

121 Ridge Crest
Berriedale Road
Berea
DURBAN 4001

27th February 1978

My dearest Phyl,

I'm so sorry not to have written earlier - each time we have received word from you, a note, a copy, the Link, and wishes of love I have felt the gap in our perceptions: me wanting to write fully once all the hassles (and horrors) were over, in a time of repose after a storm, and you wondering why the lazy bugger doesn't write. Well, at last the gap (exacerbated by the fact that it appears that Deb's lonely letter did not reach you) can now be filled: exams are over (dismally concluded), a new working year has begun, and after the horror of January we can reflect a little.

Think of how fast things have moved in the last year: think briefly of our friends dispersed and exiled: you, J, William (the bugger), the Murphys, Mac, and then people more remote: Indres Naidoo, Donald Woods (who seems to have criticized the infallible Gatsha, who, despite the greatest need for solidarity, cannot stand/bear/endure the slightest ridicule) (anyway, Woods's comment was pretty stupid and unnecessary as far as I can tell). Then the tragedies: the greatest blows: first, put crudely, the greatest black South African Biko was murdered, and then the best white man, Rick. The choices could not have been worse. Tony came and went, and produced marvellous work. Some close friends have decided no longer to participate in the violence of apartheid, at any level, and they have left to start again in Europe. (A wrong line no doubt, but a moral choice at least). And today Sobukwe died, part of the waning mood after the all-pervasive

What do you think of it ?

Now to reply to your many letters, belatedly .

Thank you so much for enclosing a copy of the letter from Tony - he is a lovely man, and I am so pleased to have met him and spoken our hopes together.

You know I have been isolated : not in the way you'd think, from social contacts, I have almost too much of that. I am isolated from my people in my work - oh, it's quite enjoyable, I'm doing some interesting cases (MVA's, employment contract disputes, divorces), the people at work are efficient and cooperative, my principal is advising me of procedure, and so on, but I'm absent from the struggle in my work. I know I am to blame for the choice I have made: to take articles where I have; but, ultimately, i.e. after admission, which, with luck, can be in a year's time, I will move to where I should be. I was so sustained by working in the union, meeting the people, sensing sharply that I was in real work. October/

My exams went well: I passed the 5 I wrote in November, leaving the dreary, drudgerous labour of Accounts and Practical Afrikaans for February. But aegrotats are not a good idea: you can't slog away all the time: you got to celebrate once in awhile. Well I celebrated from November through February and I did badly: not nearly enough time on subjects that need slow, steady dedication to pass. I have definitely failed Practical Afrikaans (though I can do some intelligent imitations

of

Die Eerste and Tweede Taalbewegings), and my hope is that I slipped through Accountancy, despite one peculiar answer: in my debtor's control account I ended with a credit of R16,000 (quite a large overpayment of one's account).

I must try to describe aspects of Rick's assassination. His funeral service was a real affirmation of him: I had reservations for some of the speakers, yet all were powerful. Clarence, the university Principal, spoke as he should have: commending the work of a great thinker, an inspiration to his students, a teacher who recognized fully the function of education: its social purpose - he lived the fact that knowledge is interest-based, and urged that people ^{know} what interests their knowledge promotes.

The Archbishop was strong and courageous: he saw Rick as a man of peace, of reason, and tolerance. He was very affirmative of Rick, and he had clearly made the effort over the previous week to read 'The Eye of the Needle', and to comprehend its significance.

Alan Paton was surprisingly powerful: I'd always imagined him a doddering old liberal making increasingly foolish comments about the situation. He quoted large sections from Rick's book, particularly the parts in which it is said that in maltreating another you degrade yourself, in treating another as less than human to the same extent do you deny your own humanity, and make a thing of yourself.

