

Date: Fri, 4 Jan 1980 2:0:51 -0600
From: Centro de Estudios sobre Africa y Medio Oriente <ceamo@ceniai.inf.cu>
Reply-To: ceamo@ceniai.inf.cu
Illegal-Object: Syntax error in To: address found on ceniai.net.cu:
To: aconning@pixie.udw.ac.za<aconning@pixie.udw.ac.za>
^-missing end of address
Subject: From David to Phyllis Naidoo
X-mailer: FoxMail 2.1 [en]
To: unlisted-recipients:; (no To-header on input)

TO: Antoinette Conning,
From: ceamo@ceniai.inf.cu
Date: 15 March 1999

Dear Antoinette: Thanks for your assistance in contacting Phyllis. I promise that I will not abuse your kindness. Certainly hope to meet you in the future, with no E-Mail in between.

Dear Phylee: Thanks for your Wednesday evening call, although I realize I talked a lot and the phone bill will be huge. I was hoping not to abuse Antoinette's E-Mail help, but must reply several questions in your last message:

1. Yes, Julio got all the material because most was marked and quickly understood all drawing material was his. Told you in letter posted 2 weeks ago.
2. UNEAC got all their books but Walt was trying to reduce noise from tapes. If not, will give them to Alden Knight as they are. They know we have tapes.
3. Only problem with parcels is Norma at hotel. Nothing came marked for her, and we found no travel bag with Robben Island ID. There was one travelling bag, with no ID, nothing written, which we can give her together with, say, Robben Island post card and beautiful sea shell. Please advice on this; I pose same question in letter you have not yet received. By the way, I just got phone call from Miguel, apologizing for not visiting me during my sickness, because his bike had a flat (Brits I think say punctured) tyre. He misses you a lot, having no one with whom to SUSTAIN a meaningful English conversation.
4. Clara keeps swearing on her Party card that she did leave the letter at the embassy to be posted. It's possible it was misplaced, because it was a long letter, written as my sickness began but was not yet severe, and I informed you of things that I later took for granted that you knew, such as the demise of Domingo's mother. It was hard for him.
5. Congratulations for what the Easter Bunny is bringing. Be positive. Look at it this way: they could have brought Flower with them. You see, it's not so bad after all. I don't know what your problem is (age maybe?), because I am enormously enjoying my 6 month old grand nephew. I'm the one who takes him to the park to sit on the grass and play with mud, while the rest of the family wants to keep him in a vaccum. They made me his godfather. Luckily, I was sick and passed the baptizing (someone covered for me), so I didn't have to see how they watered his head; it gives me goose pimples.
6. As I explained in my more sober second letter (I am keeping my promise of posting a letter every Monday; I'm already into my fourth week) I have the excuse of still running a temperature when I conceived the grandiose doctorate-cum-filming project. After a more sober appraisal, Walt and I realized that we should not be asking our friends and our friends' friends for help, since there are institutions that will financially profit from the serial and individuals who are now interested in implementing it as soon as possible, so let them arrange things, make contacts and find funding. I'll keep you posted on developments.
7. On Norma's trip, I explained on the phone, and hope she will soon write directly to you.
8. When I learned that my sick leave covered until the 15th, I went back into hybernation and pills, so I have not been able to discuss neither the video project nor the doctorate project with the proper authorities. As soon as I do, if I ever, I'll get in touch with the people you suggest, if there is to be either work at DWU or filming. My goal is to write my dissertation this very year and present my dissertation in early 2000, so perhaps it would be more logical to just draft my research work with the information available in Cuba or that could be sent to me, and leave any trip to Africa until after my dissertation.
9. Yes, I have heard about Saartjie Bartman, I think she is the stuffed Khoisan somewhere in

Rcd 18/3/99

Southern France. I remeber that some time ago a joint French-African meeting scheduled to be held near the town housing the museum that exhibited Sartjie's body was de-railed because of that problem. I think the French promised to give her proper burial, but I never got the end of the story. I am not sure if she was the same one that was paraded, naked, on European stages to allow Victorian spectators a hypocritical blush when seeing her genitals. I read a disgusting XIX-century press report, which was reproduced on some southern African newspaper while I was working in Harare.

10. Mom was 79 (by her count) last Friday, so we had a family get-together. Not easy when you have a 6-month-old and others in their younger years. Specially when they start running around, and plucking their fingers in the frosting. Now, this is not to discourage you from enjoying your grandsons. Great idea, to come to Durban and make granny feel younger.

Best regards to Buck, Louis and, of course, Flower. A big big big hug, David.

