

Sept. 1978:

2 letters found in 2016

P.O. Box 43,
Polwezi
15th September 1978

My dear Maria,

Thanks for your lovely cheery note. Sorry that last month I didn't follow up my quick telegram with a letter. After seeing the weather cut your meter's visit, I being frustrated even before I got your letter that you would have been too bogged down with all sorts of work and involvement. Glad to visit you all as well. I really did try my best to phone you and hope your letter explains. In fact on two weekends, I could several hours. Our phones up here are a bit unreliable as well, so it is just not all.

At the time I telegraphed you, I was terribly lonely and just missed our friend's visit. But never mind, the rest and much more good for me. In August, my life was ever so hectic and interesting with a long tour for Bill to Botswana and then . . . When after settling back in, I really felt alone and would very soon have leave and this bit home really proved ghostly quiet after all the activities that we usually have. To when the 1980ski leave come up, I was really in need of companions. Nonetheless, it still went well.

As you know, I'm trying to get my kind of the roof after a few weeks job of having the engine rebuilt and with I hope to return for £100, plus £100 plus other bills. Things are still not totally right, so I feel I must talk with you by phone to solve problems which never seem to end. I'd be the problem, I hope that you should not get out of sight! A bit desperate if you can help! Hope you enthusiasm has improved in the warm weather; am sure you're not feeling up to your eyes with it. Anyway, we must still find a way to get you to school. Don't think it could be all right for you to come with a friend. There would be plenty of room.

Actually I may see you, as possible, if you can't or want. It seems likely that either this Saturday or the next, I will leave for at 11 for London and back to E. . . at 10 clear - and you to have also had a letter or two. I'd like to say hello if you're in. But as I'm not sure, I will do your telegram if I can do so by, even if it's only a few lines. That will at least give us time to make better plans for the future. There are visits than unreliable telegrams, vague letters and other letters. I can't leave until after twelve as I'll work as usual in Lusitana before the time, whether just before or in the afternoon or evening and 1/2. Anyway I'll send a telegram, unless that is not of interest to you, as I don't know here in Polwezi and in your time, if not, I'll try to get a letter or parcel to contact you. Will do my best to get it.

Casario, for now. Hoping to see you soon.

As always,

Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015

13th September 1978

My dear David,

I feel really bad about my long delay in answering your telegram. But "events caught up and overtook me!

I didn't go to my mail box for several days and only got your cable that very Sat. morning. My telephone hasn't worked for 2 months and more. Kitwe's new exchange is being put into operation just this week -- bit by bit -- so no phones have been repaired and half aren't working. It will probably be weeks before any work well.

I couldn't come the weekend you cabled because I was already busy. I actually had this last weekend in my dream as a possibility. But 2 weeks ago my sister Ruth telephoned from Botswana to say she'd probably come for a day to Kitwe on 8th September. This was the first time she'd ever come to stay. Well she arrived last Friday while Seretse went to Mulungushi, and left to Sat. afternoon -- just 24 hours. Lots of ballyhoo with govt and police, of course. I enjoyed her visit very much. An old Zambian friend who first introduced me to Seretse in London in 1946 came from Lusaka to meet her and stayed the weekend. So it was hectic.

I'm having trouble with my car, the brakes just won't work properly, and they've been "fixed" twice this year already! So until that's done I'd never drive outside Kitwe.

Lastly, I still can't lose my awful rheumatism and as it affects my shoulders, I can't always drive too far alone. So I wonder if I could bring someone else for company? Right now I'm not sure whom. There is a very nice American woman at Mindolo, and also my Scottish friend Margaret, but she's minister of the Luanshya church and very busy. I'll see what I can rustle up. Or **who!**

This sounds rather feeble but it's true.

I also have other US friends who like to visit Maheba -- refugee camp -- so perhaps I could join them one weekend when they go.

Will write and let you know when I can fix it up. My office number is also being changed and is mostly out of order but I'll try to call you.

Thanks a lot for the invitation. Hope I can make it soon. --

Greetings,

Muriel

P.O. Box 1607 Kitwe

13th Sept 1978.

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