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12/3/64

Mr Alan Paton,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

LIFE OF JAN HOFMEYR

Dear Alan,

We must soon decide on the title - for purposes of publicity, rather than typesetting. Have you been able to give any further thought to this?

When the last pages of the MS were finally received back from Horak, I had another look at them, to find a title. The best I could find were: WATERS IN A DRY PLACE (already mentioned by me, I think) and TELL MY FRIENDS TO CARRY ON, which I now add to the discussion.

To my mind and eye the best dustjacket for this country is still (J.H.) HOFMEYR by ALAN PATON. For England and the British Commonwealth the same applies. He was so often known by his initials as well as his surname that perhaps they should be included, though I personally would rather not. For America Scribners must decide. As I have already suggested, their title might differ slightly from ours to distinguish the two editions. Their title might be HOFMEYR SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERAL or whatever they and you agree.

As you have temporarily renounced fiction for biography, your readers will expect to be told. This I think rules out a Patonesque title such as those in para 2 are trying to be.

Please let me know what you think about the title.
In re-reading the last pages of the MS I was again

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stirred by your description of his last appearance on the cricket field - by the absurdity, the tragedy and the heroism of it. It sums up his whole life.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

D.H. PHILIP
Editorial Manager