

~~VERHOORAFWAGTENDE—AWAITING~~
TRIAL.

Pta Sentraal.

TRONK
GAOLNAAM
NAME

Hilda Bernstein

Alias

No 410/60

Beskuldiging
Charge

Nood Regularis. is.

Opgeneem (datum)
Admitted (date)

6-5-60

Opmerkings
RemarksNa die Hoër Hof verwys (datum)
Committed for Trial (date)

Emergency card

Klas E 1959/60.
Class

Seksie theaie Bunsolin Sel 1959/60
Section act 40 Cell

Geloof Boek 91 Onderdom 1959/60
Religion Boek 91 Age

Ambag onder met 2/5/53
Trade

Skaal van Beloning 2/5/53
Scale of Gratuity

N 6403 3/15/60.
DUIMAFDRUK—THUMB IMPRESSION



8-4-60

2 JAAR EN MEER
YEARS AND OVER

_____ **Gevangenis/Tronk.**
Prison/Gaol.

No. _____

Naam _____
Name

FRIDAY.

1960?

Myrtle

Dear Hilda, Sonia, Molly, Jetta, Helen, Anne and the
 best of you on the other side of the wall; Congrats, Helen,
 on the start of your experience! Just a few lines to pass a few minutes
 of yours and of mine & of which we have so many
 to pass! Surprising, all the same, how quickly
 the days and weeks pass, isn't it?

Hope you are now all well over the
 fast. That was a surprise too! I could have gone
 on for days, if only they'd allowed Monty to prepare
 a little food for me now and again. I suppose
 your visitors have told you that the only difference
 the strike has made to me is that I can't stop eating!
 And Douglas Thompson nearly equals my horse-like
 capacity for fodder. ~~Disappointed~~ or no, I just go on
 eating! During the strike, when everyone was seeking
 his favourite recipe, restaurant or historic meal,
 I started collecting recipes - which I am now
 prepared to sell, at half-a-guinea each! Any
 orders? (Nannah Jeff sent in a lovely cooking-book!!)
 I dreamt of you a couple of nights ago,
 Molly. A friend & I called unexpectedly at your
 home about 6 o'clock. A little later you looked at
 the leg of lamb and invited us to stay to dinner,
 which we did. Bram had to go off to work after
 the meal, but we stayed. I can't remember any
 other guests, like Miss Paver, or any dirty stories
 like the "Sick-story" to end all Sick stories!!

I wish we could get to you a couple
 of copies of the programme we presented on Tuesday
 evening for our act of mourning for Union Day.
 The most amazing thing about it was the
 speed with which the team got the thing together.
 Monday night after supper we decided to do
 a programme & the form it would take. We
 divided 1910-1960 into five periods, allocated
 a period each to five writers, who handed me
 their scripts by midday Tuesday. I put the
 stuff into narrative form and added linking
 passages & musical cues by 4 o'clock. We
 read it through, made corrections, cast
 the parts and then shared the rough copy
 out to five writers who produced 4 fair-
 copies. After supper at 7, we had a rehearsal.

2

at 8 o'clock we presented the thing!! Team-
work excellent!

Sonya, I have a pleasant daydream, when I
get tired of these unchanging bricks - I imagine
myself with you and Brian in your wonderful
lounge; the beer is pouring in and gradually
changing colour over the sea: we are eating
peanuts and drinking brandy (!! I'm swooning)
and what's-'e-called, "Africa South", Ronnie Segal, is
cassering around & telling us of his latest art
purchase!! By the way, do you remember John
Calderwood, that Scot' friend of mine? Well, he's
now working in C.T. & has a flat in "Marivan"
where I stayed last year. I'm green with yellow!!!

I bet you're mad, myrtle, that we've got
your husband on our side - I mean because of the
food & cooking! He's bloody marvellous and,
come the revolution, will have a special
medal. What I can't get over is his sweet
temper - is he always so bubbling? - unlike
me, I'm ashamed to say! I flare up from
time to time & tell individuals of all and sundry
to "my favourite word - off!!". But no one has
hit me yet. They respect my age! -> Refer to Jettie.

