

9/7/81

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My dear Cynthia & Sheila, You are probably wondering why both your letters are in one - simple - I have such a large number of letters to reply to, that I thought I should combine your two very special friends of mine.

Cynthia Phakathi, was my friend, my secretary, my senior typist when I left SA on the 22/5/77. She has 2 children Lungelo & Nobeko. Sheila Maharaj is Mrs Pathe's secretary & senior typist - and my very good friend for more years than I have known you. Cynthia - I got her on to the typewriter many years ago & today she is 2nd to no one. Cynthia came to me in 1974 or 5 I'm not very sure, from my partner Archie Gumede - when I phoned Archie for a reference he said "don't employ her - I have patience & I could not keep her - you will fire her". I looked at Cynthia mother of Lungelo then & knew that she desperately needed a job - After a warning I employed & she has not let me down in her typing but mostly in her loyalty & great friendship for me. So if you two don't know each other you should do so immediately.

Mrs's number is in the book - & Cynthia is P.O. Box

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Durban.

That's what you can do for me is to see to it that I have the current directory - & you can give me your number too Cynthia. Both your letters were beautiful. Thank you so much. I am beggared for words to tell you just what they mean to me. With the price of petrol as exorbitant as it is I feel a criminal asking anyone to visit here. But come if you can - I have 3 beds - but had 17 people staying with me for over a week - So you are welcome always. The news of your children Sheila is lovely - has anyone made you a grand mother? Are you going to sell that lovely house? Knowing you, you'll build a prettier one. Don't forget an outhouse for me when we return home. I'll need somewhere to live. You are a well seasoned Traveller Sheila & wanting more - you lucky girl - Why don't you get a trip to Masems organised with Holiday Inn or Hilton - then perhaps you can bring Cynthia. Wait till the Summer months - its freezing just now & both of you have not had such cold weather. Having a hot bath is the best thing at the moment but when you come out of it its freezing - Our electric bills are R60 +. Coal about R30.00 per month -

So you see the cost of living is awful. Subs fees is R350 per quarter - her uniform over R150.00 - dont ask me what we live on. Can you imagine how the poor live - there is not a single child here who has schooling fee. We have 200,000 men working in S.A. - so you see we are in fact a homeland, but not from choice.

Sheila you know those Indian Mats (Piele) I want $\frac{1}{2}$ doz of them - or grass mats. Do you know that grass mats are not made here - they're more into pottery - handspun mohair etc rugs - but seldom does one find grass baskets etc. Do you know Devi Pillay in your building how is she doing - Perhaps she might article your daughter, Sheila? Why does she not think of lecturing? Is her husband practising?

I just long to see you two - writing to you has made me so homesick - I've been at the left in CNR House & Victoria Heights - remember that cafe downstairs - vegetarian where we had some paka & purre. Oh for a Bunny Chow? All the things that mean home - How is MN? Take care of him - no matter what Sheila -

Do keep in touch & take good care of yourselves.

R.0801402.

Mason.

With love

Ruyllis

Friday 3. 15 pm

14/5/81

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Cynthia just a short note to tell you that I saw someone who looked like you today & I stopped the car & hailed - She looked up at me & walked on - Your eyes your nose - I just burst out crying. My dear friend whom Archie said would not please me - but who is now part of my heart beat - how cruelly we are parted.

I sent you my jersey to wear at home & to know that it kept me warm for many winters. I shall send you a good coat soon. I sent Russel a coat, jacket & jersey & today when Basil phoned he said it was very cold - so he will be warm at least -

I try & send him some money to keep him in food. Steve says Ukhonga Kakhulu. My Zulu does not exist now. Here its Khotso Khatle 'Mee They - the men are very polite - but oh how they treat their wives -

Will you phone Omar & tell him to get in touch with Dependants Conference Mrs. Mrs Agania Ndebele - Sabantu wants to visit her husband in R. S.

Thank Rita for Mothers Day Card - but tell her not to waste money - but get a piece of paper & write to me during lunch time love you Paul.