

PC/1/2/5/31



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July 11th 1974

M. Claude Lafaye
8, Place des Terres
Paris

Dear M. Lafaye

Thank you for your further letter of June 25th. You need not apologise for not writing to me in French; I should apologise to you for not being able to understand your first letter.

Thank you very much for your remarks about TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE. I had to spend a week in bed not long ago and I read the book for the first time since 1953. Although I should not say so myself, I was again moved by it and realised the intricacy of its construction, of which I was certainly not aware at the time. The publisher who printed in French THE DEBUTANTS' BALL is Albin Michel, 22 rue Huyghens, Paris. I must explain to you that since writing these two novels and the collection of stories, I have produced two biographies, and I do not think they have been translated into French. However this year David Philip, my publisher in Cape Town, is producing a book of my occasional writings which will contain many poems and stories never before published.

I note your invitation to come and see you if we should go to France again. We would like to accept it, but it does not seem possible at the moment.

Thank you again for your letters.

Yours sincerely

Alan Paton