

#129

Received.  
9/8/67.

Robben Island Lodge,  
Robben Island.

19th July, 1967.

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

My dear Benjie,

You will please overlook the fact that I am using a ball-point instead of the expensive fountain pen you sent me. I find that ball points flatter my hand much more than a fountain pen does.

I have received the radio: a real beauty! It was <sup>is</sup> cracked along one of the "legs" I am told it arrived in that condition. But the performance has not been affected in any way. And what a glorious performance it ~~has~~ gives!

The cord was a five feet affair and I have had it lengthened by a father fifteen feet to enable me to have the radio in the kitchen where I do my studying in the evening.

I am glad you did not have the additional lead you had thought of ~~arranging~~ <sup>arranging</sup> to enable me to play outside. This is a lovely set, Benjie, and I want it moved as little as possible. I am, therefore, keeping the battery-operated set for use outside. In fact, <sup>as a matter of</sup> I have the radio playing during the day only when I listen to sport commentaries. The chair and the radio belong in civilized surroundings - in a polished lounge, as I said in an earlier letter.

Thanks a lot old chap. And thanks for the books, also. You must have spent a pretty fortune on them. My shelves are bursting at the seams, so I'll have to ask that you don't send any more for the time being. When Veronica arrives will discuss the position and she will let you have her recommendations!

You amaze me Benjie. Christianity originated in Europe, indeed! Don't you know that Jesus and all twelve of his disciples were Jews? In fact, except

For Judas the Iscariot who came from the South, they were all Galileans. And the first thousands of converts were Jews. When Paul set out to proselytize the Gentiles the Christians were <sup>already</sup> established as one of the thousand and one sects which the disputations Jews were throwing up. The Dead Sea scrolls find a very strong affinity between ~~the~~ <sup>Jews</sup> and the Essenes.

I have been reading Stephen Neill's history of the Christian Church - "red in tooth and claw", bearing out Spertin's contention that Christianity, unlike Judaism, has been spread by the sword and not by the pure strength of its message.

Well the Middle East war is over. Already vicarious Israeli lovers are individually and severally telling us what lessons are to be drawn from the conflict. Unfortunately, the lessons are merely a rationalization of prejudices. I would have felt happier if Levi Estokol didn't have a Dagan to put up with. As one correspondent has said, Dagan is no Churchill I am afraid he is

allowing the humiliations of the vicarious  
 heroes to go to his head. And yet the  
 touch that is needed is the taming down  
 of the humiliation under which the Arabs  
 smart. Somebody has said a man will forgive  
 you, after some time, for defrauding him or  
 even taking his wife away from him, but  
 no man will forget or forgive a humiliation.  
 Estekel has the personality and the ability,  
 I think, to wash his enemies' wounds.

What are you doing for a living  
 now? I believe at the time of your  
 arrest you had resigned your position on  
 the "Lans Daily Mail". I liked your  
 replies in court.

It was very painful for me to read  
 about Lata's death. I hadn't known, you  
 see, that he was ill. And now comes  
 Kagan's death. He was my "personal  
 physician", you know i.e. if I may  
 use that pompous phrase.

Incidentally, I haven't received the  
 literary supplement articles you said you  
 were sending and the examination papers  
 haven't arrived yet. However, there is still

plenty of time.

You remember I wrote you that somebody was sending me books from the U.S.A. Well I have just heard from his wife in Lusaka that AB has been arranging that. These are not the books from Lincoln University; they are a separate batch on African Prehistory.

I am writing to hear how the party went off. By the way, in addition to the twenty nine books you sent, I received about five, including Kvestler's latest, The Act of Creation. I was told these had been sent by Eric. My thanks to him.

Well Benize so much for now. Thanks for making Veronica's trip possible in May. I love and respect her more with each passing day. She is a mixture of vulnerability and toughness.

Love to Jimmy. "Tell Bogesh . . . .". Keep your head high, boy.  
Yours affectionately,  
Bob.

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

**©2010**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Ba5-52**

*Document Title:-* **Letter to B Pogrund (copy of original), and two typed transcripts**

*Author:-* **Robert Sobukwe**

*Document Date:-* **19 July 1967**