

Robben Island Road,
P. O. Robben Island.
5th June, 1968.

Mrs N. J. Marquard,
Windrush,
Drafer Street,
Claremont, C. P.

My dear Nell,

Thank you for your letter of 21st April which I received early in May - on the 6th to be precise. Thank you also for the calendars, both the Maxi. and the mini - And also for Realite - one copy.

I had hoped to answer your letter almost immediately; but I decided to wait until I had written my exams. These started on May 17th and ended on the 28th. I wrote eight three-hour papers, six of them in three days morning and afternoon. Makes you wonder what is being examined. I was absolutely mentally exhausted when I wrote and I am grateful the examiners did not concentrate

exclusively on the type of question that requires regurgitation. The papers were very fair and if I had been a student at Varsity I'd have thought I'd done badly if I'd failed to obtain a First class. Under the circumstances, as I wrote to Benjie, I can hope for no more than a proletarian pass! I am glad, however, that all this is behind me.

In his book, My Glorious Brothers, Howard Fast, makes the Maccabees say: "Go through the land, Rabbi, and see how the people live". Your letter gave me just that sort of feeling - a kind of "horal ride", noticing how green this side of the river bank was and how barren and dry the other side. Thanks a lot.

I am glad you liked Lesotho. I am emotionally involved in that country. I do not know the Mochapelos, though I have heard a great deal about them. But I do know Prof. Stuart and am grateful to you for news of him. He was ^{the} my English lecturer at Fort Hare when I was there and his classes were most



an exception of Enoch Powell?

You do have a way of putting things, Nell. You say Britain is the most civilized country . . . "and that in spite of her restricting the entry of Kenya Indians." I laughed when I read that. It's such a gentle rebuke! But aren't we being unfair to Britain. She has enormous economic difficulties. And this is not a steady immigration flow: It is a flood. And contrary to economic laws it is not moving towards an area of economic expansion. The timing has been bad. The workers feel very insecure with over 500,000 already unemployed. Unfortunately the immigrants happened to have a high melanin content and in our colour-sensitive world this fact was over-emphasized.

I've not been making use of the library since for a considerable time now. It is a frustrating experience. However, I have enough reading matter. I have just finished A. J. Taylor's work on Roman History - a brilliant piece of analysis, heavily spiced with anti-human prejudice. I have started on Mayakovsky's poetry - a mammoth

volume. No I wouldn't say I was a reader of Joseph Conrad, - though I have read two or three of his works, including something fine which I enjoyed. I haven't read the book you mention.

Yes the student demonstrations are very interesting. They defy an easy and undemanding leftist - rightist classification, since they are equally violent and determined on either side of the iron curtain.

It was with pride that I read of the Liberal Party's decision to disband. To have argued, in the circumstances, as liberals have tended to do throughout the years, that "half a loaf is better than no bread" would have been tragically despicable.

Mercy hopes to come a-visiting again early next year. I have to give them a suitable month. I'll make it April or May. I am expecting the children this month. It will be lovely to have them around.

With best wishes to both of you.

Yours sincerely,
Robert.

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Robert Sobukwe Papers

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