

R A D U G A P U B L I S H E R S

founded 1982

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119859 Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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Ms Hilda Bernstein
Old House Farm
Dorstone
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UNITED KINGDOM

1.06, 1987

Our ref. 63-22/132

Dear Ms Bernstein,

We are pleased to inform you that a Russian edition of your book DEATH IS PART OF THE PROCESS is to appear in 1989.

We shall soon send you a contract via the USSR Copyright Agency, VAAP. The contract provides for free copies to be sent to the author.

S. P. Yemelyanikov

Yours sincerely,

Sergei P. Yemelyanikov

Director

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО.ПРОГРЕСС.

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS • EDITIONS PROGRÈS • VERLAG PROGRESS • EDITORIAL PROGRESO

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Москва, Г-21. Зубовский бульвар, д. 21
Тел. 246-90-32, 245-18-55

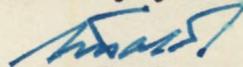
Mrs. Hilda Bernstein
5, Rothwell Street
London N.W . 1
England

Dear Mrs. Bernstein,

Progress Publishers has received the manuscript of your novel "Saboteurs." We have read it carefully and are considering the question of publishing it.

But it is necessary to point out that Progress Publishers translates into Russian, as a rule, only printed books. Therefore, just as soon as your manuscript will be published in England, or in any other country, please let us know and send us a copy of the book.

Sincerely yours,



V. Pavlov
Editor-in-Chief

43 Frognal,
London, N.W.3,
England.

3rd April 1968

Dear Mr. Pavlov,

I refer you to my letter of the 20th January. Can you please tell me if you have reached a decision about my book? I would very much like to know if you have decided to publish.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Hilda Bernstein.

43 Frognal,
London, N.W.3.
England.

28th April 1968

Dear Mr. Pavlov,

Your letter (2444) which I received a few days ago is astonishing. I posted the book to you on January 20th - this is probably the second copy to be sent to you. How is it possible for it to arrive in April?

I would refer you to my letter of 20th January, and hope that it will be possible to reach a swift decision on the book.

With best wishes,

(Mrs) Hilda Bernstein

5, Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1.,
England.

3rd June 1969

Dear Mr Pavlov,

According to the letter you sent to me last year, the Progress Publishing House will be bringing out a Russian edition of my book at the end of 1969 or beginning of 1970.

I am writing to you both to inform you of my change of address (my address was formerly 43, Frognal; now as at head of letter); and also to enquire as to when you think the translation and publication will proceed, and if we could draw up some sort of contract.

The Soviet magazine 'Foreign Literature' published extracts from the book in its issue number 3 of this year.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Hilda Bernstein

5, Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1,
England.

30th July 1969

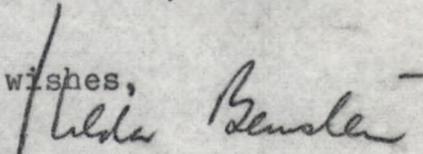
Dear Friends,

I have received some time ago a copy of 'Foreign Literature' No 3, 1969, in which you have published a precis of my book, 'The World that was Ours.'

I would like to thank you for publishing this, and I would be very happy to know whether you have received any comments from readers.

I would also like to know whether payment is made in sterling or in roubles, and what the payment is for the extracts published. If payment is to be in roubles, then I think it will be necessary for me to open some sort of account in the Soviet Union, as I do not have one at present.

With best wishes,


(Mrs) Hilda Bernstein

5, Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1,
England.

30th July 1969

Dear Natasha,

It is quite a long time since I received from you a copy of 'Foreign Literature', No 3, in which there appears your translations of passages from my book. I should have written to you to thank you for sending this, and also to tell you of my new address (as on this letter.)

I was delighted to receive the magazine, and I am sure you have done a very good job of translation. Olga has translated for me some of the footnote written at the end by Davidson. So, many thanks for what you have done, and for sending me the magazine.

I was hoping that my various travels would take me to Moscow again, but so far this has not happened. I went to Berlin for the World Assembly of Peace in June. It was a most successful Assembly, not only in numbers and representation but also in the discussions and reports. But it was very big - more than 1,000 delegates - and one gets lost among so many people, and it becomes much more difficult to make contact with various individuals one would like to meet.

Olga and Felix seem to be keeping well - I speak to her often on the 'phone, but we don't see each other very often. That is because life in London is very complicated and busy, the complications of any very big city. Have you ever been to London? It would be nice if you could visit here one day, and we would be most happy to have you in our home.

