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13/12/63

Mr Alan Paton,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

JAN HOFMEYR

Dear Alan,

I greatly enjoyed our dinner together and the film. Many thanks indeed.

As you know, I am now on holiday until Christmas, after which I look forward to getting down to your MS in earnest. The answers to the questions in yours of 22 November will emerge during January.

The first half of the MS does not lead me to expect it should be shortened. There are occasional short passages that might be dispensed with, as adding not enough to the narrative, but I doubt whether we shall want to make substantial cuts. On the contrary almost every detail of the first half helps to build up the person of Hofmeyr and to make him stand out of the page. Your writing is taut and economical, with nothing intervening between the reader and your subject.

With good wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID

(Drafted by Mr Philip but not signed owing to absence)

OW.