

P.O. Box 1138,
Johannesburg.

24th May, 1969.

Dearest Bob,

I was so glad to get your letter of Monday, even though it only arrived on Thursday and I collected it on Friday. Making it express and registered seemed to have delayed it! So I am sending this letter by ordinary post to see how long it takes to reach you. Incidentally, forgive this typewriter: I am at the office — I sub-edit for the Express on Saturdays — and the machine is not so hot.

I saw Veronica yesterday evening and we had a long chat. She will be seeing you this coming weekend, and I have asked her please to tell you to phone me. Isn't there perhaps a public phone box in the area which could be used? As I said in my last letter, you can simply ring the exchange and put through a reverse charge call to me, which means you won't have to bother about having small change available.

What a relief to be able to write in comparative freedom, without having to worry whether this word or that word can cause difficulties for you. And the letter delay from your end wasn't a mere two weeks. I found that your letters invariably took three to four weeks to reach me.

This has been a tough week at the trial, with a flood of abuse flung at Gander and me and our attorney. Had it been justified and related to facts one could not and would not mind. But it has all been entirely unrelated either to actual events or to our evidence, so I have found it sick-making. To add to it, it was all at an extraordinarily low intellectual level. The deceitfulness of the argument was something astonishing in itself: for example, slandering me for having been untruthful in my evidence by referring to the evidence of another witness who contradicted me. But the reference to the other witness was confined to his evidence in chief, whereas even a cursory glance at his cross-examination shows that he was clearly concealing information, probably because he was frightened! When the State reaches this low level of morality it leaves me feeling ill and extremely depressed. I suppose that it's silly for me to be surprised at this stage, but that's me!

Anyway, the worst is over and this week the Defence will be arguing, and that should be something worth reading. Are you getting the Mail at present? Is it easily available? I have made inquiries here and it is uncertain whether the Mail and the Star are actually delivered to homes in your township. If they are, please let me know and I can arrange x subscriptions from here. Otherwise, do you want to get the papers daily by buying them in the area? I am not sure about the Star, but I think the Mail is on sale there on the morning of publication. Otherwise, let me know and I shall have to arrange for the papers to be sent from here, which would mean their reaching you a day or so late.

The trial will, I hope, end now on June 3 or 4, and I propose to fly to Cape Town, to see my Parents, on Sunday, June 8, and then to Kimberley on Wednesday, June 11, remaining there until the Friday night. But if this is too late, and you want me to try and get down a few days earlier, let me know and I'll do my best.

I hope you will keep your promise to write often. Tell me how you are feeling, and how you are adjusting to being off the Island. I am anxious to know.

Much affection,

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