



Department of History

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8th July 1993

Phyllis Kardoos

Dear Phyllis,

Thank for your note of 27 May. I am delighted to hear that you are writing the story of Chris Hanu. It seems important to keep his approach before the people - around the world - who are concerned for the South African situation. And, after your recent book, you will do it well.

There are bits and pieces from the main urban newspapers, just to give the flavour. I can't say much about the reaction in general because we were not in New Zealand at the time. It appears to have been page one news with subsequent coverage in the international section and the sports page (the North Harbour, Auckland, Rugby team was in South Africa).

Having studied + participated in NZ-SA relations for twenty years, I would think that the NZ reaction would have been a little different from that which followed from the risings of the mid 80s or mid 70s. Firstly, from the SA issue being divisive in NZ, that is less so now but the "plot", as it were, has been lost. There is a

general impression of it having declined into
internal conflict and violence in SA. It does
not speak to internal NZ conditions in the
same way. And, of course, there is no single
or coherent voice in NZ since the anti-
apartheid movement was demobilised by, to
put it briefly, the ANC. Finally, Hani was
not ^{generally} known and was a Communist & the
people easiest to sell" to a conservative
newspapers have been people such as Desmond
Tutu. This is brief and sceptical and private,
but it may provide a little background. I
would be surprised if the Ministerial statement
secured much coverage - these things are
frequently written from an audience overseas
(Commonwealth & UN - NZ is now on the Security
Council) - but it is good to see it.

Please tell me if you would like me
to check this material, answer questions or
provide further information. It is a great
project.

All best wishes,

Sincerely,

Luke

Springston

R. D. 4

Christchurch

New Zealand

11th June

Dear Rhyllis,

Thank you for your letter. You have been in our thoughts during the recent, tragic events. It is good to know that you are going to write about him and I'll send news from the New Zealand papers shortly.

I was touched by La Rone Re Bathe - an excellent work, if I may say so.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,
Luka

History Department,
University of Canterbury,
Christchurch
New Zealand

9th December

Dear P. L. His,

Just a note to wish you the compliments of the season and a 1994 that brings, at least in part, some degree of fulfilment of the hopes you have so long held and for which you have sacrificed so much.

The disenchantment with politics, so widespread in so many countries, comes, I imagine, at just the wrong time for your struggle. We had an election a few weeks back and the electorate (against all the polls) rejected both the major parties (Labour + National) both only securing about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the votes and plumped for the two smaller parties which were resolutely against New Right economics. Moreover, despite a \$2m campaign they rejected first-past-the-post in a referendum in favour of proportional representation. The result is already showing with the 'big parties' breaking up into components. People here do not trust politicians.

A friend passed me the enclosed, which

you have probably seen. I hope your labours
on Chris Horn's life go well. It will be
important. Incidentally, a copy of your
previous book has arrived in the University
library, so I can refer my students to it.

Chris Laird Low, our Ambassador (High
Commissioner) in Harare when you were there,
returned to New Zealand, stood as a Labour MP
(was elected), but was rejected at the recent
election, despite his ability + his Rugby skills!

I hope all goes well with you. And
son + daughter-in-law have a brief leave in
Christchurch in January before going back
to Geneva + the GATT. It will be nice to
see them. By the time their tour is over
it will be four years away from New which
is too long.

All best wishes, Phyllis

Sincerely,

Loke