



11th August, 1966

Dear Alan

I am delighted to get your letter.

I would, of course, like to do anything I could to help the cause of Liberalism in South Africa and would in principle very much like to visit the country.

The difficulty as you can imagine is finding a suitable time and knowing quite what to say which would at once reaffirm our position and yet not make things more difficult for people such as yourself.

I understand that in any case it would probably not be possible to arrange a visit before Easter of next year. Whether this is your view or not I do not know but it is the information I have and in fact it would fit in with my own arrangements as I would find it very difficult to get away before then. This would give me some little time to look at the exact dates and arrangements and this I will certainly do.

With my best wishes and heartfelt admiration for your magnificent political stand.

Alan Paton, Esq.

Yours sincerely
J. S. [Signature]

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General

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

13th September, 1966.

Dear Jo,

It has been a relief to make contact with you at last. It seems absurd that a letter written to a person in your public position should not reach you. Some years ago if a complaint had been made, the official reply would have been a flat denial that there was any interference with letters. Today the answer would have been somewhat different - it would be to the effect that it was not in the public interest to disclose what measures, if any, are taken to supervise correspondence between South Africans and people in other countries. This position is not likely to get better because, as you will have already heard Mr. Vorster is our new Prime Minister, and his philosophy is very simply the security of the State justifies almost any measure.

It will be a great pleasure to us if you are able to come not much later than Easter of next year. We would certainly not construct an ad hoc programme after your arrival. I thought that we would have private meetings with members of the Liberal Party in certain centres, and that the public meetings would be non-political and would be held in such places as the Universities, Institution of International Affairs, and so on. If you could give us some sort of idea as to the time you could make available we could draw up a rough programme, and we could also discuss with you what things people would like to hear most about. These arrangements will be made in consultation with you by Advocate Jack Unterhalter of Johannesburg. He is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Liberal Party in South Africa and one of our wisest members. I should think that you would not get better advice from anyone.

Thank you for the compliment contained in the last paragraph of your letter. I do acknowledge that I have tried not to retreat from any of the principles that we laid down when we started, and I do acknowledge that I still exercise what I believe to be my right to express my views on any event or situation, but I confess to you that there are times when I would like to retire from politics altogether. I am in a position which I am sure is not unknown to you, namely, of not

having the courage to run away. I have no doubt that a visit from you will help to remind us, as we do indeed need reminding, that we are in touch with the best current of thought and feeling that there are in the world.

Yours sincerely,

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