

Box Prison Records: Correspondence: letters,
02 Outgoing
FILE

102.

Joan Lala, 1969-Aug-10th.

Fareed, 1970-June-22

Zohra, 1981-Feb-7th, 26-Jul-1980, 12-Apr-1980

22-Mar-1980, 02-Sept-1973, 26-Jul-1975,
23-Aug-1975,

Medical Report: AMK; 27-Nov-1985

Solly-1970.

1/3/13

18 -4- 1968

(VERTROULIK)

Die Bevelvoerende Offisier,
Gevangeniskommandement,
Privaatsak,
ROBBENEILAND.

BRIF : AHMED KATHRADA NO. 468/64 : ROBBENEILANDGEVANGENIS.

1. U diensbrief No. 1/3/13 van 8 April 1968,
het betrekking.
2. Die brief sal deur hierdie kantoor afgestuur
word.

F. D. AUCAMP
KOMMISSARIS VAN GEVANGENISSE.

1/4/5/9/2.

Bevelvoerende Offisier,
Gevangeniskommandement,
Privaatsak,
ROBBENEILAND.

.12.....P.....19.69.

VIR AANDAG BRIGADIER F. AUCAMP.

Die Kommissaris van Gevangenisse,
Privaatsak 136,
PRETORIA.

NO. 468./64...GEVANGENE. AHMED...KATHIRAPPAN.
BRIEF GESKRYWE/BRIEF ONTVANG.

1. U diensbrier No. 60/319 van 15 Mei 1967, verwys.
2. Een/Twee brief/briewe geskryf deur bogenoemde aan.....
.....Miss...JOAN...LALA.....P.O.,...5TH...STREET.....
.....CAPE...RESERVE.....PRETORIA.....
gaan hiermee saam vir u inligting en verdere aandag.
3. Een brief ontvang van.....
.....
.....
gerig aan bogenoemde gaan hiermee saam vir u inligting en verdere aandag.

BEVELVOERENDE OFFISIER.

Miss Joan Lala,
86, 5th Street,
Cape Reserve,
Pretoria.

4-08 Ahmed Kathrada. Brief i. p. v. Robben Island Prison,
64. 10th August, 1969

198.

My Dear Joan,

Your message and address via Mr. Mflatela reached me towards the end of July. It was really nice to hear that you are still around and well. Nowadays almost every letter I get tells us of some friend or other deciding to settle abroad. Even your message speaks of Susan emigrating to Canada. How long ago did she leave? If you are in touch with her please convey my love and best wishes. It is over 6 years since my arrest. During this time you have often been in my thoughts. You know reminiscing over ~~having~~ happy times that have gone by is one of the favourite pastimes of prisoners. We really used to be a nice happy crowd together, and it is always a source of great pleasure to think and talk about all of you. Yes, we constantly indulge in those pleasant memories, and look forward to happy times to come. As for the present, you'll appreciate ~~it~~ if that being in prison, one wants to make use of every opportunity to cast one's thoughts away from the present. For us, the present is hardly something that we can be enthusiastic about. Yet prison life for me has not been without its compensations. Lest you misunderstand me I must make it clear that in spite of all its drawbacks and hardships, our lot is not just gloom and misery. We too have our fun, and games and laughter. We too have our songs and hobbies and festivities. We have our studies; we subscribe to a few magazines; we are given several Government publications; almost daily we listen to a few minutes of radio music; perhaps the nicest is the privilege to write and receive letters, and to have visits. There is talk of building a Recreation hall and of regular film shows. All these things help to keep our minds occupied and are a great help in making prison life more tolerable. From Tuesday to Friday we work at the lime quarry or chop wood; Mondays is washing and general cleaning day. The week-ends of course, we have to ourselves. We are allowed out in the courtyard from 8 to 4; and we play table tennis, scrabble, bridge, chess, klabergas, football etc. I stay in the single-cells section of the prison, together with about 30 others. I have my own little cell. Here I sleep, study, write letters, read, etc. For all intents and purposes my cell is my home; and I try to do little things to make it homely. I've become quite attached to my cell, and I often allow my mind to wander till I imagine that I'm sitting in the flat. We are not allowed ^{the heart transplant} newspapers, but we do manage to hear of big events like the landing on the moon, and of rugby, cricket and football. We even know about the July Handicap. We are hoping that one day they'll allow us the Sunday Times.

I've been studying with the University of S.A., and managed to finish my B.A. last year. At present I have no fixed plans for future studies but am thinking of doing a degree in librarianship next year. I am learning Xhosa and German and am making fair progress. Xhosa is much more difficult but fortunately I have the advantage of being with many Xhosa-speaking friends. Last year I even tried my hand at music, and even learnt to play (very badly) a couple of tunes on the melodica. But soon realised this was just not my line; so I packed it up. Someday I may go back to it.