Lawrie Schlemmer and Tony Morphet spoke of their personal friendships with Rick and how thoroughly he had affected and influenced their lives. Jane, Rick's mother, was courageous, as were his children. Charles Nupen spoke politically: he gave a very strong, direct speech clearly addressed to the state, suggesting that if a portion of the effort used to extract information from detainees were used on members of the police then

the terrible situation, so ghastly to contemplate, would arrive. Tizi spoke of how Rick had guided him and the unions, despite his banning.

I felt that something more could have been said: a strategic point reflected in his life. He was a political associate to the whole range of anti-apartheid opposition - a guide to most, and to all he seemed an ally. He recognized that our present time, now, is not a time of advance, we are not on the offensive and we cannot afford the didactic luxury of sharply discriminating between the fine differences in our lines. We are really in opposition: we have no alternative institutions which are viable separate from those of the state: we need a united front. Rick personified the national front: linking every impulse against state, racist and capitalist oppression into a loose alliance - each, within the limits of its own capacity, stressing the areas in common with every other. When we are strong, when a situation of almost dual-power exists, then we can and must identify reactionary and bureaucratic tendencies and root them out of our movement: then we may expect a certain rigour and purity, but now we need the most broadly-based movement we can muster. We don't want to be like the Communists in Germany in the late 1920's and early 1930's putting all their energy into attacking the Social-Democrats as "social fascists" and allowing the Nazis to grow relatively unchallenged, when the Social-Democrats should have been their tactical allies. Buthelezi too perhaps.

Phil, I enclose the programme pamphlet we were given for th

the funeral service.

Please give my love to Paul when you see or hear from him. I haven't seen him for ages, and I should like to.

I remember you asking in a letter long ago what I thought of the TUCSA conference in Durban late last year. I did not follow it closely but I think it followed the pattern of previous years: lots of the right resolutions: trade union rights for all workers, etc; but that no activity was planned to press for the implementation of the resolutions. The Wieham Commission has captured the industrial imagination: left and ~~writer~~ right, and numerous reports and papers have been directed to it. I hope only that some basic recommendations are accepted: no dismissal without a good and a fair reason, the right of re-instatement for unfair dismissal, trade union rights, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sex or race, establishment of an Employment Court to consider ^{disputes} complaints arising from employment contracts, the prohibition of racially constituted trade unions, etc. (much of it a dream).

Phil, my dear, I have registered for 6 subjects (I have yet to register for Practical Afrikaans), and hopefully, with cool weather, a generous wife who will continue to take on a disproportionate share of the domestic burdens (despite her now studying full-time for an education diploma), and boring self-denial I may finish the goddamn B.Proc. at the end of this year, and articles on 21st March 1979. Please write soon, and I shall try to keep in more regular touch.

will love from both of us,
Chris.

Chris

3/9.

- ① Boys in Jail
We should have taken care of them for 3 wks today - Get K. to a/c to me.
- 2) Can a panel go to Ray in Naputo on Wednesday 5/9.
- 3) Get Puma to let me have my typhoons & staples.
- 4) Letter for Leon from parents
- 5) My letter has provoked Black Sash - Some girls coming to see me soon.
- 6) When I am gone will you check on Saks - Snell stay with Rhonda - Monroe will help you find her.

P.O. Box 619, Masesu.

28/9/77.

42

My dear Chris & Debbie,

How are you? I can see such lovely smiling faces before me as I write. How are studies going? When do you write - what subjects when - I shall keep my fingers crossed for both of you. Just a short note.

Ask Omar to check at the office if applications have been made for permits to visit Gal & Matthews - by their wives at the end of Nov.

Must be done immediately - + nos.

eg. re: Gaketele Mollalose - /77.

The numbers should be had from their wives. Don't seem to be discouraged from using Maganu's office - Mac's instruction from London - rather Archie's & my ex. office. Leave such matters to his doing now - My brother is to be roped in all work political - Wish you were in practice.

When exams are complete - I want your views on the recent Insea conference, break away - federation etc.