Permit me to be disloyal to my comrades
and to advise you wives that as scullery maids,
housemaids, laundresses, these men are experts!
So, when you get home, don't go toiling over the
hot stove all day, wearing your fingers to the
bone, let them do it!! Issy - Anne - is a first rate
cook; Rusty - Hilda - is a picture of joy (well,
not joy exactly; determination, ^{perhaps} somewhat grim!);
each man, as he, makes his "bed & washes up."

a joke before I pack up (I wish it was lunchtime -
I'm starving!) A professor from London University, walking
one lunchtime through Hyde Park, noticed the droves of prostitutes
who were at work. "Funny," said one prof., "that there isn't a
collective noun for these women." "Well," said the ~~prof.~~ Prof. of
Domestic Science, "what about a jam of tarts?" "No," said
the Prof. of Music, "I suggest a flourish of Strumpets".
The junior English prof said, "What about a volume
of rollopes?" but the Senior English ~~lecturer~~ prof said,
"No, no! I think an Anthology of English Prose."

Love to you all - see you soon.

Neil

Pretoria

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE
THE GR...

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIE
VEILIGHEIDSTREK
AFD. W.W. RAND
11 MEI 1960
SECURITY BRANCH
W.W. RAND DIV.
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

ENLD UNDER EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.

subject to rules and
for
Miss T. Bernstein (daughter)

H. S. ...

150 Regent Street Observatory
Pretoria

M. J. S. ... Lt. Col.
OFFICER IN CHARGE SECURITY
BRANCH WATWATERSTAND DIVISION

CENTRAL PRISON
12-5-1968
PRETORIA
SENTIALE BEVANGERS

45 - 5803.
33 - 1181.

26 SHIPSTON LANE,
VICTORIA,
JOHANNESBURG.

11TH JUNE, 1960.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE,
PRETORIA.

DEAR SIR,

RE: MRS. H. BERNSTEIN - DETAINEE.

FURTHER TO MY INTERVIEW WITH YOU ON MONDAY, THE 6TH JUNE, AND MY SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH CAPTAIN PRINSLOO AT YOUR INSTANCE, I WAS INFORMED TELEPHONICALLY BY CAPTAIN PRINSLOO ON THURSDAY, THAT WRITTEN APPLICATION TO YOUR DEPARTMENT MUST NOW BE MADE FOR THE RELEASE OF MY SISTER-IN-LAW.

I ACCORDINGLY REQUEST THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE RELEASE OF MRS. HILDA BERNSTEIN ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS.

MY GROUNDS FOR MAKING THIS REQUEST ARE SUMMARISED BY STATING THAT DETAINEE'S HUSBAND, MY BROTHER, MR. LIONEL BERNSTEIN, IS ALSO A DETAINEE AND THAT THEREFORE THEIR FOUR CHILDREN HAVE NO PARENT AVAILABLE TO TEND THEM, AND ALSO THAT THE CHILDREN'S FAMILY LIFE AND HOME ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN BROKEN UP.

THE AGES OF THE FOUR CHILDREN CONCERNED ARE 3½, 8, 11 AND 17 YEARS RESPECTIVELY. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ADEQUATELY CARED FOR AND DO NOT LACK FOR FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER NECESSITIES. I MUST, HOWEVER, STATE THAT IN GENERAL A SITUATION WHICH BREAKS UP THE FAMILY GROUP (THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SEPARATED OF NECESSITY) - AND SIMULTANEOUSLY DEPRIVES THESE CHILDREN OF BOTH PARENTS, FOR REASONS WHICH CERTAINLY CANNOT BE EXPLAINED TO THE YOUNGER ONES, MUST PRODUCE IN THEM RESULTS WHICH CANNOT FAIL TO AFFECT THEM ADVERSELY - AND RESULTS WHICH WILL HAVE SERIOUS AND LASTING ADVERSE EFFECTS. ALL PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL AGREE WITH THE ABOVE STATEMENT. I WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT THESE EFFECTS ARE SUFFERED BY INNOCENT CHILDREN. MY SISTER-IN-LAW HAS NOT INDULGED IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY SINCE SHE WAS " NAMED ". I MUST POINT OUT THAT THE CHILDREN OF A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CRIME DO NECESSARILY INNOCENTLY SUFFER WHEN DEPRIVED OF A PARENT OR PARENTS. THE POSITION HERE IS DIFFERENT AND I WISH TO EMPHASISE