As for my health and spirits I feel on top of the world. But of course age is catching up on me, and from that there is no escape. I've written so much about myself and things here; but there is so much I want to know about you and other friends. Are you still at Coronation? Who of the old friends do you still see? Do you ever see my friend Ahmed and the crowd? I believe night life is thriving in Jo'burg. Are there a lot of new night clubs? Is the Danube still there? I believe old Quarter is on a world tour. Do you see anything of him at all? How is your family keeping? Remember the visit we paid to your sister, together with Harry and Susan? I believe Harry is in England, and doing well. I'm hoping to hear from him one of these days.

I hope you'll be able to find some time to write and put me in the picture all about yourself, our friends, and things in general. I shall be looking forward to receiving your letter.

Lots of love to you and all mutual friends. Keep well, and remember remember that you are always in the thoughts of your dear friend, - OMM K.

My Dear Fareed,

Your letter arrived here on 9th June, and I assure you it was most welcome. I'm afraid this is just going to be a short note, as the other half of the letter is for Sublymota. So I'll briefly try to deal with some of the urgent matters only. Firstly I am really disappointed to learn that you are still in Schweiger and not at school. I am holding out a great deal of hope in all the young generation of our family that they will all further their studies. It doesn't really matter if you fail once or twice; you will be adding more experience by repeating, and in the end you will be a better and more conscientious student. Please don't let the failure dishearten you in any way. You are young and certainly have the intelligence to make a success of whatever career you choose. I agree medicine is a noble profession; and if you are inclined that way, by all means go ahead. But one thing you must promise me. Don't give up studies and to spend your life behind the shop counter. If you are for some reason just unable to make the grade for university, choose something else - a trade, a technical course - anything but the shop. The second question you raise is to my mind related to the first, viz, the relationship between you and Munira. Now, I'm extremely fond of Munira and would love to see her as my niece-in-law. I don't even hold against you the fact that you are so young. My main concern is: If you get married now how will it affect your studies? If I can be given the assurance that you won't have to give up your studies

My Dear Subly,

22nd June 1970

You can't imagine what a relief it was to get your letter on 9th June. I was really very worried about your silence, and am so happy to hear that all of you are well. Please don't delay so much in future. I also received Beatie's letter, tho' I can't understand why you kept it since October. I'm also disappointed to learn that my letter to him via home was lost by Farida, and never reached him. I have written to him directly on 18th May, c/o Aminabai's address in London. Mention it to him when you write. Tell him also that I received Djamilla's letter from London on 25th May. I wonder why Farida hasn't written yet. Did you post my letter to her? I was really surprised to hear she was in Durban. Where is she staying? Is she enjoying her course? Next time please give me a detailed list of all the letters you received from me since Nov. 1969. In particular I'd like to know if you posted the portions which I included for other folks. For instance on 17th Nov. there was a portion for Ayesha. On 20th Dec there was a lengthy piece for Dawoodbhai Ismail & Choti; on 16 Feb, a message for Ayesha. Please don't fail to let me know. I'm looking forward to hearing again from Ismail & Choti. Sometime ago you promised to send me a copy of Khalas letter. Don't bother any more, as it was so long ago. Thanks for sending the gift. She wrote to me about it. I'm surprised to learn of Beatie's plans to get married. I just hope it won't in any way interfere with his studies. I think

I'm prepared to give my unreserved blessings and support. But if it means that you will henceforth be tied down to the shop counter, I appeal to you with all the force at my command to give the marriage question a second thought. It takes marriage plus a suitable vocation, plus other things to build a really happy and secure future. Marriage alone is only part of the answer. So if you think you must get married now, let it be only if it is going to be side by side with your study. Please give me an assurance. Thirdly - smoking. I should like to write at length about this but space prohibits me. I advise you to buy the UNESCO COURIER from the CNA (May 1970 - 2/-) and study it carefully. Let me know then what you feel about smoking. To my mind, in view of the undisputed medical evidence, to continue to smoke is to openly invite suicide. Why deliberately choose to shorten your life? That is all for today. You must reply soon. Write even if I can't be too regular. No I don't remember Nanabaji. Please tell me more. I'm glad you go in for some form of dancing, even if it is the "Hobo dance." I hope the doctor found your mother's health to be perfect. Why have you switched from my friend Dr. Essop? Who is Dr. Bulbulia? How is Mota's health? Can you persuade the boys in Potch to write to me? How is Abdul Aziz growing up? I haven't got back to the melodies again, but hope to do so one of these days. Do you play any sports at all? I hope you do. Are you interested in any form of physical exercises? Be good and write soon. Best wishes to you and all at home - From OMK

I know Zohra's father. Please keep me informed of developments. I wrote to Ayesha on 2nd June wherein I explained my study plans. I'm in great difficulties this year because I still haven't got most of my prescribed books. Jutas did not have them in stock and they had to order them from overseas. It is only 3 months to exams and the books are not here. If I do manage to pass, I want to avoid a repetition of this next year. I'd like to get my books early and register in January. This means I have to have the money here by Dec. the latest. By the looks of things I'll be needing about Rs 5000 altogether. (Rs 100 for books, Rs 90 Registration, & the rest for books etc). I shall be pleased if you can manage to send the money in time. A few instalments from now may be a good idea. But please let me know beforehand what the position is. You know of course that this year I'm doing 1st & 2nd year together; & if I get through I'd like to complete 3rd & 4th year next year. Otherwise I'm in good health. My writing has deteriorated because I just cannot get used to the Parker & Sheaffer pens. My old cheap ones were much better. Did Kola manage to go to the Expo 70? I should love to hear about it. Have you made another application for a visit? Perhaps it will be better if you save the money and use it rather for the studies. As long as one of you keeps on writing regularly. I'm happy to hear that Ma, Behn, Aishabai and all the folks at home are still in good health. All the best and regards to all. from OMK

1/3/13

GEHEIM.

