

PC1/1/7/26/56

The Jagger Library,
University of Cape Town,
Rondebosch, C.P.
31 August 1952.

Dear Mr Paton,

Your letter of 1st August was sent on to me here from London, hence the delay in replying to it.

Yes, Professor Hancock did tell me that an exchange of information had been arranged between you. I shall look out for any reference to the points you mention.

I remember that some time ago, before your letter came, I found letters from Hofmeyr to Smuts dealing with his refusal to stand for election in 1939. I did not read them as I am at present only getting the enormous mass of papers into some sort of rough order. But I could find them again fairly easily if you think you would like copies of them. I do not remember that any replies from Smuts are attached but I can look.

After I had heard from you I found a letter from Smuts to Leipoldt, who was then on the Volksstem, on Hofmeyr's appointment as Administrator. It is dated 24.2.1924 and there is nothing in it to suggest that Smuts knew that Hofmeyr was having staff trouble at the University. He merely says that he is looking for "new blood, new ideas, courage and the forward look" and that he expects to find these in Hofmeyr. If you would like a copy of this letter do let me know. In the meantime I shall keep an eye open for the information you particularly want.

I think that I shall have completed this rough sorting in the next three weeks or so.

Yours sincerely,

Jan van der Poel

