

PC 1/1/7/30/2/9
AUGUST10th ~~SEPTEMBER~~ AUGUST, 1947

Thank you for your letter of 4th August written, I note, on Bank holiday, when we here celebrated the King's birthday by a big official dinner party at Govt: House.

You did not say what your plans were this year for a summer holiday, although I noted with pleasure that you had been able to get more help in your business. I hope you will be able to take one.

These are depressing times that you are passing through, and I find it difficult to see how you are going to get through it all. From a distance one is not impressed by your Govt's handling of the situation, nor by the fact that the crisis has been made the occasion for acute party controversy. For my part I feel that the situation calls for much more drastic action than can be taken by a single-party Govt. Much of course will depend on what USA is prepared to do as far as the relatively short range problems is concerned, but the long-range problem will remain.

It is a matter for some satisfaction that events in India have taken a much happier turn than at one time appeared possible. It is clear too that sentiment there has become much less anti-British. There seems to be now a reasonable chance of both Hindustan and Pakistan remaining within the Commonwealth.

The Parl: sessions ended fairly early in June this year, and we have been back home again for just over two months. Things are not quite as busy for me as they used to be during war time, but even so I have not been able to get away for a break of more than five days. The political struggle is beginning to warm up in anticipation of the general election which lies ahead of us, and that adds to the complications of one's life on the less pleasant side. Yesterday I left home at 6 a.m. to go and address some meeting at Zeerust 150 miles to the west of Pretoria, travelling by car, and got home at 7.30 p.m.

We have had an exceptionally cold winter, but only really for the month of July. June was a mild month, and now in early August summer is definitely on the way. The spring is commencing 2 or 3 weeks earlier than usual.

I have been keeping in good health this year, I am glad to say. At the same time I do feel stale after the last eight strenuous years and from the personal point of view would not mind a break. However it is sometimes more difficult to get out of a political job than to get into it.

At onetime it looked as if there might have been a chance of my being deputed to represent SA at the Royal wedding, but now it seems clear that the PM will have to go. I am not entirely sorry since I am loath to leave my mother for any length of time. She is getting old - almost 84 now - although happily not showing any signs of it.

The last week has been an excellent one for our SA cricketers. How I wish I could be at the Oval for the fifth Test match which commences on Saturday.