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Hobbs Island Gaol,  
Hobbs Island.

1st June, 1966.

Mr Benjamin Pogrowd,  
of Brentford Clinic  
Clarendon Place,  
Johannesburg

My dear Benjie,

Thank you for your very enjoyable letter which reached me on the 27th May. I had to take it in instalments in order to preserve my manly integrity. C. P. Snow makes one of his characters observe that we "somehow are dreadfully vulnerable through those one loves." I like that - we are vulnerable!

When my wife was down here she told me you were not well but I did not want to raise the matter in my letters. I hope you recover completely and soon, Benjie. Mind you, bearing in mind the pace you've been maintaining ever since I knew you - and I am told you've stepped it up even more - you sure have lasted fellow.

In my childhood I was a bit of a coward,

(continued)

and my father who was no mean psychologist repeatedly advised me - "if you can avoid a fight, then avoid it. Apologise, if that will prevent a fight, even if you are in the right. But if you must fight, then make a complete job of it so that <sup>even</sup> if you have to be carried unconscious from the field, your adversary should most decidedly not wish for a second encounter." Years later I found Plinius giving the same advice to Laetia (in Thraust), though not in so many words; proof, if any were needed, that Shakespeare was related to my father. I give you the same advice, Genie. Choose your power, carefully, don't dissipate your energies. I have never been worried about you. Live always know you cannot be untrue to yourself. A man must live with himself. And to live with someone you despise is hell.

In your reading of "My Glorious Brothers" you solemnly have by now reached what to me is the whole message of the book: "Tell Regezh that the Maccabee is in Judaea, the Maccabee and his brother Simon etc etc". A similar configuration appears in Spartacus - "Tell the Senate ..." And what a message! And yet I've always felt that the message in

and

Spartacus was a political testament. The message to Bogesh was in the genre of the great utterances of the prophets - a timeless message for all oppressed and when Bogesh, the High Priest, received it, he wept. It reminded him of what he was & can never forget that passage. Senjie, you owe it to Jerry, on the night of the Passover to remind her that "once we were slaves in Egypt: and we shall never be slaves again".

I am not going to comment on the letter from the Minister of Justice. It's the typical bureaucratic reply - and I am not interested in scoring debating points. However with regard to (c) you have my letter (I hope) informing you that these were officially withheld. After all, as you know, I have not been receiving the "Rand Daily Mail" for over two years now so that for copies of it to "arrive late" is absolutely out of the question. With regard to (b) my wife has the Minister's original order. Here you will see that Mr Sobukwe is entitled to receive South African newspapers in addition to literature permitted under

(under)

the Union legislation. (in jail!)  
"verboten" literature (including "The Golden City  
Fort" and "Brown") but "Economica" is certainly  
not on it. In fact what is specified in the  
Minister's order is news papers and the  
"Observer". I believe, as a newspaper and  
magazine, therefore, be regarded as verboten in  
the same way as the BBC and other radio  
news is verboten as far as I am  
concerned. It is with regard to news that I  
must be confined to a South African diet.  
The "Economica" dealing with balance of  
payments etc cannot by any stretch  
of the imagination be regarded as  
verboten EVEN IN TERMS OF THE  
MINISTER'S ORDER. It is just as much a  
part of my lessons as the listener  
which I continue to receive. Its  
suppression belongs to the last quarter of  
last year - the troubled and unpleasant  
period I wrote you about. Please  
arrange immediately for copies of  
"Economica" to be sent, Benje. I have  
a lot to catch up with in practical  
economics. Incidentally, in the "Observer",

there is a column on Economics written by  
Professor Allen of London University. If Emie  
still receives "The Observer", do you think he  
could send me cuttings of those articles?

I received a letter from London  
University on the 3rd May, informing me  
that books were on the way by surface  
mail. The air mail letter was dated 29th  
(twenty ninth) April. I haven't received  
the books yet.

The Strachan articles I am talking  
about are those you said you would send  
- the press reports on the case in Durban.  
After your letter saying you would send them  
I heard nothing further. I didn't even  
know you had sent them!!

Glad to know you are enjoying your  
hospital rest. I had the delightful company  
of a warden and an S.B., one on each side  
of my bed for twenty-four hours a day.  
And, of course, the "Medicine for Rhodesia"  
Campaign, was launched at the hospital  
on my fourth day there. Very  
congenial surroundings indeed!  
Finally, Benjie, on the 27th July

is my wife's fortieth birthday. I should like her to know she is highly appreciated. Do you think you could organize a present from me and the kids? I am writing early so that you may consult me if you wish. I leave the choice of a present to you. I am writing to Miliana too, to apprise her of the great event.

As for myself I am afraid I shall have to bother you again for a rand's postage stamps (2½ cents) and a further rand's (is it 5 cents?) postage stamps for my Wolsey Hall assignments.

Love to Jenny and friends. Incidentally thanks for her photo. Did I thank you for it? No harm in repeating the pleasure. I am rather suspicious of the "kind-hearted" matrons and nurses. However, best wishes and enjoy your rattlesnake puddings.

Yours affectionately,  
Bob.

P.S. No books have arrived yet. Will inform you when and as they do. Bob.

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