

28,9,92

Dear Raymond,

Well we have been in SA now for a month. How fast time has flown and what an intense time it has been.

We had ten days in JHB and were stunned by how overwhelmingly large it has become. Stunned too by how the downtown has become something of a warzone in which all life disappears in the evening and how life has shifted to the northern suburbs where the whites who can afford it feel safe.

Safety is a ongoing preoccupation and an obsessive topic of conversation. Gun shots are heard at night even in Bryanston the rich, guarded enclave we lived in. Alarm system on every night and the bedroom section protected by internal iron, locked gates. Thank God they have locks in the bedroom section.

The wealth of a good number of whites still stuns and appals me. My brother and sister in law - kind, generous people that they are - are not atypical. Their garage holds an antique 1952 Cadillac, a Mercedes, a VW Combi, a Porsche, and a Jeep dune buggy plus a 500cc Honda motor bike (which alone, if sold, could provide housing for 4 or 5 black families.

In short everything has changed and nothing has changed. Its difficult to convey the overwhelming rush of old and new impressions we have had. I hope to tell you more of this if we can get together in December on our way through.

We have, by chance been in the middle of the dramatic developments here, too. I was supposed to start teaching at Fort Hare and Bisho on Sept 7 the day of the Bisho massacre. The faculty member whose house we were to stay in was grazed by a bullet in the head which had passed through and killed the person in front of her. That night we ran into a large chanting ANC group on a totally remote country road in the Transkei - a moment of sheer panic which passed without incident. That week on Friday Jan and I went to Bisho for the funeral of the victims and we must have been two of only about 10 whites who sat with the 60,000 blacks in the stadium where the ceremonies were held (there were more whites but they sat up in the small covered grandstand with the dignitaries) and felt incredibly moved and totally safe. That night a student was shot by a road block between Bisho and King Williams town, a one mile stretch we cover twice a week at night and I pray everytime we wont run into these undisciplined Ciskei troops who man them. There has been lots of violence in this area since then. Last week we got to Fort Hare to learn that a policeman had been stabbed to death and was still lying on the road in front of the university when faculty arrived for work. 168 policemen have been killed here this year. The

slaughter of ordinary citizens goes on, in sickening numbers, we have almost have taken it for granted. The day after our last teaching stint a small group of people were stopping and stoning cars between Fort Beaufort and Alice - the road we take - they burnt a bakery truck at noon, just the time we are usually on that road. So one is but also is not nervous because normal life goes on. People black and white and great, friendly, helpful, gracious in that special warm South African way. Its crazy, crazy, crazy and fascinating and intense and exhausting.

Now I have a favour to ask and a very rushed one at that. You remember perhaps that I was going to call you on a Friday after we had that very lovely dinner at your place in order to get an address for Mike Schneider in Israel. We went out of London unexpectedly so I did not call until the Monday we were leaving and you must have been out because there was no reply. Now belatedly I am anxious once again to get an address for him if its available. What was the name of his organisation, International Jewish Relief??? Were you able to get in touch with Fleur about this? Also, if you did, did you ask her if she was willing to see me in December? Finally, one more question. When I interviewed you you mentioned that you thought there was a young Zionist woman who may have influenced Harris' move to "terrorism" and who was now living in Israel. For some reason I

think her name was Weinberg, but I don't have your transcript with me so I am not sure. Do you remember this part of our discussion? If this is correct do you have any idea of how I might try to reach her? Is there any one else from the ARM that I should try to connect with in Israel.

Sorry to suddenly rush this on you but I am overwhelmed by how fast time is passing and I have not really set up Israel yet in terms of people to contact. If you are able to get me a reply soon I would be most grateful especially as it takes two weeks to get a letter here.

We will be reachable at the following addresses;

-Till October 12th c/o Dept of Politics Rhodes University, Grahamstown, SA (FAX 461-25049)

-Oct 12 to Oct 22 c/o Carol Simpson

-We can also be reached, ie messages passed on, thru our inlaws in JHB ie c/o Mrs S Lederle, PO Box 896, Rivonia, 2128 Transvaal SA (Fax 706-7227).

Jan sends fondest regards and please pass on mine to Edith.

Cheers and sorry for the bother,