

TEMPLE CHAMBERS,
4, Wale Street,
Cape Town.

E3.17

June 4th, 1946.

My dear Chief,

Immediately on receipt of your telegram yesterday afternoon I received a message from the High Commissioner that he wanted to see me immediately.

The result was that he says the British Government have definitely refused priority permits and the Minister for Dominions will not see you if you go to England. The High Commissioner is very worried and wants to see you immediately. Half his staff has already left for Pretoria and he suggested my wiring you to come to Capetown. We drafted the wire together and I sent it off to you last night. I have left the copy of it at home but it read something as follows:

"Position negative stop essential you come Capetown without delay stop wire when arriving."

On getting to office this morning it struck me that the wire was none too clear so I sent you the following:

"Sponsorship BOAC also refused stop HC leaving Capetown shortly desires see you immediately stop acknowledge receipt greetings."

I took up the matter of British Overseas Air Craft sponsorship but the High Commissioner said he was forbidden to take any steps which would assist you in getting to England although he frankly admits that he could not stop you going but was unable to tell me how to get us there without priority permits or sponsorship on British Overseas Air Craft.

The result of his talk was very confidential but I feel that it is very important that you should meet him at the earliest possible moment which is what he desires. The date of his departure from Capetown is not fixed but will probably be early next week. In any event I feel you and I should meet as soon as possible and decide what, if any, should be our next steps.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS M. BUCHANAN