

From: Benjamin Pogrand,
P.O. Box 1138,
JOHANNESBURG.

27th April, 1969.

REGISTERED

Mr Robert M. Sobukwe,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gaol,
Robben Island,
VIA CAPE TOWN.

My dearest brother,

There is little I can say, or need to say, at this stage. Just that I share your happiness, and the happiness of Veronica and the children. And that in saying a prayer of thanks, I have prayed also for your future. There is a life stretching ahead of you: may it be as useful and purposeful as so much of your life has been up to now. More, may you be given the opportunity to lead a full and rich life, and to contribute from those great talents which are uniquely yours. Again, I need not say it and you will know it, but you have only to tell me if there is anything I can do.

I have not yet seen Veronica since the news came out. We spent a short time together on Tuesday, and knowing that the issue of your future would soon be arising, and not knowing then what good news was soon to follow, I felt extremely depressed in speaking to her. I did not know what words of comfort I could offer her. In any event, I have sent Veronica a note -- a series of circumstances prevented my seeing her on Thursday night -- and I hope to speak to her on the phone tomorrow. Incidentally, I sent you a congratulatory telegram on Friday and I hope it reached you safely.

In the meantime, I shall not go ahead with sending you the batch of books I mentioned in my last letter. Instead, I shall be sending a separate small batch to you tomorrow, just to tide you over. These are: 7 issues of Argosy, Hell Box by John O'Hara, Man in the Middle by Faust, The Groves of Academe by Mary McCarthy, Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf by Edward Albee, and The Letters of Vincent van Gogh. If you require further reading, will you telegraph me immediately and I'll rush books to you?

You must have a formidable range of goods in your bungalow at present: books, clothing, radio, heaters, etc. I hope that the authorities will be assisting you in shipping them off to your home. As the shipping of the furniture and goods of warders is ~~constant~~ constantly being attended to, it should not present any problems.

While I think of it: if you need suitcases, can you order them from Stuttards, and have them charged to me; alternatively, you can telegraph Eulalie who I am sure will be glad to attend to it.

I hope, I hope, that we shall soon be seeing each other again.

With much affection,

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