

2001

Gaborone, 14th January 2001

My dear David,

Many thanks for your long newsy letter, and the 2 phone calls. It's so hot here — 35-40 and no rain to speak of. But, I'm happy to be here and not in your snow.

You wouldn't believe my latest problem. Last Thursday I went for a swim at my friends, the Jones. I knew getting in and out of the pool would be the problem, not the swimming. I was right. I thought I was lowering myself gradually, backwards, holding to a chain, but didn't realize how steep the step was. I felt a jarring, but not too bad. I actually swam a bit. I drove home OK, but the knee got very swollen that night and I couldn't do a thing. Yesterday was almost as bad, but today it's better and I can walk — hobble — around. I thought before there must be permanent damage to my knee, now I'm sure. I actually drove to Mokolodi last Wednesday.

I saw an interesting hour of BBC Friday (?) showing that famous lady from Florida being interviewed — grilled — by human rights — [?]. Intriguing. (About the elections.) I do hope you have completely lost your cold — flu — virus. The weather can't help!

Sorry this is so miserable — I thought 2001 would be different! Still, I'm better than Princess Margaret (only 70!) and the poor old Pope!

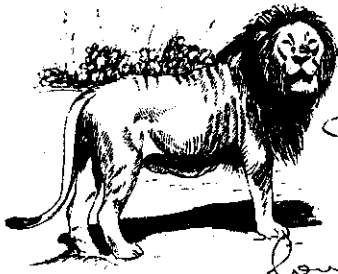
Cheerio, love Muriel

Your [Botswana] stamps as promised

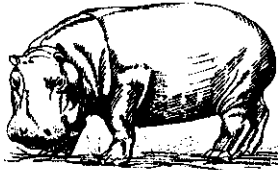
Po Box 56 Gaborone

Jan 14th 2007

Called - 2:15 pm
2/12/07
Patricia
2005



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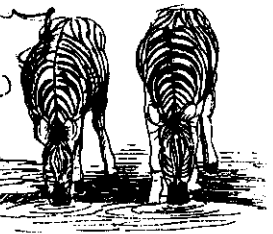
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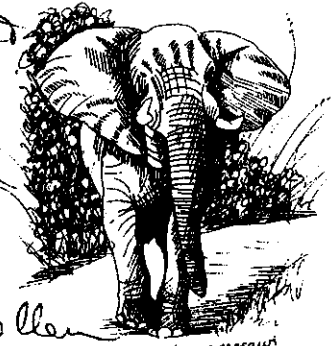
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LUCAS MOSAURI

14th / 04, 2020
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Your stamps as promised

Gaborone, 31st July 2001

Addendums to three page form letter.

I realize I haven't given you enough thanks. I can't tell you how grateful I am.

Many thanks for your various phone calls. I really am in good health, and even — so far — have avoided the flu bug doing the rounds.

I think all my American friends are Democrats so their recent letters have been desperate! I watched a lovely CNN programme last week. Larry King was talking to another talk host — "politically incorrect" (Maher[?]) and they tore Bush and his cabinet apart. Very funny — but very sad. The news from Europe is so anti Bush! I am quite impressed with Colin Powell, pity he's a Republican. On BBC and CNN Clinton still gets lots of p.r. Paris and Wimbledon tennis, gate crashing an English wedding, offering to help with Ireland, flirting with the blacks in Harlem, etc. — But, I never hear or see Hillary.

I do hope you are now completely fit.

I hear bits of news from Zambia. I think Chiluba is making so many mistakes he'll never get re-elected. (Don't quote me!) Murdering your political opponents is so stupid. If only the different opposition parties could get together!

Well, cheerio for now and all the best.

Love Muriel

Tel: 375 800
PO Box 46515
GABORONE

My dear friends,

David

31/7/01.

Please notice new box number – I finally got my own after waiting for 5½ years.

I finished my December letter on a high note, after that fantastic holiday in Namibia. It didn't last long! Within 3 weeks of my return, the tooth gave me trouble again so my dentist friend, Nomsa, decided that my tooth would have to come out, leaving me with just 5. But, not so easy, first, I had to stop taking the blood-thinner, Warfarin, as Nomsa was afraid I'd bleed too much. In it's place, I had to have 3 injections a day, in my tummy, for 10 days, to stop the blood clotting. In this day of fantastic inventions, I couldn't believe there was nothing simpler. The theory was that I could do this myself. No way! I tried, but every time I felt the needle enter, I flinched, so didn't succeed. The morning and lunch injections were easy, I drove nearly to my doctor's surgery, but the evening one was more complicated, I had to drive further to my chemist's where a doctor worked in the evening.

The tooth came out easily enough, but the very next day my Knee became extremely painful and I could barely put it on the ground. It was a Sunday, but Ruth and I found a Doctor, who said an operation to remove the bit of bone causing the problem was the only answer.

