

C O P Y

Robben Island Gaol,

ROBBEN ISLAND.

7th December, 1964.

Bullo Benjie!

You will probably have learnt by now that I have not yet written to Mr. Zackon. It isn't because I have misplaced your letter which, in the light of recent experiences, is likely to be your first thought. The reason, really, is that as my wife will soon be coming down and there is a strong probability that Dr. Ribeiro will be joining her, I thought I would discuss the matter with them and see if the prayer or plea, whatever the thing is called, cannot be broadened. I felt that if they were to see Mr. Zackon themselves, then a lot of the preliminary ground can be prepared at no unnecessary cost.

I am glad you have got over your illness. By a strange coincidence Mr. and Mrs. Mittag were down with jaundice at about the same time. Fortunately, they too have recovered and have already been on picnic out in the Kalahari from whence they sent me some succulents and a lovely plant-pot, the work of the potter in Jeremiah! When I wrote to them, the plants and the pot had not arrived yet and I am afraid I may not be able to write to them again this year. Will you please, if you do write to them sooner than that, advise them that I have received the stuff and will write to thank them as soon as the queue clears.

A Mrs. Schonfield in Britain has sent me T. H. Green's Political Obligations. And that is all in the line of Social Philosophy that has arrived. But Don't worry, Benjie. The three books I have are enough for a pass: only the subject intrigues me and I feel I want to know as much about it as it is possible to know.

With regard to novels do you think that in the New Year it would be possible for you to get me books by the following authors:

1. C. P. Snow - I haven't read any of his works.
2. J. B. Priestley - have read "Let the People Sing" and "Midnight in the Desert".
3. St. Exupery - Have read his Flight to Arras.
4. Goethe - Haven't read anything by him.
5. Balzac - Suspect his works will be banned, tho.

Am quite happy with Wilson at the head of affairs in Britain and Johnson as boss in America. They'll complement each other with Wilson providing the ideas, the well-thought-out ideas of a critical, limpid intelligence and Johnson the persuasive skill that is his trade mark. Both have been shaped by Kennedy in some way. Wilson hopes to provide the youthful inspiration and vision that Kennedy evoked. And he can: in Britain; where he will not be expected to be a romantic and athletic idol of teenagers. It is the intellectuals of Britain now who will have their chance as the American ones had under Kennedy.

Johnson, of course, has inherited Kennedy's mantle and programme. But he wants to be remembered as a great president in his own right. America has the resources to banish poverty completely from the States. And Johnson is going to strain every nerve to do it. He is also going to do everything in his power to implement the Civil Rights Act. In his domestic policy, he is going to be successful, I think. The weak spot in his foreign policy is the hostility towards Communist China which he has inherited. America has no intellectual case against Communist China. She is merely prejudiced. Nobody blames her for being prejudiced against China. She may even hate her if she feels like it. But it is a reflection on U.N.O. if China can be kept out simply because America does not like her policy. It tends to suggest that U.N.O. is America's club to which only those can belong who have America's blessing. And yet she could have China admitted to U.N.O. without in the least compromising her position.

I have just laid hands on the "Reader's Digest" renewal form and am enclosing it in case you still need it, though I have received the December issue, which seems to suggest that the subscription has been renewed.

Without intending any insult may I wish you a peaceful Christmas season and a happy opportunity-filled New Year! My love and very best wishes to Jennifer.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Bob.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2618-Ba2-48

Document Title:- Letter to B Pogrund from Robben Island (2 transcripts)

Author:- Robert Sobukwe

Document Date:- 7 December 1964