

Received.  
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Robben Island Gaol,  
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15th November, 1966.

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,  
804 Boromo,  
Van der Merwe Street,  
Killbuck,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Benjie

Thank you for the pen, the books and the Christmas message. I am afraid, though, I shall have to use this pen until it is dry - to fight inflation, you know. The textbooks were:-

Pages: A History of Russia

A. J. P. Taylor: The Course of Modern History

Twelve: Illustrated English Social History (4 volumes)

The reading matter I shall not bother to itemise. As usual it was catholic.

And thank you for introducing me to James Bond 007. I fail to see what makes the books best sellers; but perhaps it is because I haven't seen the pictures. There is a violent revolution

taking place in European society, don't you think? With literature coming down from the head and skulls coming up from the knees!

Somebody has been sending me valuable books on Africa. They come from "the University Place Book Shop" in New York and make the most delightful reading. but I don't know to whom I am obliged. If you do please thank them on my behalf.

I have been patting myself on the back these last few days. You will remember that in my last letter to you I referred to the "negros" as Afro-Americans. Well, the Cape Argus of the 12th December carried ~~an~~ a ~~article~~ report of a conference held in the States at which the delegates - "negros" - decided that they be henceforth referred to as "Afro-Americans".

Earlier, I had been crossing swords with Prof. Wellington on the subject of chemical poisoning of the human environment through the excessive use of pesticides. He proth-prothed the idea, declaring that

Rachel Carson, whom I quoted extensively, was being selective in her use of facts. A few weeks later a report appeared in the Argus of strong protest by Russian scientists and naturalists at the indiscriminate use of insecticides which had resulted in the death of large numbers of elk. I found I had my hand on the pulse of history. As I say, I have been patting myself on the back.

How's Jenny getting on? You've been rather quiet of late. Don't let "Current Affairs" get you down.

Well Benjie let me wish you and yours a blessed new year. Am wishing to catch the post.

Yours affectionately,  
Bob

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