I don't know if you know a Mr Pavlov from Progress Publishing. They wrote to me in June, 1968, saying they had accepted my book for translation into Russian, but because of over-burdening of their production plans, it would only see the light in Russian at the end of 1969 or beginning of 1970. I wrote to him on the 3rd June of this year, informing him of my change of address and asking him when publication would be proceeding, but I have not had a reply. As you have already translated considerable portions of the book, perhaps you could find out about this, as they may not know that you have done this.

~~Wxy~~ With very best wishes,

Hilda Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street
London, N.W.1.
England.

13/10/69

Mr. V.P. Gorodnov,
Candidate of History,
Institute of the International Labour Movement,
MOSCOW,
Kolpatchny 9a,
U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. Gorodnov,

Brian told me that you are translating my book, and asked me to get in touch with you.

I am pleased that the book will be published in the USSR - the wheels of publishing houses turn slowly in socialist as well as capitalist countries.

I would like to suggest that a short additional chapter should be written for the book - it could be either a new introductory chapter, or it could be an epilogue - this does not matter. When the book was written, it was recent history. Now five years have passed since we left South Africa, and the liberation struggle has taken a new and significant turn. I would like to write something saying: 'South Africans have launched a guerilla struggle which began in Zimbabwe in August of 1968. Why do we now believe that armed struggle is the only answer to our problems? How did we arrive at this? This book gives you the reasons, and records the closing stages of the struggle leading up to the present armed struggle.'

What do you think?

I might also mention that the lawyers who advised Heinemanns about the book insisted in the deletion of certain passages which they thought might be libellous. These dealt mainly with the police and prison warders. In my opinion the deletions were unnecessary and weakened some portions of the book. I don't know, however, whether at this stage you would like to have them revised.

Many thanks for what you are doing. You must know me through the book. I hope I will come to know you, too.

With best wishes,

Hilda Bernstein
Hilda Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1.
England.
8th April, 1970

Institute of International Labour Movement,
Kolpathny 9a
Moscow, USSR.

Dear Valentin Gorodnov,

I enclose the additional chapter for my book, which I suggest should go at the end, as an epilogue. If you think it is too long, it could of course be cut, and we could agree mutually to remove some passages.

I am sending it straight to you instead of to the publishers, so perhaps you will inform them that you have received it.

I would also like to hear from you - if you think the epilogue is suitable and will answer our purposes, as it is written primarily for the audience in the USSR, which you must understand better than I do.

With very best wishes,

Hilda Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1.
England.
12th April 70

Dear Valentin,

I received your letter of the 30th March just after I had posted to you the additional chapter. I am so pleased to hear that you have actually finished the translation, and I am sure you have done a marvellous job, for you have discovered a couple of errors in the book which escaped all the proof-readers and went unnoticed:

1) 'Location' and 'township' are really synonymous. 'Location' is the older word, that was used not only for areas attached to the towns where Africans live, but also for any settlement of Africans (outside the reserves.) 'Township' began to be used more when municipal authorities took charge, provided certain amenities, etc. For the purposes of our readers, there is no need for any distinction. I am enclosing a short description of Soweto, as requested.

2) Agreed. (the 'real' sotry)

3) Yes - should be 16th.

4) Yes... 'not' must go in.

5) Yes, this is correct. It was probably about 25 years ago, and shifts are shorter now, but I think in many places they still work a 12-hour shift.

6) A kaross is the hide of an animal treated to be used as a rug for floor, bed-covering, etc. (Animal-skin) In this case it was probably made from a domestic cow, but it could be made from zebra, lion, etc. South Africans often use them flung over sofas, divans, etc for both warmth and colour, and sometimes on bare stone or wood floors as rugs. Africans may use them as cloaks.

Pondokkies are huts in which people live. I don't know the origin of the word, probably Afrikaans, but it means in general badly-made little houses, flung together from any materials, usually on the outskirts of towns but also in the countryside. A pondokkie is not a proper 'house.' In this case the pondokkies were made with walls of earth - hence the colour.

I thank you for your kind comments about the book. It is very satisfying to me to know that you are not just translating it as a job, but feel it is something worth doing.

I reciprocate your May Day greetings.

With best wishes,

Hilda Bernstein.

How about coming to visit us in London?

5 Rothwell Street,
LONDON, N.W.1. 8YH.
England.

3rd August 71.

Valentin Gorodnov,
Institute of International Labour Movement,
Kolpatchny 9a
MOSGOW
USSR.

