

International Defence and Aid Fund

PRESIDENT:

The Reverend Canon L. John Collins

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Mrs Phyllis Altman

2 AMEN COURT, LONDON, E.C.4

Telephone: 01-606 6123

Cables: DEFENDAID, London, E.C.4

4 June 1970

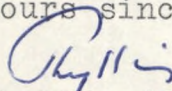
Dear Hilda,

We enclose herewith our cheque for £20. 0. 0. for the pamphlet "TRIAL BY TORTURE- THE CASE OF THE 22". We are very grateful to you for undertaking this.

Please sign and return the enclosed receipt.

With every best wish, *with love,*

Yours sincerely,



Phyllis Altman
General Secretary.

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

5 Rothwell Street,
N.W.1.

6th June 1970

Dear Phyllis,

Thank you for the cheque, but I feel I must return it to you, for reasons which are rather painful to explain.

I have never wanted to accept payment for anything I have done for D & A, not only for the larger reasons of what the organisation does for our people generally, but also for the smaller personal one, the indebtedness which Rusty and I feel could never be repaid, from the 1956 Treason Trial onwards. That is why I would find it repugnant to accept payment for drafting appeals, or things of that kind.

When it comes to writing something the length of a pamphlet, it is a different matter. The doctor who spends his spare time in evenings or weekends bleeding donors for plasma for Vietnam does not expect payment, but what if he has to abandon his normal practice for two or three weeks, what must he do?

The problem for the writer is particularly acute. Only another writer can truly appreciate the sheer hard work and time it takes to write. I don't think I am a slow writer, but I am always surprised that a long day's work can be read in a matter of minutes. Drafting things can be tricky - it can come all at once in fifteen minutes; it can take days, or weeks, to get it right. The problem is aggravated by the fact that no one except writers really regard writing as work. Filing letters is work and answering the 'phone is work, but who really considers thinking work?

We who try to earn some sort of living from writing and who are politically involved, have the additional problem, because there is a constant stream of requests for unpaid articles and similar work which we feel obligated to do for our 'cause.' If I did not impose some sort of limits, I could actually work full time, year in and year out, at this unpaid writing.

I did not keep a record of the time I spent on the pamphlet. I really hate myself for saying this, but it was the argument that I would be paid for it, as much as the sheer necessity and urgency of it that really persuaded me to undertake it. Please forgive me for saying that I feel insulted by this cheque for £20 - it is not professional payment, and it feels like a 'bonsella.' I had, in the first place, expected at least twice that amount, and after I worked extra time on enlarging the section on the deaths of other detainees (that was cut out in the end) at your suggestion, I thought this too would have been taken into consideration.

Yours,

Hilda

Defence and Aid Fund

Chairman: THE REVEREND CANON L JOHN COLLINS

104-5 NEWGATE STREET LONDON EC1
Telephone MONarch 6123 (01-606 6123)

All Correspondence to the Registered offices:
2 AMEN COURT LONDON EC4

10 June 1970

Dear Hilda

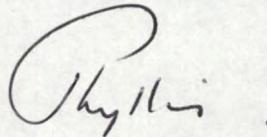
I received your letter and the returned cheque and am naturally very upset that you feel not only that you have been underpaid, but that your pamphlet was amended without discussion with you.

I am not responsible for the amendments and as soon as Alex Hepple returns from leave I shall ask him to discuss this with you. Also the question of payment I think should be part of a triangular discussion as we considered this an editing job rather than the compilation of an original document.

Where I feel guilty is that I was sure that I had come to tell you personally that we felt that the best way this should be published would be anonymously to give the impression that it might have been written by somebody either inside or outside South Africa.

We certainly appreciate all you have done for us both in this pamphlet and in the past, and we know how ready you are to assist us whenever we call upon you, so all I can do is again to express my regret that you have been so badly hurt.

I shall get into touch with you as soon as Alex returns.



