

5 Rothwell Street  
London, NW1 8YH

21/11/78

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter about Masimbu. I have been surprised at the interest aroused by that article - I had two letters from the USA, as well as from Scotland and other places.

As one of my daughters is also interested in going there, I have found out the general position. Because it is expected that the children will get a political education as well as an ordinary one, preference will be given in the first place to people who are in Africa and members of the African National Congress. This does not mean that they will be able to fill all the positions with such people, so presumably there is a chance that applicants from here would be considered. The best thing for you to do is to write to

Mohamed Tikley,  
African National Congress of South Africa  
28 Penton Street,  
London, N.1.

You should set out your qualifications, experience, and any work or activities that may be relevant (such as the youth dance group~~s~~ and your contact with Tanzanian students.) You could ask him, too, about practical ways of helping - they may want books or other school materials sent, but I don't know any details. Getting things to Tanzania is also not easy, because of long hold-ups in shipping. When you go there you may be able to take some things with you, and so establish your connection with the school. Write to me before you go, as I have friends in Dar-es-Salaam who you may like to meet.

I hope you get somewhere - things seem to move slowly.

With best wishes,

Hilda Bernstein

Robert Edgar — at

African Studies & Research Program

at Lesotho University

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Washington, D. C. 20059

AREA CODE 202: 636-7115

December 19, 1982

Hilda Bernstein,  
5 Rothwell St.  
London NW1 8YH

Dear Hilda,

Many thanks for your letter of November 28. Several people - most especially Gavin Williams - have talked with me about the trust for Ruth First. I have indicated my willingness to support such a memorial and I have passed on ideas about who else to reach and how to publicize the effort to a wider audience in the U.S. to Gavin. I would be glad to help out in any way I can.

At the recent African Studies Association meeting that Howard Univ. sponsored, we built in a tribute to Thomas Hodgkin and Ruth. Gavin Williams spoke on the former's contribution, while John Saul and Oliver Tambo (who just happened to be visiting New York that week) spoke on the latter's work and the struggle in South Africa. Over 500 people attended.

I have sent under separate cover my edited interview with Edwin. I'm debating whether to publish it in its present form - with annotations. Some parts of it are very informative; others very thin; still others are bound to provoke controversy. I think that if I can get back to him again, I would probably generate a lot more information (based on new insights and questions) because he will have thought more about his past. He was clearing cobwebs from his mind as he spoke to me. I know he's still active because a recent visitor told me about a very critical letter he had fired off to Chief Jonathan in Maseru.

At any rate, I would appreciate your reactions to the interview.

I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes for the coming year.

Bob

(over)

P.S. I will deal directly with Inkululeko about South African Communists Speak.

I have passed on your name to a law firm in Washington, D.C. that is handling the immigration case of Victor Goldberg, a former Congress of Democrat member, who wishes to immigrate from Israel to the United States. The U.S. government is denying him on the basis the COD was a communist front. Goldberg is arguing that he was never in the C.P. and that COD was composed of both communist and non-communist members. I am assuming the lawyers will contact you and furnish you with the necessary documents, which will give you more insight into how the State Department was analysing left politics in South Africa.

Many thanks for your letter of November 28. Several people - most especially Gavin Williams - have talked with me about the trust for Ruth First. I have indicated my willingness to support such a memorial and I have passed on ideas about who else to reach and how to publicize the effort to a wider audience in the U.S. to Gavin. I would be glad to help out in any way I can.

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# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20059

**GRADUATE SCHOOL  
AFRICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH PROGRAM**

September 10, 1989

Dear Hilda,

We haven't been in touch in several years, but I wanted to turn to you again for help in tracking down information on several South Africans, who were active in the 1930's. These include: Issy Diamond, George and Betty Sacks, Freda Neugebauer, and George Findlay. Did you ever know a J. Grey or Gray in Johannesburg, who would have been a Party member briefly in the 1930's.

The reason that I am interested in these people is that I am editing a research diary that a well known black American, Ralph Bunche, kept on a trip to South Africa in the late 1930's. He moved around in leftist circles, so he met the above people and many more. As part of my editing project, I am trying to include annotations on all the peoples and places he mentions. But gathering information on some people has proved difficult. So that is why I am writing around for assistance.

If you have any information at hand or know where I can turn for sources (besides books like Simons/Roux etc.), I would be very appreciative.

