

5 WELCOME BACK TO DURBAN!

PO Box 8186, Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe
4 September, 1993

Dear Phyllis,

Thanks for your recent note and copy of Sahdhan's student thesis on agriculture in South Africa. You should take time to look at it, as it does an excellent job of relating apartheid realities and agricultural production a decade ago. I dare say most of it is still all too relevant, both for South Africa and Zimbabwe.

As South Africa's future leaders plan for land redistribution (see pp. 22-23), they need to learn all the possible lessons from Zimbabwe, as we are now in the middle of name-calling, racial fears, and disincentives for outside investment --- over this issue which should/could have been resolved long ago. Today's paper reports the departure (after four years) of Canada's H.C. (C.Basset) without the usual formal farewell dinner and final meeting in the President's office. He merely slipped away, avoiding further controversy and embarrassment over this issue.

I know Sahdhan took his tables from available sources. Most of those sources fail to disaggregate data, so we have (p.30) one overall figure for yield levels for all of South Africa, which as he points out, is a bit meaningless. Here in Zimbabwe, we have the ten-plus club, those farmers who produce more than ten tons of maize per hectare; this year, a few Black farmers joined the club. Our ZIMOFA farm project in Mozambique managed about two and a half tons per hectare, with minimal resource. And, we remember that in the mid-80s drought, the communal farmers were responsible for over half the food available in the country, with essential no infrastructure and assistance. Lots to think about!

Liz and Benjamin stopped by earlier and I showed it to them (Liz) as well. They may be coming down your way in a month or so...she has been so busy, she has not even taken a holiday break during this past few weeks of school holiday. Ben is his usual self, giving his mum a hard time! Nice to see them; their address is #21 Langham, Mt.Pleasant, (on campus), phone 33107.

Dolly says that Krish is "doing well", although my several times trying to see him have not been successful. He started a week ago on his radio-therapy, so I had tried to see him the day before that began, but all his friends had the same idea. Another time he was out with his son for a ride, feeling bored at home. So, I have been content to see Dolly several times at the store and talk with the elder Ragadoo by phone.

I will be consulting some of your female lawyer friends soon, as caretaker James' widow is getting screwed by his relatives. They have now taken all her furniture and one child; she says they are after the other children also. She came by again last evening, in town to look for a job...as are so many many others!

Phyllis, there was this figure of 2600, divided into 600 and 1000 and 1000. That corresponds to 14,000 plus a bit more including some books, the other way. By now, it should be concluded.

Last week, Ben Magubane gave a "political update on South Africa" but there was nothing new in the update. It was followed by a series of comments by BCM, PAC, and ANC (Kingsley). Comments from the floor made it more lively. So, you can see that people here have not forgotten you-all down south. In a crowd of 200, I was 1 of 4 whites. That's a switch! (SAPES/AAPS sponsored).

Capetown again!!! Well, I have yet to see that place, but I fell in love with Durban, for reasons you understand. Maybe, someday. Carol is swamped right now, concluding SADC and EC consultancies with a workshop 13-16. Her mum is in hospital with a fractured vertebrae, so she is going to Chicago for a couple weeks to sort out the future for her parents. I'll stay behind. I am getting used to being "retired", but still job-searching as well.

I'll leave some space for Carol to add a note.

We miss you.

Love,

& Carol

Hi! Saldhan's paper is a nice overview. Wow - written in Hungarian?! Such talent. We think of all the ways his knowledge & love could be helping SAf right now.

My parents get worse - so we are thinking of a semester return to Los Angeles (Jan - May) so I can sort out the long term for them. Then we are looking to come back to Harare - May - August & longer.

Whom should I send the UNICEF study to? Or is everyone too busy to read? We're SO GLAD Nelson asked for a review of Samera's plane crash! With all the ANC has to do - and you still think of others. Obrigada!

Much love,
C-