

19th December.

Dear Hilda & Rusty,

We had an unexpected pleasure on Tuesday. Patric and Yvonne passed through on their way to Natal and spent the day with us. It was a beautiful sunny day and we enjoyed seeing them and the children enjoyed the garden and pool. They are both looking extremely well, the boys have grown - naturally - and we caught up with all the family news. They are a most charming loving family and you can both be very proud of them. If they have problems with accommodation & bad weather they will return and spend the balance of their holiday with us.

I hope you received the book I sent you - and the magazines. Not much happening here - on the surface - our government is still great on talking but not doing! More and more strikes, improvement for some, country booming, new buildings and shopping centres everywhere and all costs rising rapidly.

Harold although supposed to be part time still overworks. He enjoyed his year of archæology tremendously and is only sorry that he never has time to do all the required reading. He will probably continue next year - if they will have him. Wits is so overcrowded that they are not keen on part time casual students.

We are finding Rae's book fascinating reading. We spoke to her last night - how is she? I do hope the American trip materializes & that the book sells well there. Nothing doing here today. Probably too expensive and/or lack of interest in the subject!

PER LUGPOS
BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION



AËROGRAM
AEROGGRAMME



AAN
TO

Mr + Mrs. L. Bernstein
5, Roswell Street
London
NW1



TWEEDE VOU—SECOND FOLD

NAAM EN ADRES
VAN AFSENDER
SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS

J.P. van der Merwe
26, Shyplein Lane
Victoria
J.P.
S.A.

INSLUTINGS
WORD NIE TOEGELAAT NIE
ENCLOSURES
ARE NOT PERMITTED

VERSEËL EERS DIE TWEE SYKLAPPE, DAN HIERDIE EEN—SEAL THE TWO SIDE FLAPS FIRST, THEN THIS ONE

SNY HIERDIE FLAP EERSTE OOP

TO OPEN, CUT THIS FLAP FIRST

We are both well, enjoying our grandson who never stops talking, and is the joy and pride of his great-grandmother's life.

Our plans for next year are vague but we will definitely be visiting London sometime before July and look forward to seeing you all again.

Our best wishes for 1981 and our love to you all,

Tea

"Coolie Close"

1, Nursery Rd,
Rondebosch 7700

Cape-Town.

27/4/91.

Dear Hilda & Rusty,

I am enclosing a pamphlet which speaks for itself really but just in case you want more details let me fill it in for you:-

Andre Odendaal who is the co-ordinator of this U.W.C. project is an A.N.C. member & one of the people who came up to ~~Senegal~~ to meet the A.N.C. He is the fellow who has helped Sadie to get the Forman papers together & is a co-editor with her of a book about Lionel which is coming out later this year.

I met him a few years ago in London & have met him on & off subsequently. He is a Senior Lecturer at the U.W.C. in History & he has written at least one book on the (real) history of S.A.

Brian; Fred; Blanche (for Alex); J. D. A. F.; Ray & Jack; Kathrada; me; and several other comrades & friends are all contributing letters; artifacts; pamphlets; books; periodicals; cassettes and so on to this project which is being set up at the University who has amongst its staff Kader Asmal; Tony Holliday; Johan Simons; soon Harold Wolpe some of his team as well as a few people possibly from J. D. A. F. A lot of Party stuff as well as the rest of the Congress material will be donated - some already has been.

(P.T.O.)

to anything which both of you possess & would be willing to be kept in an organised & caring manner, would be most welcome; any articles which both of you have written (& by c. there are many where the two of you are concerned) any correspondence etc. is what is also needed.

If you require further assurance, please Brian & Sonia & speak to them.

For what it is worth, I think that there could not be a better project for historical purposes. By the time it is all got together, it will probably be the best centre in the world for information about the history of the liberation struggle in S.A.

I'm sure Andre would be very pleased to answer any ~~more~~ queries or make arrangements with you about the posting or transporting of anything which you'd like to donate. You'll see his address on the enclosed document.

Well I'd always wanted to get back as quickly as I could & here I am in Cape Town which is so lovely that it practically offsets many of the political disappointments. I've been on journeys to Stellenbosch, Fransch Hoek, Somerset West, & many other areas. I've seen the dismal & disgraceful failure of Capitalism on my visits to Khayalitcha, Guguleto, Kanga + so on. The poor doobies which I saw bulldozed in Elsie's River have sprung up but more so in some of these areas. The contrast with

(3)

places like Clifton, Camps Bay, Constantia, Pondebosch & so on is just bloody obscene & disgraceful. I wouldn't put my dogs in any of those shanties, I can tell you that!

