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15 Scett Road
Observatory 7925
30 November 1991

Dear Govah

Summer started in full force today w hot as hell. To give you some idea, I waited until after 7pm before I ventured out to wash the car.

I feel guilty about the enclosures which have been lying around for some time. My intention was to send them by hand, but nobody seems to be coming this way. Xundu, with his many promises, I may see in the next world! Most of the enclosures are from Frances Ames. She thinks you are one of the more honest politicians (with the emphasis on politics). Said she would like to have a meal and chat when next you are in Cape Town. I include the articles by Barry Streek . and Anthony Johnson (political commentators; of the Cape Times) on their Scandinavian experiences. Although I realise that you have regular contact with the Nordic regions, you may find them interesting. They tell me they were invited as the first SA journalists to visit and travel through the countries.

The past week I have done a journalist brain-picking exercise. I wanted to trace the Henry Gumalo and Pogrund articles on prison conditions. Tony Holiday provided some useful background information. After Harold Strachan was released Pogrund interviewed him and published several articles in the Rand Daily Mail. A court case lasting nearly two years followed which some feel was the death knell of the RDM. Hugh Lewin then in Fortoria Central, writes that through a crack in the wall he noticed that suddenly black prisoners were wearing shoes. When the next political prisoner arrived, they learned that Strachan had gone public. The improvements were a direct result of the improving prison conditions. Did these changes on land ever reach the Island?

I approached the UCT Law Library to find out where the RDM archives were housed. They referred me to African Studies in the building next door. There I discovered they have a collection of RDM political press cutting dating back to 1963. Making use of The Fourth Estate by Joel Mervis I was able to pinpoint the date of the Pogrund articles. They appeared in June/July 1965. Within an hour I traced them and am now the proud owner of copies of all three instalments. Wonderful. I can't tell you how chuffed I am. Henry Gumalo's earlier article Mr Drum Goes to Jail, March 1954, completes the picture which unhappily had changed little over the years. The articles were immediately banned and Strachan house-arrested. I must find out if the ban on prison publications still holds.

What do you think of the Tony Holiday article? An intellectual5 honest with a Clear and logical style:n A disappointment to find he is an alcoholic wreck. I wonder why he is SO unhappy? '

Next time you are bored, read The Fourth Estate (Joel Mervia), a recent history of the BA press. As a journalist you should find it interesting.

I hope December brings you many happy moments.

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