

It sounds rather awful, but the food is very much a part of the enjoyment to me and I look forward to it. This year in Apricale R was determined to get the place finished and 'off his back', and as he still had a number of major jobs to do (like putting up the ceiling, which it needs for insulation against both heat and cold) he simply worked like a maniac from early morning until evening every day. I've never seen him work so hard. Holiday? Well, he comes back looking thinner, stronger and healthier, it's all hard physical work which makes a great exchange from our London life. My role is frankly a very sexist one - supportive, and Mrs Mopps. I provide the meals, do the marketing, and there I am, constantly, with ~~xxxxxx~~ broom, dustpan, mop, floor washing equipment, cleaning up, cleaning up, re-making beds when he's had to remove them to do some hammering on the ceiling, washing windows, etc, etc, a role which I can scarcely resent because he is working so hard and I really cant be of any use to him except now and then. Violet, I am amazed at what he can do, and how the house is finished, except for a few minor things like some painting, I couldn't bear for us to sell it, because it, to me, embodies such a tremendous amount of his skills, his tenacity and his ingenuity. The house is beautiful. We intend to get a bit more furniture and let it if we can as a holiday home. It is all wood, Italian tiles and stone pillars - the locals call it 'multo rustico'. The scenery around there is superb, the food simple but marvellous. I became addicted to our village olive oil and our village bread, hot and a rusty every morning at 7.15 from the Comestibili downstairs. My sister Vera and husband Morgan came for 2 weeks, and as best I could in the awful wezther we had, showed them the local sights. They loved it, loved the villagers who are always friendly and welcome us like relatives - Ah, you have returned! How long will you stay? Is your daughter coming too? and so on. But we had this 'bruto tempo', rain, overcast and at first really cold. Only a very few days of sun. So I couldn't get out sketching and did very little work (of my work, I mean.) Is it out of the question for you to contemplate a holiday there? We wouldnt charge the Weinbergs - you'd just have to pay for the electricity, the bottled gas and your food. You would get there by flying to Nice, then taking the train to Ventimiglia. From Ventimiglia (which you can find on the map, just over the border from the French Riviera) there is a bus to ur village about three times a day, mornings lunchtime and evenings, it is 13 kilometres from Ventimiglia. It is nice to have a car in that area, to explore the mountains and other villages, but not a necessity. And you can get around a lot on the inexpensive bus system.

Last Thursday Esther came to see me (Levitan) - we havent met for countless years. She showed me a lovely snap pf Mark, looking so big and quite grown-up. I thought he still looked very much like Sheila, but she doesnt think that is so marked when you see him. I found her (Esther, that is) really most likeable, courageous in the face of tremendously sad things, lively, active, and we got on together very well. She told me about Sheila and the friends who share the house, and Ilse and her children. I felt a pain - well, I need hardly say this to you - but so far away, so long ago, yet even for me, who has not left my dearest children there, it is indelibly in one's 'soul', and tugs and tugs away, threads that cannot be severed.

We had, for once, a very good, different kind of celebration on the 26th. Camden Town Hall was packed. There was a printed programme, and books, literature, posters, records on sale. The programme began

with readings from Mandela's speeches. Then the Mandela pioneers, from about 3 years to about 12, wearing black wellington boots to look like gumboots, and doing some dancing, freedom songs, and various declamations. Very well received, as you can imagine. Then Ambrose Reeves spoke. He is now very frail - on the platform he looked to me like a little old white monkey, with his prominent ears. He has serious eye trouble, and had much difficulty in reading his speech, assisted audibly by his wife who sat next to him. Then we had wonderful inspiring folk songs by Peggy Seegers and Ewan McColl and two sons, anti-apartheid songs they had written, the boycott song, etc. Then (after the collection - more than £800) - there was Dollar Brand with his trumpet. First he sang a marvellous song he has composed for Munge then played that magic trumpet. Then various speakers, finishing with Alfred Mxaxax Nzo. Too many messages to read them, or even a complete list of all who sent. Despite the bloody boring speeches - why cant the speakers ever think about the audience, and what is most important for them to hear, instead of just churning out the same tired old cliches all the time? - it was a splendid evening, for once with a sort of uplift to it. As usual, I looked sourly at the platform, the only two women among the galaxy of men were Adelaide Tambo, who was just decoration, and Mrs Reeves. They didnt even invite a representative of the womens section to sit on the platform with them. But I'm an extremist - you and I would make a good pair, both disgruntled about many things, you are paranoid and me generally unpopular for always pushing points of view that not many will accept.

Well, this is a long letter, and I've probably left out all the important things. I'm sitting looking out at this DIRTY GREY BLOODY AWFUL RAINY COLD DEPRESSING ENGLISH SUMMER - oh, what a climate! I wear winter trousers and pullovers. I've got to go and do some cooking.

With love

16th July 80

Dear Hilda,

Seche

That was a lovely letter of about 29th June and many thanks for the invitation to visit your Italian villa. Alas we cannot avail ourselves.

Apart from all the virtues of Patrick that you list, it seems that there is one you don't know about and that is - discretion. Because it seems that he did not tell you that he had seen Eli in Lusaka. He said that walking trip that he and Rusty and others did with Eli is one of his happiest memories.

About John and Frances coming here. They are welcome providing somebody doesn't beat them to it. We had a Dutch couple & child - Carla Pieters who should have met you in London - for a week, followed by Terry Bell, wife Barbara and two children and now the Proctors, S.African young couple teaching at Mazimbu. But I'm sure we will manage.

Ofcourse you are in Copenhagen now but should get back soon after this letter arrives. I am replying so soon because I have a little list and am hoping that you will get what I need and that Jamela will be able to deliver. Mittah was supposed to have gone as leader of the ANC delegation, but did not get a ticket. IT MAKES ME SICK.

If you send me shop slips for the books I will probably be able to get the money refunded. But whatever you do, please don't ask ANC London. I once asked Mannie to send some packs of cards and got a letter from the London office telling me that applications must go through logistics in Lusaka! List:
Nuclear Potential of S.A. by Dan Smith. Published Feb 80 by World Campaign against Military & Nuclear Co-operation with S.Africa. 3 copies of "Children are the Revolution; Day care in Cuba by Marvin Leiner. Penguin." Dewey's Library Classification - the real thing comes in two enormous volumes that cost about 30 rands those years ago. But there was a slim little book called something like "simplified", that is all we need at the school. Then for myself I would like some roasting bags, a large Steradent and a few little packets of herbs.
Glad you are doing so well with sales.

Yes, Esther and I are great friends. With all that we have suffered, I think the tragedy of her Peter caps them all. Somebody with experience told me that it is highly unlikely that he will ever be released. She says that prisoners "detained at the president's discretion" seldom get out.

Dollar Brand was here recently - he stayed with Jamela being our only Muslim. He was prepared to do a concert, but our incompetents couldn't get off the ground. Met him briefly.

Have just been out walking for 1½ hours, well in between a delivery to the GDR embassy; an enquiry at the Korean embassy about how many could be seen in their cinema hall which they have offered us for functions: 372; Cuban embassy to ask what happened to that letter from the Dominican Republic to SACTU that I left there a couple of weeks back, for a rough translation and then to the Diamond Jubilee Hall for an inspection with a concert in mind. Caretaker only comes between 5 and 6.30 p.m. Did go in - reckon it could seat 1500 to 2000 - bigger than the Jhb. City Hall.

