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From: Benjamin Pogrund,
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JOHANNESBURG.

7th February, 1968.

Mr Robert M. Sobukwe,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gaol,
ROBBER ISLAND,
via Cape Town.

My dear Bob,

I have had a letter from Veronica telling me of your happiness in having your family with you. I am so glad that all the arrangements for the visit worked out, and that you had the opportunity of having Veronica and the children with you. Veronica and I hope to see each other within the next few days and I am looking forward then to receiving first-hand news of you. As you know, I did not see her at Cape Town station and I still do not know just what happened. I was there with Jenny, and also with Clive McBride and Sulalie Stott. We all reached there only a few minutes after the train had arrived, while the passengers were coming off the platform. But no Veronica. A bedding attendant on the train then told us that, although she had been booked, she had not been on the train. I was amazed to read in the paper the next morning that she had in fact arrived. Not knowing what to do, I did, however, deliver to the ferry boat that afternoon some of the food you had requested, and the warder there promised to put it into the fridge. I hope it reached you safely. As I recall, I sent you a polony, roll-mops, some cucumber (I think) and bread and chicken fat. I held back a cheese cake which I had bought as I couldn't be sure that it would get to you fresh.

Do you think that Miliswa would like to write to me? I would love to hear from her regularly about her progress. It would also give her some exercise in writing English! I think that I will write to her and ask her to keep in touch with me, but it would be a good idea if you could also suggest it to her the next time you write to her.

About the parcel of books and magazines which I sent off to you in July last year. I wrote to the Railways and they have now advised me that the carton was accepted at the Island in August, I think it was. I shall wait to see Veronica to check whether she knows whether you have it yet, otherwise I shall

write to the Officer Commanding about the matter. While I think of it, late in December, at Veronica's request, I sent R30 to the Officer Commanding to cover the costs of the food for Veronica and the children during their stay with you: I hope that this was safely received and put into your account. I asked that any money left over after payment of the food should be left in your account for your use.

The recent past has been eventful for me. Norma was granted a visa for five days late in December and once she was here it was extended by a further three days. We were blissfully happy together, and were able to resolve many of the problems which had been outstanding between us. She is going ahead with a divorce, and it seems that we might eventually get married when I leave here -- eventually. But there is no certainty, obviously, about it because we just don't know what will happen in the future. But our present aim is marriage. I want the two of you to meet so much, Bob. I know that you would get on tremendously: her vitality, intelligence and her perception of people would appeal to you enormously, apart from her concern for people as individuals -- almost an obsessional basis to her existence. One day, I hope....

Then, Jenny and I had two weeks together in Cape Town and had a superb holiday. We travelled back to Johannesburg on the Blue Train which was tremendous fun for both of us. Jenny was beside herself with joy about the train: it was a holiday all on its own for her. She did very well at school last year and now is in Grade II. All her subjects were "very good" last year. While in Cape Town we spoke constantly of Uncle Bob, and she was ~~xxxxx~~ disappointed at not meeting Veronica and the children.

Incidentally, I was also in Cape Town for a brief visit early in December: the London Sunday Times sent me down to cover the Washkansky heart transplant. While I was there on holiday the Blaiberg transplant was performed, and reluctant as I ~~am~~ was to work on holiday, I felt it was too big to be ignored so I covered this one also. They were superb stories to report from the journalistic point of view: I have never, but never, had such cooperation from any people on a story. However much this is welcome, though, I think the Cape Town people have overdone it a bit, and at times it's become a bit too much of a circus.

As you will have seen, my case is again postponed for three months. But at least I now report only once monthly, instead of weekly. I think, by the way, that the Cape Press reports, ~~xxxxxx~~ and I am thinking especially of the Cape Times,

perhaps did not convey an altogether fair picture of the proceedings. Things are, in fact, going well and I am hopeful that the strain might end fairly soon.

Do you need any further study or reading books? Will you let me know? And I am looking to Veronica to tell me about any clothing or other needs of yours.

I haven't heard from you for some time. I do hope that you are well, and that you have not been too depressed in the aftermath of having had the family with you.

As always, Jill and Ernie send good wishes to you -- and there is love for you from Jenny.

With much love,

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