Phyllis Altman
General Secretary

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

International Relations
Committee

c/o Al-Hadaf

P.O. Box 212

Beirut, Lebanon

Mouna

Tel: 309230

~~Airport. 1.30~~

~~Bus 1.~~

~~Bk at hotel 12.30~~

~~leave Amgen 12.~~

Friday

* Forum for our informing people on A
- surprised at lk o knowledge

Ap: issue raises whole question o feminist
struggles to new level:

makes clear + connections between
women's struggles &

P. 7 for lib o Palestine want
exchange o letters & information

& sp. i PLO - there is one sp out o them
- diff programmes & strategies bt common
programme within PLO

All sorts o information - programme

o ANC -

some organisations

PFLP has own women office

18th September 1980

International Relations Committee
c/o Al-Hadaf
P.O. Box 212
Beirut
Lebanon

Dear Friends and Comrades,

Since returning to London from Copenhagen I have posted to you some material from the African National Congress of South Africa, from the London office, and I hope that by now you have received this.

I have also requested the Women's Section of the ANC, at the head office in Lusaka, Zambia, to send you material that they issue.

In fact, although the Women's Section and the National Executive of the ANC are based in Lusaka, we in London have access to much more material about South Africa, and from South Africa, than they.

What I would like to know is any particular need or subject on which you would like some more information. There are three organisations issuing material here in London about South Africa - each organisation has its own particular aims, although of course they do overlap. The International Defence and Aid Fund, who issued the booklet on South African women that I wrote, have published excellent material - a list of recent publications appears at the end of the women's book - but they carefully refrain from political analysis, as they try to give support to all victims of apartheid and to draw support from a very wide spectrum; however, their books are worth studying.

I hope to hear from you, and to receive material about your own struggle, which is never far from our minds. Incidentally, my son-in-law, whose name is Ivan Strasburg, was in Lebanon a couple of years ago, when he was the camera-man on a film that was made by Vanessa Redgrave.

510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

H Berrstein
 5 Rothwell Street
 London, NW1 5YH
 England

(faded address text)

34 Rustenburg Flats
67 Fortesme Road
Yenville Johannesburg
13-2-79

Dearest Hilda & Rusty, Hilda my dear many thanks for your most interesting lovely long letter. You know the problem with letters is that one never knows whether either writer's letters ever reach their destination? The police questioned me closely about letters before they lifted the bans on hedy & I. I was not prepared to buy my freedom even after 17 years & said yes, I did write, they replied saying "well at least you are honest about it"!!! For example I sent you lots of pics of us all of Peter's lovely wedding, did you ever get? doesn't sound like it. Hilda I don't despise you all for going, please don't get me wrong, I just didn't & still don't think so many people should have left. Politically some people I suppose should have gone, & politically most people should have stuck by their guns (hell that's a bad/wrong word to use) and stayed. So may going I don't think solved anything & if I was government I would have been only too pleased to see everyone push off: You personally Hilda I have always loved and admired tremendously - I would like you to know that & I have never held it against you because you went. Anyway there's my feelings more or less, actually I'm much more tolerant these days!!! I'm so pleased you are able to "do your thing" at last - we have your Zebra in our bedroom - perhaps you have some "spare" for an old friend of some of your latest work?? Since the bans were lifted hedy & I have driven around a bit - I have been quite thunderstruck at the tremendous growth all round Johannesburg, ref, Pretoria, Vereeniging etc in fact it's all one bloody city now - really. Damn past Soweto, Soweto is 5 times I'm sure bigger than you knew it - it just stretches on for ever & ever & ever & that enormous seething boiling mass of black humanity - my god my god - words really

PER LUGPOS
BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION



AÉROGRAM
AEROGRAM



BENUT PA
GEEB

MAK
P. D. VELD



AAN
TO

Mr + Mrs L. Bernstein
5 Rothwell Street
London NW1 8YH
England

TWEDE VOU—SECOND FOLD

M EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER
DER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

