

146-150. SHAKESPEARE HOUSE
COMMISSIONER STREET
JOHANNESBURG

TEL. 33-8865

10th. April, 1953.



Alan Paton, Esq.,
P.O. ANERLEY,
South Coast,
Natal.

Dear Alan,

I'm so sorry I wasn't here when you last called. I was down in the Cape tying up various loose ends.

Have you heard anything satisfactory from London? As you know, I wrote them and they said that they would get in touch with you direct. I hope they have by this time.

So, next Wednesday or Thursday we should know South Africa's fate for quite a long time to come. It is very difficult up here to form any estimation as to the result. I have an idea the Nats are not quite as confident as they were, say, a month ago. I have had lunch with two or three of them lately, and I think their sounder expectations are a return with about the same majority as now. At the same time, while I am not terribly optimistic, I wouldn't be surprised to see the United Party turn the tables slightly.

Randfontein and Losberg, and perhaps Ventersdorp, could easily do a switch round. The local impression on both sides seems to be that four constituencies, the results of which should be out by early Thursday, will tell the tale - Edenvale, Brakpan, Langlaagte and Roodepoort.

I had an interesting talk at a party on Monday night with a friend and admirer of yours, Dr. Friedman (Member for Hillbrow or Hospital Hill, isn't he?).

Norman Bennett, now General Manager of African Films, returned yesterday from Nairobi. He tells me that life is really very dreadful up there at present, with Europeans even in Nairobi itself (both men and women) going about with revolvers strapped on all the time, and a sort of curfew at 7.00 o'clock each night. Everybody is in a bad state of nerves. So far there have only been about two battalions of British troops on the spot, but he says more troops are now being flown in daily, as the Kikuyu have apparently been raiding Police Stations and so on and are now understood to have Stenguns in their possession. Seemingly they tried the Masai out for a bit as a counter to the Kikuyu, but they decided such a policy might too easily get out of hand and they've sent them back to their own territories.

When are you likely to be in Johannesburg again? Let's try next time to get together for a little while.

With best regards to both of you, Yours very sincere