That day my friend, David Wilkin (U.S.A.) arrived to stay in Gaborone, with a friend. I managed to fix lunch and they went off to stay in a chalet in the game park where I work.

They returned next day and took me out. They left about 4:30, as I was expecting 3 friends for a committee of the Women's Shelter where I do the books.

Well! Next thing I knew was a miniature Niagara Falls gushing down the stairs. I rang my landlord, as I didn't know where the water tap was, but I couldn't cope with the stairs. The pipe had burst in the bathroom. So the committee on arriving grabbed brooms and swept the water downstairs, my bedroom was flooded and I couldn't sleep there. So when David's friend came the next day, they rang a company, which come to dry out the carpets, and they cleaned up where they could – I couldn't do anything. I went to the hospital and the surgeon was relieved to hear I had come off the Warfarin, so decided to have me in the next day for an operation. I was in so much pain I didn't care what happened.

So once again I was in hospital, but this time here in Gaborone in a big shopping centre, where friends popped in all day.

I realise I haven't given you
enough
Thanks, I can't
tell you
how grateful
I am.

31st July '01.

Being in bed is the worst thing for my back, and I got awful sciatica and arthritis in my knees. The bed wasn't the most comfortable. I was there for 12 days, then back to Ruth's for a week. I decided to go home as I was fed up not making my own decisions. That day I got the tummy bug doing the rounds, so at least I didn't spend long in the kitchen, living on bread and honey and boiled fish.

I had physiotherapy for 2 months and I managed to return to swimming, and made terrific progress. I then started a back clinic every week and I do excises 3 times a day and although my back won't get much better, it won't get worse.

This winter is much milder than last year, so I swam until the end of June at the hotel where I swim, then transferring to a new pool, which is heated - well, warmed a bit! It goes down to 5° some nights, but up to 27° for 3 hours at mid-day sometimes. One has to be tough to survive such changes. As I write we're at the end of a cold front from Cape Town - and from the Antarctic, which will properly last a few days, so no swimming. A week ago it was very mild for 4 days and I swam every day.

I am expecting a friend Anita from Stuttgart to visit in September, so we'll do a similar trip to the one I did 3 years ago with Phil. Anita worked with me in Geneva, and we also had a month together in Nairobi, working for an ALL AFRICA YOUTH CONFERENCE, in the 60's. So we'll drive North, stopping at interesting places, having a few days in the Okavango, then in Chobe, visiting the Niagara Falls.

My friend Anne Roussel, who was in Mondol~~a~~ visited here in March, and we had 3 days in the Okavango.

At the end of February the government had announced an official drought, then in March and April we had 1 week rain, 2 weeks dry - alternatively, quite crazy. So we had good rains, but too late to grow maize, well, we had to postpone our visit to the Okavango, as the roads were flooded.

I am thinking of visiting Britain next year - after 7 years! However, I have to face the fact that I can't charge around as I used to. I was evacuated to Folkestone for 9 months at the beginning of the war, and I always loved it, and particularly the Leas, so my friend, Olive sent me brochures from 4 hotels, so I'll choose where to stay. Then I hope some of you will come and visit me there. I'll properly fly to Scotland for a few days. It's still very vague, but I do want to go - Ruth's 2nd grandson Marcus will graduate in July with an M.A. from Redding University, (we hope!). This will be in July.

Several people have asked if I'm still working. The answer is yes. When I started 5 years ago the park had only been open for 2 years and it was a part-time job. Well, the park has grown, so the job is full-time. I have to face the fact that I can't go on forever! There is a nice local girl who is studying accounts, so she is learning and will hopefully take over (one day!). I drive 20kms each way 3 times a week, mornings only, I work at home 2 mornings, and most afternoons, and even Saturdays.

31st July, '01.

3,

The local drama group and Choral society produced a Gilbert and Sullivan evening recently and it was excellent. They had to import 3 tenors from S.Africa but all the rest were local. I've not seen many films, but did enjoy "Chocolat". I also enjoy the book club, but not the chosen books!

After struggling for 5 years with Trinity Congregational Church. I finally quit in December -I never went back after my operation. I now go to the Methodist, who are much friendlier. I only knew 2 members there - both called Churchill! It's very strange but over half are Ghanaians, mostly from the University, at the English Service.

My social life is reasonably full. The local ~~amateur~~ dramatics and Choral society both give occasional productions. I attend diplomatic parties for national days - EU, British, French, American and Chinese. I entertain and go to dinners and lunches, which I enjoy.

Death
penalty
for
new
African
Union.

Ian has built a game lodge in the Chobe Wildlife Park, opposite the Namibian border. The Chobe River is not very big but it flows into the Zambezi, which is higher, so floods back into the Chobe, and this year the Zambezi was very full. He invited Ruth and I to the opening and the President and his wife, and the M.D. of Barclays Bank, so I had the chance to ask some awkward questions! It's very beautiful, small and remote. On our two game drives we saw lots of animals by the river, and I saw my first day old Elephant. Flying up on the President's private jet was a real bonus! Ian is very keen on environmental issues, and protecting wildlife. He is very busy being Vice President and doesn't care who he upsets!

