

Central Africa.
12th February, 1973.

Mrs. Lucie Penn,
Warminghamurst,
High Hurstwood,
Uckfield,
Sussex,
ENGLAND.

Dear Mrs. Penn,

Thank you very much for your letters of the 28th and 30th of January. I was very glad to hear from you.

Yes, Mrs. Crowe is a very nice lady. She is looking after the boy very well, and as a result, the boy is very happy. I am sure she will bring the boy to your house one day.

I am sorry to hear you had a serious bout of flu. I have been reading in the papers about the outbreak of flu there. It all sent my mind back to the days when I was practising medicine in London, and used to be kept extremely busy this time of the year. However, I am glad to hear you are better.

But, be very careful. After a bout of flu, one's body resistance is weakened. It does not resist secondary infections easily. This is why it is necessary for one, after an attack of flu, to be extremely careful. In plain language, Mrs. Penn, after an attack of flu, one is easily susceptible to pneumonia, if I may be blunt. Because, I do not want you to catch or get pneumonia. I am sure your doctor has already told you all this. But it will not hurt anything for me to add to what your doctor has already told you. Because, I repeat, I do not want you to get pneumonia.

So you have contacted Lord Hardinge, Director of Macmillans. Thank you very much for doing that.

Tell Lord Hardinge that I do not think he should worry very much about my strictures on the Tories. Because I do not think Mr. Macmillan, the head of the family which owns the firm, is petty. In fact, I know he is not. He is a man with great understanding.

Please, give me credit for knowing what I am saying. It was during his time as Prime Minister, that I was both arrested and negotiated

our Independence. And during that time, definitely, after I came out of Gwelo, I was dealing with Mr. Macmillan either directly or through his top Ministers, such as Mr. Butler, now Lord Butler, Mr. Duncan Sandys, and the late Ian Macleod.

I am sure Lord Hardinge was joking. He was not serious about what he said. He would not lose his job. I am quite certain that Mr. Macmillan would not be bitter to read some of the things I wrote in Gwelo. Because he would understand the circumstances under which I wrote and the mood in which I was then.

At any rate, you may tell Lord Hardinge that there is no attack on any single individual in the Tory Party. Definitely, Mr. Macmillan's name does not appear in the attack. I never mentioned him or any other Tory Minister, by name, in my bitter attacks on the Tories. What I attacked was their policy in supporting the Federation and the settlers in Central Africa.

I can understand most publishers wanting an outline and a sample chapter of any book. I think that is reasonable enough. When the first volume is checked and typed in the final form, definitely, any publisher who wants an outline and a sample chapter would be supplied with them. But, unfortunately, at this writing, that stage has not been reached yet. Even the first rough typing is not completed yet. So that it would be some time before that stage is reached. When that stage is reached, I will let you know.

Meanwhile, continue to find out who will be willing to publish the book. Have you any friends in Pennsylvania in the United States? I have had two or three requests from American publishers. I suggest that you spread your net across the Atlantic to the United States. Nearer home in Africa, I have had two requests from South African publishers. But I prefer the book to be published either in Britain or America first, before being published in South Africa or elsewhere.

For your information, I have shown the draft in the handwritten form to at least three people, two professors at the University of Malawi, and one ambassador. They all liked what I allowed them to read, very, very much. And they urged me to have the book published as quickly as possible.

You will be surprised and at the same time pleased to hear that the ambassador to whom I showed the draft in handwritten form was the South African Ambassador. I let him read those parts in which I am bitter on South Africa, and told him I was showing him that because I was going to publish the book as I had written in Gwelo, without any changes.

To give him credit, the Ambassador was very nice about it. He agreed that the book should be published as it was written in Gwelo. Because, he said, it was history. Neither he, personally, nor his Government, he thought, would take any offence on what I said. Because I wrote as I felt under the circumstances of the time. But he said, personally, he liked what I wrote in the draft very much, even with the attack on his country.

Tell Lord Hardinge that if the South African Ambassador could say this about the book, how much more Mr. Macmillan. Is it possible that Mr. Macmillan and other Tory Ministers would be less understanding than the South African Ambassador? Unless my opinion of Mr. Macmillan is wrong, I do not think so.

(It escaped my attention, but some say Mr. Macmillan is knighted, in which case, he is Sir Harold.)

I am glad you like the calender. I sent one to Sir Alec. He likes it too.

This letter is too long, Mrs. Penn. So I must cut it short, now.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

H. KAMUZU BANDA