I hope things are well with you. I was glad to see that one of your books was reprinted lately.

Good wishes,

*Bob*

Bob Edgar

*Brian  
Fred*

Gray - old man, came to mtg. Most grateful.  
Really outside movement & hang around mtg

Funderly, Pret barister. Joined CP late 30s

Blk Miscegenation. which set out to prove old SA

w families not, statistically have Col blood.

More or less revised Ptg i Pret in late 30s thru  
many lecture series on Marxist Pol Ec. Col fluent clear  
speaker - became member of JDC mtg 39. Wife also joined

Dropped out some time in 40's

TK principal stand on listg - wrote to liquidate says  
refused to cooperate on witch hunt. Became pol inactive

App actg judge in 50s - maybe a judge in Prov division  
Died?

Diamond - Issay Hegerman.

Naboth Mokgathe -

7th Nov 1989

SOMAFCO  
P.O. Box 680

Mazimbu

Morogoro  
Tanzania.

Dear Bob  
Your letter of 10th September reached me here a couple of days ago - not bad by African standards. We came here to work at this South African enclave for a year - my husband on establishing a political school, and myself to begin work on a vast new book: EXILE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE, taking down stories of peoples' lives and experiences in leaving SA. I intend to get to as many countries as I can raise the money for, to interview people in many places of Europe, the USA and Canada. It all depends on funding. Had an advance from a publisher, but it won't take me round the world and support me for years to come. So if you know of any US Foundations that would like to donate a sum towards this project, let me know. I'll write to them.

AE to your enquiry: Issy Diamond was passing out of the picture when I became a communist in SA, and the only thing I know about him is the oft-quoted reply to the perjorative question: Would you like your sister to marry a kaffir? To which he is said to have answered: Only if I had the needle to the kaffir. Not much help. I would have thought that Edwin would know more about him. George and Betty Sacks: You should write to one or both of the Capetonians (addresses at end) Brian Bunting and Fred Carnesson. The provincial divide was very big, and although we knew them, we never worked with them. Freda Neugebauer I know nothing about, although the name is familiar. If she was from Cape Town, Brian or Fred might know.

Gray (or Grey) I remember only as an old man who used to hang around all the public meetings held by the party in those far-off legal days. He was really outside the movement, and there was some suspicion about him - people mistrusted him, but whether this was justified or not I can't say.

George Findlay was a barrister in Pretoria who joined the CP some time in the late 30's. He wrote a pamphlet on miscegenation which set out to prove that all the old white families in South Africa statistically must have coloured blood - this didn't endear him to Pretoria's population of whites, as you can imagine. He more or less revived the party in Pretoria in the late 30's by running a lecture series on Marxist political economy. He was a fluent and clear speaker, with a good logical legal mind. He was on the Johannesburg District Committee of the CP around 1939. His wife also joined the party. He dropped out of the party some time in the 40's, certainly before it was made illegal, and in fact drifted away from it. But he showed unusual integrity when his name appeared on the list prepared after the Suppression of Communism Act. All listed people were liable to various restrictions and bans, but were given the opportunity to state why their names should be removed from the list. He wrote to the liquidator saying that he refused to cooperate in a witch-hunt. Despite this ( he had been, and remained politically inactive for some years) he was appointed an acting judge in the late 50's - maybe even a judge in the Provincial division. An African wrote a book - called something like The Story of an Ordinary South African, or the autobiography of an ordinary SA. He was a Pretoria chap with a prodigious memory. I have the book in England, not here, and now can't remember what he wrote about Findlay, but he must have featured in the book. The writer's name is Naboth Mokgatle, he died a few years ago in London. Perhaps one of your libraries can dig up the book..

I think that's about all

I can tell you.

Brian Bunting,  
32 Oakshotte Avenue  
London, N6 England

Fred Carnesson - I find I don't have his address, but Brian would know it, and either let you have it or re-direct a letter for you. You can say I gave you his address.

Have you been in touch with Tom Lodge, who wrote the book on Black Politics in SA? He is supposed to be working on a history of the SACP, although I don't know how far it's gone. He was Professor of politics at Wits, but is now in New York. He is at the Social Science Research Council, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158.

I don't know if anything of this will be helpful to you.

If you have any bright inspiration about South Africans you know in the USA who would be good for my interviews, let me know. I'm compiling lists, and next year when we are back in Britain (around April or May) hope to get going.

