

82.84
Fort Hare,
Alice. C.P.
13th Oct., 1952.

My dearest Mama,

Thanks ever so much for the letters. I am astonished at the rate mama is able to put out in the writing of letters. One thing is clear mama is settled and is finding America very exciting.

I thought I had told mama that we had received the money from that end or rather the bank had. It was in my name so I had to put it into papa's account. This month's accounts are reduced to a great extent. The meat we try to get cash and that definitely saves. The Cooper account has also become reasonable now. Poor Shap seems to have stopped even sending the account and Anettes have not got much from us. Any way the routine goes on and the gang is perfectly happy. Mama should have seen the beans poor Jiyana got for the tales he told mama. We were very annoyed because that might have the effect of reducing the premium on the reports we give to mama on the position at home. The chap is definitely not popular just now. A very queer chap this Jiyana. In a way I regret that mama placed him in a position ~~where~~ where he felt free to communicate with mama on matters that belong strictly within the family circle.

The preparatory examination is over and honestly I think this is a big bluff. If it were not for the fact that this is a political case I would be sure the government is losing the case. But one never knows what is going to happen in a political case. Throughout the ten days of the prep I was bored stiff. Every day there would be a certain routine. We would arrive and would take our places in the dock on chairs that had been provided for us. Then they would open the door to allow the spectators in. There would follow the mad rush of spectators and then they would ask people who had no seating accommodation to leave. A few minutes waiting and then the opening of the side door and the shout of "silence in the court" and the magistrate Mr. Bax would walk in. He would bow to the prosecutor and bow to the defending attorney. We would all sit down except the prosecutor who would then call the next witness. "I call detective/sergeant Wild! The person in question would come in and occupy the witness box. The magistrate would ask for the full name and invariably you would get a string of Afrikaner names. Apparently the police force is almost entirely composed of Afrikaners. This has tremendous advantages!

After the witness has reeled off his names he would swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth "so help me God". Then the prosecutor would begin with his examination.

Prosecutor: You are a detective/sergeant ~~stationed~~ in the South African police force stationed at Port Elizabeth?

Witness: I am your worship.

(there would be a pause whilst the magistrate is writing...)

P. Have you attended any meetings in the Port Elizabeth district?

W. Yes your worship.

P. These were meetings under the auspices of the African National Congress?

W. Yes your worship.

P. Were you, when going to these meetings, invariably accompanied by one or more members of the police force?

W. Yes your worship.

P. And these meetings were attended by Africans and addressed by one or other of the accused? (This chap Beale always used the word "Africans")

W. Yes your worship.

P. And is it so that you invariably took notes of what was said at these meetings?

W. That is so your worship.

P. These notes do not necessarily represent all that was said by each speaker?

W. No your worship.

P. But they represent a fairly accurate ^{account} of what was said?

W. Yes your worship.

P. Could you turn to your notes of a meeting held on June the 29th at Emioteni square new Brighton.

Magistrate. How do you spell that?

P. I have got it here as E, MLOTENI your worship. (to the witness-- have you found the place?)

W. Yes your worship.

P. Could you turn to your notes of the speech by No.1. accused i.e.

- Dr. Njongwe.
- W. yes your worship.
- P. Do you know accused No.1. Dr. Njongwe?
- W. Yes your worship.
- P. What is his designation in the African National Congress ?
- W. He is provincial president of the A.N.C. in the Cape.
- P. Could you read to the court * what he said about parliament.
- W. He said " we want to be represented by our own people in all ~~com~~ councils of state including-- parliament, provincial councils & Municipal councils"
- P. Did he inter-alia say anything about " taking over".
- W. Yes your worship he said: " After 300 years on their own admission the Europeans have failed to civilize the African. It is time now that we took over. I say we will achieve our freedom in ten years at the outside".
- P. Did he say anything about defying laws?
- W. Yes your worship. He said: " the Africans must take part in the freedom struggle by volunteering in their thousands to defy unjust laws".
- Magistrate. Was this speech in Xhosa?
- W. Yes your worship the speech was in Xhosa.
- P. But you wrote notes of the speech in English?
- W. Yes your worship.
- P. And is it so that you wrote the notes as the speech was being made?
- W. That is so your worship.
- P. Did you on July 30th this year , under authority of a search warrant search the premises of accused No.3 i.e. R.Matji.
- W. I did your worship.
- P. Was the accused present?
- W. No your worship but there was a female native present.
- P. Did you find a document entitled " Joint Planning Council Report"
- W. Yes your worship
- P. And do you hand this over as exhibit BB?
- W. Yes your worship.
- P. And did you also in the same place find a letter purporting to have been signed by one J.G.Matthews?
- W. yes your worship.
- P. And you now hand that in as exhibit EE.

And so it went on mama. It was good court experience for me but in so far as the case was concerned it was too boring for words. We knew all the stuff they had; there was nothing sensational they had found in the raids. What we had said in our speeches was as far removed from Communism as the speeches of Adv. Strydom... so what the dickens did they want with us? In the end we were committed for trial ~~xxx~~ on the Main charge and the alternative charge " Incitement to commit public violence" was thrown out by the magistrate. I think that is a tribute to the campaign that the crown should fail to produce evidence to support a charge for " Incitement to commit public violence" Papa can say a lot about that in his meetings over there. We are awaiting the decision of the attorney general. I suppose they will wait for the Jo'burg case so as to be guided by it. I do not know when that case will come up. In the meantime we are intensifying the organisation so that we should be able to enter stage two of the ~~xxxxxx~~ campaign . All the provinces are in now and the campaign has extended to cover small towns as well as the main cities of the Union which are all in now..The climax of stage two will be in December and then we will look round for stage three. The most dangerous stage and one which some of us are very reluctant to approach. It will be so difficult to maintain control at that stage that in my opinion it should definitely be a last resort. Any way we shall see. we are having conference this year whatever happens.

By the way I keep on hearing rumour of a projected return of mama to the union. I am totally against this. The suggestion of panic behind it is no good. In the midst of everything we Africans just now are showing an attitude of calm determination. This dignity is part of our campaign propaganda. Unless there is any special need Mama is more useful overseas collecting money than here in S.A. Finance and not manpower is our need. As for home affairs they are excellent. Mamas garden is wonderful! I have bought shoes for those who need them . A dress or two, etc. bioscope money is ready every Saturday. Oh! we are doing famously. Get as much as you can out of America mum and then return to the scene of the fight. Auntana is well now. Thats all for the present. Lots of love from the gang.

Your loving Son,

Sakwe