Dear Valentin,

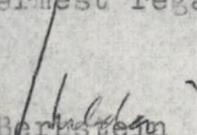
Very many thanks for sending me a copy of the book, which arrived this morning. I was happy to see it - I had been thinking of writing to you and asking when it was likely to come out.

I would also like to thank you for all the work you did on the book. I wish I could read even a small part in Russian, but it is hopeless - too late to start learning languages now, when I have so many other things to do with my life.

I have had this year two art exhibitions, one in London and one in a place called Suffolk, and while preparing for the exhibitions, I found I had to stop writing for a while. I had to think about what I was painting, and it excluded thinking about writing. Now I intend to devote some time to trying to finish a novel about sabotage in South Africa which I began some time ago. When it is finished, IF it is published here, perhaps it will be possible to interest 'Progress' in it - but that's in the future.

If you have time, later on, let me know, if you can, what sort of reception my book has, and if it sells well. Perhaps some roubles may come from royalties, and then I will pay you a visit.

With warmest regards,


Hilda Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1. 8YH.
England.

September 30 71

Dear Mr Pavlov,

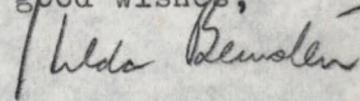
Mr Gorodnov was good enough to send me a copy of my book *The World That Was Ours*, which you have published in Russian.

I would very much like to hear from you regarding payment of royalties, and had expected you to write to me about this, but my friend, Alex la Guma, whose books you publish, has assured me that the best thing is to write to you.

I would, ~~fr~~ of course, like to receive my royalties in sterling, as I have no possibility of utilising them in any other way, and because at the present time I have received very little payment for my books. I have almost completed another book on South Africa, a novel on sabotage, and will let you know what happens about this if you are interested.

I would also like, very much, to receive a few copies of the Russian edition of my book - six is the usual amount sent by publishers.

With good wishes,



Hilda Bernstein.

3rd January 1987

Dear Valentin,

I was interested to hear from my husband that he met you in Moscow in November; how clever of you to make the connection - after all it is 17 years since you worked on the translation of The World That Was Ours.

I wonder if you still do translations, in view of the fact that according to the address that Rusty took, you are now in ~~xxx~~ the Institute of General History. If you do, perhaps you will again be working on a book of mine: Death is Part of the Process, which Raduga Publishers say is due to appear in 1989 (although I do not yet have a contract.) It is a novel of the early days of the sabotage movement in South Africa, and was made into a two-part film by the BBC. It was published here in 1983 in hardback, and subsequently a paper-back edition was published. Raduga have had it for some years - I think a little perestroika is needed there.

If you would like to read it, I will send you a copy.

Maybe when the new book is published, I will have some roubles in the USSR, and be able to afford to come on a visit.

My very best wishes

Hilda Bernstein

Institute of International
Labour Movement
Kolpathny 9a
Moscow
U.S.S.R.

9/11-69

Dear Mrs. Bernstein,

I am thankful for your letter. I told the "Progress" publishers who are bringing out your very interesting and thrilling book about your suggestions. They answered that they would consider them and write a letter to you. My opinion is that a new introductory chapter will be very usefull and helpfull for readers here to understand the present situation in South Africa.

The wheels of publishing houses turn slowly indeed but I see one positive aspect in this particular case (of course without attempting to justify this slowness): your book in Russian will appear here on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the South African Communist Party and more people in Soviet Union will learn about the self-less struggle of the South African communists.

Russian readers learned about your book for the first time last year from my review in a monthly bulletin on foreign books. So this was the first turn of the wheel.

Up till now I have only two questions to you as the author: on page 77 you cite a line from some poem 'A call to battle and the battle done...' Would you be so kind as to write me from what poem this line is. Or is it a saying?

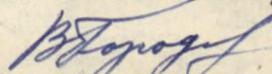
And the second question: on the page 112 (14th line from below) there is a phrase: 'But what is their answer?' Whose answer? I think the answer of liberals. Is it right?

Perhaps, I'll have some more questions. I'll be gratefull for your help.

I hope I will meet you in Moscow some time.

My best regards to Brian Bunting.

With best wishes,


Valentin Gorodnov

5 Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.1.
England.

16/12/69

Dear Valentin,

(Let us drop the formalities). I should have answered your letter of last month with greater promptness. Please accept my apologies for dilatory behaviour.

