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Robben Island Govt,
P. Robben Island
24th April, 1968

Ms Benjamin Ingwand,
P.O. Box 1138,
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

You will no doubt have received my letter by now and will have, consequently, realized how true it is - that "great minds think alike": Your style is becoming progressively relaxed and I am getting to enjoy your letters not only for their contents, as in the past, but also for the aesthetic arrangement of words. Keep it up.

It really appears as though you are determined to make it quite clear that you are no admirer of the "Black Power cult". I have received the clothes - three trousers, three jackets, three shirts and three hemties. As usual and as was to be expected your choice was faultless and with one or two exceptions met with my unqualified approval. I loved the trousers and thought them attractive in colour and

style. I couldn't have made a better choice.
However I did not fail to note that you went
as far from charcoal as you could! Will
accuse you of racism if you don't look out.

You anticipated my request for vests and
chose just the style I've been wanting for years.
In my letter to Annie I had made the size
40 but I think you were wise to stick to
42 which is my size after all.

A Mrs Russell of Parkhurst expressed a
desire to meet Veronica. Her daughter, who is
now a missionary's wife in Zululand, was a
student of mine. Incidentally, ~~she was~~ her
name is Jennifer. I advised her to contact
you as you are the only one that can
arrange a meeting. Prof Wellington, too,
has been wanting to know what help
he can give with regard to the annual visits.
I told him you've been arranging these trips
since 1963 and he should approach you
for information. In any event I don't think
Veronica will agree to meet him except in
your company.

I replied to your letter of November 27
1967 and I gave you the details of the claim

papers. In addition I asked you for an article by Douglas Jay on the Common Market and a pamphlet on the British Department of Economic Affairs. You didn't receive the letter, obviously. It's too late to do anything about all this now, hence I'll not have to prepare all round and not try to anticipate questions. I think I should be able to scrape through.

Regarding the children's English I can do no better than adopt your suggestions. I received a letter from Milena this afternoon. She's so careless about spelling, tenses and punctuation. And she's so afraid of criticism she almost drives me to despair. Thanks for writing to her teacher.

Sorry to hear that Norma's condition has not improved. I had really hoped they would permit you to go and see her, or did they fear you'll jump bail? After all you have a case pending, remember.

I have not worked on the Xhosa poems lately. I have been promising myself that once I have these exams behind me I am going to work on these poems and

and the novel as well as on Dutch and Swedish.
I read the first chapter to Veronica and she
appeared interested. I then asked her to read,
as I felt that, reading the stuff myself, I might
be enveloping it with my own enthusiasm which a
disinterested reader might not feel. She said
the writing was illegible - probably correctly - but
that was the end of that venture. The story is
quite simple, but I feel it could develop
into something compelling if one could discuss
it with knowledgeable people.

Briefly, on the question of religion. My faith
in God remains unshaken, Benjie. At the moment
I don't care to know what he is like and where
he resides. It is enough to know that He is and
that His will will triumph.

It is not Judaism that I show a
preference for, Benjie. It is the uncluttered
love of the Old Testament - of Moses and
John and Isaiah and all the prophets -
that appeals so strongly to me. It is Moses
I think, who says: "Blessed are you, O
Israel. What people are like you whom God
has chosen for His own!" With such a
faith, Benjie, one could go through Buchen

with a ^{hilsen} ~~hilsen~~ with a song on one's lips. The
chief contribution of Christianity has been to
secure the whole world that the promises made
to Israel apply to all who confess Christ as
their Lord.

Intelligence has nothing to do with faith.
George just the other day I was reading how ^{Hobbes} ~~Hobbes~~,
a 17th century Chief Justice wrote that "there were more
men hanged in England in a year for robbery and
manslaughter than there be hanged in France for such
crimes of course in seven years there is no man hanged
in Scotland in seven years together for robbery: but the
confession is of another courage" Men accept the
norms of their time, by and large. You just
read what the 19th century British industrialists
said of their men: and how many professors
of religion supported Hitler?

Finally, what is it, George that people
believe in? Is not people God is a talisman: an
additional spirit. In those, for instance, many Christians
worship their own fetishes as well. I have read the
Koran through and through, and I can't see what it
is that makes men find in it its own comfort or
spiritual enlightenment and yet they worship their
Allah fanatically in the Christian religion

You can't modernize me properly, you know! Thanks.
That's the only article on which I have reservations. I
think that my difficulty is that Christ is
hidden behind the pretensions, superstitions and
organce of Western Europe. By himself, alone, he is
as lovable as Isaiah. But the claims made
in his behalf by Western theology are unscientific.
I don't even mean the mythical claims, I mean
the purely historical. To say he was the one
and only perfect man is unhistorical.
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
and waste its sweetness on the desert air.
He is the only one about whom the great
has a record. That's the most that can
be said.

The Christians of Africa and Asia are not
stoges, senes, I agree. But usually we speak
of them as westernized, to indicate that we
associate Christianity with the West. But
are matters best discussed in a person to
person situation, not by post over vast distances.

I received the article by her Bayes House. I'll
comment on it later. The auto-bridge at her
will reach me yet. Thanks for good wishes

My love to Harry, Greeting, to friends.

Yours Affectionately,
Bob

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