All the best

Hilda Bernstein

Received in  
Lusaka by Doctor  
from Mazimbu

HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20059

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
AFRICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH PROGRAM

December 5, 1989

Replied 14/2/90, giving English  
addresses, explaining a bit of what I consider  
'exiles' (including US-born ones) says have no  
recent or much information on Kalk & Wolfson  
& H & will be in Washington later in year

Dear Hilda,

Many thanks for your letter of 7 November. I had wondered whether I had a correct address for you, but then I bumped into someone at a recent conference and it came out that you were in Tanzania. In any event, I'm glad my letter made its way to you.

I'm very interested in your project on exiles. I don't know whether you will be including material on the exile condition, but you will be sure to find a lot of material over here. The ANC has recently opened an office in Washington, D.C. - headed by Lindiwe Mabuza - so she will have an angle on who's around this area. There are also substantial South African communities in New York and Boston. The community tends to be very fragmented, with splits between people over age, whether one can go back to South Africa (there are a lot of students in this city), and over politics, as you might expect. You will also find a large South African community in Canada, clustered around Toronto, I believe. I understand many people from the Western Cape tended to go to Canada.

As for foundations, I will try to send you a list of American foundations who are interested in South Africa work. Some of them may fit your needs. SOMAFSCO may also benefit from having the list. You might also inquire into some of the writers' programs in the US - which would allow you to spend some time on your project and allow you to be over here to do interviewing.

Thanks for the notes on the individuals. Yes, I have been in touch with Tom Lodge, and he has been helpful on people like Findlay.

I'd like to put a few more names in front of you - Issy Wolfson and Willy Kalk. I understand Kalk is still living in Johannesburg, but I understand he's hard to make contact with. (at least by someone not known to him)

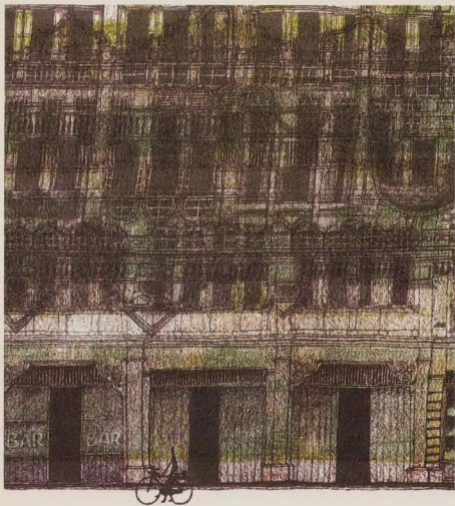
I saw your book on sale this past summer when I was in London. I think it's an excellent idea to reissue the books in the series. I had the good fortune of picking up one of the original copies some years ago.

I'm enclosing an article that John Marcum, an Angolan specialist, wrote on exiles some years ago. I'll keep an eye out for other academic works now that I know your interest.

Bob

and the exile condition





1st Aug 1989

DELHI

Dear Hilda

Gaby and I have been away from home since 25 June. We have been to Helsinki on our way to Singapore where we stayed for eight days, another 15 days in Kuala Lumpur and Penang in Malaysia, ~~as~~ a short stay in Bangkok, then a week in Hong Kong, we should have returned home at this stage, but we went on to Bombay, to our grandparents' town near SURAT. This part of our journey I'll write about when we are back home. We visited Manvi. He was very happy to see us and we too were most pleased to see him. He has not been well. He is 82 now, but still alert, he took us to his village and farm - by bus and scooter taxi and all over the bazaar. We told him you and Rusky were in Norway, and that you always asked about him. I ~~had~~ <sup>heard</sup> on the radio yesterday that Oliver Tambo had a stroke and is in a London Hospital.

Hope you + Rusky are  
Keeping well - I'll write again  
for home. Regards from both of us.  
HARVED.

From a series of Kuala Lumpur Prints by  
**Victor Chin.**

Card published exclusively by RUPA ©

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007



Feb 6 1991

Dear Hilda & Rusty

Spiky and I trust you are both well. Soon after you left it got very cold. Benie last weekend it has warmed up. The news from the middle East is really shocking. It makes us sick, nervous, sad.

