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From: Benjamin Pogrand,
P.O. Box 1138,
JOHANNESBURG.

31st August, 1967.

Registered

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

My dear Bob,

My delay in writing has not been due to any lack of thinking about you; as always, you have been constantly in my thoughts -- not in any mere academic way, but as part of my daily existence. I am sorry I have taken so long to write, but this has been a trying period, in which I have had to make both mental and physical adjustments of a far-reaching nature. The first you will understand. As regards the second, I had, of course, given up my flat and disposed of most of my furniture and it has taken quite a while to get myself comfortable again. Poor Norma has suffered most in all this, and has made heavy weather of it. Her life was being created against the expectation of my coming and now this has had to be indefinitely postponed. She and I now send tapes to each other, to supplement letters, and although this is a vastly-improved form of communication it is still not what we wanted.....

Late in June, just before I was due to go, we all had a lovely afternoon together and I took some colour pictures. I am enclosing them -- again with my deepest apologies for having taken so long to send them. I am enclosing three pictures for you. As you will see, the kids got on famously together. I thought that Miliswe photographed particularly beautifully. You were right: very much a Watusi maiden. The extra little boy in the pictures, by the way, is your sister-in-law's child.

I must confess also that I haven't seen Veronica for a while but we shall be getting together within the next couple of days. I have had extra prints of the pictures made for her.

The failure of the exam papers reaching you baffles me. I have written to Nana several times about this. I am writing again as I am sure something has gone astray in the post. But could you please let me have the details again? I ask this because all my papers were sent off to London some time ago and I cannot refer to my records any longer.

Your letter of July 19 reached me safely, as did yours of June 28. In regard to the former, I am sorry that the radio reached you with a crack in one of the legs. The trouble is that I think it would be impossible to lay the blame at anyone's door: the shop would claim that it was sent off in perfect condition, the GPO would deny liability, etc. Anyway, as long as reception is not impaired, that is the important thing. I am glad that at long last the easy chair reached you and that it has proved comfortable. About your comment that the chair and radio belong to civilised surroundings such as a polished ~~fixxg~~ lounge: just a stray thought in my mind -- your being there makes it a ~~wixxw~~ civilised surrounding.

Your plea that no further books be sent for the moment is noted -- but I am anxious all the same that you might run out of reading matter. Shortly before your letter arrived I had sent off another carton of books by rail and I hope this has reached you safely. What happened was that I packed up all my books for shipping to London and in going through my library I put aside a mass of books which I thought might be good light reading for you. As always, some won't be to your taste, but I hope that others are giving you enjoyment. You will now know why my name is at the front of so many of the books! The literary papers were with the books.

In your letter you taxed me with having said that Christianity originated in Europe. I am talking from memory now, but I seem to recall that it was you who originally said this. No?

I am still on the paper, and in fact was given a generous increase in salary last month. The arrangement was that my resignation only took effect the moment that I was in the air. And, of course..... With one thing and another I am being kept very busy. In addition, I work on Sunday nights as night news editor, and on Fridays (when I have a day off) and again on Saturday nights I sub-edit at the Sunday Express. (this is in a free-lance capacity).

I too was shocked at the report of Pat's death, as I also hadn't known that he was ill. I learned subsequently that it was as a result of that accident to his leg which he suffered in about 1952. Apparently he was given some new type of drug at the time and it wasn't known then that the drug, or rather prolonged use of it, induced cancer of the blood. I am told now that he had been ill for at least the last year or so but had shown signs recently of recovery. I wrote to Cynthia to express my sympathy and I had a note from her.

I'll write again soon.

With great affection,

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