But the sunsets; the lovely backdrop of Table Mountain; the fairylard of lights from the slopes of the mountains is absolutely breathtakingly beautiful. The Hottentot Holland mountains leading to Hermanus through Garden's Bay & Betty's Bay so comforting and magnificent. I could go on & on about this lovely jewel of a place. But I won't except to say that when I went on a visit to Robben Island to see a prisoner, I saw Capetown as Drake must have seen it when he wrote about it & I can tell you that this view of C.T. is the best I've ever seen; The trip over — one way — takes 45 minutes. It was great speaking to the N.U.M. comrade & this morning I was at the docks to welcome him amongst nearly 40 others who have been released. This contingent included the first batch of P.A.C. men as well. I had a chat with Barney Desai there.

Anyhow let me stop rambling on. I'm going into my rented flat in Observatory some time next week & will then feel very much more settled.

Keep well & I hope you react favourably to this note. Regards to the family & all mutual friends.

Wolfe

June 30th 1991

Dear Wolfie,

It was good to hear from you, even if you did damage our eyesight with the colour of your notepaper. When you write about the beauties of the Cape, my heart surges with envy; but as things are at present, we don't seem to have much hope of making a visit, and returning permanently is very problematical. We received a fax inviting us to the opening of the Conference - it arrived just a week ago - and for five minutes we were really excited - thought it was a real invitation, tickets and all. But it was just a circular - what makes these guys think that people like us have that kind of money? And if we did, can drop everything and book within a few days? Never mind. There are more serious complaints than that, as I am sure you are aware.

Now to get down to business - artefacts for the resource centre. We do have quite a lot of personal letters and stuff. But Rusty is (rather spasmodically) writing his memoirs, and wants to keep such material at present. He is prepared to will everything to the centre at a later stage. As far as I am concerned, there are two things: The first is, as you may know (and if you don't you should, because I've talked about it enough these past two years) I have been working on a book about the exile experience of South Africans. I have now interviewed something like three hundred SAs, in four African countries, seven European countries, and in Canada and the USA. Obviously, I can only use a fraction of the massive amount of material I have accumulated, and I propose to give the whole lot to the centre when I have finished - probably the ~~xxxxxx~~ discs - Beryl Baker is transcribing the tapes onto discs, from which print-outs are made. The print-outs I have are heavily marked with my editing, and it would be more economical to send the discs. Much of the material I can't use (for reasons of both space and relevance to the subject of exile) is people talking about their lives, some of it very interesting. I will be most happy to give this over to the centre. The original intention was to give it to the ANC, but obviously the centre is the place.

Secondly, I have been very inefficient about keeping things like articles. During the 1950s-60s I wrote a weekly article for the progressive US weekly, the National Guardian, under the pseudonym of Marius Reyneke. As I was banned from writing, etc, I did not keep copies of these articles. James Aronson was the editor at that time and if he is still alive - he lives in New York - he would have records. I have just one article from that paper. In Britain I used to write regularly for Peace News, don't think I kept copies, and have had articles printed in the Guardian, New Statesman, Sunday Times, Feminist Review, Third World something or other, South, and other papers. I probably have copies of some of these. At present I am not prepared to start rummaging around for them, as all my time, absolutely all of it, (and this letter is an intrusion into that time) is taken up with the book - I have a massive, colossal task in editing and writing, and have to finish by the end of this year. Rusty is helping with the editing. The removal of IDAF to SA has been devastating for me (and for the whole anti-apartheid movement in the Western world) because I need constantly to research dates and details of things that are mentioned by people, that are known to us but won't be known to the readers - dates and details of death squad raids, etc, some of which were being researched for me at IDAF by Robyn Slovo. If I can't get the information here, any possibility that one of you might be prepared to answer queries?

Otherwise we are OK. I reckon I'm pretty good at my age for all the travelling around I've done in the past 2 years, this old woman, small and hunched through osteoporosis, lugging cases, recording equipment, etc, around planes, buses, trains. But there aren't too many years left, and one tends to get frenetic to try and fit everything in - my mind running at the tempo of a 35-year-old (except for memory) while my bones keep reminding me I'm ~~XXXXXX~~ actually 76.

Love to all the people I know, particularly Ray, to whom I will write one of these days. And to Pethu Serote, who I knew as Pearl - she sent me some stuff.

And to you.