The line on page 77 about which you ask comes from a poem 'Tears', a copy of which I enclose. It has ~~xxxx~~ always been one of my best-loved poems, and when separated from my children by jail I used to recite 'Loose me from tears, and make me see aright How each hath back what once he stayed to weep . . . ' whenever I felt miserable. It was a sort of charm, a talisman.

Your second query on page 112, your surmise is correct. It is really, 'But what answer would the liberals give?' (or what solution?)

Next time I will reply immediately.

With best wishes

Hilda Bernstein

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО ПРОГРЕСС

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS • EDITIONS PROGRÈS • VERLAG PROGRESS • EDITORIAL PROGRESSO

№ T-962

№ 20 II 1968 г.

Москва, Г-21, Зубовский бульвар, д. 21.
Тел. Г-6-01-79, Г-6-59-23

Уважаемая Х. Бернштейн,

После ознакомления с Вашей книгой издательство "Прогресс" решило принять ее к переводу на русский язык. К сожалению, ввиду перегруженности производственного плана издательства, оно может выпустить в свет русское издание книги лишь в конце 1969- начале 1970 г.

С уважением


В. Павлов

Главный редактор издательства
"Прогресс"

After reading your book the Publishing House Progress has decided to accept it for translation into Russian. Unfortunately because of the over-burdening of the production plans it will only come to light in the Russian language at the end of 1969 beginning of 1970

V. Pavlov

Editor-in-Chief

Wondé
10/10/68
re contract

43 Frognal,
London, N.W.3,
England.

21 November 1967

Progress Publishing House.

Dear Friends,

The publishers of my book, Heinemanns, informed me that they posted you a copy of the book, THE WORLD THAT WAS OURS, about two months or more ago. At that time, they held the overseas rights to the book.

Since then, they have relinquished all overseas publishing rights, which I am now handling myself.

I would very much like to know if you are interested in the book, ~~xxx~~ as I would particularly like to have an edition in the Soviet Union. The book has the only full account of the Rivonia Trial. I understand that the magazine 'Foreign Literature' intends publishing a few extracts from the book, but I have not heard from them directly.

Could you please let me know your decision?

With best wishes,

(Mrs) Hilda Bernstein



"Foreign Literature" magazine

Piatnitskaya, 41. Moscow 17, USSR.

Telef. 33-51-47.

Telegr. INOLIT-Moscow 17.

Mrs. Hilda Bernstein
5, Rothwell Street,
London, N.W.I.,
England

Dear Mrs. Bernstein,

In reply to your letter of July 30th, 1969 we wish to inform you that the author's fee for the extracts from your book, "The World that was Ours" will be about 250 roubles, in Soviet currency. The money will be kept with the publishers until you have arrived in this country. Then you may open an account, if you wish.

Yours very sincerely

Konstantin Chugunov
Acting Editor

Institute of International
Labour Movement
Kolpatchny 9a
Moscow

30/3/70

Dear Hilda,

I am sorry that I'm answering your letter with such a long delay. My only justification could be my intention to finish the translation at first and then to write a letter with all queries which would appear in the course of the translation. At last the work is done and here are my question:

1) You often use the word "location". Is it a synonym of a "township"? If not what is the difference between these two words? And I "would be thankful for a short description of "Soweto" (What townships are included besides Meadowlands and Diepkloof? Is it one administrative unit? Is it tribally or ethnically subdivided?)

2) Page 137, line 20 from below: "different story" - if it is possible I would like to get a "real story". But I don't insist on this point.

3) Page 140, line 20 from below: "6 December" - I think it is a misprint, it must be "16 December".

4) Page 177, line 16 from below: "Denis did bother to cover his trail" - I think "Denis did not bother...".

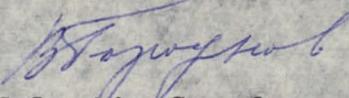
5) Page 224, line 10 from below: "He went down the mine at two a.m. every day and emerged at four p.m." - It seems 14-hours working day is too long even for South African miner.

6) Page 218, line 6 from above: "a kaross" - what is it?
Page 231, line 17 from above: "the red-brown pondokkies" -
What is it?

The publishers have got your consent to write an epilogue,
so I am waiting for it to start translation.

Once more a lot of congratulations for your brilliant
book - now I have more grounds to appreciate it very high.

