

May 2/82

Hi Phyl,

Thanks again for your letter & copies of Aggett info. What a waste for that one to be gone. I keep thinking the same thing as they continue to knock off all the govt. critics in Iran. When there are so few committed to such a high degree & they continue to be wiped out only mediocrity will be left (sorry about the pun).

Also very interesting to see which friends of mine are excited about & planning to attend this solidarity conference next wk-end in Ottawa. Called Sandi today & she's beginning to feel guilty about not writing - says she doesn't like to write, can't put things on paper, etc. Shall see her & others soon.

Does anyone down there know whether Andie Bunk's "A Chain of Voices" is worth buying. Read "A Dry White Season" & liked it while in L. Also Alison Paton's "Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful" is out - do you know of it?

Hope this reaches you before you leave. If you do any laying around in the hospital in U.K. please drop a card with an address where I can reach you. I'm sure it'll be good to get mail away from home. Don't be afraid of those capitalist doctors - they're working for you - you're the client so let them know what you want & make them explain everything & give you choices. You decide!

I'm sure you won't take any crap. Just hope you find some good ones who know their stuff & will treat you humanely.

At this point I haven't made any plans for August. Just enrolled in 2 MEd courses for July. If you need any help, travelling companion, etc. in that month - give me a call 416-335-2272 & if I'm still free I'll be there by your side.

At the moment I should be exhilarated by warm weather (finally) winter course finished, operetta at school over, upcoming conferences, only $7\frac{1}{2}$ wk. of school left, etc. But somehow I'm demoralized, depressed & don't know why. I'm reading more of Illich (Deschooling) Friere, etc. Lots of sewing to ~~do~~ gardening & ~~houses~~ cleaning & school-work. Just when one mountain is climbed, 10 more appears. Bloody moods! Who needs them? Getting too caught up in all the "responsibilities" of a "developed" society.

Attended an AGM & conference of an ^{inter} Development Education group last wk-end & was disappointed to find middle class, naive types who appear to be getting CIDA money for the wrong reasons & are going thru an internal power struggle. To hell with them. Not too productive to put my energies there.

Had a great inspiring chat with Betsy & Anna & others over dinner & then to a great dance company performance. Anna & I love dancing & watching.

Some of the SWAPO & ANC people scheduled to do a tour of Canada leading up to the Sol. Conf. didn't show or were late & Betsey's having party fits. She's helped organize the thing. African time? Hope Tambo & Nyoma arrive! Betsey's talked to some from Namibia & they say they want Eng. as their second language. This in the context of discussing where we'd be most useful if (when) we travel again.

You know, I often thought of asking you if I could help in tutoring any of the refugees. But I also thought it would look somewhat nosy of me somehow, or presumptuous or something! That's been in the back of my mind for awhile - working at the grass roots in villages, camps, etc. non-formal education (pt preparatory for formal if ~~some~~ wanted to go that way eventually. Kind of a dream... but I've learned some skills this year that would help. Anyway there's lots to talk about when we ever get together again.

I think I can only take one more yr. of this so I'll try to hurry up the master's. I can finish summer '83. Then off again somewhere? We'll see. Just seems wasteful maintaining this house & property & working my ass off for a complacent society. Oh, the kids are great & we've made some progress together - they're becoming critical at the ages of 6 & 7 - of what they see & read! Great, eh? I'll try to convince Bon to open up a bit about her "problems." You'd be a good one to talk

things over with. I've sent her a couple of books & my thoughts, for what they're worth. But she'll have to be the one to tell you the specifics...

Guess Peter & Liz will be leaving soon. Thank God! What harm well-intentioned liberals can do! Talk to Werner...

So, women, have a good trip. Hope you meet lots of good friends, get your medical stuff done painlessly & cheaply & get some time to relax.

Remember to call if you need anything. And if you decide to come to N.Am. you must visit!

Good luck to Sus at N.U.L. She'll do well, I'm sure. Glad to hear she's okay & over the trauma.

Must drop a note to Jon now.

Take care & keep your spirits up. Wish mine were higher to be able to give you a lift. Just remember - you have a friend here.

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Lotsa love,
Brenda

P.S.
Got my first copy of Work in Progress
Good stuff!