

2 Amer Court 257

R.C.4.

June 18/1960

Hyder Ali.

First, Diana - I was delighted to read of your award. I hope it has pleased you as much as it has pleased your friends. And it must encourage all S.A. who have with you in looking for a happier situation at home.

I am a little disturbed by reports about the management of money for aid in defence. Your probably without foundation. But I'd be immensely grateful if you could investigate. The chief complaint (brought to a chairman by a telegram sent to me a few days ago) is that aid is distributed with discrimination

against P.A.ists. And, according to a report sent to me, Mokehle = Mlahela (of the Basutoland A. Congress) is stating that P.A.ists among the B-land refugees have been discriminated against.

It would, of course, be "first to the will" of your enemies this and if it were established that the money is sent out is not being distributed without regard to political affiliations etc. We always say, "if only for money, gifts will be allocated without discrimination on grounds of colour, creed or political affiliation."

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME



Alan Paton Esq.,
Lynton Road,
Kloof
Natal
South Africa.

Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Lady Diana Collins
Ames Court
Ladbroke Sq.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here →

First fold here →

It is a joy to know that you may be in London soon. It pleases
me to arrange a public meeting for you on your return from
U.S.A. We might like to raise a lot of money for the Fund.
But you tell me that arranging a public meeting will be the pleasure
of having you in 2 Ames Court for 'encounter' (over a
good brandy which shall be specially procured for the occasion!)

Diana Jones is sending much love.

Yours ever

Alan Paton

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

2nd September, 1960:

Dear John,

I am sorry to be coming to you with another request so soon after the last one, but the fact is that the Cato Manor trial is going to last twice as long as was anticipated. It is hoped however that at least six or seven lives will be saved, because we have been able to pay for a skilled defence. We have been able to raise something like a thousand pounds of our own, but it is extremely difficult to get people to focus their attention on the fact that some people may have been arrested who played no part in the murders. Do you think that your people could make another contribution? It is urgent to know as soon as possible - otherwise we may have to make changes in the defence team which may have calamitous results. I have not heard any rumour here that the money may have come from you, and I have divulged it only to the small committee. Please send me a cryptic cable to say if you can help and to what extent.

I heard the other good news via John Lang and sent you a cable. I cannot tell you how important a step this is that you have taken, and indeed one of the things I want to talk to you about is how we should use future help. We shall never forget the help that you gave to us in the Treason Trials, but I do not think we must allow such an expenditure to occur again. The other method is likely to prove much more fruitful.

The emergency was lifted on 31st ult., and our Chairman of the Liberal Party, Peter Brown, made a statement, assuring the Government that we would in no way cease to exercise our rights to opposition. However, this whole question of opposition is a complicated one and I shall tell you more about it when I see you.

Many thanks for the letters from yourself and Lady Diana, and also for your congratulations on the Freedom Award. If all goes well I shall be seeing you both on September 22, and then, Diana, we can discuss the newsletter.

I must tell you that I was astonished to have my passport renewed last Tuesday, but when I got home and was about to produce it with a flourish, Dorrie told me that the office had phoned and said I was to bring it back again, as my name was on the list of people who could have passports renewed in Pretoria

only.

John, I shall try to bring you an up-to-date report on the D. and A. I find it most difficult to believe that people are being discriminated against on the grounds of political convictions. There has never been any breath of it before. I shall try and find out if there are any members of the office staff in Johannesburg who are prejudiced against PACists since it broke away from the Congress alliance, and I shall try to give you the whole picture when I come. I cannot speak with any authority on the Basutoland position. Who is discriminating against the PAC in Basutoland? Who is distributing money? I understood it was this fellow Mokehle himself. I have heard stories not merely that he is discriminating against PAC-ists, but that he is using the money for his own Congress purposes. I am told that the refugees in Basutoland all dislike him and consider him to be dishonest. I must tell you that my informant is Patrick Duncan who recently visited there. On certain matters Pat is hardly an objective observer, but I really do not see what reason he would have to make these statements if there were not truth in them. I think you ought to try and get first-hand information. I do not know whether it would be worth your while to write to Mr. Joe Matthews, Attorney, Maseru, Basutoland, though whether you could rely absolutely on his statement I myself could not say. I do not know him very well, except to know that he was a firm Congress man and might be very opposed to assistance to PAC-ists. Do you know some Anglican priest who might give you an impartial report? All these Congresses are very poor and must be tremendously tempted when they are given relatively large sums to distribute.

Yes, I have agreed to the public meeting on my return. This meeting should, when any person like myself is present, i.e. a person still living in South Africa, confine itself to D. & A. The people who promote boycotts and sanctions should be those living outside the country.

Love to you both.

Yours ever,

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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