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P. O. ANERLEY,
South Coast,
Natal,
South Africa.

4th April, 1949.

Sir Alexander Korda,
London Film Productions,
146 Piccadilly,
LONDON W. 1.

Dear Sir Alexander,

Many thanks for your letter of March 28 received today and for a copy of Mr. Collis's letter to your brother, Mr. Zoltan Korda.

I had already learned about the obstacles from Mr. Stevenson who telephoned me from Johannesburg on Friday last. He told me that he had had several cables from you and that the present position was that the Government wished you to wait for another year. He asked me what I thought about this and I told him that I could only suppose that if the present Government, composed of extreme and moderate Nationalists, is still in power at the end of this year, then the Government will still disapprove of the making of this picture. If, however, we got any kind of Coalition Government, that is between moderate Nationalists and conservative Smutsites, then probably permission would be given. I do not think it likely myself that the Smuts party will regain power as a party unless there emerged suddenly some financial or other important issue which was not concerned with the present dominant issue of racial planning for the future. The possibility also occurred to me that the Government may not wish to see a Voortrekker film made simultaneously with the other. The Voortrekkers are for them an almost sacred subject. And of course one should not omit the possibility that the Government would first like to see what kind of film you make out of the Voortrekkers story.

When Mr. Stevenson asked my advice which was difficult to give at that distance and at such short notice, I recommended

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to him that you should wait the year that the Government suggests, but I had also private reasons for recommending this. You may remember that you, at one time, wrote to say that you would wait for Maxwell Anderson's play. Bearing this in mind, I had made several important engagements for the next four months and was intending to leave in August myself for England and America, mainly of course to see the play on Broadway. I could, I thought, see you and discuss the whole matter fully with you, get some idea of your plans, and return to South Africa ^{free} of any engagements whatever. We might even have discussed the possibility of making the film in Southern Rhodesia. So you will see why I recommended to Mr. Stevenson that you should accept the Government's suggestion. It was because I am now fairly heavily booked for the next nine or ten months. Nevertheless I think it is wise to agree to the Government's wishes while it remains friendly and accommodating, but to refuse at the end of the year to consent to any further delay.

I quite understand, however, that in matters of this kind there may be other important factors of which I know nothing and I can assure you that if you decide to proceed with the film I should do everything I can to help you even at the cost of cutting down my English and American visit ~~down~~ to a minimum.

Mr. Collis, I think, is going to make a very good job of the script. Of course the film must be simple, like "Open City",* and Mr. Collis is right too in thinking that the social and political ideas can be conveyed without saying much about them. Would that not be a wonderful thing to produce a film which goes to the heart of one of the great problems of our age yet utters no word of polemic or propaganda. The prospect of this is surely very exciting and I earnestly hope that, in spite of all the difficulties, it will be done. Once you tell me your plans you may rely on me, if this year, as far as I am able, if next year, completely.

Yours very sincerely,

* I am not presuming
to instruct you.