TIJDS WORD NIE TOEGELAAT NIE
OSURES ARE NOT PERMITTED

VERSEEL EERS DIE TWEE SYKLAPPE, DAN HIERDIE EEN—SEAL THE TWO SIDE FLAPS FIRST, THEN THIS ONE

SNY HIERDIE KLAP EERSTE OOP

TO OPEN, CUT THIS FLAP FIRST

EERSTE VOU—FIRST FOLD

fail me - do you know that the afrikaners only, own
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of all the cars in SA now, & the same most one in
Somalia! I think bloody nearly as many blacks travel
in to work by car as whites! What it all means
& where we will all land up I can't guess, but
one thing I'm sure of & that is that it does not
all spell socialism NOT in our time anyway - I think
it all spells trouble big trouble, the sheer growth
here in SA all over ^{has} quite overwhelmed me. I'm sorry
to tell you that I'll & Alan are getting divorced, it's
been a shattering & terribly traumatic thing for both & I
think we are far from settled, I think this caused my last
heart attack! Well I hope you get this - much love
to you all Love

34 Rustenburg
67 Fortiswe Road
Yeoville Johannesburg
South Africa

8-2-80

Dearest Hilda, when last I wrote to Hugh I slandered everyone up hill & down dale because of the whole Deir, Goldberg money palour at the goal, & I still think that whoever was responsible in London was wrong - however I am sure you had nothing to do with it so I'm writing to you with a clear conscience! Anyway for me now it seems silly to quarrel with old friends, old ~~ex~~ friends, etc... Thank you for your long annual letter received at Xmas time - it was lovely to hear all about all of you & it is wonderful to still have our immediate family all around one still, or coming together as a family from time to time isn't it? Part of this letter Hilda is going to be very embarrassing for me to write, but I'm afraid it's become a case of "needs must when the devil drives". What is actually happening Hilda is that most unfortunately my heart is condition is slowly but inexorably deteriorating & me with it - somehow I have come to look at my heart as a bloody enemy! or something that is ~~a~~ letting me down when I need it most - anyway the damn thing is & we have been forced into taking various decisions in order that we may survive economically in some way or

another. Briefly the set up is as follows, Lesley & I have very little money - of course we got money for the house but there was still a large part of the bond to be paid off & we literally had to start all over again from scratch. Anyway we have a bit put aside. I will be 60 next year (my god!) & due to ~~retire~~ ^{retire} from my present job at the end of 1981. I will have worked there for 10 years & will get a little pension of + R220 per month PROVIDED I LAST OUT TILL the end of 1981 (A fact for such a short period of working for them its quite good!) If I can do ~~this~~ this & Lesley continues working the position wont be too bad BUT what if I in the very near future can no longer work? The pension thing would only then be ~~tot~~ literally about R50 per month - (one is heavily penalized if you dont last the course!) and we will really be in trouble. So, Lesley & I have decided that we are faced with a situation that we must not about trying to solve now. You see many days its ~~so~~ really only just sheer will power that keeps me going - I can hardly walk now or do anything when I have "those bad days" & yet I still have to crawl to the bloody office. So, we are assuming that at any time now I just wont be able to get up & go to work & that will be that & that will be trouble, so what are we doing. Over the past 10 years I can say before that

we started collecting things! some carpets,
brass, copper, silver (for & then), pictures, my office
books some yellow wood tables etc until we
ended up with a really very lovely home. However
we cant eat any of it so we decided that we
would start selling a lot of it while there
is a lot of money around in SA, while we certainly
want to be left unfurnished so to speak! we
certainly must sell a lot. When do you come
into it & why do I tell you this long tale
of woe!! Will you remember you sent us the ^{xxxx}zibros,
Roofs, ^{xxxxx}pumpers, ^{xxxxxxx}Piccadilly, summer opidans all of which
I have loved & enjoyed but now some of them,
(if you dont mind?) must go the same way
as all our other pictures. People who have been
have been wanted to buy ^(buy) some of your stuff. Do
you object if we sell some? Secondly what does
your stuff sell for or specifically what would
these sell for? Better tell me in pounds & I'll convert!
I suppose this will upset you - but please dont be -
we have had so very much out of life, I would NOT
have missed any of it for worlds gold, sport, love
sport, piles upon piles of banking orders between Lesley
& I - its been a tremendous experience and oh sister how
we got to know something about PEOPLE & LIFE oh
boy! No one will ever believe us again we
dont think.

