



The New African

12A GOODWINS COURT
OFF ST MARTINS LANE
LONDON WC2

TEMPLE BAR 4283

392

1st July 1965

Dear Mr Paton,

THE NEW AFRICAN takes great pleasure in announcing a special Commonwealth Festival issue to coincide with the Festival this coming September in London and therefore takes this opportunity to request your contribution to this bumper issue in the form of poems/stories, or any other material, especially duplicates of such materials as you are likely to read at the Festival for the first time. We have selected a number of writers, including yourself from whom we would like contributions for this issue irrespective of whether or not they have been invited to participate in the Festival. Material should be sent to our address immediately in order to make the deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Lewis Nkosi, Literary Editor

Alan Paton Esq
23 Lynton Road
Kloof,
Natal

PS. Any possible essay?

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

3rd August, 1965.

Dear Mr. Nkosi,

I regret that I am unable to contribute to the NEW AFRICAN. I have come to this decision after some thought, and I think I should give you my reasons.

You who have left South Africa not only see our problems from a different angle, you are also able to use methods that we cannot use here. You publish under the title "A Guilty Land" a list of 47 people who have been executed for political reasons. This list includes twelve men who were found guilty of the Bashee River murders. While these people may have had political reasons for committing murder, they were not executed for political reasons. They were executed because they committed murder.

You state that John Harris became the forty-seventh South African to be executed for political crimes, including sabotage and murder. This seems to imply that some were executed for crimes other than sabotage and murder. I cannot lend my support to half-truths of this kind. Our case is strong enough, and distortion is not needed.

I am sure you would condemn outright the slanted propaganda of the SABC., but your condemnation loses its force if you do the same thing yourselves. You condemn the violence used by the Government, and rightly so, but you certainly appear to condone violence when used by its opponents. As one who believes that violence will intensify and not solve our problems, I cannot contribute to your paper.

Yours sincerely,

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