The ANC now supplies yellow mealie meal for which I am very grateful as I give my guests porridge for breakfast - just couldn't keep all and sundry in pawpaws and yogurt. But lately I have to spend time fishing out the weavils every morning so today I put out on newspaper and William and I had a go at it - not sure of the life cycle of the weevil, but there are

also worms and ropy bits of meal which may be the pupae. Yech.

It was fun having the Bells here and going over old times with Terry. Their 10 year old daughter is extremely bright, draws and sings very well.

They have just phoned from the SASTU office to say that there is an invitation for Eli and me (it isn't always Mr. & Mrs.) from the Iraqi Embassy for this evening at Kiliminjaro Hotel. Eli is booked to speak at a Unit meeting so we wont go to the cocktail party and the transport wont turn up for the Unit meeting.

Goodness I nearly forgot to tell you that I saw "Death of a Princess" on Jane's TV (Videotape) on Monday afternoon. Photography very dramatic. Those interviews were interesting in that each one knew the 'true story' and how they differed. Ofcourse I realise that it is not a documentary but that is what happens when history is written. Terry says in New Zealand (where they have been living for 9 years) the gov. agreed that it should not be shown, but the broadcasting corp. showed it - they are independent!

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

KUFUNGUA KATA HAPA

Kutoka Kwa:

Sender's name and address:.....

P. O. Box 6161

Dar es Salaam

TANZANIA

BARUA HII HAITAKIWI KUTUMBUKIZWA
KITU CHOCHOTE NDANI YAKE; LA
SIVYO HAITAPELEKWA KWA NDEGE

Imetolewa na Shirika la Posta na Simu Tanzania.

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KUNJO LA PILI HAPA



PAR AVION
KWA NDEGE



YOUNG WARTHOG



Mrs. H. Bernstein
5 Rothwell Street,
LONDON NW 1

U.K.

7th August 1980

Dear Hilda,

This is what makes me paranoid - there is always an evil eye to make things go awry. Have just spoken to Jamela who tells me that she did not see you. She is very depressed and so am I. It sounds as though she has cancer. She had a small growth removed from her breast while in London, followed by Cobalt bomb therapy. She says they don't think it is malignant. I do sincerely hope not, but don't like the sound of it. She paid £182 for excess luggage so was not really able to bring any additional stuff. Her daughter, Riane, is here on holiday from school. Jamela said that she would bring something for you.

SACTU's NEC is meeting here from 17th August. Phyllis Altman and Ronnie Press will be coming. Perhaps between them they could bring the things I asked for in my letter 16th July and some pictures.

Looking forward to hearing about the Copenhagen conference.

Sheila writes that Helen broke her coccyx recently but is already feeling better. She regards the banning order as an honour. She sent me a cutting from the RandDaily Mail with a colour picture of Helen leaning on her gate, like the one Eli took in 1962 when she was put under house arrest.

Have had a rather trying week. A young white S.African couple, Andre & Elspeth Proctor came to teach at Mazimbu. They were motoring from Lusaka. When they got to the border they found that they had not been cleared. They should, of course, never have been allowed to leave before the clearance was done. They camped in their tent for two weeks. When they had been at Mazimbu about 3 weeks, she had a nervous breakdown. Came here for medical treatment and have been staying with us. She is very much better. The psychiatrist has put her on a course of drugs and did not want to see her until next week, so this morning they set off for Bagamoyo. They had made enquiries and were going by bus. If there really are buses that run there and back, I might even do this myself one day. There are many tensions at the school. Recently they got a very good political commissar - one of our old friends from home - and he is working very hard at ironing out problems.

Last week we met a charming young man who has been the representative of Agence France Press for the last four years in S.A. and got friendly with a few mutual friends who gave him our phone number. A propos of S.A.'s stalling tactics, especially with regard to Namibia, I had said that France was very busy shipping out the uranium which they enrich in France. He says the diamond mine is working 24 hours a day. Now there is all this nonsense of Namibia having its own army and police force. Another UDI in embryo and the West wants just this. Sickening. He told us that the SB who killed Biko and was supposed to have been dealt with departmentally, is now a star roving interrogator or inquisitor. But their technique is more sophisticated - they no longer leave bodies lying around.

All for now,

Love,

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

KUFUNGUA KATA HAPA

Kutoka Kwa:

Sender's name and address:.....

P.O.B x.6361

Dar es Salaam

TANZANIA

**BARUA HII HAITAKIWI KUTUMBUKIZWA
KITU CHOCHOTE NDANI YAKE; LA
SIVYO HAITAPELEKWA KWA NDEGE**

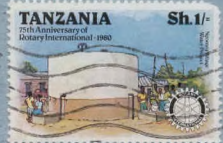
Imetolewa na Shirika la Posta na Simu Tanzania.

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KUNJO LA PILI HAPA



PAR AVION
KWA NDEGE



YOUNG WARTHOG

Mrs. H. Bernstein
5 Rothwell St.
LONDON NW 1

England

15/8/80

Dear Violet,

As you might expect, your letter of 7th August arrived yesterday, too late to send any prints. Back to that in a moment. Only by chance I heard that R would be in Dar, because I was moaning to Rica about the postage cost, now so high that it's out of all proportion to whatever one is sending. I hope the few things arrived OK, it occurred to me after that you would probably find the powdered Steradent lasts longer. Let me know when you need some. Now the books. I ordered the abridged Dewey, which reminds me I sent them a cheque & they haven't sent the book yet, I'll phone them tomorrow to find out what's happened to it. It cost £8.25 (not counting postage!) Children of the Revolution is out of print. These days they don't keep any books after a few months, I can't get several excellent Penguins I want. I will try other places, sometimes shops just happen to have them.

Sorry to hear about Jamela. It is troubling, but the prognosis for attended-to lumps in breast is good. Whenever I hear of anybody I attempt that self-examination they are always telling you to do. Rusty's sister Rae had a breast removed 15 years ago, then the other a few months back. It wasn't, as far as they know, a continuation of the old cancer. Horrible but to outward appearances she looks well and normal. Now, about the prints. I can send them in a roll by airmail, but should have an idea of which ones you want. You may have had people liking particular ones, or do you want me to make a selection, and if so, how many.

