

Feb: 4: 1958.

R
18/2

The Priory,
Rosettenville,
Johannesburg.

My dearest Alan,

Very many thanks for your most kind, helpful + astringent letter, which I was extremely glad to get. I am off tomorrow to say farewell to Sekukuniiland + S. Rhodesia: get back here on the 24th + leave at 9.0 am on the 29th for the U.S. arriving at about midnight on the 1st March. Fr. Patterson + Louis Stone are apparently coming to meet me.

You ask, why do I dread leaving S. Africa? Because I love it, + because all the people + most of the things I love best are here. So, just as I think death is to be dreaded in its aspect of separation and departure, I think leaving this country is legitimately to be dreaded too. Why do I dread England? Because I know too well that its effect on me is one of claustrophobia. It seems to me a country which provides no stimulus, which is too crowded, which is too snug + comfortable. I have the feeling that I am going to be buried alive.

Why do I dread my new job? Because, at present anyhow, I can feel not the slightest stirring of interest in it or of response in myself. Because I don't feel I am suited to it. Because I cannot, at present, see how I am to give myself to it if I am being pulled apart by a longing + a yearning for Africa.

of obedience? I do give it wholeheartedly. But it is a completely task and unlit obedience. I can find no joy in it anywhere. In fact it is, too, like a sort of death, + the only way I can use it or accept it is in refusing to look beyond each day.

Yet I know God has some plan + purpose in all this, +, although I weakly complain, I don't really doubt it. Only it is at present simply an agony. Enough of me.

I had a lovely long chat with Donnie last Saturday. I must have a long one with you, + soon!

So glad about livingstone, + sorry about the book,

P.S. Doubledays have bought the rights in my book.

All my love

Trevor C.R.

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

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.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.