The attitude of Mulhoney, Black and the rest has created a climate of racism worse than we remember in SA with the slogans of swart gevaar and Koelies uit die land in the 40's. All the racists are coming out as they did against banadiers of Japanese origin in the last war. There are many other banadiers brave enough

to speak up. The New Democratic party has  
been outspoken unlike the Labour party  
in England. Sad to say not a single  
Jewish voice is being heard in  
condemnation of this savage war of  
destruction. Last night on TV we  
saw US B52's landing outside Oxford.  
When you move there you will be able  
to see ~~ing~~ these monsters flying off to Iraq.

Gaby is leaving for Johannesburg next  
Friday 15 Feb to stay with my mother.  
She is not well at all. I hope to  
leave during May.


Regards

HOMER

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Anonymous • Anonyme • Anónimo • India • Inde • Radha and Krishna in a Lotus  
• Radha et Krishna • Radha y Krishna en un loto • National Gallery of Canada,  
Ottawa.

For the well-being of the world's children • Pour le bien-être des enfants du  
monde • Por el bienestar de los niños del mundo • На благо всех детей мира  
• 造福世界儿童。

**unicef** 

United Nations Children's Fund

88073 Printed in Canada



# HEINEMANN EDUCATIONAL

Halley Court, Jordan Hill  
Oxford OX2 8EJ

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Telex 837292 HEBOXF G  
Facsimile (0865) 310043

✓  
1 August 1989

Hilda Bernstein  
PO Box 680  
ANC School Project  
Morgoro Post Bag  
Mazimbu  
Tanzania

*Replied  
21/8/89  
asking her to decide  
on amount &  
requesting book*

Dear Ms. Bernstein,

Book Title: 'Examining Religions: Christianity'

The above book has now been published, using your painting of the Mother and Child, for which you granted us permission some months ago. I would now like to give you the opportunity of invoicing us for its use.

The photograph was reproduced in black and white, size approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a page on the inside of the book. The print run of the book was 8,000 and the rights covering it are UK and Commonwealth, excluding Canada.

If you would like to send me an invoice for its use, I will see that it is paid. Perhaps you could specify in what currency you would like to be paid and the correct address to send payment to. I got the above address from the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,

*Mags Robertson*

Mags Robertson (Miss)  
Assistant Picture Researcher





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# HEINEMANN EDUCATIONAL

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Halley Court, Jordan Hill  
Oxford OX2 8EJ

Telephone Oxford (0865) 311366  
Telex 837292 HEBOXF G  
Facsimile (0865) 310043

31 October 1989

Hilda Bernstein  
SOMAFCO  
PO Box 680  
Mazimbu  
Morogoro  
Tanzania

Dear Ms. Bernstein,

Book Title: "Examining Religions: Christianity"

I'm sorry to have taken so long to reply to your letter of 21 August but it has taken me this long to get your cheque out of our accounts department. However, I now have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £40, which is about the amount we would expect to pay for using a picture like yours.

I also enclose a copy of the book, which I hope you will enjoy looking at.

Again, many thanks for your help with this.

Yours sincerely,

Mags Robertson (Miss)  
Assistant Picture Researcher

95b Church Street  
Stoke Newington  
London N16 9AS

071 923 2817

28<sup>th</sup> January 1993

Dear Hilta -

I was hoping to bring this by hand last week, but I was passing Oxford at midnight on the way up and breakfast time on the way down.

It really is a good piece. I've told the LRB about it and said that it was not quite right. I hope that review work may come your way as a result - assuming that interests you. Your book, I'm sure will be reviewed by them.

The from Jeremy piece is twofold:  
first, Harding; friend of Paris - Brit case, the LRB  
cuts of Paris - Brit that are linked  
don't journalist  
in some way to me and his book.

95b Church Street  
Stoke Newington  
London N16 9TS

071 923 2817

28<sup>th</sup> January 1993

Dear Hilda -

I was hoping to bring this by hand last week, but I was passing Oxford at midnight on the way up and breakfast time on the way down.

It really is a good piece. I've told the LRB about it and said that it was not quite right. I hope that review work may come your way as a result - assuming that interests you. Your book, I'm sure, will be reviewed by them.

The problem with this piece is twofold: first, it would have to undergo drastic cuts and second, in any case, the LRB don't usually run articles that are linked in some way to the author's book.

I think, by the way, that the tone of the writing is great. Foreboding landscapes & diminished skies captures very clearly what northern exile must be all about for Africans. (You'd know, I suppose.)

