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From: Benjamin Pogrud,
804, Doromo,
Van der Merwe Street,
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JOHANNESBURG.

23rd March, 1966.

registered post

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

My dear Bob,

We seem to be having some difficulties with our post. I wrote to you on December 7, January 6 and February 5 (this last letter by registered post). Letters from you were written on January 3 and February 16 (the last received a matter of about ten days ago). Will you let me know whether any of my letters have failed to reach you?

I am sorry I have not replied earlier to your latest letter, but there have been a lot of difficulties to contend with recently, and I have been hard-pressed each day. The chief source of trouble has come from Astrid, who has been behaving in what can mildly be described as an abominable manner. It is probably as well to keep the details until I am able to see you. Let me, however, say that I know that her actions would horrify you. I write this sadly because I know the regard you have had for her.

Under separate post I am sending you another batch of books. So that you can check their safe arrival, I am^{also} setting out a list of the books: happy reading!

Bentley: The storm over The Deputy
Hoffman: The 20's
Breit: The writer observed
Flexner: The Benedict Arnold case
Coulter: Threshold
Alcott: Little men
Lissner: The living past
Mitgang: Lincoln as they saw him
Tyler: History of American literature
Twain: The adventures of Tom Sawyer
Bronte: Wuthering Heights
Wallich: The cost of freedom

Crane: The practical economist
Saroyan: The daring young man on the flying trapeze
Maclean: The guns of Navarone
Thorne: Fruit in season
Forester: Death to the French
Dickens: A tale of two cities
Bates: A moment in time
Salvadori: The American economic system
Fried: The essential Jefferson
Twain: Tom Sawyer abroad
Wallace: Ben-Hur
Miers: Mark Twain on the Mississippi
Greene: Stamboul Train
Smith: A History of Modern Culture: Vol. 1
- do - Vol. 2
Conklin: The supernatural reader
Parkman: The conspiracy of Pontiac
West: The day of the locust
Rutland: The birth of the Bill of Rights
Weber: General economic history
Condon: An infinity of mirrors
Cooper: The last of the Mohicans
"Argosy" short story magazine: seven back numbers

In addition, I am at long last keeping my promise to send you Sorensen's biography of John Kennedy. My deepest apologies for taking so long to get this to you.

As you see, again very much a mixed bag, ranging from books for your studies to serious and light fiction.

In regard to your study books, as they reach you, will you please let me know so that I can keep track of what you have? I have just had a letter from Dr Marvin Wachman, president of Lincoln University, advising that they will be glad to assist in ensuring that you get the books you need. They will be posting a batch of books direct to you care of the Officer Commanding.

Incidentally, there was an unexpected difficulty in regard to a book which I sent you in about October last year. It was Professor Vernon MacKay (of Johns Hopkins University) on "Africa and World Politics". The book was published in 1963, and unknown to me it was banned last June. In due course, I was called in by the Special Branch and advised that I was facing a possible charge of distributing objectionable literature. I was invited to make a statement which, of course, I did. I pointed out that Professor

MacKay enjoyed an international reputation as a scholar, and that, to my knowledge, his book was a serious and academic study of the subject. Apart from this, I said that I had no knowledge of the banning and sending a book to you care of the Officer Commanding was hardly an attempt to get the book to you illegally. The police officer was very helpful about the matter. My statement was submitted to the Public Prosecutor and I was later advised that there would not be any prosecution.

Within a couple of weeks from now, I hope to be able to send you more records, so don't worry anymore about not using the Cape Town library services. Is your record-player playing all right, by the way?

I have seen your wife several times lately, and we have both been concerned about the state of your health. I read the Press reports about your operation and I hope you are now fully recovered. Please let me know how you are.

Regarding "Mrs G. Taylor": I do not know who this can be. Under cover of my letter of December 7, I sent you a letter from Mrs Charlotte Taylor of Rochester in the United States. Has this reached you? We seem to be dealing with two Mrs Taylors.

All for now. Let me hear from you soon.

Affectionate good wishes,

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