

Advocate The Hon. J.S. Verster,
Minister of Justice,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

07/12/1965

PC/70/1/17/6

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter J.21/22/1 dated 1st December, 1965, and have noted with concern your remarks.

In order to make matters quite clear and also to place on record, I now recapitulate from memory all that was said between us on the 25th ultimo. I had asked for an interview with you to :

- (1) Plead for the release of my son
- (2) For you to grant him the same measure of mercy and justice as shown to A. Trew, the latter having received the same sentence as my son, and who had been released on the 29th September last to continue his studies in Oxford.
- (3) I also stated in my plea that my son I believe had been a model prisoner, had served more than half his sentence, and in fact that he had been in custody more than 16 months. I also reminded you of the Judges remarks at the summing up, that there was little to choose between my son and Trew.

When I had made my plea, you reminded me of my son's impending Civil Action. I told you I was aware of it. At no time did you attempt to enter into a bargain with me for the terms of his release, nor did I attempt to do any such bargaining either.

You then very kindly gave me the offer of a special visit to my son, and I was then under the impression, and am still of that opinion, that you wished to know whether my son was proceeding with his case or no. In fact you requested that I should write back to you immediately the outcome of my visit to him and his feelings. This I did, perhaps wording my letter hurriedly and badly.

At any rate it was my son's definite wish and desire that his case take its normal course in the Courts. He did not wish to withdraw it, unless a reasonable offer

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for an out of Court settlement was made.

Nothing more and nothing less was said on this matter of his case.

It was made quite clear, repeat quite clear, to my son at that visit, and it was my opening remarks to him that I had come from you with no bargaining propositions. (The prison officer standing by should bare witness to this). I made him fully aware of this, and then asked him to give me his feelings on the matter and I scribbled down a few lines, which amounted to the reply I sent you.

Now Sir, as I see it, deportation is inevitable on his release. I am prepared for that.

As I also see it, and from your remarks to me, because of the Courts recessing for the Christmas holidays, my son will have to languish in prison until the earliest viz. 15th February 1966, possibly later until his case has been heard.

This is a most soul destroying feature for him, and a heart breaking matter for his sick mother and myself.

If you will recall, I had pleaded with you to exercise your office as Minister of Justice to please expedite the hearing of his case so that his release could thereby be ~~also~~ expedited by a couple of months. This would not only release him earlier but give him time to gain admittance to a University to continue his studies. (He has lost a whole years' study already by not being able to take his examinations due to his wasteful trip to Durban recently). You however did not reply to the effect that you could or would expedite matters for me.

In passing Sir, I would like to mention that to my knowledge the preparing and bringing up of his case has gone on since last April and it would appear that it is not finished with yet. To a lay man this seems a terrible long time to wait!

I trust Sir that I have now made everything quite clear as to what I understood from you and what transpired on the 25th ultimo.

Yours faithfully,

R.K. BROCKE

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