That's all for now.

Cheers,

Love,

Randy Thanks for your various phone calls. I really am in very good health, & even - so far - have avoided the flu bug doing the rounds. I think all my American friends are Democrats so their recent letters have been desperate! I watched a lovely CNN programme last week. Randy King was talking to another talk host - politically incorrect" (Water?) & they tore Bush & his cabinet apart. Very funny - but

Very bad. The news from Europe is
no anti Bush! I am quite impressed
with Colin Powell, pity he's a Republican.
on BBC & CNN Clinton still gets
lots of P.R. Paris & Wimbledon tennis,
gatecrashing an English wedding,
offering to help with Ireland, flirting
with the blacks in Harlem, etc. -
But I never hear or see Hilary.

I do hope you are now completely
fit. I hear bits of news from Zambia.
I think Chiluba is making so many
mistakes he'll never get re-elected
(Don't quote me!) Murdering your
political opponents is so stupid. If
only the different opposition parties
could get together.

Well cheerio for now & all
the best,
Love
Cunial

Gaborone, 16th September 2001

My dear David,

I was pleased to hear you'd phoned, but sorry I missed you. So glad to hear you are O.K..

I was having my usual hour in my bed on Tuesday afternoon, when the BBC news programme announced special news. I then watched TV from 4-10 p.m. — all 3 programmes had only one news item. In the end, I must admit I got tired of repetition and wrong summarizing, so next day and until today, I didn't watch much, until it was all sorted out. I did watch the service in the Cathedral, which was very moving.

But, I'm appalled at the reaction. Whatever good it will do, except to unite the Arabs even more against America — end tit for tat will ensue. I'm sure the Tamil Tigers' attack (suicidal) against the Sri Lankan navy is a copy cat example.

Today I heard the reaction of the internal on lines airlines against more Security Precautions. I found it unbelievable.

This afternoon The BBC radio had a 2 hour phone-in and Email programme which was excellent. I've heard some excellent American analysts commenting.

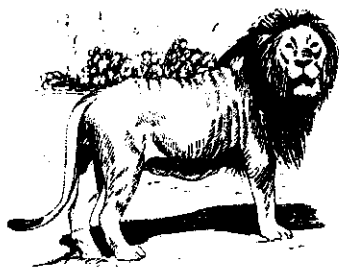
But — whatever happened to those poor Afghanistan migrants on an Australian ship en route to a small Pacific island, Nauru? And what happened to handing in arms of the Albanians in Macedonia? There is other news.

I wonder if you agree with all this? I'm assuming you do! Now that terrorism is global, what about America and Timothy McVeigh? Will America bomb America?

Love Muriel

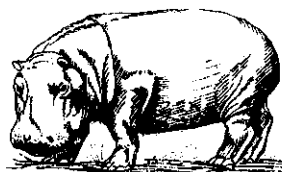
Box 46515 Grabame

Sunday 16 Sept 07



My dear David,

5:00 to 10:20
3:00



I was pleased to hear you'd phoned, but sorry I missed you. So glad to hear you are ok.



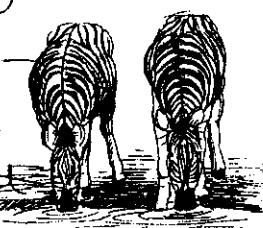
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Lucas Mosawi

26th Sept. 1910

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Sore thumb

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H

Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: 1979 — 2008

Gaborone, 16th September 2001 (2nd letter of the day)

My dear David,

I realized after I'd written this and stuck it down, I sounded terribly unsympathetic, I didn't mean to. I'll never forget the picture of a woman looking out of one tower very high up, who would never have been saved. And those poor people in the 4 planes knowing death wasn't far off. It really was terrible. I'm not sure where you were.

But the fact that the CIA named 17 people (suspects) so soon afterwards makes one wonder about security.

How humiliating that some trained for a year in Florida! Having lived during the 2nd World War, bombed every night for 4 ½ years, I feel very strongly about rushing into another war. One woman on the BBC phone-in today suggested the US planes should dump food, books to the poor countries with Moslem majorities.

Cheerio again.— Muriel

Sunday 16/9/'06

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16th Sept, 2015

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Cheers again -

Ann

Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: 1979 — 2008

Gaborone, 20th October 2001

My dear David,

Many thanks for your recent telephone call. I'm glad you are keeping going, it must be difficult to concentrate. I hope the job situation improves, altho' I hear all the time of jobs being cut.

My friend, Anita got her Swiss Air flight 2 days later-but that wasn't bad as they cut 90% of the planes. I've almost decided not to go by ship next year, I couldn't cope with all the ___[?]. I wonder how many airlines will be running by then? I heard this week that KLM is the next to go. So I might have to go by ship!