I enjoyed all your bits of news, and wanted to write a long epistle on Copenhagen, but alas, there is not the time (nor space on this blue thing.) So, briefly, I enjoyed it all, thought it was worth the effort. There were about 8 ANC delegates, plus two of us (Zanela Mbeki & myself) who had been invited by the organisers to give papers (she on refugees, with whom she has been working the past 5 years or so). There were 2 conferences, the official, governmental one attended by all the big-nobs together with reps. of NGO's recognised by the UN; and the NGO forum. I was at the latter, the former, everyone said, was unbearably dull, because they all made speeches saying how wonderful everything was in their own countries. At our Forum, held at the University, there were about 8,000 women from everywhere under the sun meeting in dozens, even hundreds of workshops every day to discuss everything from building desks in Guinea-Bissau to wife-beating in the slums of somewhere. Apartheid was constantly discussed, at many different workshops (it comes up under all sorts of things, like Immigration; Nuclear weapons; Refugees; Education; etc etc) and we divided ourselves as best we could to attend as many relevant workshops as possible. I found I could only cope with the incredible multifarious goings-on by simply concentrating on our problem, and so made good use of the various platforms. I think I spoke well. Esther thought so, too. She had a marvellous time, I was so happy that she was able to go. With her personality she plunged into everything, made friends, got around, talked her way through everything.

others were doing. We scraped things together after a couple of days. It is not that anyone is to blame - the delegates came from Lusaka mostly, & the best material is available in London; but there was lack of foresight and coordination. I personally find I cant travel with heavy books, pamphlets, etc, I'm too old and arthritic in the arms, as it were, & these days, regardless of socalled facilities, you have to lug your own things around an awful lot at airports.. However, it was a rich opportunity for work, and we did do a lot, but a lot more could have been done. It was nice to see Ray Simons, as busy as always (pinching masses of material from the Zionist 'dissidents' table & pushing into waste=bins. There were also Ukrai-nians who said there country was free until the Red Army marched in! Ever heard of someone called Hitler?) I also loved Copenhagen, clean, nice-looking, with fabulous shops filled with beautifully designed things, and met some lovely women from other countries. This really requires a visit to Dar, doesnt it? Or if you are coming this way . . . I told Frances to write to you about their visit. Toni & family are in Italy, in the house. Much love

H Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street

London, NW1 8YH

Violet Weinberg

P.O. Box 6361

Dar-es-Salaam

TANZANIA.

23rd August 1980

Dear Hilda,

Many thanks for your letter 15th Aug. and for the Nuclear Capability and chooking bags and herbs, all most welcome. Also the Steradent - yes the powdered is more economical, but this is fine. You are quite right about not posting. A parcel came for Eli. The original slip did not reach us and by the time he went to the P.O. with the reminder they wanted 80/- for demurrage. Eli refused to take it out of hook because the contents were not worth a quarter of that. It was returned to sender in London and arrived last week by hand!

I got Frances' letter 10th Aug. in the same post as yours. She says to reply C/o Patrick so am making a copy of the reply. Will enclose one with yours and send the other to Patrick with Ray who leaves for home to-morrow. They have been having a SACTU meeting all week. Ray has been staying with us. She hasn't been here much as they have been meeting into the night, but my goodness, she is a chatter box when she is around.

About the prints: I shudder at the thought of sending them by post and think you should ask around that people should let you know if somebody is coming this way. When I sent you the report on visit to Swedish embassy, I indicated how many people wanted each of the prints, as follows:

Forest (4) We Women (3) Baobab (3) Sea Birds and Leopard (2 each). So I would repeat those and for the rest must leave it to you. And I just noticed that Jamela's customers had asked for 6 copies of Girl. If Frances can bring them it will be time enough for the Xmas trade.

I am very glad for Esther that she had this opportunity to go to Copenhagen, she wrote about it most enthusiastically. And Ray has also been telling me.

Last night we went to see the film on the Congress of the People filmed by Ivan. We saw it under the worst possible conditions and so it did not do anything for Ivan's reputation. There were posters around town advertising a free film show so the hall was half-filled with children who did only kept quiet when there was singing. As soon as somebody started talking they whistled and cat-called. I am not sure that we would have heard most of the speakers anyway, but perhaps the children contributed. It is meant for TV and presentation was only a bit bigger, so we could not read the texts that were screened. Sonia came across better than most. It is showing again on Monday night. I invited an Indian couple to come along but think I must cancel it as this would be their introduction to a movement function and I don't think it does us any good.

Asking R to post this in London and want to write a few more so cheerio

Yours truly,

PS. When I queried why we had not yet had a meeting to discuss the "Women Question", Baleka told me that the Women's Executive Committee (E.Africa) had decided that it would be dangerous to do so as our young women don't know enough about politics to be taken on to this subject. I was appalled and argued vociferously. Baleka said that because I had never lived in a ghetto, I could not possibly understand the ghetto mentality. The paper had been discussed in Maputo. Shortly afterwards a senior member of the ANC asked one of the young women to make him a cup of tea. She refused, saying that he should do it himself as she had equal rights.

13th Sept.80

Dear Hilda,

Thanks for note and prints. Lucky for me that I am so businesslike. Not only did I check the prints but had Elfi, Jane and Florida in to view them when I opened up. There are three short: 2 of Baobab and 1 of Crested Crane. We liked them all very much. I didn't expect Florida and Jane to buy, but want them to tell their friends. Jane's excuse was that she has no room on her walls - not that she has paintings - built-in display cabinets covers ~~up~~ two walls. Florida tried to persuade her that she should buy for the new house they are building. Jane says: 'Only Allah knows if we will ever live in that house.' They (Asians) feel very insecure here - because of Uganda and also local black antagonism, because the Asians are generally much better off and do quite a lot of bribing. Nellie is quite venomous about them. I always point out that her people are happy recipients of the bribes and often wont budge to do something until the palm has been crossed.

We like Frances and John very much. I told her that as a little girl she was Rusty, but now that her hair has gone dark, she is Hilda. John is genuine working class. I asked him if he wanted his steak well done, medium or rare. He looked at me blankly and that proved that he had not been to restaurants where such decisions arose! He told me that they had taken a cheap workers' tour to China. That he was impressed with what they have done for the workers, but thought their foreign policy was very bad. "Because Air Tanzania only comes from Lusaka twice a week, they will have either a week here or 2 days. I said they should come for the week and I would try to get them to Mazimbu. They were hesitating because they felt that was taking advantage and perhaps it wouldn't be convenient. I promised them that if I found that it didn't suit me at that time I would book them into an hotel. So as things stand they are due back here on 28th Sept.

Thank you for the denture powder. Gives me a feeling of security to have a reserve.

Encl.: Copy of letter to Frances which Wolfie will deliver on Monday; newspaper letter on Tazara which Frances & John read here and which gave us all a belly laugh.

When I first came here I was extremely talkative - I called it verbal diarrhoea. Then when I wasn't well I stopped, but now I am feeling much better and have ~~started~~ again become a compulsive talker - just hope that it isn't a pattern which will again lead to the other condition. Anyway to get to the point. Some time back Baleka asked me to deliver a letter to the Soviet Embassy. It was addressed to the Cultural Attache. The receptionist called a man who laughed; he said their embassy didn't run to a cultural attache, but he had taken so-and-so's place and would be the liaison with the liberation movements. We started chatting and I was telling him that I thought that Eisenstein's film Battleship Potemkin was one of the finest films ever made, that I had seen it about 10 times but not even in the last 25 years and that it would be a treat to see it again. What do you know - on Tuesday he phoned to say he had got me Battleship Potemkin. I am so excited. I am always very critical of my brother-in-law Bennie, but I do say to his credit, that he brought the Eisenstein films to S.A. He did it as a commercial venture, thinking he would make money, but he lost money as he had to show them in the Selborne Hall. Then the Capetown Film Society had a copy and the Johannesburg Film Society showed it every year. Now I am going to be greedy and ask for Viva Mexico. That we did see in the SU. last year. It is magnificent.

