

Unrevised

Fort Hare,
Alice. C.P.
22nd., August 1952.

B2.79

My Dear Papa,

Mama at last is off. With her departure from Capetown which is scheduled for today we can definitely say she has left us. The send-off from East London was very nice indeed. The Xesi gang was there, Mrs. Ngcobo, the Mahlangeni's and, of course the whole of our gang. To me the most remarkable thing about this send-off was the stunning array of clothing worn by the home crowd. Mama who was leaving noticed it herself from the boat that the people who should have been going away were those on the quay-- all dressed to kill. The following day Omp Gqira had to go to P.E. and I accompanied him. We again had a chance to see mama whose boat only left P.E. about eight in the evening. I took over some things she had left behind. The last injunction from mama was that we should not forget to order Tea and potatoes-- she had left them out when she made the list. From Capetown we received a letter from her and she reminded us to see that the Tecoma hedge in front of the lawn was watered and also to see that a certain bed of young shoots was looked after. So papa can see how difficult it is for mama to make a complete break with household affairs even for a few days. I said to her she must go to America and have a real holiday. My own attitude to these trips is that the people overseas require our sympathy because they are thrown in a foreign environment, with no real friends, no relatives, no fellow Africans etc. Nothing can happen to us even if mama and papa were to send us no money we would not starve and some solution would be found in a jiffy. But in America with no money etc. it would be terrible. So I say to mama and papa don't worry about us because we are just going along a routine which we have gone through for a long time. In the morning Lesego and Pulane stir up. They make the usual noise in the bathroom and wake everybody else up. By half-past seven they have completed their preparations and they go off to school with shouts of good-bye to everyone. By this time Tumie and Brag have shaken up and Tumie takes out the car and drives it onto the front of the house. Then we all wait whilst Maspie chameleon-like goes through her ablutions. By a quarter-past eight Tumie and Brag are ready to move (these days they walk to college). At about twenty-to-nine I take Maspie to college. I do all sorts of rounds in town getting the meat or groceries of one sort and another from Coopers. Get back home and make a tour of the estate in proper landowner style and then settle down to some solid reading. I fetch the gang later and then the Lovedale group arrives during lunch-time etc. There is almost no correspondence worth replying to. Just Umlindi's and enquiries about all sorts of things from people. I have been able to deal with those. Mama will be able to tell papa about the handling of finance which I dare say is under control. The income tax affairs we are handling just now with Omp Gqira, although we do not seem to have all the information about any insurances anyway I looked for them and I believe I have got what he wants. By the way Omp Gqira has bought a brand-new 1952 Hudson (1450 pounds). They gave him 600 for his old one. Its a terrific thing. I suppose I did tell papa about the 1952. Packard which doctor Moroka bought cash at P.E. (1600). The insurance alone was £60. Congress leadership is undoubtedly petit bourgeoisie.

On the National level the most exciting news was the arrest of Dr. Moroka under section 11(b) of the Suppression of Communism Act. Under this section anyone who advocates, advises, encourages, instigates the bringing about of a social, economic or political change in the Union through violence, or unlawful disturbance is guilty of an offence. The penalty's are legion, if one is found guilty. A sentence not exceeding ten years, a fine, deportation, limitation of activities etc. It is under this section that all the leaders have been arrested. The total now arrested is twenty and the preparatory examination will begin in Johannesburg on August twenty sixth. I am sending papa on a separate page the complete list of leaders arrested so far. A sensational arrest was that of Mji and Harrison Motlana. These chaps were still addressing a meeting at Medical school on the campaign. And the police got there. They were called aside and arrested. The whole university is up in arms at this "interference in the freedom of universities" there have been quite wild statements made by students in protest meetings and a special mass meeting has been called to discuss the matter. Here at Fort Hare too efforts are being made to call an emergency mass meeting. This follows closely on the mass meeting held last week which passed a resolution "viewing with pride the

courageous, non-violent and disciplined struggle in which true democrats are at present engaged in South Africa".

The result of these arrests, in particular the arrest of Dr. Moroka has clearly shown this to have been a blunder on the part of the government. Recruiting officers of the volunteer corps are easily among the most over-worked men in the country to-day. The arrest of Moroka brought into the struggle people whom one might term the most moderate of moderates. It has exposed the Anti-Communism Act for what it really is-- an instrument to eliminate all those who are opposed to the policy of the Malanites. The most interesting thing was the reaction of the U.P. press who have been at great pains to show that Dr. Moroka is not a communist, to the extent of quoting the help which the Moroka family gave to the Voortrekkers. The "Star" says it is a pity that the Nats are in power. It says that the Nats are fully aware that this movement is so powerful that negotiations should begin now. But then it is their policy not to negotiate with Non-Europeans. So they are in a mess. It will only be possible to pass new legislation to deal with the campaign next year and by that time present indications are that the movement will be too powerful to stop. Negotiations now are the only answer. It is better to negotiate with Moroka than to have a black proletariat seizing power.

On their side the Nationalist minister have been singularly silent regarding this campaign, except for the vague statements and threats at platteland meetings now and again. The Nationalist press is now less disposed to look upon whipping as a solution, and following the lead of the Burger they are all repeating the nonsense about sending African leaders to the reserves. There "says Die Burger" they will be able to do constructive work for their people and they will not feel oppressed, as they do in White areas." What worries these chaps more than anything is the fact that there is now definitely no money in the country, and a nation-wide stoppage which a considerable number of Europeans may support would throw the Nats out. Already the letters to the by Europeans are asking why the Torch Commando which has no party-affiliations does not organise a strike in collaboration with the A.N.C. I think the Whites feel that when they have a chance the Nats never play cricket so why should they. But the U.P., Torch Commando, and Labour Party alliance is dead silent. They must be waiting to see how powerful the movement is and how far it can be sustained. As far as they are concerned it is a question of waiting for a favourable opportunity to declare one way or the other. If the Congress proves strong and "respectable" through non-violence then they will welcome it as an ally, on certain terms, including a modification of certain demands. For instance they would be quite prepared to remove the colour-bar in industry without specifically saying so; the pass laws; the Group Areas Act; the Coloured Voters Act; and a modification of the Suppression of Communism Act and also the Rehabilitation scheme. On its side the Congress would also be required to drop its demand for full democratic rights now. On the other hand if Congress is weakened as the months go by they will turn round and denounce the Congress as an irresponsible movement in the hands of Communists and they might even go to the extent of aiding and abetting the government in its campaign against the A.N.C. Natal is swinging in to action soon. I cannot tell papa the date. The police are working night and day to discover it in Durban. By next week this time I will be reporting to papa the first Natal Volunteers. If I were able to disclose to papa the plans papa would realise that nothing can stop the A.N.C. now. By December the whole of the rural areas including the Transkei will have been organised and we will see. The arrest of the leaders is no embarrassment at all because it came too late. This last week-end 488 more Africans were arrested bringing the total to 2751. Of these 301 were from P.E. Last Sunday in P.E. we had the decoration of volunteers with the ~~Sax~~ Star of Liberation. Mandela the national-volunteer-in-chief decorated the men. Now papa the meeting which was held in that open where we had the meeting on June 1st. was the biggest ever seen in P.E. and I think Malan and his crowd will have to revise their ideas if they want to succeed. The massing of police has had no effect at all. I only hope the people will remain calm when Njongwe is arrested. So let me leave papa for the time-being. We are on the march and our wise and vigilant leaders will bring victory to our cause! Lots of love from the gang. Afrika!

Your loving Son,

Sakwe