My health is pretty good, but I've had recent attacks of sciatica and arthritis. There seems to be no pain killer that helps the former, which is OK along with my blood-thinner. My head was checked last week and is fine. All I need is a new spine!

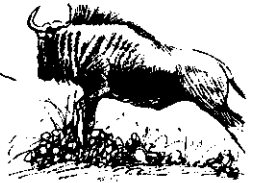
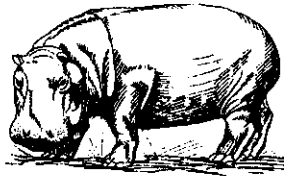
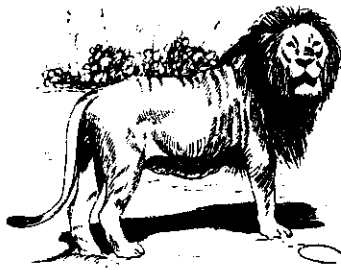
I'm still not watching any news on BBC, CNN or sky. It's so repetitive.

Cheerio, love Muriel

PO Box 46515

Gaborone.

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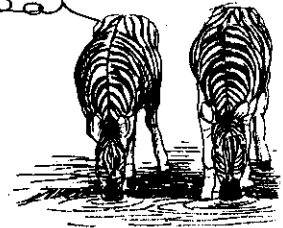
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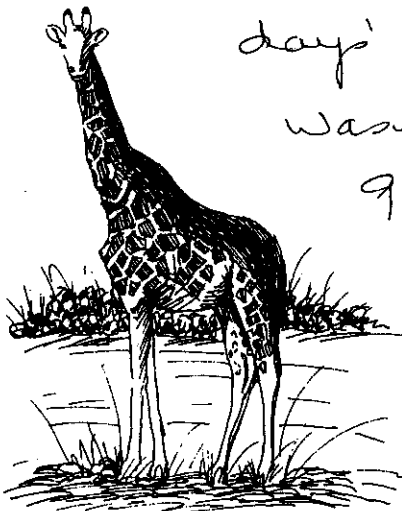
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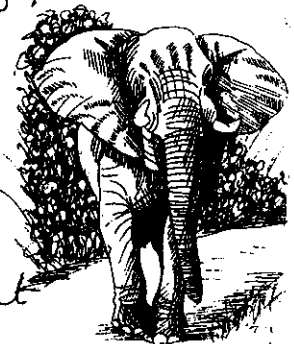
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Lucas Magau

20th Oct, 2012

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Cheerio, love
Annel

Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: 1979 — 2008

Gaborone, November 2001

Addendum to two page form letter.

It was lovely to speak to you on the phone last week. I'm sure this will cross with a letter from you. I'm very late.

Wilfred Grenville Grey was here this week for a day, he was visiting his son and daughter in S.Africa . We never stopped talking!

Cheerio love

Muriel

P.O. Box 46515
Tel. 375800
Gaborone
November 2001

My dear

David

I have just re-read my last letter of July, I think I should explain that I have 2 post boxes. They are so small that when I got the chance for 2, I grabbed it. They are not, however, at post offices. There are rows of boxes behind garages, with a narrow passage in the middle where a post office employee spends an hour a day sorting, but one never knows when he'll be there! (Necessary sometimes to collect registered letters & packets). So if any of you happen to send anything larger than normal, please send to Box 56, where Ruth sends the Red Cross messenger to collect at the main Post Office. Complicated? As roughly half my friend live the U.K., they use 81571, and everyone else 46515. The former is on my way driving to my game park, the other is 4km the other way. I just hope I remember to find the correct box number! It doesn't matter much, but is confusing!

Stuttgart
I mentioned last time that my friend Anita Hausermann from ~~Stuttgart~~ was coming for a holiday, when Phil Sawbridge came 3½ years ago with 2 friends, we drove to Serowe, Nata and Kasane going north, and had a few days in the Okavango. Well, I planned a similar trip with Anita (about 3,000kms), forgetting that I've had 2 operations since then, and 2 fewer drivers, I planned it to last 2 weeks, then Ian invited me to his lodge in the Chobe, and then of course he invited Anita. This added to the itinerary, and meant my plant o only drive 4 hours a day would be increased on the return.

We spent a night in Serowe, and 2 in Nata. This little village is on the edge of the salt pans, and we had a lovely evening drive, seeing the last of the flamingo before they moved off with their young. We spent 3 days at the family house in Kasane, on the banks of the Chobe River, where we had a lovely boat ride among hundreds of elephants. We had a day at Victoria Falls, which unsurprisingly – was emptier of tourists than I'd ever seen.

