

Peter Abrahams
Coyaba
P.O.Box 20
Red Hills
St. Andrew.

December 16, 1987.

Dear Mr. Rampersad,

Because you (or my dear Ruth) omitted the 'Red Hills' from the address your letter of November 24 has only just arrived after roving all over the hills of St. Andrew with its multitude of small post offices.

I was indeed very fond of Langston Hughes and greatly respected his integrity and generosity of spirit. We met perhaps three or four times whenever I was in New York and of course we talked and talked and talked; and we kept in touch in the usual ways - exchanging books, messages through mutual friends or people we wanted the other one to meet and know. There are a few notes and at least one taping somewhere among my papers, which I intend to use in an essay on Langston, Richard Wright and James Baldwin (whom we have just lost) and some of the problems they faced as black writers writing for essentially white audiences. I think the business of writing for "an outside" audience, not the audience that could be described as your own, has created some strange and difficult and delicate problems which, in the end, only Langston overcame. He, more than anyone else I knew or know among black writers finally earned his daily bread from writing for his own black audience his own people. Which, I think, made him freer spiritually and psychologically of the inhibiting and crippling burden of having to earn the approval of 'the man' to be accepted as a good writer. This is just an idea of what's on my mind and I'm not sure it will be of much help to you. I can't do anymore within the constraints of your deadline and my own commitments; but it might interest you to know I will be writing about Langston Hughes and these matters in the not too distant future... Harry Sions, who was the Editorial Director at Holiday in the 60s and who was with Doubleday when I was in touch with him last, might be able to help you with the photograph.

Best wishes with your enterprise.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams

Arnold Rampersad
54 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, APT. 4-D
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10024
(212) 877-8738

November 24, 1987

Mr. Peter Abrahams
"Coyaba"
Box 20
St. Andrew, JAMAICA

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I hope this letter finds you well. Ruth Jett was kind enough to give me your address.

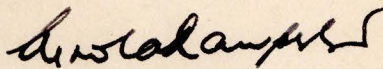
I am writing in connection with a biography of Langston Hughes on which I have been working for the past few years. Last year, Volume I appeared from Oxford in New York. Late next year I hope to bring out Volume II.

I would very much like to hear from you about your relationship with Langston Hughes. It seems to me, from what research I have been able to do, that he clearly valued and respected you and your work, and that you held him in high regard. I would love to know about your first meeting with him, and subsequent meetings, and any special stories that might be of interest to the readers of a biography.

I am also interested in a photograph of LH standing high over Fifth Avenue in Mount Morris Park that appeared in your Holiday magazine article of 1960 on Harlem. All the copies of the magazine I have seen are in a pretty poor state for reprinting of the photograph. Do you have a copy that you could lend me, or make a copy (at my expense, of course) and send me?

I have perhaps six weeks in which to make additions to my text, so although I am sure that the approaching season will be busy for you, I would very much appreciate it if you can respond to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Arnold Rampersad

A I R M A I L

TELEGRAMS: "INSPED."

TELEPHONE: 58581.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,

THE INSPECTORATE,

P.O. BOX 3568,

KAMPALA, UGANDA.

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO. E/26b

17th August, 1972

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Red Hills,
P.O. St. Andrews,
Jamaica,
WEST INDIES

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Although you are now a long way away, you are probably aware that your novels are regularly set for examination by the East African Examination Council. This year at the ordinary level, and next year, "Mine Boy" is on the syllabus: it has always been a popular novel in this country and the entry forms for this year's examination prove it still to be so.

I have recently joined this Inspectorate and started a series of posters to be distributed to all our schools, one poster on each of the set-books. There is a large, striking illustration together with a fair amount of text made up of criticism and comment on the work. The aim of each poster is to stimulate pupils and teachers to a better understanding and greater enjoyment of the work they are studying: 'guides' on each text are available in bookshops, but they often seem to do the very opposite of what we are aiming for.

I have been finding material from among the well-known critics, and also asking some of our teachers for short articles to include: I have also ventured to write to the authors themselves. You will easily realise that however interesting and stimulating the comments of critics may be, an article by the author himself, specially written for our pupils, is going to have a far greater effect and be much more appreciated.

I am therefore taking the liberty of writing to ask if you will help us with material for the poster on "Mine Boy" by writing me an item for it. It would be presumptuous of me to suggest what you should write, but some item, whether it be on plot, character or theme, would be of the greatest value. As it is now many years since you wrote the book, I am sure you will have ideas about it that would be worth our consideration. As the book is set for this year's examination as well as next year's, I would like to get the poster into schools this coming term, if possible.

I shall look forward to hearing from you, and hope that you will be able to spare a little time to help us.