2 5 -11- 1969

Die Bevelvoerende Offisier,
Gevangeniskommandement,
Privaatsak,
ROBBENEILAND.

BRIEF GESKRYF AAN AHMED KATHRADA : ROBBENEILANDGEVANGENIS.

1. U 1/4/5/9/2 gedateer 14 November 1969 verwys.

2. Meegaande brief mag vrygestel word.

Z. F. ANNANDALE.
KOMMISSARIS VAN GEVANGENISSE.

301

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISON
1985 - 11-27
FREETOWN
DIRECTOR, KOMMISSARIS VAN GEVANGENISSE

5-26812 SA
IDENTIFISEER ASB ~~RE~~
MOREPTA/ H/K DK1 MORE

1141211

85/11/27/2 Int.

PER HAND GENERAAL VENTER ASF
=====

GESONDHEIDSTOESTAND SEKERHEIDSGEVANGENES POLLSMOORGEVANGENIS⁴

2 DIE VIER GEVANGENES GENIET ALMAL RELATIEWE GOEIE GESONDHEID.
DIE IKRK AFVAARDIGING SE GENEESHEER HET HULLE GESOND GEVIND.
EK BEHANDEL ELKEEN SE GEVA~~NIET~~EMIN HIERONDER

A 1848 AM KATHRADA 56 JAAR OUD

OP 85.02.21 ONDERSOEK DEUR DR D LE ROUX (INTERNIS) WIE AS VOLG
RAPPORTEER :

~~*****XRRSSMRXMTHTAT~~

I COULD GENERALLY REASSURE HIM THAT HE WAS ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH

OP 85.09.25 ONDERSOEK DEUR RADIOLOOG/DR. WOODS WAT ALLES NORMAAL
BEVIND HET. '' NO EVIDENCE OF ACTIVE ACUTE OR CHRONIC CARDIO-
PULMONARY DISEASE WAS SEEN''

ONTVANG TANS DIE VOLGENDE MEDIESE BEHANDELING :

LAE CHOLESTEROL DIEET
LIPATIN TABLETTE 1 X 3 PER DAG VIR CHOLESTEROL

LAASTE CHOLESTEROL-LESING 5,8 MMOLL/L (NORMAAL IS 3,8 - 6,0 MMOLL/L)

OP 85.01.31 ONDERSOEK DEUR INTERNIS/DR. D LE ROUX
"BASICALLY THUS, HE IS REMAINING WELL, REQUIRES NO TREATMENT
FOR HYPERTENSION"

OP 85.09.25 ONDERSOEK DEUR RADIOLOOG DR WOODS

"THE RADIOLOGIC APPEARANCE OF THE HEART AND OF THE LUNG FIELDS
IS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NORMAL"

REHANDELING TANS :
=====

PROPHEN TABLETTE 1 X 3 PER DAG VIR RUMATIEK
LIPATEN TABLETTE 1 X 3 PER DAG VIR CHOLESTEROL
LAE CHOLESTEROL DIEET

EUPHYLLIN RETARD 1 X 2 PER DAG VIR BORS
SOPHYLLIN 15 ML X 3 MAALPER DAG VIR BORS
LAASTE CHOLESTEROLLESING 6,6 MMOLL/L
NIETENSTAANDE DIE INDRUKWEKKENDE LYS MEDIKASIE KOM HY GESOND
VOOR EN KLA NIE OOR ENIGE SIEKTETOESTAND NIE. OUDERDOM BEGIN
ROL SPEEL

916 W SISULU 73 JAAR OUD

OP 85.02.07 ONDERSOEK DEUR INTERNIS DR D LE ROUX
"ON EXAMINATION THERE IS NIL OF IMPORTANCE
HEART IS NORMAL, BP 160/90, CHEST, ABDOMAN AND FUNDI NORMAL,
URINE NORMAL"
DR LAUBSCHER HET 2 JAAR GELEDE 'N PROSTATEKTOMIE OP HOM UITGEVOER
EN SIEN HOM WEER OP 85.02.19

"HIS GENERAL CONDITION IS GOOD. MICROSCOPY OF URINE SHOWED A
FEW RED CELLS"

HYWORD NIETEMIN VERWYS NA RADIOLOOG EN WORD DAARNA WEER DEUR
DR LAUBSCHER ~~ONDER~~SOEK. 'N GROOT BLAAS IS OP DIE REGTER NIER
ONTDEK. DRIE JAAR GELEDE WAS 'N FLAAS OOKGEVIND EN 'N "'S EEE
CYST PUNCTURE" IS TOE UITGEVOER OM DIE VLOEISTOF TE DREINEER.
DR LAUBSCHER BESLUIT OM OPHIERDIESTADIUM GEEN BEHANDELING
VOOR TE SKRYF NIE, "I DONOT PROPOSE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE BUT
WATCH THIS LASION"

