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The Australian National University

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.



TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS:
" NATUNIV " CANBERRA

BOX 4, G.P.O.
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Department of History,

22nd May, 1962.

Alan Paton Esq.,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
NATAL, South Africa.

Dear Mr. Paton,

It is an immense encouragement to me to know that you think my Volume I good. Thank you.

Yes, it would be a great help to me if you can send me the typescript of your 1929-39 chapters - indeed, of all the chapters, if you have spare copies.

I can give you help in finding the answers to your questions, although it is not the help you ask for. I have not yet begun serious work after 1919 and I am distant from the original documents and the index to them. From my notes and memories after a first reading of the microfilm, I can give you some broad answers: e.g. that in 1938 Smuts did give tongue about the luxury of resignation: also, that he did after Hofmeyr's death write about him with appreciation, admiration and a deep sense of private and public loss. But you need specific references.

The thing to do is to get alongside my colleague, Dr. Jean van der Poel of Cape Town. She will lead you to the papers and show you how to work her lovely index. Thus you will find the answers to all your questions, insofar as they are answerable.

To perform the right drill, you must write to Mr. J.A.B. Cooper, Secretary of the Smuts Archive Trust, c/o Messrs. Syfret and Co., Cape Town, making formal application for access to the Smuts Papers for your specific purpose as biographer of Hofmeyr. I shall notify Mr. Cooper that an application from you is to be expected,



and advise him that it should be granted if and when it is received. Giving advice of this kind is one of my responsibilities.

The accusation that Smuts killed Hofmeyr by overwork (cf. Mrs. Millin's accusation on her husband's behalf) is a shallow one. One has to remember the natures of the two men, each of whom was driven throughout his life by his feelings of public duty and personal loyalty.

But enough. Good luck to your search in the papers. And thanks once again for your encouragement and help.

Yours sincerely,

W K Hancock