Yours sincerely,

M. Reeve
for Ag. Chief Inspector of Schools

E/26 b

ON UGANDA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

BY AIRMAIL



Mr. Peter Abrahams,
Red Hills,
P.O. St. Andrews,
JAMAICA,

West Indies





REX-VERLAG LUZERN
VERLAGSBUCHHANDLUNG SORTIMENT
ST. KARLIQUAI 12 TELEPHON (041) 2 69 12 POSTCHECKKONTO VII 2030

John Farquharson, Ltd.,
15, Red Lion Square,
London, W.C.1.

Luzern, 29. Juli 1964

H O N O R A R - A B R E C H N U N G

per 30. Juni 1964

über: Peter Abrahams, SCHWARZER MANN IM WEISSEN Dschungel
laut Vertrag vom: 17.6.60

Honorarpflichtige	Auflage		Ex.
Lagerbestand am 30. Juni des Vorjahres		421	Ex.
Lagerbestand am 30. Juni des laufenden Jahres		106	Ex.
Verkauf innert Jahresfrist		315	Ex.
Ihr Honorar beträgt Fr. -.81	pro Exemplar	= Fr	255.15
Ihr Anteil an Buchgemeinschafts-Ausgabe		"	131.72
Ihr Anteil an Abdrucksrechten		"	30.60
		Fr.	417.47
			=====

Zahlungsweise / Conditions de payment / Conditions of payment

Die Auszahlung erfolgt bis spätestens Ende September dieses Jahres, jedoch nicht vor Eingang der beiliegenden von Ihnen unterzeichneten Richtigbefundanzeige.

Le versement sera effectué au plus tard à la fin du mois du septembre courant, cependant pas avant la réception de votre confirmation signée (formulaire ci-inclus).

The payment follows at the latest at the end of September of this year but not before receiving the enclosed confirmation signed by you.

REX-VERLAG

Beilage

21st November, 1962.

Rex-Verlag Luzern
Verlagsbuchhandlung Sortiment
St. Karliquai 12.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 15th October, 1962, concerning the recording of 'Mine Boy' for the use of the blind I shall be glad to agree to giving such permission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PA' or a stylized 'P' followed by an 'A'.

Peter Abrahams.



REX-VERLAG LUZERN
VERLAGSBUCHHANDLUNG SORTIMENT
ST. KARLIQUAI 12 TELEPHON (041) 2 69 12 POSTCHECKKONTO VII 2030

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o John Farquharson Ltd.,
15, Red Lion Square,
L o n d o n, W.C.1.

Lucerne, 15th October, 1962.

Dear Sir,

From the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Blinden-Hörbüchereien, we have received a demand for permission to take down on recording-tape the German translation of your book

MINE BOY = SCHWARZER MANN IM WEISSEN DSCHUNGEL

for exclusively blind listeners. The permission for recording and lending out these recording-tapes should be free of charge. We are enclosing the printed demand for your further information and should be very grateful, if you would return it with your agreement.

We thank you for your kind service and remain with best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

R E X - V E R L A G

REYNOLDS NEWS

Proprietors: Co-operative Press, Ltd.

PIONEER HOUSE, WICKLOW STREET, GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON. W.C.1 :: TERMINUS 6484

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
C/o Cable address CITPRINT,
Kingston,
Jamaica

22nd January, 1957

Dear Peter,

I assume the unsigned cable from Kingston offering 1000 words on the opening of the final Federation Conference was from you.

If so, it was the first word or news of you since you left, although I have made various attempts to discover if you are still alive.

No-one whom I phoned had heard from you nor have I any reply to the letters I wrote to you C/o the Jamaican Press Association, commissioning a series of articles.

The only indication of your whereabouts came from hearing the last few words of your Christmas Day broadcast.

Did you get those letters? If not, I will send a copy.

But do please let me know what is happening and what your proper postal address is.

Yours sincerely,

Howard
HOWARD CULPIN
Features Editor

REYNOLDS NEWS

PIONEER HOUSE, WICKLOW STREET
LONDON, W.C.1 TERMINUS 6484

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
C/o The Jamaica Press Association,
101, Water Lane,
Kingston,
Jamaica.

10th November, 1956

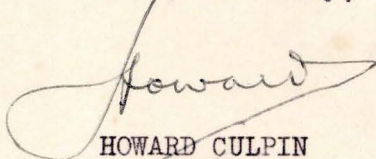
Dear Peter,

I have not heard from you since you were due to arrive in Jamaica and I wonder if you got my letter asking for a series of articles about Jamaica?

In case it went astray I enclose a copy. I should be glad if you would let me know about this fairly soon, as we want to plan the time of publication.

I hope your hill is looking as beautiful as ever.

