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Robben Island Gaol,  
ROBBEN ISLAND.

18th February 1965.

My dear Benjie,

Thank you for your letter dated 19th January which I received on the 5th of this month (February). I enjoy your letters immensely and feel refreshed after reading them. They are constant reminders that I have a self-respect to cherish!

The books arrived on the day that my wife was paying me her last visit and I asked her to advise you accordingly. They are an excellent lot of books, Benjie, the type I would like my children to know I read in my maturer years! Please give my thanks to the many friends who contributed towards the cost.

And will you, please, convey my thanks and gratitude to Jill and Ernie for their exquisite Christmas gift. Unfortunately it got misplaced during the Christmas rush and I received it after I had sent off my letter to you. That is why I didn't mention it in my letter to you: and I believe they are anxious to know whether I received it or not. Well I did. And what a lovely gift it was! It couldn't have been selected by one of them alone; it could only have been chosen by both of them together.

I believe I have told you that "The Observer" has started arriving. Just before it came I received a book from Mrs Marquard titled "The Observer and J L Garvin" - an

outstanding book about an outstanding political journalist. So when "The Observer" arrived it found me kindly disposed towards it.

Most of the books on Social Philosophy are O P (out of print) and that is probably why I have not been able to get them. I told you, I think, that a Mrs Schofield had sent me T H Green's Principles of Political Obligation. I have the list here but I do not think it necessary to send it to you, Benjie, because the books are really not indispensable. The subject is one that requires intensive rather than extensive reading. The textbooks are enough.

Didn't I tell you I had written to Mrs Taylor? I wrote within a week or two of receiving the letter in which you first mentioned her. And that is months ago. To be exact, I wrote to Mrs Taylor on the 12th November 1964. Please find out if she has received my letter or not. If she has not then I'll do as you suggest, send her a letter through you.

Thanks for the piece on Johnson. I do not envy the man. His problems are immense; both domestic and international. Automation in the U S A is resulting in dramatically increasing wealth accompanied by increasing unemployment. A number of industries are featherbedding purely in order to keep fellows employed. And those whom automation is replacing are those who have no skills that can be put

to other use. It is not production - increased production, that is his problem: it is distribution: equitable distribution of the common wealth of the U S A. But the problem has numerous ramifications and imponderables.

I am glad to learn you are back on the "Mail". I don't think you'll ever be happy away from "Fleet Street".

Thanks for news about Tommy Ngwenya and wife. I don't know them personally, though - have merely heard of them.

No, I have had no information about Lincoln University at all. I don't think the Government<sup>t</sup> should cause any difficulty over the matter. After all Lincoln is a Negro University: I won't be getting a White degree: I'll be getting a Negro degree!

Mrs Mittag has sent me the law books together with a valuable book on International Trade and Finance. I am getting quite learned!

With regard to the fruit, Benjie, the arrangements you had made were resumed some time back and I have been getting good fruit regularly.

I have been thinking about the project on which you are working. And at the risk of annoying your "bosses" I feel you should note in your conclusion that in spite of their

unlimited propensity for mischief, it will be a sad day for the world if Communists were to disappear altogether. There are no people with such an imaginative disregard for the truth and a poetic genius for abuse as these guys. They have enriched the English language!

Thanks for Ernie's Opinion.

Cheerio, then, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

~~(Signature)~~ BOB  
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