Phyllis used 1800/- of your money and I hope that F & J will use some too. They were not sure that that was your wish. I said that I was sure there would plenty more before you come here next year.

They brought Sunday's Observer and two latest New Statesman and I am enjoying them very much, but glad that I don't have to deal with a daily paper the size of Observer, compulsive newspaper reader.

Love V.

12th Sept.80

Dear Frances/John,

Have thought of something I would like you to bring, not as a present - will pay. We are out of liquor and would like some Duty Free, I think you may only buy two bottles, so our preference is in this order: brandy, whiskey, gin. Now I am definitely looking forward to your return!

Fond regards,

PS TO HILDA: Have a scheme afoot: To meet up with our little Mark in Salisbury around Xmas. Setting the wheels in motion today by applying to Lusaka for permission. Alfred is on holiday in SU but as Reddy is going there on Sunday I hope he will ~~xx~~ find a deputy who will be able to make this world shaking decision. I dont want to tell Sheila until I know if it is possible. Just remembered that she has applied for permission for a holiday at about that time, but Mark gets more than a month's holiday, so he should be able to manage both. Perhaps Sheila would be happy to go on her own.

13th

In my think this morning,
I almost decided that
Mark & I will go to the Vic
falls, (a) I havent been and
b) what will we do for 2 weeks
in Salisbury, He will find my Zapa
Suenes tonight I won't.

Daily News 8/8/80.

HARDLY a few months have passed since TAZARA doubled its passenger fares. And now they intend to increase it again while its services have been deteriorating day by day.

In spite of doing booming business TAZARA is plagued with financial problems which I attribute entirely to its inefficiency and negligence.

To claim that lack of experienced manpower and spares is the main cause of these problems is absurd, because such excuses have now become common in defending inefficiency.

When TAZARA started operating passenger services, it provided the most efficient services in the nation in respect of transport. Departure and arrival of trains was punctual to a minute. Services were on the train excellent.

Today TAZARA provides us one of the most inefficient services. Departure and arrival of trains vary from a few minutes to several hours.

A good meal, cold drinks and clean water is never provided on the train.

Passengers sometimes travel a whole day without

TAZARA services worsening

a single meal, or bottle of cold drinks.

Twice I had to share some food, which I fortunately brought with me, with a group of tourists who had boarded the train at Kapiri Mposhi, and had not been provided a single meal since the previous day.

It was seriously an embarrassing situation. Dirty blankets are issued with the bedding and passengers can hardly sleep peacefully.

It seems these blankets

have not been washed since these passenger services commenced.

Again, TAZARA has not bothered to open a booking office in the city centre. Thus a prospective passenger has to spend a 100/- to hire a taxi to and from the city centre just to buy a single ticket. One has to pay a further 50/- for a taxi to carry him and his luggage to the station.

Thus before one has even commenced one's journey one has already spent 150/-, leave

alone the extremely high fares.

Theft of lights, mirrors and other fittings in the train provide a glaring example of lack of proper security in guarding TAZARA property.

As long as these diseases exist in TAZARA, its chances of survival are slim. By raising fares TAZARA will not achieve anything, but instead due to extremely high fares passengers will opt to travel by bus.

Tanzania and Zambia have sacrificed vast amount of money, lives, sweat and blood to complete this project.

How is that today we are failing in our duties to protect this dream which has become true?

Surely we don't need Chinese experts and spares to clean TAZARA's dirty blankets, run their canteens and prevent accidents. Let us be proud to solve our own problems without asking for external assistance.

S.Y. KASAMMIA

P.O. Box 9454,
Dar es Salaam.

13th Sept.80

Dear Frances/John,

When I woke at 5 this morning, as I generally do, and lay ruminating, as I generally do, I suddenly remembered that I meant to apologise for not saying goodbye to you. I didn't do so on Tuesday night, because, as I have already said I generally wake at 5 pm, and Wednesday was no exception. But suddenly Eli switched his light/^{on}and jumped out of bed. When he told me it was 6 am, I also jumped and we both ran downstairs to find that the birds had flown. On the other hand I was so glad that the taxi driver had not let you down. I had not fallen asleep again and just don't know what happened to that hour, between 5 and 6 .

You will be glad to hear that we got our car back yesterday and it is very nice now - none of that disturbing clonk-clonk.

Maybe Lusaka has bicarbonate of soda, unobtainable here. If so, please bring me a half pound or its equivalent in grammes.

Cheerio

25th September 80

Dear Violet,

I have a file marked URGENT in big black letters. All the things that really require immediate attention are thrust into that file, which is constantly in front of me, somewhere on my desk under a pile of papers, and once having done that it somehow relieves me of an responsibility to do anything else, like actually attend to the stuff. I'm sorry, that's where your letter has been resting, breathing in the grey gloomy London autumn . . .

So. This morning I had down in my notebook to attend to the URGENT file before doing anything else at all, and right on the top, ofr course, was Violet. First, thanks for the substantial cheque, which I really do appreciate. It means quite a lot to me, apart from the cash, to have my prints going to different countries. The discrepancies in the number of prints as compared to the invoice was due to the fact that at the last moment I couldnt cram so many into one tube without damaging them, therefore removed some. Please adjust invoice accordingly.

Frances and John are very sensitive about trading in on Rusty's and my name - that is, getting somewhere because Frances is our daughter. But I hope that they do get to Maximbu, and that they are able to spend a week with you and Eli. Frances would learn a lot from Eli about the way a political trade union movement works, and from you about our own political history, and perhaps you have a better memory than I.

I do hope you succeed with your plans to meet up with Mark at Xmas time, or around then. How old is he now? I very much admire women like Sheila who take the frightening conditions of their lives and manage to make something so constructive out of them. I know a couple of young women here who are like that, although of course, one cannot in any way compare the general circumstances, the safety they enjoy in their homes, and freedom from direct persecution. I do see the 'nuclear family' more and more as damaging and rotten, and more and more disintegrating in the Western world. I had some deep thinks after Copenhagen about Western feminism and the position of the mass of the women in the rest of the world. I would have liked to write something about it, but dont know where it would be printed. Big papers & mags here are not interested in an event after it has taken place, and VOW would never countenance publishing ideas as subversive as mine. I sought of despaired over the latest issue I received, with a long unreadable interview with Oliver full of the same tired old generalisations that dont amount to anything at all, and with such deadly headlines and layout. I cant write and criticise, they take it so badly from me, I'm regarded here as 'deviant', yet I feel I could make so much more of a contribution, and I long for some xsting and controversy and passion in peoples' views. Well, that's a rambling para, starting with Mark and ending with a moan about my unpopularity. (But never mind. D & A are producing the Xmas cards I designed, & some 'note' cards based on animal prints.)

Rica has received her OK to go to Africa (from the ANC), although she doesn't know yet where it will be. I am glad for her sake, but she will be missed here, both in her work - in which she is, as always, invaluable - and in herself, for to me she is one of the most courageous and lovely women I know. She has to set things in motion, like making arrangements about her flat here and so on. I hope wherever she is that she will get the necessary medical check-ups, even if that means the expense of flying to London once or twice a year.