Yours sincerely,



HOWARD CULPIN
Features Editor

COPY

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
C/o The Jamaica Press Association,
101, Water Lane,
Kingston,
Jamaica.

9th October, 1956

Dear Peter,

Greetings! I hope your voyage was as pleasant as it promised to be and that you will soon be settled down on top of your hill. Even before that can you expand the little piece you were going to do about your new home into a series of three 1500 word articles on the theme of discovering the Caribbean.

Following up your series on the West Africans as new Britons, you write as a new West Indian. We want both the serious and the gay side, comment, reportage on Jamaica and its inhabitants... your own personal reaction to the place and the people... life on your hill top - and the view from it... federation, the socialist leadership, and the new pace - a full step ahead of West Africa... the contrast between South Africa and Jamaica, and between Britain and Jamaica, and, of course, written in your best "I am a Camera" style and heavily laced with anecdotes.

There, I have almost done the job for you.

Copy as soon as you like. Fee £100 overall for three articles of 1500 words each. .

Would you drop me a line to let me know that you can do this - or should I say when you will do this, as I am sure you will.

Happy landings!

Yours sincerely,

HOWARD CULPIN
Features Editor

Unit 6,
Woodside Manor,
66 A Yeo Street,
Yeoaville,
Johannesburg,
2198.

25 November, 1985.

Dear Peter Abrahams

Ad Donker has just shown me your refusal to grant permission to him to publish an extract from Dark Testament in my Reef of Time anthology. I would like personally to appeal to you to reconsider. Ad Donker's request for permission may well have created the wrong impression about my book. I would like to correct any misapprehensions that may have arisen as a result of the slightly gushing opening paragraph of the request. My book is not a schmaltzy glorification of the 'Golden City' in its centenary year. Rather it is a historical examination of Johannesburg through the eyes of poets, novelists, short

story writers of all decades. I have included a great deal on Sophiatown: Mather's Sophiatown, Con Themba's Crepuscule, etc. The Soweto poets of the 'sixties and 'seventies are also well-represented. None of them has refused permission. I hope that my book will present a diversity of views to a public all too often deprived of meaningful debate. I feel that only by coming to terms with Johannesburg's past - no matter how bloody and tragic - can we hope to create a better future. I stress this point in my introduction, which also denounces the capitalist exploitation for which Johannesburg is notorious. I sincerely hope that this more detailed description of my book's aims and form will persuade you to change your mind.

Your works have been published by South African publishers (I myself possess David Philip editions of some of your works), and a short story of yours appears in Stephen Gray's Penguin collection

of short stories. I know therefore that you do not object to your writing being available (3) in South African editions. I assume then that you object to this book in particular. I hope that this letter will convince you that the book is a balanced work of research, not a facile tribute to big business and the gold mines. If you still feel that you cannot grant me permission, I shall, of course, respect your views. I shall be very sorry if I cannot include the 'Saturday Night' passage, as I like it enormously and think that it will add a great deal to my book. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Digby Pini

Chavelotte, le 25.1.1959

Monsieur,

J'ai lu et relu votre livre
"Je ne suis pas un homme libre".

Vous donnez mes réactions
n'est guère possible, car je suis témoin
devant l'étendue du mal fait aux autres
et honteuse de savoir que ce sont des
gens qui se croient civilisés, qui
agissent d'une telle façon.

J'aimerais vous aider dans
votre lutte, mais je ne suis qu'une mère
de famille. Je n'ai ni argent, ni affini-
té à vous offrir. Seulement, je ferais pour
votre réussite, - car je vis et désire tout

comme nous, un changement dans
l'attitude de ceux qui nous abaissent.

Il y a-t-il aucune loi qui nous
protège contre la brutalité. Jusqu'à
présent, je vivais, élevant mes petites
filles, laissant de côté ce qui ne
m'intéressait pas. La lecture de votre
histoire, m'a sortie de mon indifférence
et je suis révoltée à la pensée que
beaucoup d'autres des vôtres, sont sans
autre entraînement de faire le même dur
apprentissage de la vie que nous même.

Si il nous arrivait un jour
de venir en France (ce que je souhaite
de tout coeur) et de passer par Metz,
je serais très heureuse de faire votre
connaissance et de parler avec vous de
ce sujet qui va alimenter mes pensées.
(Celle promesse que nous avez

faite à vos frères, (ce livre que nous ~~avez~~
écrit,) je lui souhaite un heureux
résultat. Que Dieu nous entende et
nous aide, c'est mon vœu le plus cher.

En espérant, que nous eussions
bientôt une livre, annonçant à tous vos
frères qu'ils sont libres et qu'ils n'ont
plus rien à craindre des Maîtres,

Je vous prie d'accepter mes
sincères amitiés.