P
OP 85.09.25 ONDERSOEK DEUR RADIOLOOG DR WOODS. ALLES IS NORMAAL
BEVIND BEHALWE "THE UNFOLDING OF THE AORTA IS INDICATIVE OF
A ARTERIOCLEROSIO"

REHANDELING TANS
=====

RAUTRAX 25 MG 2 X PER DAG VIR BLEODDRUK
CHLOTTRIDE 500 MG 1 X PER DAG VIR HART
BRIIFEN 200 MG 3 X PER DAG VIR RUMATIEK
OCULTON OOGDRUPPELS VIR OEF
LASTE CHOLESTEROLLESING 5,4 MMOLL/L
HY GENIET REDELIKE GOEIE GESONDHEID

D 915 R MHLABA 65 JAAR OUD

OP 85.01.17 ONDERSOEK DEUR/INTERNIS/DR D LE ROUX.
"ON EXAMINATION HE APPEARS HEALTHY. THE HEART CLINICALLY
NORMAL. BP 120/80. CHEST, ABDOMEN AND CENTRAL ZJDVOUS SYSTEM
NORMAL. FUNDINORMAL, URINE NORMAL. RECTAL EXAMINATION AND
IN PARTICULAR PROSTATE NORMAL..... HE CONTINUES TO ENJOY
REASONABLE HEALTH"

GEVANGENE HET PROBLEME MET SY OË ENIS OP 85.01.24 DEUR/PROF VAN
ROOYEN ONDERSOEK. 'N NUWE BIFOKALE BRIL/IS VOORGESKRYF WAT HY
REEDS ONTVANG HET

GEVANGENE HET OOK/VEL/PROBLEME 'N SOORT VAN/VELVERDIKKING.
VIR HIERDIEKWAAL KRY/HY/SES/MAANDELIKS BEHANDELING BY DR. KING
VAN DIE DEPARTEMENT DERMATOLOGIE/RYGROOTESCHUUR HOPITAAL. VEL
TANS GESOND.

'N RADIOLOGIESE ONDERSOEK OP 85.09.25 HET GEEN PROBLEME NA VORE
GEBRING NIE

ONTVANG TANS DIE VOLGENDE BEHANDELING

MFUTROGENA SEEP VIRVEL
SOLPHYLLEN 15 ML 3 X PER DAG VIR BORS
FUPHILLEN RETARD 1 X 2 MAAL PER DAG VIR BORS
MODURETIC 1/2 TABLET 1 X PER DAG VIR BLOEDDRUK
DTGOTIN 1/2 TABLET SOGGENS VIR HART
LIPATIN 1 X 3 PER DAG
LAE CHOLESTEROLDIEËT
OOGDRUPPELS
SALF VIR SYVELKWAAL

3 AL VIER GEVANGENES KRY GROOT HOEVEELHEDE MEDIKASIE
MEDIKASIE ONDERSOEKE DEUR SPESIALISTE TOON EGTER WEINIG
ABNORMALITEITE OF SIEKTETOESTANDE. EK GLO/BAIE VAN DIE
MEDIKASIE IS VOORKEMEND VAN AARD WAT MISKIEN OOK AAN
HOË OUDERDOM TOEGESKRYF KAN WORD. DAN IS DIE ONDERVINDING
OOK DAT DISTRIKSGENEESHERE NEIG OM BY DIE/GERINGSTE KLAGTES
VAN SEKERHEIDSGEVANGENES MEDIKASIE VOOR TE SKRYF. OOR DIE ALGEMEEN
KOM HULLE GESOND VOOR

R O POLLSMOOR
RRIG F C MUNRO
PH

EINDE
3-22398 SA

5-26812 SA

526812+
5-26812 SA

PR 11/26 15:42

3-22398 SA

DIE BO POLLSMOOR

P11857V

1/4/2/1

85 /11?25

ANDAG A B O VEILIGE BEWAKING

MEDIESE TOESTAND : SEKERHEIDSGEVANGENES : POLLSMOOR

1. FDIT SAL WAARDEER WEORD INDIEN U DRINGEND PER TELEKS 'N KORT
VERSLAG VAN DIE VOLGEDNDE SEKERHEIDSGEVANGENES SE HUIDIGE MEDIESE
TOESTAND AAN HIERDIE KANTOR KAN VERSKAF ASOOK WELDE MI
MEDIESE BEHANDELING ELK VAN DIE GEVANGENES TANS ONTVANG. DIE OP-
SOMMING KAN UIT ONDERVINGDING / PEKORSS VERSKAF WORD.

