

PC/11/7426/20

P.O. ANERLEY,  
South Coast,  
Natal.

14th August, 1952.

Dear Mr. Strauss,

I enclose a very spare extract from the Hofmeyr Chronology, which I made simply to bring back certain points to your mind (if that were necessary), and to provide a minimum of background to the questions I hope to hear you discuss.

There are some odd points in this chronology, such as those I have marked with a cross; I mean to ask you about these when I see you.

This skeleton chronology is designed more than anything else of course to help you to consider these questions:-

- (a) What was the true inward relationship between Hofmeyr and Smuts?
- (b) What were your impressions from 1944-48, when you were his Ministerial colleague, (1) of Hofmeyr as Minister and man, (2) of Hofmeyr in relation to Smuts?
- (c) What were the reactions of the Party to its defeat in 1948 and to Hofmeyr? What of Smuts himself?
- (d) Would you guess at Hofmeyr's own reactions, as distinct, I mean, from what he said and wrote about them?
- (e) Hofmeyr and his recreation.
- (f) Would any prominent Nationalist be able and willing to throw any important light on Hofmeyr? The Prime Minister, for example, is not enthusiastic.
- (g) How can one discover Hofmeyr's real part in the bringing about of fusion? For example, was he the architect, or the main architect, or an important contributor?

- (h) You told me a very revealing story of Hofmeyr's loneliness, i.e. at the time of his resignation in 1938. I have abundant knowledge of this, but would wish to know more about the solitariness of his Parliamentary life.
- (i) How would you sum up briefly the man, his character and works?
- (j) Is there any other matter I should know about in his Parliamentary career? (I shall bring the full chronology for you - it is not a terrific document)

We hope to be in Johannesburg from about August 26 to September 3 or 4, and would be glad of the privilege to spend an evening with you, and to discuss these questions. We would be free at any time except on the 30th and 31st of August, and we shall be staying at the Hotel Victoria, Plein Street.

Yours sincerely,