Jamies Rogier

Madame Jamies Rogier

2 rue de Metz - Chavelotte

près de Metz

France

Moselle

They are free - have nothing to fear from the
whites. I am sincerely yours.

I have read again & again your
book Tell Freedom. // To tell you
my reactions is hardly possible because
I am terrified in face of such wrong
done to yours and ashamed to know
that people who call themselves civilised
act in such a way - // I would like
to help you in your fight but I
am only a mother of family with no
money no help to offer you. I can only
pray for your success as I believe &

desire just the same as you a change in
the attitude of those who despise you. //
As there no law to protect you against
brutality. So far, I have lived bringing
up my daughters, leaving apart what I
did not find interesting. Reading your story
I came out of my indifference & I am revolted
that many others are making perhaps
such an apprenticeship of life as yours. // If
you would happen to come to France, (as
I do hope) come through Metz, I will be
very happy to meet you and speak with
you of the subject of your thoughts. // That
promise you made to your brother (that book
you wrote) I wish it the best success. God
help you in my dearest wish. Hoping you will
soon write another book & tell your brothers

July 22, 1959

Mr. Peter Abrahams
West Indian Economies
164 Harbor Street
Kingston, Jamaica
B.W.I.

Dear Peter:

I am anxious to hear news from you about my film
ANNO DOMINI 1959.

Sincerely,

Lionel Rogosin

LR/mm



Mr. Peter Abrahams
West Indian Economies
164 Harbor Street
Kingston, Jamaica
British West Indies

AIR LETTER • AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

2nd Oct., 1958.

Miss Elizabeth Cosstick,
Royal Institute of International Affairs,
Chatham House,
10 St. James's Square,
LONDON SW1

Dear Miss Cosstick,

Thank you for your letter of
September 24th. I have absolutely no
objection to the California Institute of
Technology reproducing my article on the
Conflict of Culture in Africa and you can
go ahead and give them both your and my
permission.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abraham.
Editor.

PA/ss

The Royal Institute of International Affairs

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Chairman: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR WILLIAM ELLIOT, GCVO, KCB, KBE, DFC Hon. Treasurer: SIR ALAN RAE SMITH, KBE

Director General: THE HON C. M. WOODHOUSE, DSO, OBE

CHATHAM HOUSE,

10 St James's Square, London SW1

Telephone Whitehall 2233 Cables Areopagus, London

24 September 1958

Air Letter

Dear Mr Abrahams,

We have had a request from the California Institute of Technology for permission to reproduce your article on the Conflict of Culture in Africa, which appeared in International Affairs (July 1954), for distribution without cost to a small number of students in a course on political behaviour. We ourselves shall be glad to give permission, and should be grateful if you would very kindly let us know as soon as possible whether you have any objection to this.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Cossick

Assistant to the Editor,
International Affairs

Mr Peter Abrahams,
c/o 'Public Opinion',
2 Torrington Road,
P.O. Box 115,
Kingston,
Jamaica.

BY AIR MAIL

4 IX 58
PAR AVION
AEROGARAME
JAMAICA



Mr Peter Abrahams,

c/o 'Public Opinion',

2 Torrington Road,

P.O. Box 115,

Kingstone,

JAMAICA.

164 Harbour St.

← Second fold here →

The Royal Institute of International Affairs,

Sender's name and address:

Chatham House,

10 St James's Square,

LONDON, S.W.1

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURES; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER



Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/IX



RUTH SLOAN ASSOCIATES, Inc.
GENERAL CONSULTANTS
AFRICAN AND NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

4200 CATHEDRAL AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON 16, D. C. • EMERSON 2-4503

December 27, 1955

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
37 Jekkel Drive,
Loughton, Essex, England

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I am wondering if you have given further thought to the possibility of writing an article for AFRICAN NEWS? This newsletter goes to over 800 subscribers- people particularly interested in Africa and I feel it is an audience that would greatly profit from hearing your point of view as expressed at Howard University last month. Our fee, unfortunately is very small-\$10 an article (of 1200 to 1500 words) but we would be most grateful if you could see your way clear to send us an article- on a subject of your own choosing. We would very much like to have it before January 20 if that were possible. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth C. Sloan
Executive Director

37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton,
Essex.

September 17, 1956.

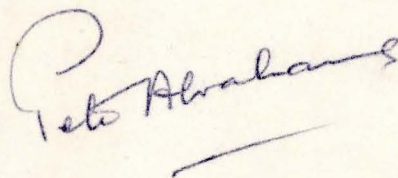
Dear Mr. Kinsey,

This is a brief and hurried note in the midst of clearing up as we leave here on the 21st.