We met Ian at Kasane Airport – he had flown up after spending the morning at the Stadium celebrating Botswana's 36th Anniversary. He had brought T.K. Wife Thea and 2 kids. The 2 boys (my nephews) were appalled at the driving I had planned, so that evening they were on their cell phones to one of T.K.'s drivers, and he flew up on the plane fetching Ian and party, and drove my car back. Ian gave us a "lift" to the Okavango, ½ way back to Gaborone, and I arranged an airticket from Maun to Gaborone after my 3 days in the Okavango. It was so nice to be spoiled like that! I realised it was a very long drive, but one cannot fly to Serowe nor Nata.

We had a pleasant 2 days, at Ian's lodge, and then 3 full days in the Okavango. Once again, we did not go on the 4½ hour 6 am game drive but went on the little motorboat round the waterways, for 2 hours. I'm not a bird enthusiast, but I was fascinated by the nesting maribou storks. We then went on evening game drives, for only 2 hours – seeing a lion and leopard among the more uncommon animals, and plenty of buck, giraffe and buffalo.

When we arrived there were 18 guests, including 6 Americans, which was a bonus. They told us they had the biggest problem just getting a plane across America from San Francisco, to catch their international flight. As I've been reading that no Americans were travelling, it was good to see it's not true. There was also an Australian with pages of typed travel plans made by his agent in Melbourne, and we told him he'd be lucky to find his little chartered flights arrive on time – for at all! The game lodges in the Okavango are very comfortable and well run, super food, but pricey. One can normally only fly in on a 4 seater plane.

Nov 09 2001

So it was the best of all worlds, driving one way, flying the other.

Anita worked in Geneva for 20 years, loves the place, and goes holidaying there every year. Well, she chose to fly Swiss Air from Germany, via Zurich. I always take my short wave radio and the night before flying into no man's land - Okavango - I heard the unbelievable news of Swiss Air! We couldn't do anything until 4 days later back in Gabs. She rang a friend in Geneva who said it was chaotic. She tried to ring Swiss Air in South Africa but they weren't answering the phone. I took her to the airport and she had no idea what to expect. In the end she spent 2 nights in Johannesburg before flying to Zurich. I, like many people still can't believe it could happen to Swiss Air, with no apologies, nor concern for their passengers.

I'm still thinking seriously of Britain next year, I will make a hotel booking in the New Year. I had thought of going by boat (18 days) but have decided I'd rather have the ~~drive~~ ^{drive} with friends, I would like to fly Virgin, if they're still operational.

For the first time since I came nearly six years ago the rains have started early and ~~be~~ ^{are} very good. When Anita was here the temperature was up to 35 degrees, 2 weeks later it was down to 22 degrees and I had to get out my winter clothes again; It's like a switchback - hot and cold, wet and dry. Where is global ~~warming~~ ^{warming}?

I had 4 birthday parties this year - incredible. First, Ian organised a family lunch the Sunday beforehand. Derek and Joan Jones took me out to dinner on the 31st; other friends had a dinner party for 8 the following Saturday. And next day was a game drive and barbecue at the park where I work. The couple who gave the land and set up the whole thing have birthdays just after mine, so we had a triple celebration. The President, Festus Mogae and wife Barbara came, and we had a lovely informal carefree party. Festus always teases ~~we~~ about Zambia + President Chiluba! I have 2 Jewish male friends who accompanied me the parties in turn.

I must say I am appalled at the bombing of Afghanistan. I think that every time diplomacy should be used first. After all, it is described as the art of the difficult. I read somewhere how pathetic it was to ~~see~~ ^{use} a 1 million missile to bomb \$10 tents. And now with the Northern Alliance so - called warlords reverting to 19th Century tactics, I wonder however that poor country can be sorted out. I listened to a BBC phone-in today concerning foreign troops and the role of the U.N. I just can't see how it can ever be a more peaceful country - but fortunately miracles still happen.

We should ask ourselves why the Moslems hate and fear the west so much. Part of the answer must be our generous support of Israel.

It was lovely to speak to you on the phone last week. My letter to me this will cross with a letter from you - I'm very late. Wilfred Crewville Croy was here this week for a day, he was visiting his son & daughter in S Africa. We never stopped talking! Cheerio love Susan

~~Nov 2001~~
7th Dec., 2001

Xtra

Email: WCAAFRICA@aol.com
New York City, 7th December 2001

Dear family and friends,

Just a short note this year. Like most of you, both here and abroad, events of the year have been overwhelming with doom and gloom. Having watched the stock market sink lower and lower from the "inside" and having literally left Ground Zero just 35 minutes before the first plane hit, I saw and felt the effects of these two massive happenings from a "ringside seat." Also, because of you, my family and friends that are scattered across several continents, I have had to look at all these events from an international perspective, especially from the perspective of European and southern African countries, all of whom are very friendly, but very deeply concerned with many of our government's responses to the both the World Trade attack, world economy and other recent events elsewhere — especially in demanding the whole world accept our perspectives.

