



Lancaster Southern Africa Support Committee

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Dearest Phyllis!

In one day I will be leaving this country and believe me, I can hardly wait. My backpack is ready, also a small box of books that I just can not do without. Tom telephoned me this afternoon and that just heightened the anticipation. I don't know what Puerto Rico will be like, but at this point I don't really care; am confident that I can adjust to anything and learn any language and do any job -- as long as I know WHY I'm doing it, and in this case that is crystal-clear. Our time of separation has been difficult, but I think that actually he and I are even closer to each other as a result of having to hammer out our feelings and especially our political beliefs on paper. A good discipline; one learns to use words carefully. We've been having a prolonged debate about capitalism's effect on the Third World, arguing the pros (technological progress etc) (oh yes also schools and hospitals) versus the cons (MNC control, cash cropping amidst starvation, dependency, militarisation, etc). Of course, bear in mind that this is an evaluation of capitalism done ~~by~~ from a committed communist viewpoint by each of us, yet it is amazing the many different conclusions we come to. I would be highly interested in your opinion. I recall one time in your old rondavel when you asked me how I define development, and I remember really having to think hard about that, but I don't remember whether you gave your own view. To move beyond capitalism as a temporary stage, it is crucial to understand how the people and especially the workers perceive of it and its benefits/drawbacks for them, otherwise any revolutionary "theory" will be dismissed by them as irrelevant. In a way, the crass exploitation of apartheid makes the relationship between theory and praxis easier, since the oppressive enemy is more readily identified. (But even there, South Africa has a big struggle ahead in moving not only against a certain colour but rather against a class). Enough on that; just to say that any comments from you will be appreciated.

In the meantime, thanks you for your kind letter in which you bemoan the "calamity" that has befallen me! Your tongue/pen has always been able to cut and stroke at the same time. Since you demanded pictures, I am herewith sending you the only two I have (how's THAT for sacrifice?), taken before Tom left. Unfortunately he has his eyes closed on both of them; take my word for it that he does have big beautiful eyes; hmm, I can't remember what colour they are, will have to check it out in PR. Will also send you current ones of us as soon as I can. I am happy to have the one of you taken after an obviously long hike! You are looking good; I hope the two months off from work helped a bit, even though I know full well that you did extra real work during that time! I hope things are going well, both inside and outside your office. The present international scene is certainly not helping your struggle. But hey, at least there might be some changes for the better in France! How progressive Mitterand turns out to be still remains to be seen, but at least he does have some excellent Marxists (like Regis Debray) as his advisors. We'll see. Here in The USA the political situation is just getting worse and worse, I don't even want to talk about it. The rise of fascism is a terrible thing to witness.

Back to your mail: thanks for the poems from Colin, I like the ones where he doesn't get too religious. You know that he has resigned his post as Bishop? His health is so poor, I don't know when he'll ever be strong enough to come to America. How is John? And Mike? I'm glad to know that my Lithabaneng friend is working out ok. I saw the Bohns briefly, got me nostalgic for you all!!! I love the beautiful scarf/flag you sent, it will go on my wall. You are so considerate!

Four new MCCers on their way; 2 I don't know, can't say a word about them. But the other two, Rich and Brenda, are FINE people and are looking forward to meeting you! Train them. Hey that letter you sent to their church group was perfect (re:\$). Must stop; next letter will be from the Carribean! With much much love to you AND SUKHTHI, your

R.