My other commitments made it impossible for me to do anything for you before we leave here but I certainly will let you have the two pieces you mentioned in your letter of July 17th as soon as I can after reaching Jamaica.

Our journey will be a sort of grand 20-day boat tour which should fit in well with your idea about the joys of travel in the Caribbean: my previous ones were all airborne.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abraham

C. Gwyn Kinsey, Editor,
SATURDAY NIGHT,
Toronto.
Canada.

SATURDAY NIGHT

OFFICE OF
THE EDITOR

TORONTO

July 17th, 1956

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thank you for your letter of
July 10th.

We have only three correspondents who write on a regular basis from outside Canada -- in London, Washington and New York. The others work by assignment on specific articles.

Our limited space makes it impossible for us to change this arrangement, but I'm sure that we could take several articles from you -- probably one every couple of months. Right now, for example, I could use a piece of about 1400 words on the Caribbean Federation and another of about 1200 words on the joys of travel in the Caribbean. You might be able to do these before you leave. Later, there will undoubtedly be many more subjects.

Best wishes,



C. Gwyn Kinsey

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton, Essex,
ENGLAND.

37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton,
Essex.

October 21, 1954.

Dear Mr Kinsey,

I have just returned from the continent to find your letter of October 1st and the remittance from Consolidated Press and I thank you for both.

I'm glad you like the article and I shall certainly tackle the 'positive action' idea for you as soon as I've fulfilled the obligations that sent me to the continent.

Sincerely,


Peter Abrahams

C. Gwyn Kinsey, Esq.,
Office of the Editor,
SATURDAY NIGHT,
Toronto 1,
CANADA.

SATURDAY NIGHT

OFFICE OF
THE EDITOR

TORONTO

October 1st, 1954

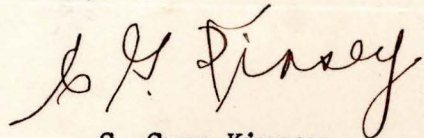
Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thanks for the article -
it's excellent. I hope it will be the first
of many.

You were wise not to cram the
Canadian-American "positive action" into this
piece. I think it would probably make another
article. Would you care to tackle it?

Thanks, too, for your kind
remarks about SATURDAY NIGHT. We started
rebuilding the magazine less than two years ago
(the previous publisher had let it run down
rather badly) and, as you can see, we have a
great deal of work to do yet. But comment such
as yours encourages me to hope that we are
making some headway.

Sincerely,



C. Gwyn Kinsey

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton, Essex,
England.

37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton,
Essex.
England.

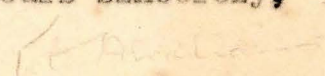
September 21, 1954.

Dear Mr. Kinsey,

I hope the enclosed piece comes up to your expectations. If it does not, please do not feel committed either to using it or paying for it. Should you decide to use it your suggested title "Africa - the Uncommitted Continent" might fit it well.

I am most impressed with your magazine. Had it been published in this country I would have tried to wangle a staff job out of you on the strength of the two issues I've seen!

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams.

C. Gwyn Kinsey, Esq.,
Office of the Editor,
Saturday Night,
Toronto 1.
Canada.

In June of 1952 I sat on a hill with Jomo Kenyatta. I had just flown up to Kenya from South Africa. In the Union I had talked with the leaders of the African National Congress who were then putting the finishing touches to their plans for the Campaign of Defiance.

It all seemed very peaceful that afternoon in Kenya as I sat with Kenyatta: not a fraction as ominously threatening as I had found the atmosphere in the Union. Kenyatta's eyes roamed restlessly across the sweeping and utterly beautiful land. Then he suddenly turned to me and spoke with a deep passion:

"Of course I'm bitter! These people think they are gods here.. I tell you, I'm bitter, man!"

A few months later that peaceful land exploded into the violence of the Mau Mau blood-bath.

A year later, in August 1953, I sat with Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast, in his office in Accra. Nkrumah seemed relaxed and sure of himself. He had ridden the storm triumphantly and had proved himself an able statesman. Again, as a year earlier in Kenya, the sun was shining. As we parted Nkrumah's eyes flashed and the now famous smile lit up his face.

"We'll make this thing work," he said.

I mention these two men because they have become symbols of British policy in Africa. I knew them both in England. They were friends of mine and of each other. In those far-off days in England Kenyatta was President of the Pan-African Federation and Nkrumah was secretary. The Pan-African Federation acted as the co-ordinating

body for the nationalist movements in the various parts of Africa. It is an ironic fact that of the two men Kenyatta was by far the more moderate, the more humorous and the more 'reasonable' in those days. Nkrumah was more the fire-eating agitator. Today Nkrumah is the 'golden-haired boy' of British Africanists, as it were. And Kenyatta is the arch-villain. To understand the reasons for this, it is necessary to understand the two aspects of British policy in Africa/ today.