Jills divorce thing is coming before the court
next week - apparently its a formality - you then

want six weeks & that's it. Christ will we be
 pleased to see the end of that hypocrite &
 assaulter of women & children aka Murray. The
 grandchildren are beautiful gorgeous!! and so bright
 (thank God) they would both really give Rusty
 a run with questions & I have always regarded
 Rusty as a position walking (sp) encyclopedia.
 Jill loves pathology, has also been appointed a
 lecturer in the dept (but we had to find the letter
 out from someone else - Jill is so scared) Jill
 will be a specialist in ~~the~~ 3 yr time & then she
 says she really will be able to support her
 old pa in the manner to which he has become
 accustomed in latter years - may I still be here?
 Peter & Reina are confirmed Cape Townians (C.T.'s.)
 have a lovely flat in Sea Point 100 yards from
 the sea. Peter works for the C.T. City Council -
 Reina at my instigation did a year (1979) to
 round off at UCT her education degree or diploma
 or whatever it is, she got distinction in everything!
 So, together with her American Masters from
 Madison & all her SA degrees she still can't
 get a job here to teach art!! She must be
 one of the most highly qualified people in S.A.
 but because she is married & is so highly
 qualified the department of education appear reluctant
 to give her a job - can you bloody believe
 it? However she is painting again a lot -

how much completely abstract I don't know - but she has done some beautifully delicate water colour sea shells - we absolutely ~~love~~ adore Rivina she often reminds me of people like you & Ruth & Jill does so often. Peter has been one of the most kind & gentle & wonderful persons that god ever put on this earth - really: healy looks very well but we are all getting very tired - what we would all have done without healy I don't know - she has never flagged or ~~was~~ wavered - in fact healy is one of the few people on this earth I would like to have next to me in a crisis, no matter how bad the crisis. healy works terribly hard - jills kids worship her as do all of us - So what more do we want. We live happily each day - we HOPE to take the kids on holiday in april to Mullaga Rock, for two weeks during the school holidays, drop them back here & then healy & I want to go to Peter & V in CT for 3 weeks - trouble is I think I act as if I'm still 16 instead of a shabby 60!! I hate age - I don't think I mind dying but getting older & older & older - I don't like it!!

Well here I have gossiped on & on & on about U.S. hope I did not bore you too much! I after chuckle when I think of how I am ending my days at angle America & the Stock Exchange - here I am dealing with millions & millions every day of my life -

Love to you & Ruth
Hilda

Iris & healy

25th August 84

Dear Marius,

It was good of you to write to me, and to let me know through IDAF where you will be for the coming period. I had been trying to get in touch with you on behalf of the Copenhagen paper - they phoned me after reading the Guardian article. I assume they did phone you.

The point about the article is that if we can get into the Guardian we reach a much bigger audience than through the smaller, left-wing journals. Anyway, it was your words about Jenny and Katryn that made the article effective.

I hope we can keep in touch, wherever you go. Here is my new address. It's rather far from London but constitutes a challenge to establish a new set of relationships - there are enough of us in London; maybe we can create solidarity in the provinces!

With love and confidence

No. 17,
Cooldurragh House,
Union Hall, County Cork,
Republic of Ireland.

17th August, 1984.

My dear Comrade Hilda,

Just a very brief note to tell you how much Neville and I appreciated your Gaurdian piece. I really thought that it was the most adequate piece of writing I have seen about Jenny and Katryn's deaths. Thank you for doing it.

I understand you have been trying to get hold of me. I will be here until the end of the month and can be reached after that, until about the 14th of September, through Kadar Ashmal of Irish Anti-Apartheid. The telephone here is Union Hall 33212 - sorry I don't know the code.

Courage and strength in the year of the further mobilisation of our trebly oppressed women.

Marius

Marius.



INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE & AID FUND
for Southern Africa

In consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
of the United Nations and UNESCO

Founder President Canon L. John Collins

CANON COLLINS HOUSE, 64 ESSEX ROAD, LONDON N1 8LR.

Tel: 01-359 9181 (10 lines)

23 August 1984

Dear Hilda

Phyllis has received a letter from Marius Schoon, who is in Ireland at present, and he has asked her to let you have his addresses(s).