In the meanwhile keep well - Do you want anything from this god-forsaken place. 2 refugees arrested today on instructions SA. They have asked for permission for me to fly over. Can you believe this - Will give me a document to get out - not to come back.

Chris.

Love you
Phyl.

Sunday 18/9/77.

P.O. Box 619, Maseru, Lesotho

30

My dear Chris & Jill.

I'm so sorry that I've only been able to write to you now. I have had problems beyond my resources to cope with & have been utterly desolate & lonely - not that that has improved. However I did so want to thank you for your great warmth & integrity during the trial. I have never regretted the choice of having you as Counsel.

I'm looking forward to Kader's judgment. I'm told you did some lovely work there - But don't be disappointed -

You're a legal man & you cannot appreciate that these matters are not really dealt with in a courtroom. It's a spider's web.

Shun says he saw you in Bloemfontein.

If you get judgment in your favour -

I'll send you a ticket for Maseru.

We play expensive games.

How are the children?

I sent it Dad about Steve. I saw Father Stubbs who was devastated by the news - but is coping in great pain.

So must we all. Keep well &

strong - If I'm here when you come - do come & stay with me & together will improve our banyani

Love Phyllis.

Lunch Time 25/8/77.

4 with Chris; letters in this painful matter. I should
like our friends to see this & Willie - O. Doris, Ray & Sol -

Anybody you think matters
I'm writing \pm 10 letters a day. Did Deb get
the beads - Amy took in my friend Ray's setting
married - I am ~~tempted~~ to ask her - She's had
such a poor time in that line of endeavour -
Really - I mean this - Painful too - poor dear -

Never mind Debs - how are her pupils - I had a
letter from a friend in London saying a pupil took
off his coat for fight ^{with him} - I'm sure she's not had
such luck -

Love you
Lyn.

P.O. Box 619
Masaru.
Lagos

Dec. 2189
2688

My dear Chris. I got your lovely letter
Thanks - You are beautiful - you
know - Take care of Debbie.
Am sending you Ebrahims letter.
I've asked Basil to send him £50.00
from my personal funds - (Send
my flat) immediately - He has
a niece on the switch board
at A.I. Kaje's - Kayes can check
on her - I cannot remember
her name - Perhaps we can
act for her - You know she
instructs us to forward him money -
- can go thro my office - But
she has to instruct E. she has to
know when money is sent to him.
This sum I sent is from his MA.
It should be OK - no her problem
this sum.

Is Doris still in plaster? No - Tell her
that bananas are dangerous - Is Shad
OK.

Love you all
Paul.

17/9/78 - Sunday evening 8.30pm. 38

Chris, dear Chris,

Thank you for yours of the 27/8 - which arrived a while ago - but because I had no news for you, & because I have some of my own problems that have weighed heavily on me - I did not put pen to paper.

- ① On Thursday Mr Soyyn reported that the divorce has not been granted despite the order. Frankly I don't know what to believe.
- ② He reported that Christopher wanted his goods - not interested in yours - but we have not seen the papers by which the action has been taken. Have you? Send copy.
- ③ I've not reported to Charmaine. Think it unwise. Have you succeeded in bringing our friends to you?
- ④ Good news we have a tenant for your house for Sept & we do not have to pay.
- ⑤ Thank you for the cash - J. gave me the £100. Just in time - need it for Sates fees. Thanks.

No further news - will write soon
Love to all of you - Geoff & Peter too. Reg.

31/10/78 65

lehrs. It is 2.40 pm - I am sitting on the step of my friends home Ruth & waiting for her to come home. I hope soon - as I have a nasty headache. While it thundered & rained a few minutes ago - the sun is scorching now & there is no shelter. But for a few bags, my flat has been cleared - not a chair to sit on, & not a bed to lie on. I am going to stay with Rhonda, Monica's girl friend. I am booked to leave by charter flight on Sunday at 8.30 am. Wish me luck - The Swagis dont seem

too keen to have the likes
of me around them.

