



15th January, 1977.

Mr. David Scher,  
48, Malcolm "d.,  
Rondebosch, 7700.

Dear Mr. Scher,

I am sorry about the delay in answering your letter of 23rd December about Donald Molteneo.

I think you should speak to Dr. Oscar Wollheim and Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, both of whom live in Cape Town, about Molteneo's role in the formation of the Liberal Party and his reasons for parting with it. They were much closer to him than I was and could give you a better picture of his views.

As far as your specific questions go:

1) As far as I can recall Molteneo was not at the meeting at which the Liberal Party was launched and I have a vague impression that he was recruited into it by the Ballingers;

2) I think it would be fair to say that Molteneo felt the principal function of the Liberal Party was to win white votes. He was against universal suffrage, or anything else which might frighten off white support. He was a federalist and often felt that the Liberal Party did not emphasise its federal ideas strongly enough. The reason for this, I must say, was that there was a view in the Party that federalism could lead to the entrenchment of discriminatory practices in certain elements of the federation. The basic difference between the Party and Molteneo was, however, the feeling amongst most of its members, the large majority of whom, by the time of its disbandment, were Black, that it must try to win Black support, even though this might alienate, for the time being, White voters.

3) I see that I have got your points 2 and 3 in reverse! Sorry. I think Molteneo was vice-President of the Party, amongst several others who held that post, usually one from each province.

4) I didn't know Molteneo during his parliamentary career & ~~XXXXXX~~ so could not make much worthwhile comment on it.

I hope this is of help.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Brown*