

23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal, South Africa.

3rd January, 1966.

Dear Mr. Smith,

I understand that the RAND DAILY MAIL of Johannesburg is entering for an Award that is sponsored annually by your Association. I would like to write in the strongest and warmest terms in support of this entry. The RAND DAILY MAIL is not only an Anti Apartheid paper, it is also an outstanding defender of civil rights and liberties, and a fearless exponent of the freedom of the Press. To people like myself of liberal and democratic temperament, it is one of the few bastions of freedom left in a country whose Government has assumed greater and greater powers to imprison people without trial, to confine people to restricted areas without trial, to banish people to remote parts of the country without trial, to detain people up to 180 days without trial, and during this period to subject them to such treatment that some of them commit suicide, others lose their reason, and others betray their nearest friends.

The RAND DAILY MAIL has been very outspoken in its denunciation of this destruction of the rule of law. It goes without saying that the people who are subjected to these extra-legal punishments are invariably opposed to the doctrine of apartheid. In order to present an attractive face to the Western world the Government proceeds against these people under the provisions of the Suppression of Communism Act which gives to the Minister of Justice the power to inflict these punishments on any person whom he deems to be furthering the aims of communism. Some persons thus dealt with <sup>are</sup> Communists, but the great majority <sup>are</sup> liberals and African patriots.

I would also like to mention the record of Mr. Laurence Gandar, the editor of the RAND DAILY MAIL. His newspaper is anathema to the Government because he stands unequivocally for the freedom of the individual, which includes naturally the freedom of the Press. What will happen to him and his paper is doubtful at the moment, but if the RAND DAILY MAIL were to win the Award this would have two important consequences. It would make it more difficult for the Government to

to take extreme steps against Mr. Gandar and the RAND DAILY MAIL, and it would be an encouragement to those people of liberal and democratic persuasion who are at present an embattled minority, many of them suffering great hardships and all of them needing the support and encouragement of the free Press of the world.

I am, sir,

Yours sincerely,

**Collection Number: AD1169**

**Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

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