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13th December, 1987.

Dear Wolf,

I am either going to have to send you a letter or a Christmas card, so here goes.

I am sure it isn't usual for me to take as long as two months to answer but I find myself slow to respond to these mistakeless things you're producing now. Not at all like the Hamm I used to know.

Maritzburg has been in the grip, for weeks now, of terrible conflict between supporters of the UDF and Inkatha. At the last count there had been well over a hundred deaths. Each side, of course, blames the other, and both blame some of them on thugs who are just joining in for the fun of it. I have been running my own private and totally unscientific inquiry into what black people think of it all by giving lifts to hitch-hikers and getting them to tell me what they will about how things are where they live. Almost without exception, if they live in a black area near Pietermaritzburg, or to the West or North of it, ordinary people go in fear of their lives. In one area they will blame Inkatha for the killing, in another the UDF. Occasionally you will find somebody who is a supporter of one side or the other, but on the whole they don't like either, and ask only for a return to peace. It is really terrible. There have been police reinforcements and troops brought in but there is no sign as yet of their having any effect on the situation. Do they want to? The only good thing to come out of it has been the involvement of the Chamber of Commerce, of all things, in bringing the two sides together at least to talk to each other. But whether they are serious about negotiating with one another is not that certain either. Archie has been very much on the side of those in the UDF favouring negotiation in the Durban area, but there seems little doubt that he has had trouble in persuading some members of the upper echelons of the UDF even to consider talking to Inkatha, which is regarded as part of "the system". He has gone ahead and done it anyway. As for Buthelezi, I find it very difficult to take seriously any of his talk about non-violence any longer.

I find your thoughts on the convergence of the world's economic systems interesting. It's not original of course to think such thoughts. I've been thinking them a bit myself these last few years, so there's nothing special about you, Hamm. It seems that societies can't really prosper unless they offer people some incentive to make them do so... and it seems that unless countries do prosper it is very difficult for them to maintain an adequate social security system, or even to produce the innovative ideas which now seem to be essential to their continued prosperity. How does one balance the providing of an overall social security system with something which persuades people to work to create the wealth on which the survival of that system ultimately depends? Perhaps the new "convergence", if it really is that, will produce the answer which I don't think the welfare state has yet found.

On the social and domestic front, what can I tell you? Tomorrow we are going on our annual visit to the Berg. Alan will be there, as will Sam. Alan keeps going well, in spite of his 84 years. One doesn't agree with everything he says but he remains very much on the ball. The second volume of his autobiography comes out early next year. I am sure it will not

make him very popular in a number of circles, not least amongst those who were involved in the ARM, about whom he takes a very stern and uncompromising view—that it was a gross betrayal of the trust the Party had put in them. My view, though disapproving of what they embarked on is that once you do decide to go in for violence there is no way you can give even a hint of it by taking what Alan would regard as the honourable course, and resigning from whatever else you are in.

Last night I had a drink with Deneys Schreiner. You may not remember him because he moved from JHB to the university here in the late fifties. He has been principal here for the past ten years and has just retired. He has been much-praised for what he has done to integrate the university and this should have been a happy high point in his life. No such luck. His daughter has been in detention for over 3 months, they have heard not one word from or about her from anyone but the SB in that time, and the great fear must be, as rumour seems to suggest, that she has been involved in violent ANC activities in Cape Town. If she has been her parents might well not see her again, outside a prison, for the rest of their lives. Not a happy prospect to take into retirement with you.

Archie was well when I last saw him some six or so weeks ago. He is talking of going into practice on his own again, something I view with trepidation's