These are:

until 31 August: No. 17
Cooldurragh House
Union Hall
County Cork
Republic of Ireland
Tel: Union Hall 33212

from 31 August to
about September 13: c/o Kadar Asmal
Irish Defence & Aid Fund
20 Beechpark Road
Foxrock
Dublin 18.
Ireland.
Tel: 0001 895035

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Robinson

Mrs Hilda Bernstein
Pinswell
Woodland Farm
Chedworth
GLOS. GL54 4NT

7-30-85

Ms. Hilda Bernstein
Old House Farm
Dorstone
Hereford HR3 6BL

Dear Ms. Bernstein,

I would like to request an interview with you. I am an American and a historian. My wife and I could come by or meet you any time or day during the next three weeks which would be convenient for you.

I am doing research on the anti-pass campaigns in South Africa during the 1950's. I am especially interested in knowing more about Lilian Ngoyi. I know that you were one of the leaders of the campaign and closely associated with Mrs. Ngoyi. It would

2.

be very helpful if I could talk
with you about these matters.

Yours truly,

Everett Slauens

43 Great Percy Street
London, England WC1

or

Institute of Commonwealth Studies
University of London
27-28 Russell Square
London WC1B 5D5

Home Telephone: 01-837-6039



INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN ALTERNATIVES

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Prof. Nzongola-Ntalaja (Zaire)
Dr. Roger van Zwabenberg (UK)

IFAA
23 Beveden Street
London N1 6BH
UK

Telephone: 01-251 1503
Telex: 923753 REFW6019

23.7.87

Dear Hilda,

Very many thanks for your comments. Its more or less what I wanted - fierce and direct, and I agree with most of them, and have acted accordingly to make the changes.

On the more general point of haste, you are spot on, the whole project has been rushed, and to make matters more difficult, I am working with a researcher who is first rate but doesn't know the field. So he tries to combine judgements with data which I then have to rework. Indeed what I sent you was still draft material.

Mind, this is not a history, they are only introductions to texts of speeches, about which one has many reservations anyway, but it needs to be seen.

So many thanks, I shall try to meet you high standards.

Life is very busy. The IMF conference is proving to be a major effort, but also promising.

I seem to be doing a bit more for the ANC too, though I often wonder why. I'm on the RPC which takes time, but its a new group - there was a minor rebellion against the old guard of Herby and Co who were awful, and a new group is trying to get things moving again. This region is a bore, but what to do? One cant get away from it - far too much history, personal and general is tied up with it. Mary is well, and the boys are terrific. Each one settling down very well - gives one so much pleasure.

Drop in to see us here. You will be amazed at the transformation.

Regards, I mean, warmest good wishes to you both.

Love,

Ben.

It would be nice to see you, truly.

ILLUMINATIONS

P.O. Box 2651
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

With compliments of the editor

Simon Lewis

Simon

5-8-89

Hope you approve of our
decision to use the engraving
for the cover. I think it
looks great. Thank you!
Pretty pleased with the whole
thing despite missing Mtshali
Kurenes et al.

ILLUMINATIONS

P.O. Box 2651
Dar es Salaam
TANZANIA

January 11th, 1989

Dear Hilda,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter and the enclosed photographs. The etching is exactly the sort of thing I was hoping for; could you send a copy of it to Bernard O'Keeffe at the Radley address, as we will eventually be doing the printing from Oxford. As to the intro., I have followed your advice to "aim high", and have written, (via Bernard, as I'm not sure that letters from here are getting through) to Nadine Gordimer. It would be great if she'd agree to do something, but can we come back to you if we don't have any luck?

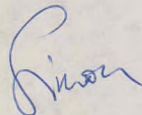
Amazingly, on the very day I heard from you, I had a letter from Gillian Slovo of the ANC Cultural Committee, promising some work shortly. So I have written back, again airing my worry about the present shortage of women writers, and am hopeful that that should eventually bear fruit. Other good news came from Andries Walter Oliphant at Ravan, who promised us the Staffrider anthology to plunder (as well as sending some of his own work), and it was he who informed me of the fact that parcel post between here and SA has been stopped. Ironic, really, under the circumstances, but never mind; I just hope Bernard doesn't get fed up with acting as intermediary.

