

PATON PAPERS:

BC3A 77/24 A

PC86/10/4/10/1

422(U)

Vista

2, Buxham Road,

Newlands: Cape

21-5-69

File

My dear Alan,

How good to be on the receiving end of a request from you, for a change! This is just quickly, so you'll know I'll be attending & sending as full & direct a reply as soon as poss.

About A., he wrote me 23-1-69 "rec'd a letter from Alan - nice" & again 6-4-69 "had a letter from AP, to which I don't really know how to reply. I live from day to day, keeping as busy as I can & try to keep the bogys of consciousness out. What else? For the moment nothing". In my reply I urged him to write you, no matter how difficult, and I hope he will try. You suggest two possibilities in your letter, but I feel a third is more likely, namely that he does care desperately to reply, but he is devastated by the gulf between his conduct and his love & respect for you & your conduct. Justice so matter of fact about yourself, you don't seem to realise that to us you are a great man.

Yes, I do correspond with A., though it took me months to make a start & he had sent me

several letters. I had first to get over my hatred  
for what he had done to himself; let alone the others.  
And then when I did write it seemed so damn inade-  
quate; so I was grateful, very, to be given a  
passport & the chance to see him again. I know  
many don't approve of my writing to him & the visit,  
esp. Bill, but "love is not love that alters when it  
alterations finds". And I did/do love him. What if  
he had been my son? He is having psychiatric  
treatment - I hope it helps.

We had a magnificent evening when Jean & Rist  
visited to, I recently; dinner with several good friends &  
Jean's warm & funny stories. How he combines all the  
best qualities of the first Africans one has known.  
He played his tape of your speech at the "farewell"  
to L.C. Thank you for that, Alan, we were all -  
how can I convey it to you? - overwhelmed.

The Newlands sun has gone behind the mountain  
that Smuts used to plod over - 4:30 p.m., a lovely  
sunny winter afternoon so cold, & I'm trying to  
get me bluddy hot dry. Better go in before I  
get pneumonia.

And how I'll note your new address.

Love to you both.

Dot