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15/11/63

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

JAN HOFMEYR

Dear Alan,

In reply to yours of 6 November, you should be receiving galley proofs in about March 1964. We have not been able to get on to preparing your manuscript for the press, but all is now clear and we shall be writing to you about points of detail as they arise during the next few weeks.

We still have not been able to reply to Scribner because the world wide market for a book such as yours requires us to consult with our other branches before we can negotiate with Scribner.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

EDITORIAL MANAGER

Dear David,

Thanks for your letter of November 15. I want to ask you a last question. Is the book too long? Are the opening chapters too long? Is there too much of the subject?

While I was writing the book, I had in mind the ^{argument} ~~possible criticism~~ that as it was a definitive biography, it must contain every known fact that was not entirely trivial. Now the book is written, I wonder whether I put in too much. What is your opinion. If you were strongly of opinion that it is too long, there is time to remedy that if you do not expect to begin printing till about March.

Yours sincerely
JH