1848 M KATHADRA

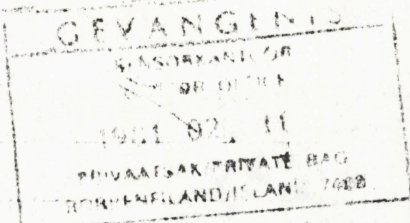
914 A MLANGENI

915 R MHLABA

916 W SISULU

2. BESKOU AS UITERS DIRINGEND, ASB
ANK VEILIGHEIDSDIENSTE
EINDE

5-26812 SA



A M. Kathrada P. 51 .81/145198
Robben Island Jail.
7th February 1961

My Dear Zuhra,

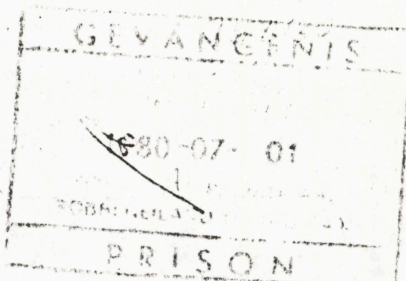
Your letter of 8th January reached me on 24th. You should have received mine of 17th January. I sent you an Express letter on 3rd February in connection with money for studies. As I explained I reckon the cost of the papers, with books, should be in the region of R300-00. That's a lot of money, and I really feel awkward about asking for such large sums. I've still got money in my account, but ^{I thought} I should leave that for my monthly requirements.

Actually up to now the formal permission has not yet come, but we've been told it has been granted and we could go ahead with arrangements. By the way with things like Express letters and telegrams is it not better for me to address these to your home address instead of the box? Or do you go to the box frequently? In any case please send me your home address. You never know one day I may get released suddenly, and I don't want to be going around hunting for your place!

About the loan I really only wanted him to convey a message to you via his wife's sister. He must have decided it would be easier and quicker to advance the money, and collect it from you later. About the monthly expenses the ceiling is still R17-00; our toilet requirements - soap, shaving stuff, Omo and groceries have to be fitted into this R17-00. In addition we are allowed one daily newspaper and one Sunday. I am going to try my best to cut down on other expenses. I have to, especially if I am going to study as well.

I wish they would allow you to visit me, so that we can discuss all these matters. I raised the matter again and the local authorities repeat that they have no objections to your coming. Pretoria seems to have something against you. Nobody knows what it is. Have you ever tried to take it up directly with Pretoria? If not I suggest you seriously consider doing so. Nazir didn't pitch up after all. Frankly I didn't really expect him to. I can understand it must be a nuisance to be wasting all that time while one is on holiday. About his going to University is it not possible for him to get a conditional admission on the basis of the subjects he has passed? Then, if necessary, he can repeat one or two subjects or possibly even include them as part of the University curriculum. I know it could be done, as I myself completed my matric exemption by doing Xhosa as part of my B.A. I hope he investigates the matter thoroughly. It will be a pity to repeat the whole exam when it could be avoided.

468/64



A.M. Kathrada,
Robben Island Jail.
26th July 1980

My Dear Zohra,

Your letter - which you started on 16th June and completed on 28th June - reached me on 12th July, together with Bobby's. Many thanks. You should have received my last one of 28th June, as well as the Eid Card. Thanks a lot also for the Olympics Book. I got it on the day the games opened in Moscow. It is a lovely book. I must write and thank Dase for it. I hope by now you, Papa, Mummy and all the other folks have completely recovered from the Tobing flu. There has been no epidemic here, but it has visited a few people. I don't wish to speak too soon, but it does seem as if it has chosen to bypass me. I am sniffing a bit and do have a funny feeling in my head, but I doubt it if it is the flu. I say so because I've been rather lucky in this regard. I can remember going down with it only once in all the years in jail. That was during the epidemic of 1974 when just about everybody was down. ~~down~~, I think it was the New Zealand or Kiwi flu. And while we are still discussing health I hope Behn has completely recovered. I don't remember her being over fond of food and wonder what accounts for her excessive weight. Could it be some ailment to do with glands? Please give her my love and best wishes. I sent her a "Get well" card. The other day we heard over the radio that Rashid had been admitted to hospital. There seemed to have been some anxiety about his health. I hope he is better. The radio also announced the death of Muela. But it was really sad to hear of the death of Seretse Khama. Yesterday we heard the voices of President Kaunda and the new President Dr. Masire paying tribute to him. Did I ever tell you that I met him? It was way back in 1949 when he was recaptured by the Bamaragwato after his marriage. He struck me as a modest, unassuming and very likeable man. I stayed at his uncle Tshetedi's home in Serowe for about 10 days. Tshetedi was the Regent at the time. Anyway, enough of deaths and illnesses.

