

Received  
18/7/68  
m

Robben Island Gads,  
P. O. Robben Island.  
26th June, 1968.

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,  
P. O. Box 1138,  
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

Once more I find that I have so much to say but so little space in which to say it! However, there is a lot of unimaginative, "stock-exchange" matters that I want to discuss with you and I shall start with those. Incidentally I wrote the exams with your pen.

I don't know when your case is coming up but I presume you still intend to leave the country. It is in that connection that I want to raise the "stock-exchange" matter. You wrote to me last year, suggesting that I make use of your account with Stretton's for my needs. The disadvantage with such an arrangement, as I see it, is that I may decide to make my purchases

at a time when you would like to reduce  
 your account

But I have an account with Markhams  
 in Johannesburg which Veronica is using  
 right now. I was wondering if you could help  
 her have that account extended to the  
 Cape Town branch. The advantages of such  
 an arrangement are that

(a) I can make use of it without  
 inconveniencing you. My purchases, in  
 any case, will be occasional.

(b) The job'urg branch caters for men only  
 while the Cape Town branch caters for both  
 sexes. Veronica could, therefore, when she  
 is down here, make use of it for herself  
 and her daughter.

The second point concerns my cash.  
 I want to suggest that you make  
 regular payments into my account:  
 anything from R5 (five pounds) to R10 (20 pounds)  
 a month. I had a savings account with  
 the Brownfontein branch of Barclays. I didn't  
 close it completely. <sup>we</sup> could arrange then  
 that I make all my payments by  
 cheque and as soon as the new

deposit arrives at the bank they would automatically transfer whatever balance I have on the <sup>new</sup> account to the Savings account. In this way you will be able to check my finances any time you please and my money won't be idle but will earn interest. I'll make application to the proper authorities for the arrangement to be approved (i.e. as far as paying by cheque is concerned). I foresee no difficulties. So much then for the "Stock-exchange" matters.

I received a letter from a Mrs/Miss (she didn't say) M. L. Tracy of Flat 2, (two) 28 Bene Road (twenty-eight), Guildford, Surrey, who says she and others would like to know what things they could send. I answered her letter but I think she would be glad to hear from you and you could tell her what you think she could send. I thought they could relieve you of the worn pyjamas, underweas etc. Or perhaps you could assign part of the "Stock-exchange" arrangement to her. Her circumstances are humble, I believe. She

was  
 a nurse in Pondoland from 1923 to 1955.

Now about my "Communist" inclinations I think you know the Hon. member for Heilbronn well enough by now to take whatever he says with a ladle of salt. All I wish to say is at no time was I alone with him. Whatever I said to him was heard by five other members of Parliament and by the Commissioner of Prisons who accompanied them. And not one of the others - me included - hears the "Confession of Faith" alluded to by the Hon. member for Heilbronn. In any case books on Marxism and Leninism are banned: and if they can't get into the country, how, except in a James Bond film, can they get into Rotten Island? It is you who sent me the books that examine Communism and you know that they are all, WITHOUT EXCEPTION - anti-Communist books on Communism. Sorry to waste your time: but I resent the implied slur on the efficiency of the Security Council!

I am writing today to the London University for the syllabus for M.A. English.

Mind you I wanted to study Netherlands and brush up my linguistics. But these are for pleasure and will not provide sufficient incentive to keep me wholly and completely occupied. I feel the same about my novel and short stories. I don't want my mind to get accustomed to prolonged relaxation lest it become slothful!

I think I told you I am reading Mayakovsky's poems. In his "A Cloud in Louises" occur these stupendous lines:

Wherever pain is - there am I;

on every single tear that's shed

I myself have crucified.

How these boys write!

Did Bonnie receive my letter? I said in it that though we'd not met I had heard of him in my student days. It was Tobias and Brenner(?) I had in mind. I think I heard of Bonnie <sup>only</sup> when I came to the Wits. buy for <sup>aging</sup> ~~aging~~ him

Could you send me more stamps, please: - 2½c and 5c as well as air mail forms (overseas). Thanks. Love to Jenny. Will write you

Yours affectionately,

Bob



G.P.-S.

*A 80*

P. 1/42.

(Klein.)  
(Small.)

**BEWYS DAT 'N GEREGISTREERDE STUK GEPOS IS.  
CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A REGISTERED POSTAL ITEM.**



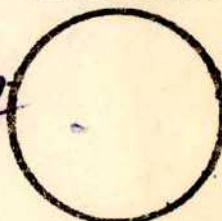
No. *13050* Soos volg geadresseer:—Addressed as follows:—

*Mr Robert Mr. Scheer  
of Robben Island Commandy  
Robben Island Gool  
Robben Island Cape Town*

Ontvang deur  
Received by

*[Signature]*

Datumstempel.



Dateslamp.

P. 1/42.

***PUBLISHER:***

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

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

**©2010**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Ba6-33**

*Document Title:-* **Letter to B Pogrund (photostat of original) with registered post certificate (original), and one typed transcript**

*Author:-* **Robert Sobukwe**

*Document Date:-* **26 May 1968**