

P O Box 1166
Harare

August 28 1985

Dear Shelagh,

Thanks for your letter. I have been overseas for a month, so have received it only recently.

It was, indeed, pleasant and, I might add, refreshing and hopeful to meet you and Peter while you were up here. One knows one is still a South African when one still gets a distinctive thrill out of meeting other South Africans -- being able to share the same neuroses, frowns, questions, innuendos of our politics.

I had a good holiday. It was spoilt somewhat by the emergency -- I spent the first five or so days taking in eight or more news bulletins, stomach churning, and then decided I should either return, or shut my ears to the tragedy. I eventually succeeded in doing the latter, which was a major act of self-control for me.

I am very pleased to hear your book is being well received there. It can only be a valuable intervention in the situation. As to how it will be received up here: I am not yet able to say: I have made one or two appropriate enquiries, but have not yet received the kind of judgment I feel I can rely on: I would hope to be in touch with you in a month or two on this (given the way Ravan moves in such mysterious ways its wonders to perform, that should be adequate timing).

Enclosed with this letter is a negative containing the photograph you wanted. You are welcome to use it as you see fit -- payment is still a copy of your book.

You will probably have heard that one of the three women on the 30-member ANC executive, Florence Mophosho, has died. I have not yet been able to establish who might have replaced her. The NEC has the constitutional right to co-opt a further five members before the next consultative conference due in 1990. I shall tell you once I know.

You may also have seen the Sunday Tribune (or, I think, August 25) which contains a few biographical details of Joe Slovo. These may conceivably add to what you already have on the man.