

38 The Uplands  
HARPENDEN  
HERTS. AL5 2NZ

5 April 1987

Dear Peter,

I imagine that you are still connected with REALITY, and will therefore find someone to accept the enclosed money order. I never remember from one subscription to the next what sort of subscriber I am, so this way I am relieved of any pangs of conscience about doing so little to back up my feelings. Not very satisfactory to salvage your conscience by injection of cash, but REALITY won't object.

There seem to have been various reasons for writing to you at this time, but today the most powerful came along - a letter from John Brink, ex Australia, in The Observer: in praise of Joe Slovo! I was amazed, but my respect for John is such that I must withdraw all unkind thought about JS that I might have professed from time to time. I should like to write to John - do you have his address? Perhaps I will contact The Observer to ask whether they have a full address.

A second, earlier reason was of a different kind: BBC Channel 2 (TV) had a programme on Worrall a few evenings ago, in which he was labelled as a Liberal (even with a capital L!). I did not watch it, but object most strongly to this hijacking of what was once a worthy set of principles. Can we not sue the bastards for libel, or defamation, or theft? It really does make me fume. We read about your election in between reading the results of the latest opinion poll about ours - both make pretty depressing reading. Are you taking any interest in your election? AP was quoted in The Guardian a few days ago on the subject of the Kwazulu-Natal dialogue, apparently saying that it was a 'miracle'. Bearing in mind your recent comments I am surprised at the choice of words, but perhaps the concept needs exploring further. It interested me that in referring to Alan they merely spoke of him as an author, with no reference to his political affinities. It is perhaps appropriate - last week's Observer carried an interview with Nadine Gordimer on the occasion of the publication of her latest work, and that led me to write to my sister-in-law (in Jo'burg) that it seemed to me that she has taken over Alan's role in being the radical writers' standard-bearer. Fair?

Celeste is at this moment leaving Heathrow for Johannesburg to see her dad, who will be 90 later this year, and she intends to ring Jack/Beryl to find out more about their plans: Jack had written some weeks ago to inform us that they will be here during April. We may in fact miss them, as Celeste is only due back after Easter and I shall be in Bath for a conference most of

next week. I should very much like to see them, but they always leave themselves virtually no flexibility time-wise. April and May look likely to be fairly busy months for me, as I am also trying to get going on some technical writing that is supposed to be with the editor before the end of June. The trouble with my lifestyle (or profession, if you prefer) is that I never know from one month to the next how busy I will be in income-producing ways (it is easy enough filling up all my week doing work for The Institution of Chemical Engineers, but that does not pay the rates). I am trying to persuade the people in Geneva that I should represent them at a meeting on oleochemicals in KL at the end of June. They move very slowly in these international organisations, so I suspect that they may only make a decision in July.

I feel that I have taken up enough of your time reading this. Let's hear from you on the subject of YOUR elections !

Regards to all the Browns - please ask Phoebe to arrange another visit to Brighton.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wolf'.