

Robben Island Gaol,  
Robben Island.

25<sup>th</sup> August, 1965

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,  
213 Diamond Exchange Building,  
De Villiers Street,  
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

I saw your photograph in the Sunday papers and remarked, not only that you were looking surprisingly fit and well but also that you were becoming handsomer by the day - as, of course, Jimmy's father should!

I have also read Dr Yutar's remarks <sup>made</sup> both in Court and within the congenial atmosphere of Pretoria University. I joined at the time; but the editorial in the "Sunday Times" does indicate that if he decides to be a politician he will be dealt with as such. I feel reassured and am only sorry D. G. Howell cannot be brought into the fray to face him. He relishes encounters with Yutar and, of course,

of course,

doesn't know how to pull punches.

It was you who drew my attention to this dialogue of the deaf; the calcification and ossification of attitudes on either side. In the present case, those who instinctively either disbelieved or resented your articles still do and will continue to do so whatever the verdict of the Court. Similarly, those who instinctively believed or welcomed your articles still do and will continue so to do irrespective of what the Court say or do. The former group sees in Van Schalkwyk's recantation a "rebuttal" of your case - to quote the "zealous" Dr Yutar: the latter group, unimpressed, will cynically refer to the 1938 "Confessions" in Stalin's courts.

I am, therefore, not unduly concerned about the Court proceedings, except only in so far as your integrity, both as a person and as a journalist, is being impugned. That is the object Yutar has in view; and on that score alone I would have him fought every inch of the way, to hell and back. I think I am satisfied now that that will be done.

(will be done)

There is, of course, the whispering campaign that will be directed against you and for which you must be fully prepared. It is going to be "discovered", Benjie, that you are of Jewish extraction. And racist loathe a fearless Jew. It is going to be "discovered" that you are a very close friend of mine in a sense I am glad your divorce is through because Astrid would be getting more of the type of letter you told me about last year. All the advice I could give you on this kind of warfare is contained in Hornstein's Boy by Robert Lower, who observes that MacCarthy was challenged and routed by a very gentle old Senator, Joe Walsh. I think the name is; that, quoting Holmes, "as life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time, at the peril of being judged not to have lived."

The mundane. I have been informed that "the Observer" has been and is being withheld because the Minister's Order provides that I should receive only South African

newspapers. Of course, what Prussian regulations permit, I am entitled to have. And I know that life, time and a host of magazines from overseas are allowed into jail under Prussian regulations. I'll have to check the list again. In any event, I know that Ernie and you entered into a great deal of correspondence before you made the order. You wrote to the Chief Magistrate in Cape Town, I remember. Could you tell me ~~whether~~ what he and Petronia said in reply to your enquiries?

In the meantime, as Ernie has paid a year's subscription in advance, the paper is being presumably regularly sent here and being withheld from me - a state of affairs not unsatisfactory to both Ernie and me. I suggest he arrange for the suspension of deliveries until we have ascertained what ruling the Chief Magistrate gave on the matter. If he did give any and whether, in fact, the "Observer" can legitimately be withheld from me.

(from me).

I am O.K. don't worry. And as for your question whether I require further funds for my studies, I shall know the answer when the results are out and will let you know, but I promise to be much more interesting.

Give my greetings to Connie and the rest and my love to Jimmy.

Yours sincerely,  
Bob.

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