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PC16/5/4/2/25



9th June, 1985.

Dear Dot,

I am now months overdue in replying to two letters from you, so accept my grovelling apology.

First, and most important, how are you? I hope a bit better.

Second, I haven't been able to get the Civil Rights Statement into REALITY yet. It missed the May issue and the next one is to be devoted entirely to the Eastern Cape. If I can fit it into the next I will.

I regard the housing and employment mechanism to replace direct influx control as something purely temporary — not because the government sees it that way but because in the long run it won't work either. In fact, if the newspaper is to be believed, "proper accommodation" will soon include site-and-service, another sign of the collapse of the whole system. I also regard 99-year lease as the same thing as freehold, even though the Nats may not. If one thing is quite certain it is that they won't be running the show in 99 years time. But who will? It is nice to see the Nats losing their certainty about things but I must say one looks at the township scene with a growing sense of foreboding. The AZAPO/UDF conflict seems to be a very real thing in the Transvaal and the Cape and here in Natal the UDF/Inkatha divide is just as threatening. The only person who seems to be trying to do anything about the first is Tutu, and he isn't having much success, and here nobody is. My own fear is that, at the much-talked-about "grassroots" level, in all these organisations, the toughs are taking over and the leadership either can't control ^{them} it or, in some cases, doesn't want to. The only person who might be able to bring sanity back, as far as I can see, is Mandela, and unless he is seen to have real power, he won't be able to do it either.

Don't let all this depress you too much! At least there is a feeling that something is happening.

I hope Harry is behaving himself.

Love to you both.