

P.O. Box 1138,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
11th November, 1971.

Mr William R. Cotter,  
President,  
The African-American Institute,  
866 United Nations Plaza,  
New York, New York 10017,  
U.S.A.

Dear Bill,

Bob Sobukwe's appeal was heard on Tuesday and I returned last night from a quick visit to Kimberley, so I am now able to write in reply to your letter of September 21.

The appeal apparently received a good hearing and there are some hopes of success on a majority decision of the five-judge Appeal Court. Judgment is likely within the next two to three weeks. If Bob wins he will want to leave very soon thereafter -- provided, of course, that the Government does not take any further administrative action to hold him here. At the idea is for Bob to travel alone, with his wife and children following at a later stage. Their applications for exit permits are still snarled up in the red tape of government.

I suggest that arrangements should now be made from your end for the authorisation of air tickets (a) to Bob and (b) to Mrs Sobukwe and the four children. I suppose the best thing would be to advise an agency like American Express to authorise such tickets through its Johannesburg office. The problem though is that American Express do not have an office in Kimberley; I suppose their Johannesburg office could either issue the tickets through a sub-agent in Kimberley, or post them to the Sobukwes. The Johannesburg office could perhaps be told to wait for word from me before actually issuing the tickets. I tried to sort this out on the phone with the American Express office here this afternoon, but they seem to be a bit stupid about making such arrangements. I am hoping that their US offices will be able to show more sense.

Bob is well, and will cheerfully accept whatever happens. We discussed the point raised in your letter about the ability of his wife to cope. We both appreciate your concern, but believe it will be all right.

There has been a lot of trouble here

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