

*A leg 4*

From: Benjamin Pogrand,  
P.O. Box 1133,  
JOHANNESBURG.

14th August, 1963.

REGISTERED

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

Dearest Bob,

By the time this reaches you, Veronica will either still be with you or will recently have left. I hope that it will be a happy visit for both of you. I hope, too, that it will have been possible for her to buy some kosher foods on her way through Cape Town. I wrote to Mrs Stott, who will probably meet Veronica on her arrival, and suggested buying some polonies, etc. But no roll mops! I saw Veronica recently, as she will have told you, and have also spoken to her several times on the phone lately.

As requested, I am enclosing 3½c stamps (30) and overseas air letter cards (30). As you probably know, you need an extra 5c of stamps on the air letter cards for the USA if you should be writing to anyone there. I am also today sending R20 to the Officer Commanding to be deposited to your personal account. Last week I sent R15 to him for the costs of Veronica's meals on the Island, and asked that any balance left from this be credited to your account.

There were a number of items you raised in your letter of June 26, and I want to deal with these. The Marhama account arrangement sounds fine, and should prove most convenient for you. If the authorities agree, I think it also a good idea to have your own bank account and cheque book. Let me know about this as soon as possible. I will start with initial payments of R5 a month into the account, and hope to be able to increase this quite substantially within a while. But I am not too clear about how you will run both a savings account and an open account. If it is a savings account I don't think you will be able to draw cheques on it. Unless I am mistaken, you will have to stick to ~~monthly~~ open account if you want to use a cheque book. I suggest that, if the authorities agree, you write immediately to the manager of Barclays Bank in Braamfontein to give him the necessary instructions, and let me have a copy of this letter. In this letter you could also raise this point about a savings/open account. As soon as I receive your letter to him, I will phone him to discuss it. Perhaps it would also be best to have the account transferred to a Cape Town branch?

I have written today to Miss (?) Tracey, and will let you know what she says when I hear from her.

I am glad that you have decided to do an M.A. in English, for the reasons I set out in my letter of July 14. Please let me have your syllabus and list of books as soon as possible so that I can get all this fixed up for you. And I am still anxiously awaiting the news of your exam results.

My deepest apologies, Bob. I've just again looked at your letter and I see that you also want 5c stamps. I am enclosing them also (20). Will the quantities of stamps enclosed carry you through for a while? Because of postal delays, I hope that you are letting me know well in advance about your stamp needs.

Yes, Brice did receive your letter and was most glad to hear from you. He has been reluctant to write because it will take up one of the letters you are allowed to receive, but, as always, he and Jill send their warm good wishes to you.

You don't mention the record player in your letter. Has it got back to you safely and is it working properly now? And would you like some more records? And if so, what kind?

The lines from Mayakovsky moved me deeply. They have been haunting me ever since your letter arrived. Not a very healthy reaction, I suppose! Yet they represent, I think, the basic reason why I want to leave: having to stand by and see what happens, and yet being able to do ~~nothing~~ <sup>so little</sup> about it. ~~Being helpless~~ <sup>Being helpless</sup> creates a level of pain and frustration within me which I often feel will destroy me, leaving either an empty shell or a hard, cynical being -- or both, for that matter. How much worse, my dear friend, it must be for you, and yet you continue to stand erect. It is the reason why so many of my actions are dictated by the thought of how you would wish me to behave.

While on this theme, did I send you a copy of "The Last of the Just"? It deals with it in brilliant terms, and I regard it as one of the greatest books I have ever read. I would be surprised if I have not already sent you a copy. Please let me know.

I owe you profuse apologies for sending you all-white underwear, instead of the coloured ones you requested. This was a pure oversight on my part. Anyway, I console myself with the thought that the white ones will at least look colourful on you.

I have noted, by the way, that your "Sunday Times" subscription expires on September 8. I shall ensure that it is renewed.

As I indicated in my last letter, I have been beset by personal troubles lately. Basically trouble in regard to Norma. She is not at all well, but has now been given permission to return here. It will be a break which she desperately needs because otherwise she will go to pieces. She will probably be returning next month and then we shall see what happens between us.

Within the next few days I shall send you more copies of "Argosy" and will also send some Hemingways as requested.

Another point which comes to mind: Veronica phoned me early on Monday. I was still three quarters asleep after being on late night duty as news editor. I think I asked her to ~~sk~~ work out with you the amounts of washing powder, blades, etc which you needed for six to 12 months. In case I omitted to do this, will you do the calculations and let me know so that I can send these things to you?

And another point: while we are still getting the Markham set-up arranged, if you need anything, will you make use of the facilities arranged for you with Stuttards in Cape Town?

We have ~~substantially~~ ended the bureau fund campaign for this year: R40,000, which is most pleasing.

With much love,



G.P.-S.

P. 1/42.

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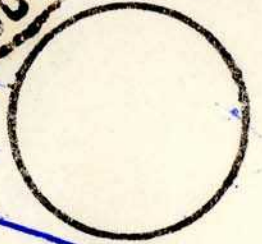
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Soos volg geadresseer: Addressed as follows:—

*Mr. Saburwe  
Kobben-Talpa  
Kobbenland  
Cape Town*



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