It is the declared aim of British policy to help and guide the peoples of her dependent territories towards self-government as smoothly, peacefully and quickly as possible. And where she could, she has done just this. Thus, when Nkrumah arrived back in the Gold Coast and trouble started she quickly set up a Commission of Inquiry and gave the Gold Coast a new constitution that carried Nkrumah from prison to the Prime Minister's office. In Nigeria too she has acted as the great peacemaker between the great and hostile tribal factions without using the disunity in the country as an excuse for withholding self-government. And in Sierra Leone and the Gambia she introduced constitutional changes before there was any agitation for such changes. Here, in these territories, the declared aims of British policy are being carried out. It is important that critics of British colonialism should know this. This is a creative aspect of British colonial policy and one that Britain is justly proud of.

In these territories the problem has passed the point of being a conflict between Britain on the one hand and the nascent national movements on the other. Instead, now, the problem has become one

where Britain and the most farsighted among the Africans are working together to transform these territories into modern, efficiently run democratic states. The leaders of the Gold Coast have already begun to realise that this is a much harder task than wresting power from the Colonial Office and are therefore more appreciative of the skilled assistance of the British Civil Servants working with them.

Nkrumah has every reason to be relaxed, confident and unembittered. He has members of the best, the least corrupt and the most devoted Civil Service in the world to help him guide his country and his people out of the old tribal ~~past~~ past into the modern technological present of the 20th century. This is not likely to prove an easy task. But he has started well and with the world's goodwill. Should he fail the blame ~~will~~ ~~be~~ most certainly would not be with Britain.

Nigeria, too, will soon have self-government and a Federal Parliament. The reason why things have moved with comparatively greater ease in the Gold Coast than in Nigeria has largely to do with the size and populations of the two countries. The Gold Coast has a population of under five millions and an area of 91,842 square miles. Nigeria on the other hand has an area of 372,674 square miles and a population of thirty-one millions. Sheer size and numbers as well as vast untapped resources makes Nigeria the potentially dominant country on the West Coast of Africa. The danger in Nigeria is that the tribal divisions might lead to a breaking up of the country. The Northerners are Muslims who are suspicious and fearful of the Southerners. There is also deep

divisions between the two great nation-tribes: the Ibo~~s~~ and Yoruba. But here, too, Britain is living up to her declared aims. Instead of exploiting the disunity in the country to perpetuate her rule, she is the peacemaker between the hostile tribal factions. She has brought them together at the conference table and helped to lay the foundations for the birth of a great nation.

This is one aspect of British policy in Africa. It is an aspect of proud achievement.

The other aspect of British policy:- British policy in multi-racial Africa - is one of sad failure. I think that responsible people at the Colonial Office here in London would privately admit the failure of British policy in multi-racial Africa. But ~~the~~ ~~it~~ it is the same group of people who are carrying out a policy of creative abdication so successfully in West who are failing in East and Central Africa. Why the signal success in one place and tragic failure in another? Or, to put it another, Both Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah made challenging bids for power. Each was the leader of a party representing the politically conscious majority of his countrymen. Why did Britain 'abdicate creatively' in one place and send an army to the other?

The reason is not that Kwame Nkrumah behaved in a more gentlemanly^{manner}/than Kenyatta. Nkrumah's bid for power began with rioting and looting in Accra as has not happened in Nairobi to this day. The reason is to be found in the simple fact that was revealed in the only census so far taken in Kenya which was in 1948. This showed that of a total population of 5,405,966 29,660 were

Europeans who had settled in Kenya and made it their home. And the 29,660 white settlers, just over 5% of the total population, ^{real} supply the/reason for Britain's inability to respond as reatively to Kenyatta's bid for power as it had done to Nkrumah's.

In Kenya, as elsewhere in multi-racial Africa, the white settlers enjoy economic, political and social privileges on a level ^{to any minority} unknown/in Europe since the industrial revolution. When they first came to Africa they brought the science and technology of a modern culture with them. They cleared forests and swamps and built towns and cities. They dug the mineral wealth from the earth and say that but for them it might still be lying buried. They built factories and schools, hospitals and churches, roads and railways. They farmed scientifically and made the African earth yield a richer harvest than ever before. In all this they supplied the know-how and the Africans supplied the labour. And in the process of acquiring their vast farms and factories and building their beautiful houses they had done much for the health and welfare of the Africans. They had brought order, good government and education in their train.

