

Chaucer, Teston Rd., Offham, Maidstone, Kent ME19 5PE

29.12.80.

Dear Phyllis,

The reason for our "deafening silence" was/is the stupidest ever. I lost your last letter with your address on it. Weeks of hunting high & low for it proved fruitless. The frustration has now ended with the receipt of your letter half an hour ago. I have no doubt that after I've posted this letter to you tomorrow (no Post Office in this village now) the last letter will turn up. I've now written your address in our new address book.

Well, after your letter, maybe it's just as well I didn't send you a Christmas card. I didn't send a donation to Oxfam or the Quakers either because they bank with Barclays. The London Borough of Lambeth has voted to withdraw its enormous account

from Barclays Bank, & Camberwell has already done so. Wrote to Helen Joseph who is now seventy-five, she is banned again; they (the S.A. government) are a brave lot, banning a 75 year old woman. They must be scared for their lives.

It just isn't easy to get how one feels about apartheid across to other people, but opportunities arise. Someone mentions Margot Fonteyn: "I wouldn't watch her if she was dancing outside on the pavement" & then I tell them why. Ditto Oxfam, I tell them why I refuse donations. Of course the situation has worsened here since the Tories returned to power & all we can do is wait for the next election.

The hypocrisy of the government is sickening: "Keep politics out of sport" they yell if the public complain about the Springboks' visit. Then the pressure was

applied to athletes wishing to compete in the Moscow Olympics. That, for some unspecified reason, was different.

So you've had yet another operation, as a result of your "gift". Will you have to have more? How is Sukkhi? Has all this upset affected her?

Don't think that because I haven't written, that we haven't been thinking of you. We do, often. I haven't the nerve to say "write soon" after not writing for so long, but I will write again. Take care of yourselves,

Love,
Mike & Marion