Yesterday I dropped in on Toni's cutting room. The film moves on - and it needs tightening, but this is usually difficult for a director. Toni is understandably reluctant to give up some very fine footage. I also saw Keith. We've been trying to put some stories together. My problem is to raise the money. It's rather hard to get people interested in the kind of things we want to do.

I hope your agent is representing you properly over the issue of an early publication date. September can be quite a good time to publish, but June would be vastly more suitable, with the pace of change in South Africa now. My own book is significantly out of date already. Worse still, the more ~~often~~ I pick it up & glance through, the more irritating errors I seem to detect. Horrifying.

Please let me know what will be happening with exiles & The Right

Best wishes,

Jeremy

26 June 1993  
(but posted 28)

Herzberg  
L. Herzberg  
7 Fairlawn Avenue  
East Finchley  
London N2 9PS  
Tel: 081-883-6802

Dear Lily,

I found your book very readable, and it is a great pity you have been unable to find a publisher. I have not previously read anything about a child's life during the period you cover. It is obviously important in enriching our understanding of historical periods.

I think, also, that your book could be very much improved if you would be prepared to work on it again. I know this is difficult to contemplate - I can recall how my own heart has sunk, and how resentful I have felt, when Rusty or someone else has criticised what I have spent weeks, months, years in writing. Also, you may not want to devote the time to it, in view of the difficulties in getting publication. However, this is what I think:

The book needs careful editing. That isn't so important, because a good publisher would assist in that. But I feel it also needs restructuring. The core of your story is the personality of your mother; you start with her, you finish with her, and you have been able to create what is a very live, real, and vivid personality. You need to keep the thread of her going during those periods when she doesn't actually seem to have much part in your life.

The first part of the book seems rather diffuse, one tends to become confused with the relatives and the various relationships, who you were living with, when and why. I think it would not be difficult to clarify this, pull it together more.

The most interesting and valuable part is the account of life on the diamond diggings. This really is splendid stuff, conjuring up a very vivid picture; who else has ever written of the diggings from the point of view of a child? The few extraneous personalities - Jordaan, etc, - are also important. I would have liked more of them.

I think the latter part, the years in the boarding school, should be cut quite a lot. The problem here is that much of what you are relating is standard girls' boarding-school stuff, almost cliches - midnight feasts, ghost stories and so on; takes one back to Angela Brazil. I also think you tend to underplay yourself; I know this is difficult to write about, but think that the plain, bespectacled, overweight, overshy child must have had some very positive qualities to enable her to adjust to classmates two years older. Perhaps more should have been said about this potent factor in your relationships with your schoolmates.

You should be proud that you have emerged from such an incredibly disrupted childhood without (as far as I know) becoming thoroughly neurotic. I can scarcely identify the Lily I know (not too well) with the booted, plum little girl who was constantly shunted around between different relatives and homes.


I deeply envy your wonderful recall. I have no memories at all of my childhood, or even later years, except isolated incidents that remain, or stories that have been retold by my sisters, who could remember things that are blank pages to me. I've always had this lack of memory. Your ability to re-create a childhood that is quite unknown today should be treasured. I feel you should really make attempts to use at least some of the material - maybe in a novella centering on your mother's personality & the diggings, or as a radio play.

I find I often resent criticism of my writing, and where I disagree with a criticism I am prepared to reject it, unless I find that two or more people make a similar one. I don't know what sort of criticisms or suggestions were made by others who have read your book, but suggest that you should reject anything I've said that doesn't tally with your own feelings about your book.

Good wishes

I forgot to mention that Cecil doesn't come alive enough as an individual, more as an appendage to your own imaginative games.

From Apicale,  
Italy



Dear Hilda,

It's almost 10 years since we met in Apricale  
— we were rebuilding our house in Via Castello  
& now it's finished!! Douglas and I plan  
on travelling through Canada and the U.S.  
for several years, we raise money for  
Dogs for the Deaf with our picture show.

I hope you enjoy one of my favourite photographs  
I took of Baci & Censin, perhaps you remember  
them? The other Baci (of the restaurant) died  
last year and Rina is so sad.

This picture comes with all the flavours of  
warm stones and wrinkled faces in a land  
far away, Apricans, kissed by the sun.  
Our very best wishes Margaret Hawes.



Baci e Censin

Apricale 2002



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