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P.O.Box 278
Hillcrest,
Natal.



October 4th.1972

The Archbishop of Cape Town,
Bishopscourt,
Claremont,
Cape.

Dear Archbishop,

Thank you for your letter. I would certainly lend you a typescript for you to read during your trip to St. Helena. There is only one disadvantage, and that is that if there is some gross error of fact or some expression of opinion to which you might take grave exception, it would be too late to do anything about it. The first problem is not likely to arise because Bishop Inman will be reading the book first. I don't think the second problem will arise either: the book is as an objective a study as I can make it, but I do not attempt to conceal my great admiration for Geoffrey. While the book reveals many of his idiosyncracies, it could hardly be said to be objectionably critical.

I shall not weary you with details of publication, but I have decided not to give the book to the S.P.C.K., for the simple reason that they are obviously horrified by its length. I have had excellent readers, and we are all agreed as to what should be cut out or condensed. As you know, tedium in a biography is a great defect.

Whether we shall visit Cape Town after you return from St. Helena is doubtful, but if we do I will certainly let you know.

Yours with respect.

Alan Paton