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TOUGALOO COLLEGE
TOUGALOO, MISSISSIPPI 39174
February 26, 1968

Alan Paton
Durban (Kloof)
Natal, South Africa

Dear Mr. Paton:

We are planning to perform "Lost in the Stars" April 18, 19, and 20 here at Tougaloo College, a predominately Negro liberal arts college just outside of Jackson, Miss. We are fortunate to have a fine, professional artist to play Stephen Kumalo.

In reading over the script, I found sections that did not, in my opinion, follow the characterizations in your book, "Cry the Beloved Country". Particularly distressing was the omission of Msimangu. I would like to request your permission to insert selected dialogue (enclosed) from your book. These passages are important to convey the various attitudes exemplified by the several characters involved. Our students, living under a system of discrimination that has yet to yield to federal injunctions, would be quick to see the superficiality in the script version.

The entire freshman class has read the book, as have the cast members. We feel it is vital at this time and in this place to understand and demonstrate the problems faced by black and white people in South Africa - problems similar to our own here in Mississippi.

Any help or advice that you can give us will be greatly appreciated. There is, indeed, fear in our hearts that "When they have turned to loving, we will have turned to hating."

Sincerely,

Judith Layng

Judith Layng
Opera Workshop Director
Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Miss., 39174