Still ke sera -

① You have some money
to Iscoffs credit at
Machaberp School.

Write to the Principal
Machaberp & ask him
to pay same to Hasem Ref
School.

Was there not some monies
that Droms held to your
credit of Charmaine.

Ask that both amounts (\$f)
be credited to the
enclosed account. Perhaps
Ch can tell you
whether they are in
fact correct. I shall
send her a copy to
help with time.

Sue is in Durban having finished off in school on the 27/10 - Was it only Friday - It seems a lifetime since she left.

It was awful packing up & clearing out the flat. I've only been there for less than a year. Thank God I moved in such haste from home in Durban, with no time to think.

The Inzagis may take me back in which event I shall return on the same charter that took me there. I shall then pack my bags & leave this part of the world for good.

Also enclosed here is the address of Rev. Langston

whom Mr. Innes says you owe R400.00 being the balance of the purchase price of the V.W.

What news of Charmaine? She should be finally divorced at the end of November if the provisional order is served on her but I don't see this happening on the claim for damages against you - there has been no service - & you are not to worry till you hear - watch the papers in case you are 'served' by publication.

A great weight lies on me suffocating - the flight across S.A. Will the swazis have me?

but it has been lonely
to talk to you on this stoop
here at Masem.

News - Mounce was held at
gun-point, gagged & roped
in his bathroom - while 2
thugs masked with someone's
pantie hose & their heads
took the keys to the safe
at Care & did them out
of \$11,000.00. He is absolutely
shaken by the whole thing -
Willie + 49 others leave for
Essex on the 12/11.
So Masem will be very
quiet.

The peach trees have
lost their pink blooms
& the trees are heavily
laden with fruit.
Its indecent the way

they reproduce. The earth
 is generous hey Chris?
 I dont know where man
 has learnt his selfishness
 from.

Mike Bohm leaves Masem -
 Hes sick of the place - A
 fellow cannot sleep with
 the woman of his choice for
 the night without it being
 Masem property.

These are the joys of
 Masem.

Love

Raye.

16/10/78.

51

My dearest Chris,

Get your letter dated
29/9/78.

① Checked Court File Case No
CIV/T/139/78.

Summons was served on the
principal of School (Ref)
on the 4/9/78.

Hence no service - therefore
no judgment - Even if
they want judgment - &
it gets to you - you can
say you know nothing about
it. ~~He would have to~~
~~obtain an order to serve~~
~~on you in America - & then you'll~~
~~get my office to defend - & you'll~~
~~have to come to Masem for trial.~~
Hope this does not happen.
If that happens, you'll send in
your instructions that a power
of attorney for K. Sello to act on
your behalf.

- (2) Julia will make enquire about
the Stuttards & report direct to
you.
- (3) Copy of letter to Cs attorneys -
Sorry cannot move faster there -
Julia will check my post & forward.
- (4) God-willing I should be in Swaziland
on the 4th - so much to do,
& with Moses's help - bless him
that American God has been more
than a friend to me. I don't think
I shall miss many here - but him I shall
have to charter a flight \pm £100.00 to
beet. Pray that that plane does
not land in S.A. for then I shall
be gone for a long time.

But wherever I shall be I shall
treasure beautiful memories of you
Peter & Geoff - why did you only
see me when you were due to
leave.

Saks will stay with Jean & Russel
till end of November & then join me.

Love you all very much

Byjus.

11.40pm.

16/8/78

16

Chris,

I'm in bed - having said goodnight to Julia, Chris, Jennie, Russel & Munro - Julia being the last to leave.

It is one of those clear moonlight nights you must remember of Masem. The trees are getting much greener, the peach blossoms have sprouted out as if wacked out of hibernation -

On TV tonight a fat overfed, double chin'd ex army fellow brought by S.A. taxpayers said the liberation movements in S.A. were part of Soviet imperialism - He looks from the Stars & Stripes landscape. Julia has been lovely after Jeffs going assisted by her friends.