I'm afraid I have bad news about your visit. I was informed that Pretoria had turned it down. This has been most surprising. Unfortunately no reasons were given for the refusal. I am still going to pursue the matter when the responsible officer from Pretoria comes to the Island. I told you Mrs. Sugman had asked me about the problems I've been having with regard to visits. She said she was discussing the whole issue of 1st degree relatives with the Minister. At the time I was so certain that you would be allowed and I didn't specifically remind her of your case. Let's hope she remembers the

My Dear Zohra,

I haven't yet overcome the feeling of disappointment I experienced as a result of the refusal to allow you to visit me. You were so near, but you had to remain out of sight, and beyond the precincts of Robben Island Jail. All I could do was to "see" you and "speak" to you through Enver. There was no question of the boat being full up, or of a shortage of staff to monitor our conversation, or of lack of space in the visiting cubicle. But for reasons unknown to you and me the powers that be had decreed that you are not to come near me. That was that. I know your disappointment must have been at least equal to mine, if not worse. And I can imagine the thoughts that go through your mind, the frustration you feel, the utter helplessness, and perhaps even a tinge of bitterness. You have come here before; the first time to introduce yourself to me as the new daughter of the family; and thereafter to continue the contact between us. Before that, in your very first letter to me you had said you were going to take over the responsibility of keeping contact with me on behalf of the family. Then, after a couple of years your visits were abruptly terminated. Reason? You were not my "first degree" relative! This came as a shock. It was unbelievable. You, for all intents and purposes my daughter, were ^{now} in effect being told you were no longer my daughter! We argued that this was in violation of our customs, tradition and practice. "First degree relatives only," they replied, with a finality one meets in dealings with the civil service. The door was closed. You kept on knocking. I don't know how many times you applied and were refused. Your persistence was only natural, for this "first-degree" business was something alien to us. Can you imagine a gathering of the Kathrada family to discuss some intimate affairs and you are excluded on the ground that you were not a "first degree relative"! And not only you, but even Enver is kept out because he too falls outside the pale! Preposterous? But apparently this ^{would be} perfectly in accord with sociological developments pertaining to the "modern" family. I don't know. If this is indeed the position then it is something that has blissfully bypassed our people, and left us "old fashioned".

To continue with your saga. You applied again in December. Surprise. This time there is no bland refusal. You are told the bookings were too full and you

ROETINE DRINGEND UITERS DRINGEND ^

1) DIE STREEKKOMMISSARIS : streek
Die teleks wat hieronder aangehaal word, is slegs vir u inligting en
rekorddoeleindes.

2) DIE BEVELVOERENDE OFFISIER *Pollsmoor*
Vir aandag : *A.B.O. Veilig bewaking*

P
MY VERWYSING *14/12/11*
U VERWYSING
DATUM *85.11.26*

INLEIDENDE REEL *Mediese toestand: sekerheidsgevangenes*
..... *Pollsmoorgevangenes*

BOODSKAP

1. Dit sal waagdeur word indien dringend per
teleks in kort verslag van die volgende
sekerheidsgevangenes se huidige mediese toestand
aan hertoe kantoor kan verskaf word welke
mediese behandeling elk van hulle tans
ontvang.

1848 A. Kathrada
914 A. Mlangeni
915 R. Mlaba
916 W. Simela

2. Beskou as dringend asb.

Die opsamling kan uit aadst

A.K. Veiligheidsdienste
AFSENDER

<i>Pretorius</i>	<i>Bew</i>	<i>85.11.26</i>	<i>939</i>
OPGESTEL DEUR	RANG	DATUM	KAMER NO
<i>May</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>85.11.26</i>	<i>945</i>
GOEDGEKEUR DEUR	RANG	DATUM	KAMER NO

VIR VOORTSETTING VAN LANGER BOODSKAPPE GEBRUIK LOS BLAD

could not be accommodated. A glimmer of hope, enhanced by the fact that only two months previously another niece had been allowed a visit. It fitted in with reports of relaxation. Now you are certain there would be no difficulties. In February Zehrabibi visits me again. Confirmed. So you apply again, this time with Enver. Shock. Enver is to be allowed, but not you! No reasons. The field is wide open for speculation and guessing. But these are idle practices best left alone. Best also to leave out what goes on deep inside me. When I learnt that you were going to come to Cape Town with Enver I took up the matter urgently with the Officer Commanding. He told me it was still under consideration, but as far as the Easter visit was concerned, that was out.

So there you have it. Let us go on to other things. Your 'lost' letter of 9th January was given to me on Easter Monday - 7th April. The date stamp, however, clearly shows that it was only posted on 28th March; and it has the Lenasia Registration No 02946. So something seemed to have gone wrong at your end. I'll be most interested to know what. Please let me know. I am very glad tho that I got it, late as it was. It was lovely and long and had interesting tid bits. I've also been notified of the R40-00. Thanks once more to Julie. Do you know what goodies we organized in our section over the Easter weekend? We had hot cross buns, pilchards with masala chutney, cheese and tomato rolls, jelly, custard, biscuits, peanuts, raisins, milo. And we had another item of food I'd rather not mention, lest it offends your religious susceptibilities. As for me, fortunately I can invoke the special dispensation which allows Moslems to partake of restricted foodstuff during periods of hardship or jihad. But all this was very nice I assure you.

