

27 March, 1979

Dear Benjy:

Christine and I have thought about you a great deal in the last few weeks. You were closer to Mangaliso than anyone we knew and must have experienced pain during those last months of his suffering. I spoke to Achmed from Gaborone on the Thursday before Robert died. He was resigned but puzzled by the age old question of why do the just suffer and the tyrants live. After the death was announced on the radio, I wrote to Veronica and reminded her that in her moments of great trial she had good friends. I don't see how anyone could have had more support than she got from you and Achmed.

We have been isolated for nearly one month and mail has just started to come. We missed your editorial of February 28 to which later letters to the editor have referred. Could we please have a copy? This morning I read the Daily Mail following the funeral at which the unfortunate incident took place. I agree fully with you that the entire mood of the young people negated the non-racialism that characterized all of Mangaliso's later life. It seemed as though the people planning the event didn't know him at all. It wasn't his threat of violence that made Afrikanerdom afraid. Rather it was his moral strength in refusing to compromise and enduring that made him great. He will go down in my book as the ideal example of what it is to be "seek" in the New Testament sense of the word. Strong of spirit, having a sense of justice that doesn't flag, speaking forthrightly, putting up with adversity, but never quitting. The seek are the perseverers. In the end that spirit will carry more clout than the raised fist and the slogans of violence.

What more concrete example of his appeal to all men than that his two closest friends should have been a practicing Jew with an Old Testament sense of justice coursing in his juices, and a Indian married to a Coloured, who saw a vision of the kingdom that Mangaliso already lived in.

I was sorry that you did not speak at the funeral. No one could have interpreted that the event signified better than you. Did you go to the funeral? I wondered if you and Gatsha had gone together. In one of his last notes, Mangaliso implied that he and Gatsha were not close together in policy. He almost felt sorry that Gatsha took himself so seriously that he obscured the real issues. One almost felt that the Zulu chiefdom bound Gatsha to a tribalism that plays into the hands of Pretoria. I am glad that Mangaliso did not see what people did in his name. No matter how much he might have differed with Gatsha, he would never have countenanced the expulsion.

Enough of that. We have been sad long enough. Time now to get to work. What are your plans for a next holiday? Could they include us in Naun. It would be a great place to bring the kids. We have not had a vacation since arriving. Perhaps the five of us would take a plane into the swamps, camp at Chiefs Island, see some game, float down the Boro in a Sekoro and revel in the bird life, the like of which there is none in the world. Daily we have lilac breasted rollers and carmine bee eaters in the front yard. Mangaliso kidded Chris that his next request to Jimmy Kruger was to visit Naun, and he said he wouldn't get it because Pretoria did not want him to keep bad company. If Veronica wanted to get away from the hassle, she could spend time at the school with us. We don't know her personally and can't imagine



TO Benjamin Pogrud
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MEMBER OF THE PRESS — SECOND FILE

LEINA LA MOROWEDI LE ATERISE — SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

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MEMBER OF THE PRESS — FIRST FILE

how she would react to the suggestion. Undoubtedly she is very busy. Mengalise seemed to feel better about her and her ability to cope with things. He said that she pushed for the children to be in the US, and he was glad that it was accomplished.

Failing to get to Maun, the second alternative is that Frederic will relent and let me come to SA. If that happens I will telex ahead and see where you will be and when. It would be good to take you and Anne to some favorite restaurant of yours and catch up on the news. So the two alternatives: you and the family in Maun for a few weeks, or me for a few days in Joburg. Most of my friends have now been deposed, detained or banned. You are one of the few out on good behaviour.

Love to you and yours from us.

Christine and Jack

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