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Robben Island Gaol,

Robben Island.

18th September, 1968.

Mr Benjamin Pogrud,
P.O. Box 1138,
Johannesburg.

Hallo Benjie!

I sent you a telegram last week advising you to suspend action on the cheque-book. The Prison authorities inform me they cannot agree to such an arrangement. In the circumstances, then, I have decided to open a Post Office Savings Account, for which facilities exist. There will thus be no difficulty about withdrawals and I'll be able to inform you regularly of my financial position. I hope you approve.

Thanks for the offer about Stuttafords. Veronica and I had agreed that she would take my jacket with her so that you could have a picture of the size jacket I wear. In the excitement, however, we forgot all about this. It can wait, though: I am in no desperate need of a sports-jacket. I merely want to have a decent sports coat handy and, of course, to be sure what my present fit is.

I have not answered your question yet - what I think of the article by Dr Beyers Naude. When I read it I thought it was rather academic. Perhaps if I read it today I may think differently. I shall read it again and analyse it. I can't lay my hands on it at the moment. Veronica has been about and tidied up a bit. I must wait until untidiness is restored and then I'll get the cutting.

Lord Walston called and I enjoyed the few minutes we had together. He left me the booklet containing the address he delivered at the Wits. I enjoyed that immensely. The essential thing in life is to be committed, Benjie: success or failure are mere by-products. Of course, you will always find that the other man is committed to evil and you to the good. I suppose intolerance, if not the essence, is a major ingredient of commitment.

Regarding your fears of becoming cynical all I can say is I don't share them. You are gentle by nature and suffering and pain can only make you more compassionate. Only those who sulk in their tents like Achilles - to borrow an image from Lord Walston - can afford the luxury of cynicism. If you'll forgive the reference, it was Jesus Christ, carrying his cross who was the nobler and happier figure rather than Pontius Pilate who pointedly and publicly washed his hands.

Eulalie Stott sent me a hot-plate and two pots, I believe I told you. The Sunday Times subscription has been renewed: ^I received the receipt the other day: and the fruit is still being delivered. My thanks to my friends.

Well, Benjie, enough for now. Love to Jennie.

Yours affectionately,

Bob.

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G.P.-S.

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Author:- Robert Sobukwe

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