Ofcourse the rising costs affect us as well. There was a time when 'A' groups were only allowed to buy one Rand worth of goods. Then it increased to 6 Rand, then R12, and now R17 a month. But we find we really cannot buy very much. Just this evening the radio talked of a possible 15% increase in the price of milk. This means powdered milk will also go up. And so will Cremora and other related items. Besides edibles, things like soap, Omo, shaving cream, toothbrushes and so many other things are constantly going up. And we have to buy these also from the R17-00 allowed. Even ballpoints, writing pads and envelopes. Money just goes. I told

My Dear Zohra,

Thanks for your letter of 6th March, which arrived this morning. I hope you are taking up the matter about your letter of 9th January, which I was informed never arrived here. Please let me know what happens. I have not yet been told about the R40-00. I suppose they'll inform me one of these days. Please thank Julie for her kind thought. Only a few days ago, after our monthly orders were delivered, I was going through my records to see whether I was still solvent. This is necessary because the X-mas period invariably makes quite an inroad into our finances. Well I wasn't exactly insolvent, but I would have been obliged to tax you almost immediately. Thanks to Julie's timely testimonial I shall postpone my request to you.

I haven't received a reply about my studies. In any case it is too late for this year. If by chance I am granted permission I'll try to register in October, for next year. That will give me a few months extra time.

I am really saddened by the news that you have been refused permission to visit me. I just cannot understand why. Only yesterday I was discussing the matter with the Head of the Prison. I got permission from him to take it up with the Commanding Officer. At the time I wasn't aware that you had already been refused. Since you will be coming to Cape Town in any case, I am going to urgently pursue the matter. Let's hope for the best. It will be nice to see Enver after 12 years.

While I'm writing this my thoughts are in Schweizer, where all of you must have already gathered for Fatima's big day tomorrow. How I wish I could be with you all! However, I will be with you in spirit, and I'll be eagerly looking forward to the photos. I understand the couple will be going to Mauritius and India for their honeymoon. All the best to them. I wrote to Fatima a few weeks ago. She is just not in the habit of writing.

And while I'm still busy with congratulations let me send my good wishes to you and Enver on your wedding anniversary. The this will reach you late remember that I'll be with you in my thoughts on Friday, 28th.

Shamim's affair worries me more and more. I understand the poor child has been severely assaulted again. How detestable! When will people ever learn

1848.

1. Op die 30 ste Junie 1981 besoek met die Regiment v. d. F.K.R.K my i.v.m. die program vir die besoek aan die Sekondêre skool in Bt 10 aangehoeders.
2. O.A. meld by dat ene ZHORA KHATHARADA (mw). vir hom gevra het om behulpzaam te wees sodat sy toegelaat kan word om Ahmed Mohammed Kathrada te besoek.
3. Ek het hom meegedat dat sy sui maklik toegelaat sal word sei. Sy is binnendien ook in 'n stiggaadse familie sei. Sy is blykbaar die vrou van Envr Kathrada.
4. Hy het gesê sy kan net saamkom doen. My antwoord was: dit staan haer om so te doen.

2. O.A. meldt bij dat ene ZHORA KHATHARADA (mw). er heen giera het om behulpzaam te wies zodat zy toegelaat kan word om Ahmed Mohammed Kathrada te bezocht.

3. Ek het hom meegedat dat hy sui makke
begelaat sal word. Sy is buitendien
ook in eestgraade beuithi. Sy
is bybaor die vrou van Enw
Kathrada.

4. My last gear my kan not removed down.
my outboard was: it then had
my on so to down.

E. H. [Signature]

81. 07. 06.

Brve.

A. M. Kathrada,
Robben Island Prison
2nd September 1973

My Dear Zohra,

Your letter of 23rd August arrived yesterday, together with the birthday card. It's a lovely card. I also got the birthday telegram from home. It is a pity that my letter of 29th July did not reach you, but I'm not surprised. Nowadays most of my letters don't reach. I'm going to try to recall some of the things from that letter. Herewith are two letters - one for Tahira and the other for Moulvi Cachalia. Please send them for me. In future I'm going to post all my letters to you - to redirect. I shall also ask all the friends to reply via you. They should just indicate at the back of the envelope from whom it is - so that you can keep a record. Each time you post such a letter to me please write a covering note, and keep a note of the date when you post it. You must also keep a note of all letters from me - together with date, etc. Do you think you can do that? In the meantime please let me know if you received the following: (1) March 1973 - letter for you and Stanley Lillian (2) Feb. 1973 - letter for Bibi & Samad + Sarah Cayce. Please write a note to Miss Yasmin Mohamed, c/o Tommy and tell her I wrote to her (3) June '72 (4) July, '72, birthday card (5) Xmas card, '72 (6) April '73 (7) July '73 - birthday card. I am aware of her Christmas card to me in 1972. Ask if she wrote anything else, and the dates. She must reply either to you or to me, through you. Write to Dasso and ask if he received my letter of June this year. Tell him also to write through you.

I must also acknowledge your letter of July, which reached me on 3rd August. The news of Dost mamaji's death was shocking. He must have had a relapse. How is Solly Mamaji's health? I don't suppose you were able to go to P.E. for the wedding, in view of the funeral. Do you know if Nassim managed to go to India after Aminabai's death? He said he'd write to me after his return. I'm anxious to hear.

