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September 23rd 1975

Mrs. M. Macmillan
Yew Tree Cottage
Long Wittenham
Oxford

Dear Mona Macmillan

Thank you for your letter of September 9th. I am very glad to hear that my book FOR YOU DEPARTED was of help to you. It is quite right that the imperfections are part of the complete whole and it is the imperfections which make the whole human. It is a very interesting thing that when I publicly espoused the liberal cause many of my old friends dropped away, but all the new ones have remained. My friendships before that date were based on common interest and so were the later ones, the difference being that we had to suffer on the second occasion for the interests which we held in common.

I am at this moment engaged in trying to get a copy of your husband's autobiography; I have written to David Philip for a copy. I would certainly not omit him from what you call the litany of my waints. You will know of course that the Stibbe episode caused a division amongst the saints and it was never fully healed.

If you come to South Africa we shall certainly make a point of meeting you.

With all best wishes

Yours sincerely

Alan Paton