

P.O.Box 71
Hilton Rd.,
Natal.



PC 6/5/1/47
11th July, 1969.

Mr. J. S. Clouston,
P.O. Box 986,
DURBAN.

Dear Jack,

There are two matters about which I have been intending to write to you for the past week.

First, I appreciate the increase in wages which has been introduced, and I am sure it has been a considerable boon to everyone who has been affected by it. The second matter is one which you will probably want to think over and discuss with David Carlisle. I am writing to him as well.

When David discussed with me the possibility of my helping to run the Maritzburg Showroom, this time last year, I agreed to do so, and was glad to do it, subject to two provisos. The first of these was that the firm should feel ^{free} to ask me to go if at any time it was felt that I wasn't doing the job as it should be done. This condition still applies. The second condition was that, initially, the job should be for a year.

The reason for this second condition was that my banning order was due to expire at the end of July of this year and, depending on whether or not it was reimposed, I would have to consider how I was going to plan my life after August, 1969.

My position at the moment is that I haven't the faintest idea whether the ban will be extended or not. A new order could be served on me at any time between now and the end of the month. If one is, well, there will be plenty of time to think about my future and, as far as I am concerned, I will be quite happy to continue working at Greyling St, at least until my own ideas are sorted out, and provided always that the firm wants me to do so. The difficulties will arise if the ban is not reimposed.

As I told David a year ago, if the ban ever was lifted, I would have to pay much closer attention than I have done in the past to farming activities at Mooi River. Five years ago these were my Mother's main interest and she was very much in control of them. Today, they probably need to be even more carefully controlled than they were then, and I will have to try to provide the control and direction. In addition, I have no intention of abandoning my public opposition to apartheid, or of letting the political and personal relationships amongs^t all races, which derived from it, wither away. This means two things.

Firstly, I may be saying things which the ^{firm} will find embarrassing. Secondly, I would like to be able to get away from Greyling St more easily than I can at present, if necessary for a few days ~~apart~~ at a time. Quite apart from anything else, if the ban is allowed to expire, there are a hundred-and-one things I would like to, and should, do, which I haven't been able to do for a long time.

The main purpose of this letter, and the one to David, is to remind you both that the ban may end at the end of this month and that, if it does, my life will change considerably. Whatever happens I have no intention of abandoning Greyling St on the morning of August 1st, but I think my position may have to be reconsidered after that date. I would be quite prepared to continue in overall charge of the place, for no salary, if somebody could be installed there who would leave me free to get away to attend to my other affairs as and when the occasion demanded it.

Sorry to present you with a new problem to add to your other worries. As I say, I will be telling the same story to David, although perhaps not in so much detail.

Regards,

P.M. Brown.