I think ~~some~~ mail is in the pipe-line to Jeff.

Also clearing your house, I picked up 3 painted eggs on a branch - Easter - Jones - I'm sure - with letters, Jeff & your names on it. Jeff broke & she patched with Sellotape for ages - Eventually Jeff was put into the rubbish bin. Yours & letters are Sellotaped over her head. The joys of emotional detachment!

I've written to Charmaine - not happy - no order as yet. I don't know ^{how} she's going to cope - Will it be possible to work - She'd be better employed. Julia has kept you in touch. She is a wonderful friend - your loss is my gain.

To date despite Harveys threat to me about interdicting your effects - we have heard naught. Hopefully they are on the way to you, if Stratford's move with alacrity

Somehow I feel if C loses her furniture etc - its
 fair to be a big blow. I've told her she has her
 priceless possession with her & if she lost this
 it wouldn't matter - But hell thumbs.

I feel that like us, Gary has latched on to the
 idea that the divorce order would free G. & this
 would lose his hold over her - I may be wrong.

Anyway I have a weekly pipe - line checking.
 The moment I hear - I'll pass same on.

I found Mr. Shaw disappointing. I've raised the
 problems with C. - Hall rental, pianist wage,
 ballet fees taken & no lessons given - Also he
 has some money of yours - I've asked him to
 use that money you have left with him
 towards rental & I will make up the balance -
 Maurice has given me £200.00 to help with 'Chris &
 refugees'. You did not think him a pal - did you?
 What is the value of these - Any idea? ←

Oh yes - Sunday clearing the house - Stratford's packed
 out on Friday after that shit landlord was
 dealt with. My murderous instinct is pretty
 strong - existent - Once in jail I nearly killed
 a wardress & last Wednesday your landlord.
 Why did you pick such a wretch?

This is an awful position to write, Its 12pm &
 that shit Elvis Presley is wiggling his ghostly
 voice on radio. Who said death was final?

We scrubbed, cleaned windows - Julia & I with Flo
 my domestic hand doing the major part of
 the work. Watched your empty wine bottles
 'Kellerprin' Days of wine & roses

broken toys of the children, Sesame seeds. Took your plants to David's house, Heaters to the Refugees Bricks to a neighbour.

Oh yes a guy from Kimberly your neighbour equiped with a bottle of wine - said he was going to miss you. Willy fixed the towel rail in the bath - Stupid - what a place to put it. My only triumph with your landlord when he pointed out the damages - what a stupid place to put a towel rack?

I do hope America is kinder to you than Lesotho has been. Hope Peter & Jeff are happy being home. Send me a good map of America - I only know NY - on the east coast - Cuba in the south - California on the West Coast. Even if strip your country is not possible I'd like to mentally have a picture of where you & the children are.

In S. A - we say in Zulu - Hamba Kahle - Go well - You do that - that's not a wish - but an injunction - an order -

They, S A radio, have just preyed (on the minds of SAs) God - forgive us - so that tomorrow will be able to do your will better - eg kill off a few detainees -

Love you
Phyllis

17/8/78. Beautiful warm morning.

Hey Chris. 7.30 am - my baby girl
 getting dressed - possibly up to 8.00.
 Talking about the thing you did here
 food & nutrition. One of the things
 I did not do was to clean up the
 fridge & stove that was given to the
 'PROJECT.' Hope you leave that word
 in America - but in the fridge was
 this box of fish wrappers gone most
 with the defrosting. You domestic
 help did not feel she should take
 this home - Julia paid her off
 when you today Landlord interdicted the
 goods. So my dilemma - 'what to do
 with the stick of fish?' I threw it
 out after much deliberation onto the
 ground away from the wine bottles.
 After dealing the plants I went back
 to find they had went. Some cat
 is notoriously ill about - I dare
 not tell Julia & Jamie - they are
 cat addicts.

Take care

Rygl.