If you are coming in Dec. please make arrangements beforehand, and let me know in good time. Remember there is an extra visit in Dec. Please contact Uncle Amien also, in case he is making some plans to come. Ask him to put you in touch with Lillian and Luxmi. Luxmi will be coming to stay in the house at present occupied by Fatma's brother Ebrahim. Is it far from you? Unfortunately you are not allowed to bring food for me. I'll just have to wait to taste your cooking.

What happened about the Koran! If ~~you~~ you are unable to procure Azadi translation ask Fatima, in Durban. By the way she recently visited Mr. Mandela. She did not receive my letters. She wants to visit me too but says the arrangements will have

A. M. Kathrada,
Robben Island Prison 80143192
26th July 1975

Dear Zohra,

I'm enclosing herewith a letter for Tommy; and, in a separate envelope, birthday card for Sakina. I don't know either of their addresses, so I guess you send them both to Dasso, with a covering note. I was disappointed to learn that the card I sent to Sakina last year had not reached her by the beginning of this year. In fact I don't know if it reached at all. So please ask Dasso not to try to get someone to deliver it personally, but to post it.

I wrote to you and Farid on 21st June; and to you on 5th July. I told you I had a letter from Shireen, from Benoni. This month I also had letters, directly, from Dasso and Sukhthi. Did you say that you had posted my March letter to Sakina c/o Dasso? Because he makes no mention of it at all. Tell him I'll be replying to him soon. Also, I prefer him to write to me via you. If he does wish to write directly, he should always inform you. I'm surprised at the long silence of marhum Aminabai's children. I wrote at least once last year, ~~to~~ via you. And once this year, also via you.

I hope you have made enquiries with the post office about the R20-00 you sent in March. I told you I've been informed it definitely did not arrive here. I wonder if I could trouble you to use an additional precaution when registering all letters to me. At a few cents extra the post office offers a service whereby the details of the communication are entered on a card. This card is then handed to me for signature (together with the package or letter) and the signed card is returned to you.

What a pity I shall not be seeing you and Shireen. I was very much looking forward to the visit. I am making enquiries as to the reasons for the refusal. Seven visits have been refused to me this year, as you know. This means I'll have to be content with the one visit that Ismailmota makes every few years. For, if you have been refused it does not seem as if anyone else in the family will be granted. I hope you don't take this badly. One has to learn to expect such disappointments. And poor Shireen, was this going to be her first visit to the Cape? I'm very sorry for her. I hope you will have had a most enjoyable trip to Durban. This would have compensated, to some measure at least, for the prohibition imposed by Robben Island. As for me, I am most disappointed of course, but not downcast.

A. M. Kathrada
Robben Island Prison
23rd August 1975

RECEIVED
2-9-1975

Dear Zohra,

Your letter of 8th August arrived this morning, together with Farida's. Thanks a lot also for the lovely birthday card. Thanks also to Ebrahim, Fatao Essop for their telegram. I was informed that I would not be given the letter from Naazi. A few weeks ago I was told the same thing about Essop's letter of March. No reasons have been given for this action. I will try ~~and~~ to find out. In the meantime, if you have a chance please inform them. I'm most disappointed, as I've been getting letters from them all these years without difficulty. And I've also been writing to them.

A couple of weeks ago I was shown your telegram about the refusal of permits for the visit. Actually there is no new law governing visits; it is only a change in policy. The authorities still have the discretion to grant other visits, as indeed they have been doing in numerous cases. I take it when making the application you did include a covering letter explaining how it has been your task to keep contact with me on behalf of the whole family. And this business about blood relatives does not apply to our people the same way as it applies to whites. Our customs are different. One of the day, when Papa gets a chance he should discuss the question with the authorities, as he has been doing in the past.

You owe me acknowledgements for ① Letter to you ② Letter to Tommy Vassen ③ Card to Sakina - all sent to you, dated 26th July.

Thanks for contacting Mrs Klenerman. I no longer want "The Magic World of the Xhosa". I will send you a list of books which she can send in order to settle my account. I'll also let you know exactly how much she owes me. It would be good if I could get a couple of dozen cards similar to the one you sent, in part settlement. About two dozen or so, including "Get well" cards.

I hope you have taken up the question of the lost R20-00. It's strange how it could happen.

Did you manage to go to Hesie? I really like that place. And so did the friends I took there. There is something about the setting that makes it so attractive. And then the hosts are so friendly, smiling, and hospitable. Ros is similar.

Your IBM typewriter is lovely. You don't seem to be using your

1
~~De Krijger~~ ^{Pöjeler} 80/04/14

→ 1848

in Hoof van hierdie tekste moet
aan Kapt. Dymans van die Hout-
heidstak, S.A.P., versien word.

MT
57-7117 SA

Julle 80/04/10

Kerst. ^{Pöjeler} 80/04/08.

57-7117 SA

Ek het die aangeleentheid
op 3. & 8.0 telefonies met
Mons. Harding bespreek. Die
vraag sal nie terugkom word
nie.

EX

3. & 8.0

Beleë opdragginge se lees
^{Pöjeler} 80/04/08.

^{Pöjeler} 80/04/10