At first I simply planned to repeat my email written two days after the World Trade Towers collapsed, followed with a paragraph narrating what I saw and felt six weeks later on my reluctant visit back to my former Merrill Lynch "territory" — essentially the area around the World Trade Center. But except for you hearing about events from the point of view of a family member or friend, there would have been nothing new, as even you in southern Africa, with excellent cable TV, have seen endless graphic images. In fact, about one-half million of us New Yorkers without cable now only have one rather faint TV station, as all except CBC used the World Trade Center for broadcasting. Thus, you Lusaka residents in Zambia and you Jo'burgers in South Africa have seen everything on TV far clearer than I have! Although on second thought, I will not repeat this email here nor narrate my revisit, those of you without email and those of you who have not given me your email address, please tell me if you want to receive this personal perspective and I will write or email you back as soon as I hear from you.

Rather, I will simply end on a positive note. Although my business was gravely hurt by to these events (no more work at Merrill Lynch), I decided during Thanksgiving week to make a quick visit to South Africa. Due to the strong dollar and weak rand, all prices were incredibly cheap, often less than 1/2 here in NYC and in Florida. This is early summer and the weather is incredibly pleasant; sort of like mid-June but without oppressive humidity. My excellent host (bodyguard, cook and confidante) was my old friend Alexander Ajibu, a black Malawian Muslim living in South Africa, who traveled around the Kalahari with me several years ago.

I celebrated American Thanksgiving with Alex and nine others at Voëlkop, a hidden "paradise" resort, northwest of Jo'burg. I explained the meaning and origin of American Thanksgiving and everyone enjoyed turkey with cranberries (the latter I brought in my luggage), stuffing and the usual trimmings. We had South African milk tarts (like custard pie) as I forgot to take a pumpkin pie recipe.

While in Voëlkop, I relaxed and swam two or three times a day under the dry, warm southern hemisphere summer sun. The lush vegetation is refreshing. Although I regretted not visiting any of you in southern Africa outside this small region, the world seemed perfect at Voëlkop for this short time. Farewells were hard. In sum, my year has ended on a big upscale note with this refreshing break.

I was going to add a short Christmas story about Alex, myself and an old lady on the road to Brits (near Voëlkop) but I know most of you are busy and don't need more details. For anyone, however, who wants to hear this story and receive my inside narratives about the World Trade disaster, just let me know.

Much love to each and all of you.

David Wilkin

2002

Gaborone 20th March 2002

My dear David,

Many thanks for your 2 letters of Dec. and Jan.

I hadn't realized how close you were to being obliterated on Sep 11th. Very frightening. You, no doubt, will take ages to recover. I wonder if you have managed to find other jobs. I hear on the TV that Merrill Lynch is still retrenching.

I must say I have reached the stage that when I see Bush on TV I turn it off. And as for Dick Cheney refusing to meet Arafat! Disgusting! I think that neither Arafat nor the Israeli P.M. are in full control. But 5 times as many Palestinians have been killed than Israelis. Then the Zimbabwe news is so depressing. I usually stay glued to TV news, but not this week with those 2 items.

I really admired Mbeki and Blair. My, how my feelings have been tested. Blair is Bush's lackey and I don't understand why Mbeki was so unbelievable over the whole Zim affair, so I was surprised at the agreement of Zim leaving the Commonwealth. And as for M'beki and AIDS — well - - - -.

I had an awful week and this on top of everything just depressed me.

All the best,

Love Muriel

PO Box 46515

Gaborone

20-3-02

My dear David,

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4th May 2002

My dear Muriel,

Thanks for your letter of 20th March. All is calm here. Am still working at the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene (RFMH) for 20-30 hours a week.

No work at Merrill Lynch at the moment. I have not even considered reapplying to work there again. Nonetheless, I visited last week for one hour to collect things left behind on 9/11 — they did not even have dust on them. Yet, nearby total devastation. Security, of course, is very tight. Will not rush back there, if ever again. Work at Credit Suisse (East 23rd Street) is also slow. Still, I am doing okay and trying to smell a few more flowers in this lovely spring weather.

Nellie Smith from Vryberg is here in NYC for 6 weeks so have been going to Atlantic City etc., whenever my work schedule allows.

Planning to make an insane trip in June. On 12th June, will fly north through Toronto to North Bay, Ontario. My stepmother will meet me at the airport and we will start driving south. Will drive south through Toronto, stay with a friend of ours at Niagara Falls that night and the next day drive to central Ohio. The next day will attend my nephew's graduation from engineering school. My stepmother will then spend one week in her church camp and I will visit relatives and then fly to Iowa for five days to spend with Bwalya, his wife and daughter before flying back to Ohio, driving to North Bay and flying to NYC. Does that leave you breathless?!!! Hope I can carry it out. Will be far more exhausting than my trips to South Africa and Zambia! Told my stepmother that I will not try this again until I am fully retired! Just hope I survive this one.

Still have plans to visit your area of the world in last November, probably from 18th November to 2nd December. If so, hope we can reconnect.