25/7/91

Dear Hilda Rusty, over last week-end, I went to a Party Conference etc. commemorating the 70th anniversary & when Professor Bundy delivered his history of the Party he quoted Rusty several times & mentioned Hilda's election to the Joburg Council. So we were all reminded about you. It was held at the Univ. of

Thanks for replying to my query about the Archives: I was interested to hear that Rusty is writing his Memoirs. I really hope his effort does not remain "spasmodic" as I have always thought that his story would be extremely interesting. I'm sure this applies to many, many more of our people ^{in the process of writing} so here's hoping he really gets cracking, fair enough that he should want to retain his material until such time as he finishes the memoirs: So please send the discs which you don't need & if it means getting postage, please let me know. [By the way you have interviewed over 300 people in exile & I have periodically wondered why not me to make it 301 because I was one of the few who went back to Africa for nearly 10 years & could have given a different angle. But this is only a passing thought hope it does not infer anything!]

Yes, I can imagine the devastating effect the moving of IDAF records must be for people like yourselves. I would suggest that you request Gareth to organise someone to attend to your queries. He knows most of our people here & is in the best position to help in this way. There are several students and other characters who I am sure he could get ~~interested~~ interested in looking up the records for you. Try that & see what happens. But I think the request must come from both you & Rusty direct to him. Brian & Sonia are coming out early in August. Why not give them a note for Gareth?

The Conference was certainly unique & very well organised. I got a lift by car from Trevor Manuel; so Amy, Cheryl & I sped thro' the night in his company car (Mobil) both there & back. By the way Durban has changed tremendously and is a very pretty city the centre part of which is bigger than Cape Town. Very busy docks & much more flora than I ever remembered. Norman Reay teaches at the University where we held the event. He is very happy and contented with both his work and the place itself. Several of us went to his flat for dinner one night & met his very delightful wife.

It was a great event with hundreds arriving from all over the world — Jamaica, Australia, Scandinavia, U.S.S.R. & all parts of America, Africa & Canada as well as India & Japan. I won't bore you with details of the Conference but as we gathered to register, people poured in from planes, buses, trains, cars & even motorbikes.

2) This alone for me was worth-while because having been in Africa through all the camps etc., comrades whom I hadn't seen for years as well as the folks from "inside", came to hug me & shake hands to such effect that at times, I wanted to ask for my thumb back. My wrist even now as I write has ^{not} fully recovered. You know some of our "heavies" & their enthusiasm!! I certainly will convey your regards to Ray, Pearl & the you both know!

There is a hell of a gale-force thunderstorm raging at the moment (8:30 pm our time) & the volume of water thudding agst. the windows & spraying off the surrounding roof tops (from my flat I can see it) is almost frightening. Keep warm & as remarkably busy as you describe.

Regards to all mutual friends. Walfie

First fold - Eerste vou
Insulflings word nie toegelaat nie
Enclosures are not permitted

Seal the two side flaps first, then this one
Verseel eers die twee syklappe, dan hierdie een

From/Van

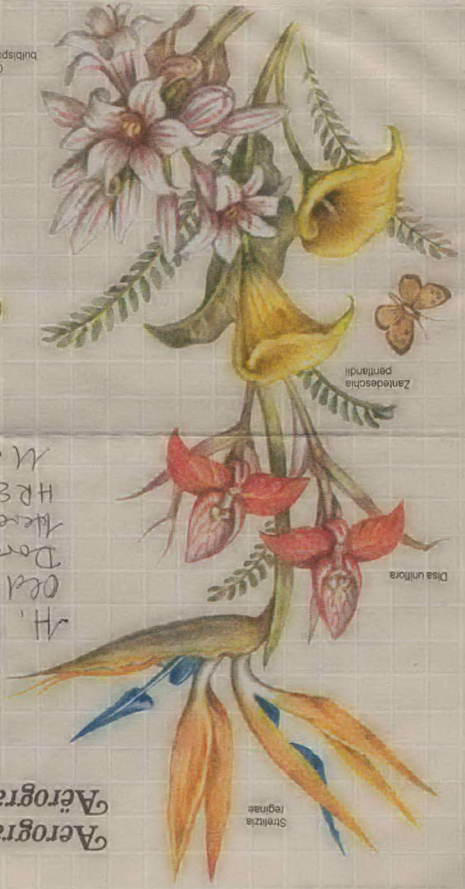
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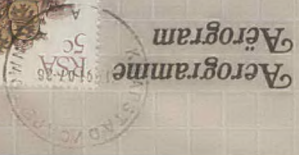
Second fold - Tweede vou

H. Barnard
Old House Farm
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HR2 6BL
W. K.

To/Aan



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Aerogramme
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Sny hierdie klap eerste op

To open, cut this flap first

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