



Johannesburg, 21st May 1948.
65 Chequers Mans., Smit Street,
Hospital Hill. Tel.44-2476.

PC/11/110/42

Dear Mr.Paton,

My husband and I have read your Book "Cry, the Beloved Country", and we are deeply impressed by it.

Ever since we came to South Africa twelve years ago, we have been very much interested in and puzzled by the so-called Native-question. We have had many discussions on the subject with all sorts of people, but we have hardly ever found a person whose views we shared. Their attitude was, we felt, either communist or socialist or in some other way biased by politics or economical creeds; at the best, they were well-meaning but, without realising it, so condescending that there was no hope of coming to an understanding. Our own feeling is that the Natives are not "children", but just different from the Europeans, and that they have very terrible problems of their own which they are, on the whole, facing with courage and patience.

In your book we found our conception of the problem expressed in the most sincere and convincing way, and we wish to thank you for writing this very courageous book. The most striking feature of it is the very real respect you have for the African people, - the respect to which every human being is entitled. We wish your book every success, in the

interest of the whole population of the "beloved country".

Coming from Nazi-Germany, we know only too well the outcome of racial prejudice and strife, and we feel that your book should be read in Germany too. If you are considering a German translation at all, I should be very glad to translate your book. After the conclusion of the war, I was able to re-establish contact with a German publisher who, I am sure, would be only too glad to take care of a German edition. Perhaps you will let me know what you think of this, - unless you have already made other arrangements.

Thank you again, and our best wishes for your book and for your work.

Yours very truly,

M. Hackel.

(Mrs. M. Hackel.)