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Van der Merwe Street,  
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24th November, 1966.

Dear Nana,

Many thanks indeed for your letter of November 4. The three books sent by air reached me safely and have been sent on to Bob. I put forward to receivers the others referred to by you. May I say how much I appreciate your prompt action on the books?

I suggest that, in future, in order to save time and to avoid unnecessary expense on additional postage, books can be sent direct to Bob provided that they are sent from a bookshop. I would, however, be glad if in such cases you send me a list of the books so that I can keep a check on what is going through. In each case, what I would then do is to list the books in my letters to Bob so that he can know that they have reached him safely. The address, if used you used it, is: c/o Officer Commanding, Robben Island Gaol, Robben Island, via Cape Town.

Thank you for offering to refund the money I put out on these urgently needed books, but I assure you there is no need for it. If you do have some money available, I would be happy to see some lighter reading material going to Bob. Paperbacks are quite acceptable, although I do sometimes like to liven these with one or two of the latest and most popular novels on the market so he can keep up with what is appearing. If this can be done immediately it could serve as a Xmas gift for him.

Regarding your general request for help about others who need books, I am afraid that the position is rather complicated. The authorities have ruled that people can only get their study books, or rather the cash for study books (all other books, except from institutional libraries, are forbidden), from their relatives. Even their lawyers may not send the money. It must come from the relative. So as no amount can books of any nature be sent. This is the only exception, as far as I know. But please leave this question over awhile and perhaps something can be done.

Thank you also for your invitation to write an article, but time is not on my side. For some time now I have been working on a book on the politics of South Africa, and also plan to travel at the end of the year. Just at the moment I am on a "mental" leave from my jail as well as the book having a title, and I give it every available minute.

In fact, I start first thing in the morning and work through until the early hours of the next day. As soon as my leave is up I plan to go on spending my evenings and weekends on the book in an effort to complete it within the next few months. As a result, I am simply not doing any extra writing at present. I hope you will understand my sense of priorities!

For the rest, life is quiet at present. The Theron trial is drawing to a close after a full year's hearing and a libel action by Dr Yutar against the Sunday Times starts on Tuesday. My own libel action against Yutar, which I lost in the Supreme Court, will be heard in the Appellate Court in February. I still do not have any idea whether any action is to be taken against me. But whatever happens, I am not unduly concerned about it. The "spiritual" battle was fought out with me some months ago, and I think I remain pretty calm on the whole about my personal situation.

Do you ever see Peter Ajul in London? If so, please give him my best wishes.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

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