If you do see Jeremy Cronin and can ask him for some work for us, I'd be most grateful. And I'm sure any urgings of yours at the ANC would have more effect than my plaintive letters!

It would be very interesting if you were to come to Tanzania for a year. I don't know what you would make of the place I am teaching at - it's more "international" than "Tanzanian" is all I'll say just now!

All best wishes for 1989.

Yours,



Dec 8th 1989

SOMAFCO
P.P. Box 680
Mazimbu
Morogoro
Tanzania

Dearest Ines,

I am sending this letter to England with a friend for posting there - a good opportunity to reach you, as our post here is erratic.

We are leaving here at the end of this month, December, which is earlier than we intended. But Rusty's work has not panned out in the way he hoped, and he feels he is wasting his time. I have been able to make a start with the interviews I want to do for the proposed book on exiles, and have collected quite a number of interesting stories. I have also managed to do some sketching and a little painting.

When we leave here we intend to go 'down south' to Zambia and Zimbabwe and if possible Botswana, where I need to see many people. It will be work combined with tourism, as we want to visit Victoria Falls and one of the game parks and see a bit of Zimbabwe. Our house in England is let until the end of March, so we propose to be back in England about the end of March.

This is a beautiful place, and I have enjoyed the experience of living here for a while, although it has not always been a comfortable one. We live in a privileged South African enclave in the heart of a poor, poor tropical country. We are not part of our host country. The ANC has, with international aid which has been tremendously generous, built up a school complex that goes from day-care nursery through all stages to high school, with all its supporting structures: all the equipment of a large school, dormitories, administration buildings, a library, workshops (carpentry, shoes, clothing, all the furniture for the houses is made here) a farm, a horticultural section and so on. We get supplied with housing - which has to be shared - plenty of food, although of a monotonous nature, and clothes for those who want it. WE are two miles from the town of Morogoro, and go to the market there to get fresh fruit and vegetables.

But I have found out that the welfare society - as this is - does not work. People take, but do not care for, what they are given without having to work for it or pay for it. There are always those who work and those who don't. And this is an enclosed community. The students all try to get scholarships for training overseas - anywhere - to escape the confinement and lack of outside stimulus. One day, perhaps, if we ever meet again, I can tell you all about it - but it will be irrelevant by then. As you can imagine, events in South Africa have stirred everyone with new hopes; they have 'going home' fever

I find the climate here impossible - it is fierce, too hot, too relentless. When it rains it pounds the earth like steel rods. It is too hot, getting hotter every day, a burning sun - South Africa was never like this! We are surrounded by mountains, ever changing, ever marvellous to see, and live among beautiful flowering trees and bushes. But this goes with malaria and many other complaints, with flour that has to be sifted for weevils and worms, rice that has to be sorted grain by grain.

I think I've spent about twenty years moaning about the awful British weather, the cold, rain and darkness; and now I've come to the conclusion that there is a lot to be said for a temperate climate.

I have your letter of October, so I am addressing this to Colorado. I am happy that you are having such an interesting experience in beautiful surroundings. I would love to see your work now, and wonder what it is like. I will probably not go back to etching, as I do not have a press and I think now that physically the work is too heavy for me. WE once saw a film of people going down the Grand Canyon on rafts - it was on a super-huge screen, you felt you were there.

I miss my family and my friends, more than I thought I would. The children write to us and keep in touch, but we have been close all these years, and I do not want to live so far away from them.

Many exciting things are happening, not only in South Africa, but in Europe today, fundamental changes I thought would never come. There are some volunteer teachers here from the German Democratic Republic. They are troubled and confused by events in their country, but I believe that things had to change, and once the USSR began embarking on a new course, the other socialist countries were bound to undergo changes as well. They remained in the grip of a rigid dogma too long.

That's enough of politics! When we return to England in Spring, when we have settled back in our house, I will write to you again, and hope that we can, even if only now and then, keep in touch.

My love to you and to Robert.

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