THIS DIFFERENCE. FOR ALL THE ABOVE REASONS, I FEEL I AM JUSTIFIED IN APPROACHING YOU FOR THE URGENT COMPASSIONATE RELEASE OF MRS. BERNSTEIN, FOR THE SAKE OF HER CHILDREN, INNOCENT OF ANY CRIME.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE ABOVE GENERAL REMARKS BY OUTLINING CERTAIN PARTICULAR EFFECTS WHICH MRS. BERNSTEIN'S TWO MONTHS ABSENCE FROM HER CHILDREN HAS PRODUCED ALREADY. THESE EFFECTS IN THE CHILDREN ARE DEFINITELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM THE DETENTION OF THEIR PARENTS.

FRANCES - AGED 8: THIS GIRL IS AN EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT BUT SENSITIVE CHILD. SHE IS NOW PRONE TO FREQUENT CRYING SPELLS FOR NO APPARENT REASON AND SHOWS ALL THE SIGNS OF INSECURITY.

PATRICK - AGED 11: THIS LAD IS SUBJECT TO MOODS AND FOR LONG PERIODS HE DOES NOT UTTER A WORD - HE SEEMS TO WITHDRAW INTO HIMSELF AND HAS BECOME A COMPLETE INTROVERT.

TONY - AGED 17: THIS GIRL IS IN HER MATRIC YEAR AT SCHOOL. AT THIS IMPORTANT STAGE IN HER LIFE, SHE HAS HAD TO SHOULDER A BURDEN WHICH NORMALLY FALLS TO THE LOT OF A MOTHER. THE BURDEN TAKES TWO FORMS - FIRSTLY, SHE HAS TO ASSIST WITH THE NUMEROUS CHORES INHERENT IN ORGANISING SMALL CHILDREN - SEEING TO CLEAN CLOTHES, SUPERVISING HOMEWORK, DRESSING, ETC. SECONDLY, SHE HAS TO SUBSTITUTE PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE 3½ YEAR OLD CHILD, FOR THE ATTENTION AND LOVE WHICH HE EXPECTS AND IS NOW DEPRIVED OF. IN ADDITION, TONY LEAVES SCHOOL TWICE WEEKLY BY ARRANGEMENT AT 1.P.M. IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT SHE SEES BOTH HER FATHER AND MOTHER AT THE PRETORIA GOAL. EACH TRIP INVOLVES NOT ONLY MISSING SCHOOLING, BUT AS SHE CAN REACH HOME ONLY AFTER 4.30.P.M. TWICE WEEKLY, THE TIME LOST FOR STUDY PURPOSES COUPLED WITH THE OTHER CALLS ON HER TIME BY THE CHILDREN BECOMES MATERIAL. THE RESULT WILL BE A FAILURE IN MATRIC AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL RESULTS OF SUCH A FAILURE. THE UNSETTLEMENT PRODUCED IN THIS GIRL'S MIND BY THE ABOVE SITUATION IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO A CONCENTRATED EFFORT WHICH THE MATRIC DEMANDS.

KEITH - AGED 3½: THIS CHILD IS BEWILDERED AND CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED. HE WILL CERTAINLY BE THE WORST AFFECTED.

FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF A CHILD OF SIMILAR AGE, HE WILL SHOW MARKED EVIDENCE OF WHAT THIS SEPARATION HAS MEANT TO HIM. THESE RESULTS WILL BECOME APPARENT WHEN HIS PARENTS RETURN, AS HE WILL THEN REALISE WHAT HE HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF.

IN GENERAL, IT IS NECESSARY TO EMPHASISE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SEPARATION OF THESE CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS, WILL ONLY BECOME FULLY APPARENT IN THE FUTURE, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LONGER THIS ABNORMAL POSITION CONTINUES, THE WORSE THE EFFECT ON ALL THE CHILDREN WILL BE.

YOUR DEPARTMENT'S SYMPATMETIC AND SPEEDY CONSIDERATION OF MY REQUEST WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ME AND MY FAMILY. MY FOUR GOOD REASONS - THE FOUR CHILDREN - DESERVE A FAVOURABLY REPLY.

CHALLENGE ©
BOND
YOURS FAITHFULLY,

H.L. BERNSTEIN.

The Officer Commanding,
The Fort.

Sir,

1.) We, the detainees in Section 1 of this prison, wish to draw your attention to the outbreak of diarrhoea amongst us.

On Saturday night, April 23rd, approximately 30% (i.e. 8 out of 29) of the detainees in this section were affected, and as it was the weekend, no doctor was available. We are of the opinion that the outbreak arises out of the conditions set out hereunder, and believe that unless these conditions are radically improved the outbreak will spread, or the infection become endemic.

2.) Although we have been largely isolated from the awaiting-trial prisoners in this section, the conditions of our detention nevertheless lend themselves to the spread of infection from them to us and vice-versa. We have no reason to believe that the outbreak amongst us has not also been reflected in conditions among those awaiting trial, and we must assume that until conditions are changed we are all mutually dependent on each other for the maintenance of hygienic standards. We ourselves have attempted to maintain the highest standards of hygiene possible in the circumstances, but we have no knowledge of what standards are or can be maintained amongst others held elsewhere in this prison. There does not appear to us to be any routine supervision of hygiene standards or standards of personal cleanliness in so far as prisoners are concerned.

3. The specific unhygienic practices and conditions to which we wish to draw your attention are as follows:

a) There are only 4 water closets and two urinal stalls in this section to serve approximately 120 men. By comparison, the Factories Act and Regulations prescribe one water closet for every fifteen employees, who spend only approximately eight hours per day on the premises. At least one lavatory pan is cracked, and the overcrowding during the

- relatively short period in which anyone has access to these closets prevents proper standards of cleanliness being maintained.
- b.) During the periods we are locked in our cells, amounting at weekends to some 20 hours per day, we are forced to defecate in urinal pots in the cells, and have no facilities for washing of hands and scrubbing of nails after defecation. Food is kept in all cells in close proximity to the urinal pots. As food purchases are restricted to one delivery per week, much of this food is in open containers.
- c.) The urinal pots are carried down to the yard in the morning through the hallway in which cooked food is being served and eaten. After emptying and perfunctory sluicing in cold water, these urinal pots are again carried through the aisle formed in the hall by the food servers and food containers, with food carriers and urinal-pot carriers mixing in confusion.
- d.) The urinal-pots are placed in the yard in close proximity to the tubs of water in which the food dishes are washed. Periodically pots are also stacked in the shower-and-washroom. There appears to be no routine order enforcing the washing of hands and scrubbing of nails by those handling the urinal pots, who in many cases are also concerned in the handling of food and the serving of food.
- e.) The enamel food dishes themselves, almost without exception, are badly chipped and crazed. These dishes are washed in an open yard adjoining the waterclosets, and the dishes used by the entire section are washed in a single metal tub of hot water without soap or detergents, and without subsequent rinsing. No running water whatsoever is used.
- f.) No standards of personal cleanliness, nail scrubbing or hand washing appears to be imposed upon those awaiting-trial prisoners who handle or serve our food. We are unable to comment on the standards maintained in the Kitchen to which we have no access, but consider that a source of possible infection may well be present there, since we understand that the Kitchen is staffed by prisoners who live under much the same unhygienic conditions as ourselves.

