

1929

POLIT FILE

Pc1/1/7/34/10

-SUMMARY OF LETTER FROM JHH TO TR

Box 3, File 5

On 19.6.29, JHH wrote to T.R. just after General Election in which the Nationalist had won a victory, lamenting the fact that the election had been fought on racial lines, which fact, he said, "seems to me to hold the seed of great evil for South Africa."

He was convinced that S.A.'s future prosperity lay in the close cooperation of the two races (British and Afrikaner) and sounded T.R. as to his own convictions in this regard and whether he would be willing to work towards this end. He asked T.R. to be quite frank about the matter and if he would rather not commit himself told him to destroy his letter and leave it unanswered.

To this T.R. replied on 10.7.29 saying that he was still of the opinion "that the consolidation of the two parties is essential."

"(a) to make the best use of the chance to develop the Union without acute political differences during the next ten years, and

(b) with the view to the incorporation of (at least) the Rhodesias in the Union in the reasonably near future."

T.R. went on to say that he did not know to what extent such a consolidation would be practical politics but stated that he would give the matter fuller consideration on his return. (Apparently he was absent from S.A. at this time).

JHH replied on ? (no date given) saying that the Nats were so cock a hoop about their victory that cooperation between the two races did not look likely at present and that both the Nat leader and the rank and file did not appear to be doing anything to heal the breach caused by the elections. He continued:-

"But these are still early days, and I am certainly not yet prepared to surrender what I regard as an essential ideal. There is a good deal of pressure on me to take a definite party line - that could only be a S.A.P. line because to be perfectly frank, there are some of your former colleagues with whom I could not be happy for long - but I think I shall continue to resist. In any case I shall be very loath to commit myself until I have had an opportunity for discussion with you after your return in September."