

From: Benjamin Pogrud,  
P.O. Box 1138,  
JOHANNESBURG.

20th April, 1969.

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

Dearest Bob,

I was so pleased, on Friday, to receive your letter of March 27 and to see that your spirit remains high. I am glad that the trousers were received safely and that you are all right. Was a white shirt perhaps enclosed also? If so, it is one of mine which I gave to the tailor for alteration. If you can, you can send it back to me. But if it fits you well, then by all means keep it.

You were obviously very happy about the visit of your mother and sister-in-law and this was reflected in the tone of your letter. The expensive tastes of your sister-in-law in clothing do not matter as long as she bought you what you like. Don't worry about the Stuttafords account: I shall settle it direct from here. I recently had a letter from Stuttafords in Cape Town saying that they could not find any record of an order placed by you. They assured me, however, that they would give immediate effect to any order which you might place. If you want anything, Bob, please write to the Mail Order Department at Stuttafords. The reference number on their letter was LOD3/.

You haven't said that the system of sending cheques in your name is unsatisfactory, so I shall do it again in the same way. With much pleasure I enclose my cheque for R30, for April, May and June. Sorry that the amount for April is reaching you so late. But at least May and June will be early!

I am seeing Veronica this week to talk about the children. I shall also then discuss with her the question of the plot of land which you mentioned. Dini wrote to me a while ago to tell me that while he had enjoyed the books I had sent him, he had found most of them too easy. It seems I had under-estimated his ability in reading English, and I am very pleased that he has a higher standard than I thought. I have sent him another batch, and will also soon be sending him a set of classics which he specially requested: Oliver Twist, Julius Caesar and The Rivals are the ones he specified. I have also, in a letter earlier today, told him what his Father requires of him in the way of savings! If he cannot buy money-boxes there for himself.

and the twins, I'll send them by post. I have written to Sister Stephanie at St. Mary's Hostel in the same vein about Milisawa. The Sister, by the way, is always the essence of kindness and help when I write to her.

About the books I promised to send to you, Bob: my apologies, but they haven't gone off yet. The cash for them, or most of it, was given by a friend, Mrs Irene Menell, with her very good wishes. But she wanted certain books chosen especially, and I want to choose some, and you have stated your preferences, and Jill and Ernie have ~~xxxx~~ theirs, so it has taken some time to knit it all together -- as well as arranging to buy them wholesale so we can buy even more. Anyway, they will be reaching you soon so you have something to look forward to. If you have the energy and the inclination, can you assist me in regard to books? Can you perhaps send me a list of all the books you have so that I can ensure that I do not duplicate? Am I asking a great deal? If it's too difficult, don't bother about it, but it would be a help.

Enclosed is a letter for you from Jenny. All her own work, except for asking me to spell Easter for her and Monday. She has again done well at school: an A plus average at the end of the first quarter, with her teacher again giving me glowing reports about her. On Friday evening I introduced her to serious opera by taking her to see the film of "La Traviata". She sat spellbound, so her life has been broadened yet a bit more. Coming out of the cinema, walking hand in hand up the street, we passed a beggar sitting on the pavement. Jenny asked me for some money to give him and she went across and handed it to him. Then we walked on. After a few paces she said to me, terribly thoughtfully: "That's a good way to make money, hey". So you see that some of her father's cynicism is rubbing off on her.

I am worried that you haven't yet started on your variety studies. What about enrolling with the University of South Africa? Apart from the saving of time, the entrance qualifications for an Honours degree will probably not be as rigorous as those of London. If you are interested, perhaps you could telegraph me immediately and I would arrange to have the prospectus posted to you immediately. My own studies are limping along: it requires a great deal of reading. I am more concerned about the studies than about anything else that is happening to me at the moment, which I suppose is a good thing in itself! I don't know if you were able to read the recent reports in your local newspapers, but if you were, then you would have seen that things have gone extremely well, once one accepts that the result is virtually pre-ordained.

Much love to you,

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