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OW/LM

8/8/62

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

LIFE OF JAN HOFMEYR

Dear Alan,

I was glad to have your letter of 30 July confirming the news we had via the Special Branch who said you had said you were writing a life of Hofmeyr! I am also glad that Colin Webb is enthusiastic. From what I've seen I am sure he is right.

The big question you ask is about the possibility of your writings being banned. I sincerely hope your name won't be on any list because you are much more useful off than on. But if it is, we could publish and distribute here only with the permission of the Minister. As far as we are concerned we would not want to seek that permission because, to do so, would be to surrender our right to decide what to publish. If the book is published and you are then banned, I can see no objection to our asking for permission to continue selling it. But certainly not before publication.

As I say, I hope it won't come to that. If it does our London office will of course publish; but the book could not then, legally, be sold here. That, as you say, would be a grievous blow, but I am glad that you will press on with the book whatever happens. From all points of view, let us have it as soon as you can. Do you think that could be by the end of the year?

Can you, at this stage, tell me anything about the number of illustrations (half-tones) that you have available and that should go in? Also, I take it that you will be able to let me have two copies, one for us and one for Scribner's?

Our love to you both.

Yours,

L. MARQUARD