My own family are - I think the word is 'peripatetic', but I'm not sure. Keith is in Morocco with 2 friends, annual holiday. When he comes back he is taking six weeks unpaid leave from his firm to accompany Ivan as assistant camera-man to the USA and South America on a film Ivan is making about various rebel movements in America, I'm a bit vague about it. It is a very exciting prospect for him, especially as his job has become awfully boring, and he will get well-paid as well. Pat and family had a holiday in Mauritius before J & F went to Lusaka, and John sent me a card from Lusaka saying Pat, Clyde and Frances are competing to see who can eat the most, and that they were going to Salisbury by bus. Frances has the hope of being able to trace Calud - do you remember him? he worked for us for such a long time - but he was living in a district which was one of the centres of the war, and therefore was probably moved to somewhere else. ~~XXXX~~ Toni is busy with about a dozen jobs of one kind or another. Her two boys are gorgeous, even as adolescents, and both write poetry - Nicky's is absolutely hilarious.

Rusty is just the same as always. I can't get him to move. He had a letter from Usie suggesting that he could be very valuable to them at Mazimbu, but he just won't undertake any of these African jobs. His arguments against them don't convince me, but he is, as always, completely stubborn and won't be moved. I regret it very much.

Much love

Women's Secretariat, Lusaka
Comrade Mosejane
Chief Rep. E.Africa

P.O.Box 6361
Dar es Salaam.

30th September, 1980

The Treasurer General,
ANC (SA)
LUSAKA.

Dear Comrade Thomas,

1. Enclosed please find copies of the following, marked as listed:

A. Letter to Com. Marie-Jo Koumaris dated 16.8.80

B. i. Letter to you from ANC London

ii. Portion of letter from Alex & Marie-Jo dated 16.8.80

2. On 16th September Com. Mosejane phoned me from the DSM office to tell me that the Women's Secretariat had received a letter from the London office saying that I had written to Alex Koumaris to approach the UNCHR for something and that I have been told before that that is not the way things should be done. There are channels which must be used.

2.1 This annoyed me as I felt that I was being unjustly accused; that before levelling accusations, Head Quarters should have ascertained the facts. I gave him the gist of Item A, pointing out that it was UNESCO and not UNCHR. He undertook to send a photocopy of letter from London.

3. He said he knew about our dealings with UNESCO as he had once gone there with me. Seeing that he mentioned this, I reminded him that the purpose of our visit was to ask Mr. Mwaniku of the local UNESCO office if they would pay for cots from Star Furnishers, to which they agreed.

3.1 I asked Com. Mosejane to send me an invoice from Star, which was not done, despite several reminders. Some time later when Com. Silver was going to Lusaka I asked him to bring back the invoice. On his return, Com. Silver said he was not able to get an invoice as Star did not have an invoice book! At which stage I gave up. Com. Mosejane says the invoice was sent as he had seen the copy. It would be interesting to know if Star got paid for the cots.

4. The purpose of this letter is to present the facts regarding:

(a) my correspondence with the Comrades Koumaris and

(b) the somewhat acrimonious telephone conversation with Com. Mosejane.

Yours in the Year of the Charter and the Workers.

Violet Weinberg

Dear Marie Jo,

UNESCO has given the ANG(SA) a grant for a Child Care Centre which will be built at the farm Basimbu as part of the Solomon Mahlangu School Complex (SOMAFSC). But meanwhile to meet a pressing need we established a temporary crèche in June 1979 at a Residence in Morogoro. However this residence filled up and we have to house mothers, babies, children in additional temporary accommodation. Some mothers have come from South Africa with several children.

We spend as much of the grant as we can locally, but some items are not available here. UNESCO will ship these to us, providing we give them specifications as to make and size. But because we cannot view the articles, we cannot supply the information and turn to you for help.

We will list our order below and ask you to gather the information which is to be sent to: Mrs. C. Fontaine-Eboue, Programme Specialist, UNESCO, Paris.

1. Two baby scales.
2. Six Orange Squeezers: We do not want either the ordinary plastic type, nor do we want electric squeezers.

We have in mind a sturdy article with a hand operated lever that lowers the top on to the base which holds a half orange face down and which squeezes the juice out in one movement. If below this there is an outlet for the juice to run into a container, so much the better, but not essential. Squeezing oranges for 20 or more children is hard work and we want to lessen the burden of those who have to do it. We hope that our description will convey a picture to you, but naturally anything else that will serve the purpose will be acceptable.

3. Two Washing Machines

A few months ago UNESCO, Paris, sent us two washing machines that do approximately 5 kg of washing per load. We find this to be inadequate at the large residences for which we now wish to order two electric machines that would take 10 to 15 kg. per load. The machines must operate on 220 volts. Our Construction Project has decided to standardise their equipment by buying Electrolux products. If there is a suitable Electrolux machine on the market, we would choose it.

The letter dated 11th June, to which Marie Jo refers in her reply, was purely personal. I said that I hoped she would not regard the request as an imposition.

This is to inform you that Con.Moumbaris in Paris has been asked by Violet Weinberg (by letter) to obtain washing machines. Alex approached UNESCO who informed him that \$6 000 earmarked for the creche has not been collected by the ANC. Also that the money has to be used for the creche project within 2 days, as the person handling the matter, Mrs.Fontainebus would be away on holiday until after Sept. 15, the deadline for end of this financial year.

On the basis of the above I contacted Cd Florence per telex, I also requested her to inform the Treasury of the matter. UNESCO has decided to purchase two washing machines and one dryer. We are waiting for Cd. Moumbaris' report. Cd Jole is aware of the details.

I COOVADIA

cc TREASURER GENERAL

WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT.

COPY OF RELEVANT EXTRACT FROM LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST, FROM ALEX AND MARIE-JO MOUNBARIS TO ME, Violet Weinberg.

Bii

We were happy to receive your letters of the 11 and 12 June. Very soon after their receipt, however, we left for your holiday in Bulgaria and consequently we were unable to do what you requested. Having come back, not being conscious of any urgency, the matter was still delayed further, and it was only on the 11 August that we did begin to set on it. It was very lucky because in a couple of days it would have been too late.

All the necessary details were given to Mrs.G.Fontaine Ebous and I expect that you will obtain the items you need there and maybe more than you requested.

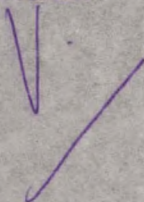
Please do not be apologetic about this being an imposition. It is for us to apologise for having taken so long. In future our response will be immediate.

4th Oct.80

Dear Baleka,

Defence & Aid have just sent us a magnificent portable photographic exhibition of WOMEN UNDER APARTHEID. I have asked Linsi to fetch me for the meeting and would put it up on the walls. If you have any objection please phone and let me know. Have not received your typing.

AMANDLA.



Sat.4th October

My dear Hilda,

Enjoyed your letter 25th Sept. very much - your reply need not be marked 'urgent', I think, but we will see as we go along.

re: Prints: I had put the first tube in Phyllis' room to take back to you, but am very glad she forgot as we were able to split into the two. Jamela & Bruce looked through them and they have bought Crested Crane and the brown We Women, but Jamela very smartly said I should mark them SOLD but keep for exhibiting. She was dealing in antiques in England and knows the game. Have given Frances 700/-, but she may return some of it. As Phyllis' departure was delayed by several hours, I have suggested that they keep some as they may find themselves starving at the Airport. I think the ANC office would change the balance for you to give to somebody coming this way. So often travellers are not met and need shillings.

