

A 76

From: Benjamin Pogrand,
P.O. Box 1138,
Johannesburg.

14th July, 1968.

REGISTERED

Mr Robert M. Sobulase,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gaol,
ROBBER ISLAND,
Cape Town.

My dear Bob,

I received your letter of June 12 only a few days ago, and am taking the first opportunity to reply.

I want to see you proceeding to your next course of studies as quickly as possible, but there is something puzzling me: I thought you were doing a three-year Bachelor of Economics degree through the University of London, and that these were your second year exams. Yet it seems that you have completed the degree examinations? Were you allowed a year off because of your Fort Here B.A. or what?

I hope that the results will prove to be better than you anticipate, and that you will, in fact, emerge with a first class. I am looking forward anxiously for news of your results. Your ~~own~~ authority to me to request a re-marking in case of failure is noted — but I have more than enough belief in you not even to accept this as a possibility.

About the next course: I strongly recommend English for a Master's degree. I think that it would ~~also~~ provide opportunities for freshening your mind, through contact with the world's literature (even if it is only English literature, that still presents a tremendous range!), to an extent that mathematics and physics can never do. I definitely think that English would provide a vast amount of both pleasure and profit, and would be a means of maintaining your spirit. The other subjects are too dry and dull — for you certainly, I believe. I do not understand why you should not wish to do English if it means that you must first do French. I think it an excellent idea to study French: it will be useful in the future perhaps, and in turn will also open up a vast range of new reading to you. There need be no great problem about studying it, as I will ensure that you receive a teaching course on gramophone records.

Whatever you decide, will you let me know as soon as possible what your book requirements are, so that I can get them organised? It might perhaps be a good idea, when you write to the university concerned, to send an additional copy of the syllabus and the list of books needed direct to me. Then when you get your list you can also write to me letting me know your particular preferences. But it will enable me to get a flying start in obtaining at least the basic books.

Mrs Stott told me, as I think I said in my last letter, that she had had your request about the record-player. I hope it has been safely returned to you and is working well.

The batch of books you received were probably the ones I sent a while ago. I am sorry that I omitted to let you have a list of them, but am enclosing this now. I plan to send you more shortly. I think that I must again write to the Officer Commanding about the very big batch I sent you in July/August last year, which apparently have still not reached you.

I am writing to you from the office, and it is just on 2 a.m. I am flying off in the morning to Durban until Thursday with Jenny, who grows more adorable by the day. I need a break badly, but in the evenings down there, when Jenny is asleep, I hope to do some quiet writing. I am always completely relaxed when I am away with her, and I am looking forward to these few days of peace. There are a lot of personal problems at the moment, Bob, but I hope they will be resolved by next week, and I shall then write to you about them. It was Jenny's 7th birthday last Monday, by the way, and I gave her a budgie as a present. What excitement! What a light in her eyes, and how incessantly she talks about how her budgie "tweets" to her. The budgie's name is "Laila", which is Hebrew for "evening". There's a lovely Hebrew lullaby I know of this name, and I often sing it to Jenny, so she was happy to accept the suggestion for naming her pet. Her school results: again a string of "A's", which again have delighted me.

I wrote to Veronica recently, but we have not yet had a meeting. I shall rush a message to her as soon as I return from Durban as I know that she plans to visit you next month. I am sorry, deeply sorry, that the children's visit apparently fell through.

With deep affection,

G.P.-S.

RTS

P. 1/42.

(Klein.)
(Small.)

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*Robben Island
Cape Town*



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