know how accurate they are. Did your office by any chance collect Press cuttings? If so, it would be a great help to receive copies of these. I have not yet decided to take any legal action because I had intended to concentrate on writing for some time, but I am awaiting the advice of some of my legal friends in Johannesburg.

All good wishes to the Committee and to my friends there, and may 1961 bring some hope for the world.

Very sincerely yours,



# American Committee on Africa

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December 13, 1960

Mr. Alan Paton  
Lynton Road  
Kloof, Natal  
South Africa

Dear Alan:

I am sorry that I just barely missed you in London as I was returning from a quick trip I took to Nigeria and the Congo. I don't believe I knew when you left here that I would be taking that trip. It all developed rather quickly when I received an invitation to attend the inauguration of Dr. Azikiwe as the Governor-General in Nigeria with expenses paid by the Nigerian government. I did go on for a brief period to the Congo after this just to get a look at the situation. I returned by way of London and called on Canon Collins and saw that you were to address a meeting in London a couple of days later.

Of course I have been reading in the newspapers about the fact that your passport has been taken away from you. I imagine that you were not too much surprised that the action was taken. I must express my own regret that it has happened, but I am afraid that I am not much surprised either.

You did a great deal of good for the cause while you were here. I hope that you were not too tired out by all of it. It was wonderful to have those opportunities to talk with you. I look forward to keeping closely in touch with you in the months and years ahead. Let us know at any time what we can do to be of assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

*George M. Houser*  
George M. Houser

GMH/cr

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