Very sorry that F & J could not make it to Mazimbu @ they will tell you how their arrival here was delayed by about 18 hours. As compensation I had planned a trip to Bagamoyo but then could not fit it in. We enjoyed having them here. The bed will hardly have time to cool off before Shanthie arrives on Monday. I will also leave it to them to tell you about going to see EQUUS last night.

Agree with you about VOW, in general and the last issue in particular. They sent us only 20 copies and we now have a couple of hundred women here. Furthermore, they sent us copies designed for internal distribution in reduced type which I couldn't even read - just as well it seems!

My dear you and I are in competition for the first position in the unpopularity stakes as far as HQ are concerned. It all started because I dared to offer what I regarded as constructive criticism of their waffling and inefficiency, but have since learnt, (well you see from the enclosed that I haven't learnt) but was informed that the one thing one must avoid is any sort of criticism. I am enclosing my letter to them dated 30th Sept. I would like you to show it to Rica. When she was here last time I was still in the depths of my depression. When she returned here from Mazimbu and had obviously discussed me ~~ix~~ with people there, including Cäudia & Spencer, she said that I take things 'too personally'. Maybe. Anyway after showing it to Rica, please incinerate and dont discuss with anybody else. I have made my point. I have marked the last line of par.2.1. It so happened that just after Moosajee phoned me Eli was going to Lusaka and he brought me a copy of the London letter. To this day, 3 weeks later, he has not sent me the photocopy as promised. Just like he didn't ever send the invoice. Bah. I am also enclosing a note written to Baleka this morning. They have made me jittery about protocol and channels, which I think are designed to stifle any sort of initiative.

We have just recd. the D & A portable photographic exhibition: WOMEN UNDER APARTHEID and I see that most of the text is taken from

For their triumphs ...

I always say that however some people may hate my guts, I belong to a mutual admiration society, of which you and Rica are members! I also love Rica, but I think I told you that in a spat in gaol with Lesley she said: "I cant think why Rica said that you were the best person to be in prison with." Lusaka engaged a young Canadian man who is an expert on Projects and ~~is~~ raising money for them, (having done that for the IUEF,) to bring two of your young people to Mazimbu and show them how to assess projects and, most important, how to draw up memoranda for Funding organisations. I met him at Mazimbu when he told me what he was doing and he said that he thought the ANC should have somebody full time on this job. I immediately thought that that was Rica's cup of tea. And I know too, that she really wants to be at Mazimbu, for which I dont blame her. I love it there, with all its warts.

Now I come to the most important part of your letter: Rusty's refusal to come here. When I suggested it to somebody (not pretending that the ~~xxx~~ idea came from me) they thought you would not want to come. I disabused them and immediately thought about you investing in a print pressing outfit, or rather getting one of the Funders to send one! There are many problems there and Rusty would prove invaluable not only as an architect, but politically. I do hope that pressure will be brought to bear to change his mind.

We phoned Sheila on her birthday, Wednesday evening 1st Oct. She called Mark from his bath to speak to us. He was unprepared and it was a bad line, but it was lovely to hear Sheila's voice. Got a long letter from her this week. Her application for a holiday at the Cape has been turned down. She is writing to the Magistrate offering a number of alternatives such as shorter time, other addresses, other places. Mark turns 7 on 5th Jan. She has been working for Raymond Tucker who has joined a 'high-powered' firm of attorneys (sic) as from 1st Oct. and she has been taken over as half-day bookkeeper. She also does the books for the Legal Resource Centre, which is run by Arthur Chaskelson, who take up cases for victimised trade unionists, etc. Her final par: Last night they had a travelogue on Leningrad in which Peter Ustinov as the "tour guide". It was fascinating. He pointed out how the Russians have meticulously restored the war damaged monuments (cathedrals, palaces, etc) created by Tzarist Russia simply because they are beautiful, while the ~~E~~ West pulls down and replaces with gaudy modern buildings, such as Coventry Cathedral.

F & J went to ~~town~~ with Eli this morning. Dan called in to see them and came back to fetch them to go to Kanduchi Beach and will give them lunch. I said that I was glad they would see how the other half of the world's tourists live. We went to Oyster Bay yesterday. Linzi will bring them back at 3.30 and pick me up to go to the Women's general meeting.

Much love and twist Rusty's arm.

9th October 80

My dear Hilda,

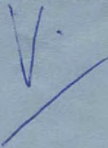
This will be a quickie with cable follows.

Jamela and I agreed that she should take the prints as her last year's customers are all interested. Furthermore, Anna Runeborg, SIDA, only got back to Dar 2 weeks ago with a 2 months old baby so dont want to bother her about sales at the Embassy right now. My cable to you will say: Please send - and will list which are good sellers. Jamela's customers are keen on Zebras, and we definitely want more of Baobab and Crested Crane, also We Women, preferably brown. Airfreight is probably cheaper than posting, but it takes much longer. At some stage you offered 40% commission, so just pay out of the difference!

We leave for Mazimbu in an hour's time, hopefully, i.e. if transport turns up to take us to the 1 o'clock bus, and haven't packed so will leave this at that.

Hope F & J arrived in one piece. I think they had a good holiday.

Fond love,



TO OPEN SLIT HERE

KUFUNGA KWANZA HAPA

Kutoka Kwa:

Sender's name and address:

P.O. Box 6361

Dar es Salaam

TANZANIA.

BARUA HII HAITAKIWI KUTUMBUKIZWA
KITU CHOCHOTE NDANI YAKE; LA
SIVYO HAITAPELEKWA KWA NDEGE

Imetolewa na Shirika la Posta na Simu Tanzania.

SECOND FOLD HERE

KUNJO LA PILI HAPA



PAR AVION
KWA NDEGE



YOUNG WARTHOG

Mrs. H. Bernstein

5 Rothwell Street,
LONDON NW 1

U.K.

Thurs
Thursd
Thursday 13th Nov.1980

Dear Friends,

Before I came to Tanzania, Eli thought it necessary to warn me that I must be prepared to lead a proletarian type of life. When I walked into our flat, my reaction was: may it soon be every prole's lot to live like this, and thought about Abie who went to a funeral in New York. He asked what ^{that} magnificent marble ediface was, to be told that it was the Rothschild Mausoleum. His comment: The way some people live! Apart from the fact that the flat is comfortable, I recalled my childhood envy of people who lived in double-storeyed homes - they were posh.

