

10125/11118
This came today. So, are you
(were you) a revolutionary? I think his views
that the whole LP was revolutionary at that
time is a very interesting indication of how
he thought & still does. It seems to me to
explain a lot.

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August 6th 1986

Mr. Adrian Leftwich
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Adrian
13.8.86.

Dear Adrian

Thank you for your letter of July 5th. I do not know why I reacted so sharply to your observations about the experiences one has to undergo in order to understand human nature. I certainly think that Randolph's views were revolutionary, in fact the views of the whole Liberal Party were revolutionary at that time, but I suppose that you would prefer the word "radical". I still hold the opinion that you and Randolph are not in the best position to pass judgement on the writing of these chapters. You have a point of view that is very different from my own and I shall not argue with you about the relatively unruffled comfort of my life. You think that I was too free with my criticisms of others, and I do not. I do not attach the same importance as you do to the opinions that might be formed by some critics of my moral character.

Now to change the subject. I do not think that the Afrikaner National Party under the leadership of the State President is ready to release Mandela and legalise the ANC. I have written on several occasions that the National Party will go at its own pace and will resist any attempt by others to make it go faster. I myself hold the view that the ANC must be one of the components of the negotiations, and I never expected the transition to be anything but rough.

I would just like to say in conclusion that I don't readily go into a huff. I am glad the chapter is done, and I think it was done to the best of my ability. That others would have done it differently goes without saying.

Thank you for your good wishes which I reciprocate

Yours sincerely



Alan Paton