

FROM: Benjamin Pogrand

105 Earls Court,  
2nd Avenue,  
Killarney,  
JOHANNESBURG,  
7th November, 1963.

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

My dear Bob,

My deepest apologies for taking so long to answer your last most welcome letter. I have been up to my ears in work as a result of leaving the Mail to undertake my research project. After more than five years on the paper, I am almost part of the furniture there, and leaving has been an almighty wrench. I am, however, receiving a monthly retainer and am also going in to work every Sunday night.

I saw your wife a few days ago and can report that she is keeping well. When I asked after the children, her face lit up - which is perhaps the best indication of their welfare that I can give you. I am sorry that her projected trip to Cape Town did not come off, but as you no doubt know, she will be down for several weeks from later this month. I shall be seeing her before her departure in case I can be of any assistance to her. Mrs. Eulalie Stott of Cape Town was up here recently. She is keen to give you all possible aid and I discussed ways and means with her.

As requested, I sent off the originals of your academic

certificates to Oxford with a letter that the certificates should be returned to me. I was under the impression that you intended doing your studies through the University of South Africa. If this is in fact your intention and you are encountering any administrative difficulties, please let me know so that I can try to get them sorted out.

I hope the parcel of books has now reached you and that they have given you some pleasure. Dr. Ellen Hellman has given me another batch of books and I will be sending this down to you soon. Also, Ernie Wentzel is arranging for the London "Observer" to be sent to you, while I have arranged renewals of the "English Digest" and "John O'London". Please let me know if the mix-up with the Readers Digest has been sorted out yet and also whether there are any other papers or books you want. Mrs. Stott, by the way, will ensure that you continue to receive the Mail, the "Sunday Times" and "Sunday Express".

I am sorry that you have been caused distress in reading the Mail. When I read your statement ("I have had to bite my teeth at times as I read your views") I tried to think back to which of my articles could possibly have upset you so much. I cannot recall any in the past few months in which I have expressed very strong views one way or the other - which might, of course, be an indication of how well-adjusted I am to the current South African situation.

Did you see our recent series of articles on the Churches, and if so, what did you think of them?

I was in Basutoland recently and saw E.B. He is teaching there and keeping reasonably well. He sent you his best wishes.

I shall be in Cape Town in January or February for several weeks and am looking forward to being able to visit you, although I do earnestly hope that you will have been freed by then.

In the meantime, very warmest greetings to you from Astrid and me. We hope that your spirit remains as high as it has been and that your courage is not flagging. We pray for your welfare and that of your family.

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

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***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Ba1-4**

*Document Title:-* **Letter to Sobukwe, Robben Island (two transcripts, one a photostat copy)**

*Author:-* **Benjamin Pogrund**

*Document Date:-* **7 November 1963**