At the beginning of Oct. when I started commuting to Mazimbu, I stayed with the Bells in one of the new staff houses, comfortable, clean, all mod cons. mosquito netting all round, cool. However, a sub-clause of ~~the~~ one of the commandments on which I was reared: Do not be a "schnorrer" was: ^{Do not} ~~over~~stay your welcome. So I moved in with Tim who stays in one of the old sisal estate houses, which I seriously think was built by the Germans before World War I. There is no cross ventilation - they probably employed punkah-wallahs. So rooms very hot. It is also rat infested. We are being told that this is the "season" for rats; that they will disappear miraculously after the rains come. I think we need a Pied Piper, but who would pay? The first few days I felt that Eli's warning was now applicable - I was living like the workers, and I was almost tempted to move back to the Bells, but I gritted my teeth and stuck it out. However, last night I had my baptism of fire. At 3.30 this morning a rat jumped on my head and woke me. I screamed and ofcourse woke Tim, so we chatted until 4.30, when we switched off our reading lamps (may every worker have that luxury). When I woke at 6, Tim's lamp was burning which meant that the rat had been at her. She says they only come out in the dark.

I brought rat poison with me from Dar on Tuesday and Tim put out four pieces of bait. Instructions: Put butter on a fresh slice of bread and wearing PVC gloves, spread poison on top. Yesterday morning she took all the furniture out of the room thinking she would find corpses, but none. She says she heard them in their death throes in the night, i.e. Tuesday night. Anyway this morning there was one in the bathroom and another in the Primary School who share the house, Havana, with Tim and three others. Terry & Barbara teach in the Primary School so left a note for Terry to wrap in newspaper and burn as per the instructions. The joke about the 'butter on a fresh slice of bread' is that we dont even remember what butter is and they dont get bread here. But I had brought 2 loaves from Dar.

A Land Rover /Cruiser (will never know the difference) leaves here every day at 11.30 to do a transport round. Went with it to ~~the~~ town to get some fruit at the market and to go to a bootmaker, who makes beautiful leather shoes and sandals. A pair I have worn nearly 5 years had had it, so took them to him and he will copy using the heels and buckles. He said it would cost R16. Naturally I thought he was a S.African, but he says he does so much work for us, that he thinks he must speak in our currency.

.../Caught

Caught the 7 a.m. bus to Dar on Friday morning and came back on the 1 O'clock bus on Tuesday. What a hectic week-end. Had to bring Eli up-to-date on all the local gossip. One friend from here came to stay till Sunday when she left for Lusaka. Later Shanthie phoned from here (Mazimbu) to say she had suddenly got a booking for Maputo and was also coming to sleep over. Friday night was 7th Nov. celebration. Very nice. Saturday dashed round town seeing to various business. In the evening we went to the Drive-In to see The Wilbey Conspiracy and enjoyed it very much. It is a political thriller which will not be shown in S.A. Shanthie's friend who had gone to see her off at the airport missed it, so I came home and told him the whole story. My favourite quote is when the African leader says: I went to a mission school where I was fed Luke and Mark, but that led me to Lenin and Marx!

Havana

~~Tim~~ has a huge Mango tree growing in front of house. The branches are far beyond anybody's reach. However every time a mango drops I rush and pick it up. They are still green. Took a bagful home last week, but sad to say that as they ripened they also rotted where bruised by the fall.

Sheila writes that she is beside herself with excitement about me meeting Mark and so, ofcourse am I. Keep worrying that something will happen to disturb our arrangements. She is booking a tour for us to Vic.Falls, Keriba and Wankie. She writes that she is making pottery goblets for me and I am making lists of what I can send her.

Eli and I are very excited that the pine-apple we planted is actually bearing. We find it very wasteful of nature that a plant only bears one fruit and then plant has to be pulledxx up. It is an exaggeration to say 'we planted' - William just stuck the head of a pine into the ground and like Topsy, it just grewed.

All for now.

~~romantic love,~~

~~This morning for tea we got "magewe" thin, sour mealie-meal porridge. I love it and it makes me nostalgic, wgy back to my childhood on the farm.~~

Mazimbu, 14th Nov.

My dear Hilda,

Cable as per my last letter didn't follow, but send more pics. soon to catch the Xmas trade. Jamela is doing well, but I am here and she is there, so cant report in detail, but indicated in last letter which are popular. Shanthie is bringing something for you

In great haste,

much love,

V.

6th Dec.1980

My dear Hilda,

Business is good. Shanthie took 600/-. Jamela sold 5, ^{plus} one on approx. Anna took balance of 10 on Thursday and am sure she will have no difficulty in disposing.

Jamela discussed a proposition with me, which I am putting to you. Local people like the pics very much but cant afford anything like that sort of money. She suggests printing (machine). She thought we would have to buy pics from you that you have not graphicked (to coin a verb). I dont know what the art ethic is, but as we both liked several of the D & A cards - the top Mother & Child, Zebras and she saw the Ujamaa Village you gave the Italians for a poster - that would go down big here. We can get the printing done for nothing at the OAU Liberation press, but would limit to monochrome or at most 2 colours. Your signature would be necessary, essential: e.g. Donated by Hilda Bernstein for the ANC (SA) WOMEN'S SECTION EAST AFRICA. Haven't had time to check with Comrade Boston (foreman at press and very clued up) what the minimum number would have to be. They recently did a whole series of Freedom Charter posters done by a young ANC artist - very good. I leave on Monday for my great adventure - to Zimbabwe to meet up with Mark. Esther Levitan coming on 12th and 3 of us go Vic. Falls, Kariba, Wanke for 4 days. Anthony Eastwood has arranged accommodation. Gretel (aged 9 on 7/1, Mark 7 on 5/1) is bringing Mark tomorrow. Anthony will meet them and then me on Monday. Not sure if staying with him. His address: 31 Blair Rd. Borrowdale, Salis. Dont really expect you to write there. Plan to be back for celebration 8th Jan., stopping off in Lusaka for a few days. Ray has arranged place to stay as she will not be home. A bit vague - woman has no phone, I ~~am~~ cant give date of arrival at this stage. Security - dont even know her address so have just written to Ray to see your Pat. At least to send me his home/office phone no.

You have not replied to mine 4th Oct. 9 oct. and(14 Nov?) All said send more pics. and persuade Rusty that M azimbu is the in place. All for now

Much love and good wishes for New Year.

Yours



TO OPEN SLIT HERE

KUFUNGUA KATA HAPA

Kutoka Kwa:

Sender's name and address:.....

P.O.Box 6361

Dar es Salaam

TANZANIA

BARUA HII HAITAKIWI KUTUMBUKIZWA
KITU CHOCHOTE NDANI YAKE; LA
SIVYO HAITAPELEKWA KWA NDEGE

Imetolewa na Shirika la Posta na Simu Tanzania.

SECOND FOLD HERE

KUNJO LA PILI HAPA



PAR AVION
KWA NDEGE



Hilda Bernstein

5 Rothwell St

LONDON NW1

U.K.



YOUNG WARTHOG

BOER MINISTER HECKLED

By Violet Weinberg

On 22nd March, 1981, the Sunday News, Dar es Salaam, published the following news item, under the above banner headline.

" Johannesburg, Saturday.

"Hundreds of university students, most of them white, disrupted a speech by a South African regime minister yesterday, shouting 'fascist' and 'siegh heil', and singing the anthem of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

"Co-operation and Development Minister Piet Koornhof was shouted down at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand by the students, who also pelted him with paper missiles and hurled a stink bomb.

" His speech coincided with the eve of the 21st Anniversary of the Sharpville massacre, when 69 Africans were shot dead by police during a protest."