On the personal level they had encountered a culture alien to them, weaker and less creative than their own. So they had erected social barriers. The Duke and the dustman do not have social intercourse; neither the Duke nor the dustman would find it particularly pleasant. But they saw this as a fixed position. The Duke will always be a Duke: the duke's son will grow into a Duke till the end of time. The dustman's descendants will remain dustmen till the end of time. This was a fixed, pre-ordained position.

Given this outlook on the part of the white settlers, the colour bar is reasonable, Dr. Malan's Apartheid is logical. Just a few days ago Sir Godfrey Huggins, who is no South African Boer but the ^{British} Prime Minister of the new/Central African Federation, stood up in the Federal Assembly and declared flatly: "There is going to be inequality and differentiation, to pretend there is not, is to deceive everybody...."

The dilemma of the white settlers is clear. From the coastal tip down in Cape Town to the northern borders of Kenya they number somewhat less than three millions. And around them are between thirty and forty million Africans, at various stages of development in the great transition from the tribal past into the technological present. To concede political, economic and social equality to even the comparatively small minority of Africans who have successfully made the cultural transition would be like breaching a dyke that would ultimately swamp them. The ~~democratic form of government~~ democratic form of government, government by the will of the majority, would, if practised, end their position of power and privilege, and so out of motives of self-interest they reject the democratic concepts. The implications of this rejection are most clearly seen in the Union today. I am convinced that if present trends are not reversed the crisis that now faces the Union will face Kenya, Tanganyika and Central Africa in the next ten to twenty years' time. The crisis is more acute in the Union today only because the Union is the oldest and most developed of the multi-racial countries in Africa.

All over multi-racial Africa today the blacks are challenging

white settler decree that they must always be inferiors in the general scheme of things. They are caught up in the great stream of national awakening that flows strongly everywhere in the world today. In South Africa the blacks have so far conducted their struggle with a dignity and morality that has won the admiration of the world. In Kenya the Mau Mau blood-bath with the intention of driving the whites out is still on. But I am convinced that all this is no more than a prelude to the coming showdown in the not so very distant future. Make no mistake, the blacks are not going to accept the inferior status much longer.

And in all this Britain is so completely hamstrung by the force of settler pressure and high-powered lobbying that she cannot act really creatively. Whenever she makes one real gesture to win African goodwill she has to offset it by making two to the white settlers. Africanists in Britain are aware of the situation but are inhibited by the fact that they cannot or will not take any action that might arouse the wrath of the highly vocal settlers. From time to time settlers have threatened to make common cause with South Africa should Britain do anything they really disapproved of. And so an ugly situation develops and the word 'Partnership' is employed in such a manner as to make it the most discredited word among the black leaders there.

The one faint ray of hope is the Capricorn Africa movement launched by Colonel David Stirling in 1949. Its aims are to work out a common citizenship for all races in British multi-racial Africa excluding the Union of South Africa. But we shall not know whether it will succeed or fail until it holds its first conference

in Tanganyika in September of 1955.

Now it may be that ^{many} Canadians and Americans will feel that all this is too far away from them and that they have much more immediate problems to cope with at home. It is, however, important to put Africa and her problems into their world perspective.

Communism and democracy, the great warring ideologies, are fairly evenly balanced. Communism is on the offensive everywhere exploiting the poverty and national aspirations of the peoples of the backward countries. Africa is the last great uncommitted continent in this conflict of ideology. It is the feather that could tip the scale either in one direction or the other. Asia has largely gone. I do not think democracy could survive a communist victory in Africa. We could deceive ourselves by believing that a communist victory is not possible in Africa. To undeceive ourselves we have only to look back over the past fifteen years to see how the face of Asia has been changed by apparently 'impossible' communist victories. And the conditions that bred communism in Asia - the seething bitterness and frustration among the intellectuals, the poverty among the mass - are abundantly present in ^{multi-racial} Africa today. And ^{British} multi-racial Africa is the key to all Africa.

The answer to communism in Africa is to give the Africans a sufficiently large share in democracy for them to want to live and fight and, if necessary, die for it. This, I believe, can only be done, if it is to be done before it is too late, if the New World takes a big hand in showing the Africans that democracy is not, as the settlers would have it, "Reserved for Europeans only".

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

SATURDAY NIGHT

TORONTO 1, CANADA

Sept. 13, 1954

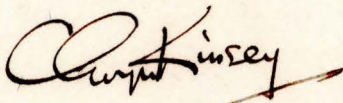
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21/9/54*

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Thanks for your kind
reply to my suggestion that you
write an article for SATURDAY NIGHT.

I hope you like the
magazine and I'm sure our association
will be mutually profitable.

Sincerely,



CGK/J

C. Gwyn Kinsey

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton, Essex,
England.

