

PC 16/5/21/60



22nd June, 1961.

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Mr. Geoff Iuffingham,
P.O. Winterton,
NATAL.

Mr. G. Iuffingham

Dear Geoff,

You sound a bit gloomy! What's the matter with you? Anyone would think you were living in New Zealand or some dreary place like that!

I agree with a lot you have to say in your letter, Geoff, but mostly of all, I agree with the last paragraph "we must carry on and hope". Nobody knows what the outcome here will be. All we do know is that apartheid can't possibly last. We don't know how it is going to go and what is going to take its place. But if the kind of society we want, or something even remotely like it, is going to replace apartheid, it will only be because of the contribution we have been able to make to the changeover.

At the moment things look particularly bleak. Verwoerd appears to be as strong as ever and the stay-at-home was only a partial success in only a few places. Many of the people involved in planning the stay-at-home are undesirable and don't believe in the same things as we do. African nationalism is on the march, and there is no reason to believe that a rampant black nationalism would produce a more desirable South African than the one rampant white nationalism has produced.

These are the debits and, of course, they are not the only ones. But there are credits. We won't get rid of the Nats through the ballot box. The implication is, then, that things will either get worse economically, or get worse politically between the races, or both, until there is such a deterioration that white voters won't stand for apartheid any longer. I very much doubt if, even at that stage, the Nats will be voted out of power. It seems to me to be more likely that they will prefer to negotiate. They will have to get together with people

opposed to them and bargain. The bargaining will be tough but the balance of power is ~~xxxxxx~~ such that I think there will have to be an accomodation. The Blacks have the numbers and the labour. The whites have the armed power, the skills and they have been clever to ensure that it is only they who know how to run the apparatus of state i.e. railways, post-office and all the bureaucratic machinery of the modern state. At this stage of negotiation we would, I hope, have a vital role to play, provided we had built ourselves up enough in the interim and had managed to maintain a reputation for integrity on both sides of the colour-line.

There are two other ~~xxxxxx~~ elements in the situation which I find encouraging. The first is that some white people are beginning to change. They may not be doing so in great numbers, but some of them are changing. There has been quite a significant shift in some English-speaking opinion in Natal in the past year. People who have opposed the Nats for the wrong reasons in the past have begun to realise that the Nats and apartheid are the same thing -- and there is no point in opposing the one without opposing the other. So they are now readier than they used to be to see potential friends inside dark skins. There is also the slight sign amongst Afrikaners of a rejection of Verwoerdism. Neither of these shifts is going to change the picture soon but each is a faint sign that white attitudes, on the fringes anyway, are not as rigid as they were.

The second encouraging element is one about which I won't go into great detail here, although we might talk about it next time we meet. Many of the young and militant African political leaders like neither communism nor black racialism. They liked the militancy of the PAC but they rejected its exclusiveness..... and apparently they still do. I will tell you more about it when you are next down here.

If it is any consolation to you, you "isolated" members are a great encouragement to us "urbanised" ones.

Regards to Nellie.

Yours,