

15 October, 1976

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for your letter of the 18th September, 1976. You complained that you were not enjoying good health, but typed two sheets of news to me. Thank you sincerely.

My release from house arrest was welcome, but I'm a homing pigeon and spend much time at my flat. My friends insist that I visit them, but I have so much to do that I find 24 hours a day is too short for me.

Mrs Helen Joseph is one of the most courageous of women in the South African scene. She is ill having suffered 2 heart attacks recently. I am hoping to persuade her to stay with me for Xmas - I do hope she comes for she needs a rest and a change. But she has much to do that keeps her in Jo'burg.

The boys are men now. Sandhan is in Std.9 and with one year more for Varsity. Then what he will do in this racist society is beyond me. Sharadh lost a year due to the new age limits and is I4 in Std. 6. But he does very well at his subjects and both are avid readers. Sandhan more serious while Sha enjoys the thrillers. Despite their deprivations and the disaster of broken home, I think they have coped extremely well.

Sukthi our baby, is 10 years and in Std III. She is extremely robust, playful and most preoccupied with pretty clothes. Her brothers tease her no end with her addiction to the Mirror and we have great pillow fights as a result.

Our Winter such as it is, is on the wane in fact our Summer is in. We sweat and tire easily in the heat - but being products of the sun, we love it. I certainly do.

We have a political trial in Pietermaritzburg about 80 kms from here and we travel daily to the trial. This has been so from the 14 May. It is very tiring, but most of the men are personal friends - six of them have spent 10 years already on the Island and I have no doubt, will be going to jail again. Their courage and political integrity is a very humbling experience. I wish you could see them and be with them for a while. A young German teacher who was on tour said, "those people most hurt by the Nationalists were the happy people he met here, everybody also had great insecurity problems"