

PC16/5/4/5/5

P.O.Box 71,
Hilton,
3245.

2nd February, 1988.

Dear Francis,

People who write letters in November which only reach their destination in the middle of January can only be too stingy to put the right number of stamps on them. Still, we who live in the big cities know that that is the kind of thing to expect to come out of places like Kroonstad.

Thank you for sending me the copy of your letter to Mark Swilling. At least I know now that I hadn't misunderstood what you had said about the article.

REALITY is battling. We decided at the last meeting that we would have to put the subscription up. It has been running at a hefty loss for the last year and more, but subscriptions have also been falling off -- which is not really the best situation to be in when you put up the subs: Phoebe says there is something wrong with our "marketing". I am not sure what marketing is -- she just says that REALITY looks dull, and we need to make it more attractive and readable if we are going to boost subs. All of which suggests to me that we probably should do that first, and then put the subs up. The trouble is that you need somebody with a flare for that kind of thing, and we haven't got such a person. Any ideas?

I hope the music is going well. What were you doing wasting all that time in Kentucky when you should have been churning out the good stuff even an ignoramus like me is expecting you to have produced by the time you get back here? Seriously, I think it is very important that you don't let this opportunity to ~~xxx~~ apply this special talent you have slip by.

After which fatherly lecture, what can I tell you about PMB? Not very much that is cheerful. The conflict in the black communities round about seems to continue unabated. Most of the people I give lifts to support neither side and only wish it would all end. One suspects Inkatha is the main culprit but the other side certainly has a lot to answer for. I am trying to organise a "call for peace" by Natal people of some prominence who are not openly committed to either side. Nobody else's peace calls have had any effect, and there is no reason to believe this one will unless we can devise some way of following it up. I am going to see Deneys Schreiner to talk about it tonight. He and Else are being very strong about Jennie's detention. They were allowed to see her a couple of week-ends ago, and found her reasonably well -- but there is no indication of if or when she might be brought to trial. Rumours about her situation are not very comforting.

We are all well. Let us know how you are.

Yours,

Actes