Thought you would like the enclosed article. Compares the French angry right to the American equivalent, which is really in power in the Bush government right now. I find our government very frightening and not sure Bush and his appointees Cheney, Rice, Rumsfeld and Ashcroft will not push the country into major world conflict.

On that "cheery" note, I will conclude.

Best wishes,

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PO Box 8157/1
Gaborone
Tel 375 800

4th June 2002

My dear

David

Tel 375800

I wrote in December that I would be visiting England this year. Most of you know that Ruth died on 23rd May, and I wondered if I would make it in July and August. I knew a month before that the cancer had returned and was serious, and then she got pneumonia and died in less than a day. So I shall be coming, probably mid-July. I had booked on 5th but I'm behind with my work. So I'll leave probably 12th or 13th. I'll spend a few days with my friend who lives in Folkestone before moving in to the Clifton Hotel on the Leas.

Returning 30 Aug.

This will be a short letter as I'm exhausted. Ruth had a semi-state funeral in Serowe after a Cathedral service in Gaborone. I'll give more details later.

I'm ready for a holiday, as on top of everything else the auditors came in the week before Ruth died.

Would all the London area friends whose telephone numbers have changed in the last year please send me their new number?

Cheers, see you soon.

Muriel

Love Muriel

Just in case you will be in the UK when I'm there!

Gaborone, 23rd November 2002

Addendum to five page form letter.

The warmongers around the world are frightening. To me, the EU struggling to do something positive is one bright hope.

P.P.S.: This letter was typed by a friend who was under pressure, so instead of her correcting from my handwriting, I decided to do it myself.

Love Muriel

Box 46515 Gab - 11

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Gaborone
Tel: 397 5800
(Note the 9 added)

23rd November 2002

My dear David

My goodness, what a roller-coaster year.

1. Ruth died on 23rd May.
2. Launch of a video about Ruth and Seretse in July
3. I went to Folkstone, Kent coast for nearly 7 weeks in July-August.
4. 2 weeks after I returned, my good friend (since 1948) Joan Jones died suddenly.
5. On 31st October I was 80 – with many celebrations.

I am now catching my breath.

Ruth had cancer of the gland in her neck confirmed in 2000. She had both chemotherapy and radiotherapy and her doctors were surprised at her rapid recovery. She lost all her hair, but didn't slow down very much. Then a year later, she started to get all kinds of little complaints and fainted several times, knocking her head. She gradually got weaker. We did not go to Serowe last Christmas, because she wasn't up to it. Looking back, I wonder that I didn't realise the cancer must have come back. In February she went to Johannesburg for more radiotherapy as she had another lump in her throat. It seems obvious now that the new doctor she saw didn't realise her body couldn't take it. Her saliva dried up and she had much pain in her throat. She moved from her house 25kms outside Gaborone, and stayed with Tony and Margaret, only 1-2km from me, for about 2 months. Tony and Margaret had planned a holiday in Mozambique, so I moved in for 2 weeks to look after her. It was horrible – I felt so helpless. She could only take soups, yoghurt, jelly and ice-cream. Nothing helped the pain. I think if she had been in a bigger town, Better pain killers would have been available. I rang her doctor and asked if she was dying, and she confirmed she would

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only live 2 – 3 months. The 3 boys were in denial until almost the end, in particular Ian took it very badly.

On May 22nd she developed pneumonia and was taken to hospital (which she hated) at 7pm in the evening. The 8 of us went to the hospital with her and sat holding her hands and shoulders, until she died at 1:30am next morning. The doctor was so caring and prayed after she died. He's a local church steward and choir member. She only weighed 40kg.

We met, with M.P's from Serowe and distant relatives, every afternoon for a week, planning local prayers held each evening on an open piece of ground between the President's and Ian's houses. They were well attended. We also planned the Cathedral ^{Requiem} Mass, with the Bishop. And the funeral itself in Serowe. (Ruth was high Anglican).

It wasn't a state funeral, but you could have been fooled.

The Cathedral service was very dignified except for the Press. They were an absolute pest. There were about 20 photographers at the front, behaving atrociously. I can't understand why the Bishop couldn't have told them to go. Ex-President Kaunda from Zambia came, I had a chance to have quite a long chat when we met at Ian's ho^{use} beforehand. Thabo Mbeki's wife Zanele came. I knew her as a refugee in Zambia, and was very friendly with her sister Edith, at Mindolo. I hadn't seen her for 30 years, but we had a chance to talk. The Queen Mother of Lesotho came, and Nicky Oppenheimer of Anglo American from Johannesburg. My Cousin's George and Pam came from England. We all had lunch with Ian, then flew with the coffin to Serowe. There, there was another Church service, this time L.M.S. Back to the house – 14 of us – the others staying with friends. The next morning – 1st June – it rained for 2 hours – quite unexpected – so the funeral was delayed. We sat in the Boma for 4 hours, listening to 2 speeches in English, and 7 in Tswana. Quite a strain. Then we all went up the steep hill to the Khama burial ground. Yet another service! And more speeches. I was quite proud of the fact that I managed to walk up that hill – with some help, of course.