- g.) The mugs supplied to us individually are rough galvanised metal. The surfaces are not smooth enough to allow of easy cleaning; and in many cases the galvanizing has not prevented the rusting of the inner surfaces. No hot water or detergents are available to us for the cleaning of these mugs.
- ✓ h.) The urine pots are of galvanized iron with joints and seams which trap both dirt and germs. For purposes of disinfection, complete reliance appears to be placed on a shallow layer of disinfectant at the bottom of the pot.
- ✓ 4. The effect of diarrhoea contracted by a single occupant of a cell can not be limited ~~to~~^{to} that person alone. All the occupants of a cell are compelled to use the same pot without flushing, and to live close to it for unbroken periods of confinement of up to 16 hours. Apart from the general unpleasantness of such conditions, including the necessity to sleep through the night in the stench, the infected person, without facilities for washing of his hands, is brought by the enforced proximity into constant contact with the belongings, mug, food and persons of his cell mates. On the Saturday night referred to, 3 out of 4 inmates of one cell were ~~affected~~ affected by diarrhoea, creating intolerable conditions in that cell. Since we are detained here without charges against us and without any allegation that we have committed any offences whatsoever, we regard these conditions as harsh, punitive in character, and completely indefensible from any public health point of view.
- ✓ 5. We wish therefore to request that immediate consideration be given to raising the health and hygiene standards in this prison to a level consistent with modern practice. In the meantime, we wish to make the following requests for immediate changes in the conditions affecting us, viz:
- a.) That we be issued with our own individual food dishes made either of plastic, aluminium or new, undipped enamel.

- b.) That facilities be made available for the proper washing of these dishes, including an adequate supply of running hot and cold water and suitable detergents.
 - c.) That the arrangements for the handling and serving of our own food be separated from those of awaiting-trial prisoners, and be entrusted to our own hands; and that close and continuous supervision of standards of hygiene in the Kitchen be maintained.
 - d.) That we be given our own, separate, water closet accommodation, and that those lavatories be maintained in a proper state of cleanliness, including the supply of proper brushes, Harpic & cleaning agents.
 - e.) That urine pots in our cells be used solely for the purpose of urination; and that arrangements be made to allow us to use the water closets for defaecation during those periods when we are confined to our cells.
 - f.) Since the onset of diarrhoea is often sudden, that each cell be provided with a bottle of Kectil for use as and when required.
- 6.) We request, sir, that you and the doctor in charge of prison health be present in the hall of this section at breakfast time tomorrow to see for yourselves that these requests are made on strong grounds. We would emphasize that in conditions of prison life it is not possible to confine disease or infection to any single section. Unless, therefore, standards of hygiene throughout the whole prison are maintained constantly at the highest possible level, no improvements in our own special conditions can adequately meet the situation.

The Officer Commanding,
The Fort.

25. 4. 1960.

Sir,

- 1) We, the detainees in Section 1 of this prison, wish to draw your attention to the outbreak of diarrhoea amongst us ^{which occurred} On Saturday night, April 23rd. Approximately 30% (i.e. 8 out of 29) of the detainees in this section were affected, and as it was the weekend, no doctor was available. We are of the opinion that the outbreak ~~arose~~ ^{arose} out of the conditions set out hereunder, and believe that unless these conditions are radically improved, ~~this type of outbreak~~ ^{this type of} will ~~spread~~ ^{recur}, or the infection become endemic.