This demonstration ~~at Wits~~ on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, was an inspiration to all of us. Our Dar es Salaam Publicity Department dealt with it in an excellent broadcast on the External Service of Radio Tanzania.

In her book TOMORROW'S SUN (A Smuggled Journal from South Africa), (Dutchinson of London, 1966), Helen Joseph ~~describes~~ recounts that in 1953 the ANC (SA) convened a meeting of white supporters. Comrade O.R.Thambo, now our President, addressed us and the establishment of the Congress of Democrats, (COD), ensued, an organisation "unconditionally committed to uphold the Congress policy of equal votes, rights and opportunities for all." (Fifty Fighting Years by A Lerumo, Inkululeko Publications, London, 1971)

Helen Joseph welcomed the invitation to be a member of the Provisional Committee of COD. She, and others, came to understand the decision of the ANC that it was the task of whites to work among whites to arouse their consciences in an effort to win them over to the policies of the Congress Movement.

We had many discussions in COD about whether it was worthwhile carrying on with what seemed a hopeless task of converting the whites. Helen describes how she hated selling pamphlets, but "tried to make up for my deficiencies by pushing many leaflets under many doors with speed and diligence". (Ibid p.51)

seemingly

The protagonists for continuing our arduous and/unrewarding work in COD, said that we could not know which seed would fall on fertile soil.

There are many factors which bring the Wits' students and other young whites, to support the ANC, but I cannot help feeling a thrill that some of it is due to the ten years we slogged it out in COD and carried out the policy of the ANC.

What a joy that white students are once more ready to stick their necks out. In about 1974, 300 of them defied a ban on demonstrations and marched to John Vorster Square where they were all arrested.

On June 17th, 1976, they marched through the streets of Johannesburg protesting at the events of June 16th and to demonstrate solidarity with the Soweto students. They were joined by many blacks.

The office where I worked faced the Supreme Court in Pritchard Street. The staff heard the singing and shouting of slogans. We all rushed to the windows to see what what was happening. This became clear immediately we saw the banners and posters. Most of the whites were angry and muttered. One woman, trembling with rage, expostulated: "How dare they march through the streets singing when poor Dr.Edelstein is lying in the morgue, murdered by them. They should be mourning." (Dr.Edelstein was a Social Worker employed by the West Rand Administration Board in Soweto.)

I turned on her and said: "Please don't mourn for me if I suffer the same fate. I, and every other white South African, has got it coming to them for not working hard enough to kick the Nats. out." With that I stalked out, because I was banned from participating in politics and did not feel that a polemic with those fools warranted a one-to ten-year prison sentence, provided under the law.

The ten years of work in COD has instilled in me a habit of collaring any white person to put across our policy.

latest

Shortly after the/Wits demonstration, I met a young woman from the West German Embassy. I said how exciting I found the news of the students shouting "fascist" and "sieg heil" at Piet Koornhof. She was puzzled and asked what "sieg heil" meant. Enquired if she had not learnt history at school; that it was the call which accompanied the Nazi salute. "Oh," said she, "you mean sieg heil". So much for my German pronunciation.

I then went/^{on} to inform her that the policy of the West, including her country, was sabotaging the freedom of Namibia; that an economic boycott of South Africa would bring that regime to its knees in one day. Her reply was that Mocambique is buying food from South Africa.

Not all their spies, nor their nuclear capability will save the Botha's, the Koornhofs et al. They run from "paper missiles and a stink bomb".

FORWARD TO FREEDOM.

31st December 80

Dearest Violet - I suppose that's the last time I'll put that date on a letter. At least I can say I wrote to you before the end of the year.

I have no excuses for not replying to your letters and letting you know the position about prints, etc. No excuses, but plenty of reasons. One of the reasons is that just before Rica left she showed me your letter with its horrific story of the sit-down strike - not a horrific strike, but the circumstances, and following that letter (which I couldn't read properly because she was in a hurry, so I missed a lot of it) and after that I received your letter of 6th Dec saying you were leaving on your great adventure. And I not knowing what the outcome was, if you got to Zimbabwe, which has contributed to my paralysis of communication. But in addition I think my main problem is that I am absorbed in too many different things; like a juggler throwing balls up, some keep slipping, can't hold them all. Since I tentatively launched on the idea of writing a whole book on women in SA, arrogant as it may sound from one who is 16 years & 5,000 miles from the scene, things keep pushing me more and more towards it, I'm trying to read piles & piles of books of various kinds, make notes, draft synopsis, think of new aspects, and all this overlays what is essentially a very busy life. Well, that's why I can't keep all the balls spinning. To business: As you must know now, sent some prints with Rica. I now have copies of 'Heron' that were not available ~~to~~ previously. Will look out for someone else to take them. Shantie gave me money, & I was happy about her personal news.

Regarding Jamela's suggestion re printed reproductions (either of original drawings, or of prints.) ~~XXXX~~ This seems like a good idea to me, and I would have no objections at all in principle. All I would want is certain safeguards, i.e., on the quality of the printing (which can make such a difference, the Xmas cards, for instance, were very well done) plus the fact that, technical as it may sound to you, artists who are producing prints (etchings, lithographs, woodcuts, or silkscreen) in numbered, limited editions must have the difference between these expensive editions and printed reproductions kept clear. Incidentally, re the Italian poster of the Ujamaa villagers - I didn't give it to them; the original woodblock belongs to Patrick, I never gave a print of it to anyone, but Monthly Review Press in USA produced a book on Tanzania, ~~xx~~ using ~~x~~ a slide of the block on the cover - the Ities must have pinched it from there. They never told me. I love people making use of my work, but hate not having it acknowledged. Anyway, it would be a pleasure to make some sort of contribution (even if paid!) to your Women's Section. As I say, I can either do a drawing, or paintings, especially for you, in which case the question of subjects arises, or else Jamela could let me know which etchings she thinks would sell well if reproduced cheaply by printing, and I could let you know whether any sort of 'copyright' exists (some of my prints are sold in part editions to a firm that might not like it if I allowed reproductions) Also, of course, some would not reproduce so well because of colour complications. The simple, one-colour print, 'Girl' would make an excellent printed reproduction, and black and white (such as the animal cards) would do very well.

On personal matters. Rusty is supposed to be going to

cant make him do what he has not yet got round to doing, if you see what I mean. He just has to make up his own mind, there are plenty urging him along from here. Regarding my own position (in the women's section) I have been trying to repair damage with less aggressive, more conciliatory attitudes (doesn't come easy after what happened), full story will be ancient news when I tell you, Rica might give her version of the meeting when they 'discussed' my contribution to Copenhagen - it was an inquisition; there are some among them here who very much want me to play a fuller part & are eager to discuss criticisms, suggestions. I feel myself being drawn back in (which leaves less time for drawing, writing). I am dying to hear from you in expectation that you did, eventually, see Mark. I expect you missed Patrick who has gone to SA. We had good family Xmas, all together, John & F came, only missing portion was Pat & V, even Ivan was here tho he's off again next week. I stuffed myself full of lovely chocolates & cream, lashings, on various things, but I'm strictly taking it off again, to stick to 'not above' a certain weight. It works. Hope 1981 proves a worthwhile year for you and Eli. . . . it's still PEACE & FREEDOM Much love

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