



THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL  
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11 June 86.

Dear Benjie,

I'd be grateful if you could, as soon as poss, comment on the following remarks which Sobukwe made to Gail Gerhart in 1970:

he said he never knew Nelson until they were in prison. That Nelson 'lacks the common touch' and was very arrogant. That he always attracted the weak and not strong people, that he had to dominate. But was engaging, and always cracking jokes. And that he was a Maoist! A Titoist, philosophically an opportunist, all to boost his own prestige.

This is so contrary to what Yusuf Omar said of N in that time in Pretoria prison, and also Ngcobo's remarks about how they all got on well, and how they teased N for being pro-British etc that I'd like to have your view. It matters to what I am writing, as I had Sobukwe and Mandela sewing mailbags and getting on well together in their discussion of earlier split etc. As for N lacking the common touch, Ruth Mompoti who was his secretary for years, said the people he got on particularly well with in his law practice were peasants and rural people. Another weird thing ~~he~~ Sobukwe said was that Tambo and Mandela never got on well!

Incidentally he was v. critical of Sisulu getting help from Indians in early 1950's yet he describes how through Ngubane, he and the PAC got help from an Indian when they couldn't afford to get leaflets printed. (Ngubane turned out to be a fiasco.) Intriguing that Sobukwe consulted Slovo re possible appeals for PAC followers.

I hear Today had big story re Queen and sanctions pressure - things look more explosive than ever.

Do hope you have all settled in and feeling happier now summer's come?

*all the best to  
Lelyvelds -*

*Mary*

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