- 2) Although we have been largely isolated from ~~the~~ ^{these} awaiting-trial ~~prisoners~~ in this section, the conditions of our detention nevertheless lend themselves to the spread of infection from them to us and vice-versa. We have no reason to believe that the outbreak amongst us has not also been reflected ~~in conditions~~ amongst ~~these~~ awaiting trial, and we must assume that until conditions are changed we are all mutually dependent on each other for the maintenance of ^{standards of} hygiene. ~~standards~~. We ourselves have attempted to maintain the highest standards of hygiene possible in the circumstances, but we have no knowledge of what standards are or can be maintained amongst others held elsewhere in this prison. ~~There does not appear to us to be any~~ ^{We assume that the prison authorities maintain} routine supervision of ^{standards of} hygiene ~~standards~~ ^{and} ~~standards~~ ^{and} personal cleanliness ~~in so far as prisoners are concerned.~~

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cracked, and the overcrowding during the relatively short periods in which anyone has access to these closets prevents proper standards of cleanliness being maintained.

b) During the periods we are locked in our cells, amounting at weekends to some 20 hours per day, we are forced to defaecate in urine pots in the cells, and have no facilities for washing of hands and scrubbing of nails ^{there-} after ~~defaecation~~. Food is kept in all cells in close proximity to the urine pots. As food purchases are restricted to one delivery per week, much of this food is in open containers.

3

~~c) The urine pots are carried down to the yard in the morning through the hallway in which cooked food is being served and eaten. After emptying and perfunctory sluicing in cold water, these urine pots are again carried through the aisle formed in the hall by the food servers and food containers, with food carriers and urine-pot carriers mixing in confusion.~~

c) ~~These urine-pots~~ ^{when emptied in the morning, are stacked} ~~are placed in the yard in close proximity to the tubs of water in which the food dishes are washed.~~

3 → ~~Periodically pots are also stacked in the shower-and-washroom.~~

B → ~~There appears to be no routine order enforcing the washing of hands and scrubbing of nails by those handling the urine pots, who in many cases are also concerned in the handling of food and the serving of food.~~

d) The enamel food dishes themselves, almost without exception, are badly chipped and crazed. ^{The washing of} These dishes ^{takes place in} ~~are washed in~~ an open yard adjoining the water closets, and the dishes used by the entire section are washed in a single metal tub of hot water ~~(without soap or detergents) (and without subsequent rinsing)~~ No

B

and no running water whatsoever is used.

SEE OVER PAGE 3.

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B

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there, since we understand that the kitchen is staffed by prisoners who live under much the same unhygienic conditions as ourselves.

e) ~~The~~ mugs supplied to us individually are rough, galvanized metal. The surfaces are not smooth enough to allow of easy cleaning; and in many cases the galvanizing has not prevented the rusting of the inner surfaces. (No hot water or detergents are available to us for the cleaning of these mugs.)

f) The urine pots are of galvanized iron with joints and seams which trap both dirt and germs. For purposes of disinfection, complete reliance appears to be placed on a shallow layer of disinfectant at the bottom of the pot, renewed daily after perfunctory slopping in cold water.

4) The effect of diarrhoea contracted by a single occupant of a cell can not be limited to that person alone. All the occupants of a cell are compelled to use the same ^{urine} pot without flushing, and to live close to it for unbroken periods of confinement of up to 16 hours. Apart from the general unpleasantness of such conditions, ~~including the necessity~~ ^{the occupants of the cell} ~~are forced~~ to sleep through the night in the stench, the infected person, without facilities for washing of his hands, is brought by the enforced proximity of the cell into constant contact with the belongings, mugs, food and persons of his cell mates. On the Saturday night referred to, 3 out of 4 inmates of one cell were affected by diarrhoea, creating intolerable conditions in that cell. Since we are detained here without charges against us and without any allegation that we have committed any offences whatsoever, we regard these conditions as harsh, punitive in character, and completely indefensible from any public health point of view.

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ii) ~~That~~ the arrangements for the handling and serving of our
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and be entrusted to our own hands and that close
and continuous supervision of standards of hygiene in
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of cleanliness, including the supply of proper brushes, Harpic &
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iv) ~~THAT URINE POTS IN OUR CELLS BE USED SOLELY FOR THE~~
PURPOSE OF URINATION; AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE
MADE TO ALLOW US TO USE THE WATER CLOSETS
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