

H 96A.

P.O. Box 1138,
JOHANNESBURG.

15th May, 1968.

Dear Sulalie,

I am sorry I was not able to write last week, as I said I would: a heavy cold, added to the usual pressures, prevented me from doing so.

I confirm our fone discussion when I asked whether Bob's subscriptions could be renewed: for the "Cape Argus" from May and the "Cape Times" from May 17. Also for the immediate delivery of a fan heater, with a 15 ft. cord and a 5 amp three-pronged plug, and a two-bar heater. I agree with you that a 5 amp ~~pxk~~ plug would be insufficient, so a larger one with an adaptor would be all right. As always, your help with these matters is much appreciated.

I am happy to answer the questions you raised in your letter of April 25:

1) Where necessary, I try to raise money locally -- simply by going round to people I know and asking for it when needed. For example, a friend has just given me R10.50 to buy Bob a pair of shoes, while I am still in the process of going to others to raise cash for other clothing needs. The money for rail fares for Mrs Sobukwe and children I obtain from Christians up here, who give it as a Christian duty. Until now, I have also received a few hundred rand a year from a devout Christian lady in the United States. She was recommended to me by friends in the church. Once I am overseas, I would hope to obtain cash from the same sort of sources. I avoid like the plague any approach to political or similar-type organisations, or any organisations overseas which are in any way campaigning against the South African Government. Where I have needed books for Bob's studies, I have either to friends or to univeraities overseas, e.h. Lincoln University in the U.S. which some years ago conferred a doctorate degree (in absentia) on Bob.

2) If I am overseas Ix would be quite satisfied with remitting money direct to Mrs Sobukwe for the children's transport to school, their clothing, etc. I would also arrange for the schools to send their accounts direct to me for payment. But if before going overseas I am to spend any period in gaol, I would prefer such amounts to come to you from overseas, if you would be willing to administer it.

These payments could then be disbursed by you.

3) I am very much against the idea of Social Services as an organisation doing anything at all: simply because I do not want Bob to be looked after by any institutional organisation, however good it might be, and whatever the merits in regard to ~~xx~~ efficiency or continuity. I ~~xxx~~ believe very strongly that Bob's affairs should be attended to by friends. It is important for his morale, too, that this should be so.

4) I think that the issue of whether you might decide that a request from Mrs Sobukwe should be refused would virtually not arise. The only requests from her are for money for transport for the children to and from school, for clothing for them, and for their school fees. Indeed she almost never asks for money: I insist that her various needs be met and I almost have to foist money on her.

5) It is ~~fixxxx~~ difficult for me to list all that I have spent in the past year because most of my records are in London. But in very rough terms, these are some of the items that I recall: school and hostel fees last year and this year: about R120/130 a year (these amounts paid direct to the schools per cheque); clothing for Bob: a variable amount, but in the last few weeks I have spent about ~~R~~ R56 (by payment to the outfitters who sent the clothing on to him); last year, I also bought him other clothing and an overcoat, and a batch of records, as well as a number of sets of summer and winter sheets, to replace those which had worn out with time. I raised money twice last year -- about R65 each time -- for train fare for Mrs Sobukwe and the children to go to Cape Town: I gave her this money direct to purchase the tickets; I refunded to her the money she had spent on the children's trainfare to their schools and also various amounts she had spent on clothing for them; I also paid out her salary for one month so that she could take unpaid leave to have an additional visit to Bob. At Xmas time I raised money from friends to buy presents for the family, and I do the same whenever I want to buy reading material for Bob -- otherwise I go round and ask friends to let me have books, both of the lighter and heavier variety, to send to him. In addition, Bob has recently suggested that to save draining his personal account, I send him block amounts of detergents (he does his own washing), blades, toothpaste, etc, to last him for several months. And, of course, every few months I deposit R10 or so in his personal account so that he can buy sweets and any other things he may want. Then, during the year, there is the occasional request from him: his iron breaks down and has to be repaired or replaced, or his record player or heater, or he needs a slop pail or whatever it might be.

I hope this gives you an idea of what it is all about.

6) I would undertake to ensure that funds are provided: it would be done from overseas once I am there, and I would ensure that sufficient was available should I have to go to jail at all (and if this is to happen, I have no idea at present of what period I would have to serve). But any amounts that could be raised locally would be much appreciated, because it helps to lessen the load, and I am at present very short: I hope this will be improved soon but it is taking some time because of difficulties of communication.

7) It would not be necessary to send me copies of bank pay-in slips. Cheques I would be glad to see simply so that I can keep on eye on Bob's and the family's changing needs and help to adjust to them if necessary.

8) There is no problem about paying money direct to Mrs Sobukwe, as I indicated earlier in this letter. But there are Bob's needs to be met, preferably by someone like you who is on the spot, and a current account is needed for this. For a number of reasons, I think Bob's needs should be met by one of us, and not by Mrs Sobukwe: I say this simply to meet practical difficulties which she encounters in this respect.

I hope that I have been able to ~~xxxxx~~ answer your queries satisfactorily. Will you let me know whether there is anything else you would like me to go into?

Recently, in a letter, Bob said that he was continuing to receive the fruit parcels regularly and that he much appreciated them. He asked that his thanks be conveyed to those responsible.

All good wishes to you,

Sincerely,

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