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The tribe had arranged lunch for 20,000 – ~~may~~^{many} people had donated cattle.

Fortunately after we got home about 4pm the rest of the day was uneventful. We stayed the night again and flew back next morning. President Mogae attended all the prayer services, cathedral and funeral. Unlike many African Presidents, he seemed quite relaxed at taking a minor role.

The week Ruth died, the auditors came to do their annual job. We discussed postponement, but they couldn't come back for 3 – 4 months. So they stayed and I drove out each morning for an hour to answer their questions.

A local company had made a video of Seretse and Ruth's life. It was finished just in time, Ruth saw it, but I don't know how much she registered. There was a launch 2 days before I went to England. Quite a social occasion – dinner at a local hotel, Kaunda came to speak about Seretse, and I spoke about Ruth. I sat at dinner between Kaunda and Mogae – it won't happen again! During dinner, KK got up and announced to Mogae "I want to dance with Muriel!". Well it wasn't a dinner dance! When I tried to get out of it, Mogae said "You can't refuse your president". I never have been much of a dancer, but I did my best.

I had planned to visit Britain this year, but Ruth's illness made it impossible to make plans. So after she died, I booked to fly on 12th July. Ian gave me his air miles to fly 1st Class, which was super. I slept for 6 hours and particularly enjoyed being able to go through an immigration desk for 1st Class with no queues. After 7 years since my last visit, I had forgotten how far it was to walk around Heathrow. Coming back I asked for a Wheel Chair, what a difference.

My friends Bryan and Sandy met me and drove me to ~~Charing Cross~~^{Charing Cross} Station, where I caught a train to Fol^{ke}stone. I stayed with my friends Olive and Frank for 4 days, then moved in to the Carlton Hotel on the Lease, for 6½ weeks. The Lease is a wide grass walkway – 1 mile – on top of the same white cliffs as those of Dover, with hotels, pavilion, band stand, lots of seats, very Victorian! Some of you know that I was evacuated there at the beginning of the war, for 9 months, and I love the place. It

23rd Nov, '02

really hasn't changed that much. I was so lucky with the weather, hot and sunny except for 1 morning rain.

I had 40 visitors, some for the day, some for 2 – 3 days. They came from Germany, Holland, Scotland, and the north and ~~most~~^{west} of England, as well as the south. It was one of these occasions when everything worked out perfectly – and I hadn't planned much before hand.

I can't walk very far because of wear and tear of two vertebrae in my back. But I went out most days, sitting down when I had to. After all the stress over Ruth's death, it was just what I needed. Some days we stayed in Folkstone, other days when friends came by car, we drove around the coast and inland.

Absolutely marvellous.

My cousins George and Pam collected me from Folkstone and I stayed with them for 4 days at Beaconsfield. There we spent a day with Marcus, my great nephew.

I was back here for two weeks when my friend ^{Joan Jones} ~~Joan Jones~~ died after 2 days in hospital. Sudden, but nice for her. This year I have lost 5 friends, to be expected now.

When I got back I didn't believe Ruth wasn't here. We went to theatre and films together, and quite a few functions. Joan's husband, Dereck was an L>M>S> missionary here and I met him at a Missionary confrence in Derbyshire in 1948. I used to stay with them in the 1960's onwards when I visited Ruth and Seretse. So quite a gap with both of them gone.

And just recently my 80th Birthday. Jackie took me out to lunch; Ian, TK and Thea, Ian's Fiancé Nomsa, and close friends took me to a game lodge for 2 days in the North-East. It was Luxurious – Ian flew us up there, and we saw quite a few animals.

We flew back on the Sunday morning, and at lunchtime there was a party for 50 friends in the garden of the castle (yes!) where my friends the Kirby's live – they

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started their farm – 4,000 hectares -for the game park where I work. Ian Kirby was once Seretse's Lawyer. It was relaxing, fun and memorable. The British High Commissioner here announced that I had been awarded an MBE for my Charity work in Zambia. As I'm a Zambian citizen, its honorary, so will be awarded here at a lunch party in the lovely garden, and not Buckingham palace. David was not allowed to say who had proposed it, but it must have been the ^WYMCA. I wouldn't have wanted to go ~~to~~ Buckingham palace – too formal, and only 3 visitors. Here I can have 50 guests! And as it was the New Year's Honours' list – too cold!

So you can see why it has been a memorable year.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

P.S. I was asked to make a wish when I cut my cake. I faintly hoped I wouldn't live to be 90, owing to the state of the world. Having been through the second world war in London, the thoughts of another is untenable.

The warmongers around the world are frightening. To me, the EU struggling to do something positive is one bright hope.

P.P.S.

This letter was typed by a friend who was under pressure, so instead of her correcting from my handwriting, I decided to do it myself.

Love

Samuel