With best wishes
and May Day Greetings


Valentin Gorodnov

SOWETO

'Soweto' is a contraction of 'South Western Townships', the name given by the Africans who live there to a huge complex of townships covering (in 1967) 26 square miles, at its nearest point eight miles from Johannesburg's city centre and at its furthest, more than 20 miles away. With something like three-quarters of a million people living there, it is numerically the fourth largest city in South Africa - except, that it is not a city. It is a satellite-type of town. It is not permitted to develop any industries of its own. The work opportunities offered within its own areas are estimated at not more than about 6,000 - these consist of services, such as shops, and essential town services connected with rubbish removal, road maintenance, etc.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ About 200,000 of Soweto's citizens travel in overcrowded trains to the adjacent 'white' city of Johannesburg which is as dependent on them for the labour to man its offices, factories industries, business enterprises, as they are on Johannesburg for their livelihood. Soweto people live according to rules and relations devised by the central Government and administered by the Johannesburg City Council. Administratively and technically it is within Johannesburg, but it is not of Johannesburg.

It is a great, sprawling, featureless place with row upon row upon row of little 'matchbox' houses, over the hills and far away, - the pattern of building in African townships in South Africa is box-like, single-storey, separate little houses. They repeat themselves endlessly in monotonous rows running as far as the eye can see. They are places where the black people go after finishing their day's work for white people.

In a series of articles published at the beginning of 1967 in the 'Rand Daily Mail', a reporter called Soweto 'The Bloodiest Place on Earth.' The article investigated crime in Soweto. A thousand people are murdered in Johannesburg's townships every year, he wrote. That is five times as many as in the whole of Great Britain, which has a population at least three times as great as South Africa. The average daily toll of murders in Soweto is three. But some weekends there are as many as 20 murders. Gangs of youths roam the streets robbing, raping, killing. They break into houses, into shops and 'shebeens' (drinking dens) and march through crowded trains robbing anyone they choose. They run protection rackets for shopkeepers and shoot or stab at the slightest provocation - sometimes for 'fun'. Their instrument is called a 'ntshumentshu' - it is a needle-sharp spoke of steel which is plunged through the spinal cord leaving the victim paralysed. They have given South Africa the highest paraplegic rate in the world. They are direct products of apartheid - products of broken families, abandoned children, divided homes, lack of schools, lack of jobs, most of all, lack of 'passes', the sacred document which could permit them to work, many of them homeless since they were children and most of them have never worked.

The two places you mention, Diepkloof and Meadowlands, are the only two areas which (as far as I know, until 1967) were not

under Council control, because they fell directly under the government Resettlement Board which was set up to effect the removal of Africans from the townships of Sophiatown and the Western Areas. So strictly speaking, these two areas are not in Soweto, and there are some differences in administration.

The original township in Soweto was Orlando, built in the 1930's. There are dozens of other areas - Dube, Phomolong, Jabavu, Mofuro, Chiawelo, White City, and many others. Orlando was not originally 'ethnically' divided, but since the extremist apartheid conditions have been imposed, Soweto is now divided into ethnic areas, with a few mixed areas remaining, gradually to be eliminated. A sort of forcing back into a tribal pattern of what would have developed into a normal urban community, had it been permitted.

There are all grades of people in the Soweto Townships. Some districts house the 'upper classes' - clerks, business men, the few professional Africans, journalists, etc. Some, unskilled labourers. . Although a few are very well off, sheer poverty and actual destitution far outweigh such prosperity as there is, and for the majority life is a constant battle for survival.

There are many churches (African religions are split into dozens of different sects) no theatres, about two or three cinemas, no community centres, very few halls. The shops are small and unattractive, like the houses.

Soweto is a vast ghetto which houses the labour units needed by white society.

Institute of International
Labour Movement
Kolpatchny, 9-a

6 May 1970.

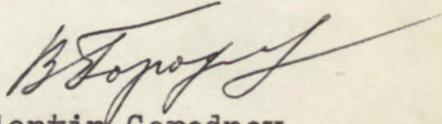
Dear Hilda,

I have got your two letters recently. Many thanks for the answers and especially for the "Soweto" story. Now I am trying to make a study of the way of life of Africans in new townships and your help is very useful for me.

I think the epilogue is quite suitable and isn't too long. I have informed the publishers that I have received the epilogue and told them that I liked it very much indeed.

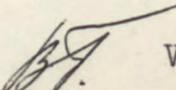
With best wishes

Yours


Valentin Gorodnov.

P.S. Could you answer these two questions?

- 1) Is it possible to estimate the number of Africans qualified under Section 10 of the Bantu(Urban Areas) Act of 1945?
- 2) Describe please Kwa Mashu resettlement township in comparison with the Soweto.

 V.G.

580 5303

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