37 Jessel Drive,
Loughton,
Essex, England.

September 7, 1954.

Dear Mr. Kinsey,

I am grateful to you for your letter of August 25 which has just reached me. I shall, of course, be only too pleased to write something for SATURDAY NIGHT.

As I am not familiar with your journal I think it a good idea to wait till the copies you dispatched arrive. This will give me the general feel of your journal before I set about the writing of the article.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Abrahams

C. Gwyn Kinsey, Esq.,
Editor, SATURDAY NIGHT,
Toronto 1,
CANADA.

SATURDAY NIGHT

OFFICE OF
THE EDITOR

TORONTO

August 25, 1954

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
c/o Alfred Knopf, Inc.,
501 Madison Avenue,
New York 22, N.Y.,
U. S. A.

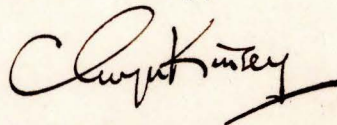
Dear Mr. Abrahams:

As the editor of SATURDAY NIGHT, which is Canada's only national journal of comment and opinion, I hope to enlarge its scope and aims, to give our readers the best in thinking and writing - that is why I am writing to you.

Would you be interested in contributing an essay of about 1700 words to SATURDAY NIGHT? The subject could be - "Africa - the Uncommitted Continent", or you may prefer to write something else. In any case, it would find wide readership here. The fee for such an article would be \$100.00. I am sending to you under separate cover two recent issues of our magazine, in case you are not familiar with it.

May I hear from you?

Yours sincerely,



C. Gwyn Kinsey

CGK/J

Marika Sherwood
20 Laurier Road,
London NW5 1SG

January 30, 1988

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Until a few months ago I only 'knew' you as a fine and much valued novelist. Then when I began working on a study of Black peoples and organisations in Britain in the period 1938-48, I came across your name a number of times. At first I thought that maybe there are two Peter Abrahams's in the world; then I thought I'd better refresh my memories of Wreath for Udomo. Having re-read it, I realised that no, there is only one!

I have decided to work on this study partly because of all the unused material I have left from Many Struggles, which was printed by Karia Press in 1985. In that book, researched largely to put an end to the myth that there was no institutional - or other - racism in the UK before the immigrations of the 1950s and '60s, I looked at the whole business of the workers brought to the UK from the West Indies during World War II. Before returning to Black history (or rather the history of racism) I thought I would wait for Peter Fryer's book to appear, just in case he had taken a deep look at the period I had become interested in. But Peter hasn't, so I thought I would as the period is of great importance, I think, because of the Pan African conference of 1945, the various African and Indian organisations agitating for independence/freedom, and for the League of Coloured Peoples, which I suppose is analogous to the NAACP.

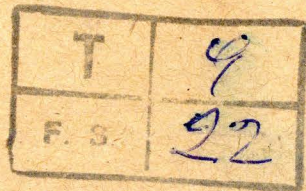
Do you have any papers, journals, etc. remaining from those days? Do you know anyone else who might? I am waiting to hear from Ghana about George Padmore's papers - but did Ras Makonnen leave any? Or Dr. Cedric Belfield Clarke? Or Dr. Peter Milliard? Who has Dr. Harold Moody's papers and those of the League of Coloured People? Do you know anything of Dr. Wellesley Cole or Dr. N.A. Fadipe, a scholar friend of Dr. Clarke? Or of Chris Jones (Braithwaite)? Who was Mr. FE Taylor, who founded the Negro Welfare Centres, and what did these centres do?

I have spoken with CLR James about those times, but very sadly Nello's memory is not as fresh as it was when I first met him some ten years ago, and he has no papers remaining at all. (They are scattered among friends in the US and he no longer remembers what was left with whom.)

Is it a frightful intrusion asking you all these questions? Will you help me in my quest?

Thank you - not just for your reply, but for your books from which I learned so much. With very best wishes,
Marika Sherwood

University of London
DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES
26 Russell Square
LONDON WC1B 5DQ
England



Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/- Faber & Faber,
Queens Square,
London WC1

"COYORBA"
RED HILLS P.O.
ST ANDREW
JAMAICA W.I.



46, Elmwood,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.

18th August, 1960.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

I am writing to you on the suggestion of Colin Legum. A friend of mine, George Delf, has been asked by Victor Gollancz to write a 60,000 word biography of Jomo Kenyatta. Mr Delf was, until this request, the editor of 'The Colonial Times' in Nairobi and tells me that the book is likely ^{to be} sympathetic to Kenyatta.

George has asked me to talk with people in this country who knew Kenyatta when he was here - in particular, of course, his English wife. I understand from Colin that you knew him well during this period, and would be able to put me in touch with those of his friends who are still in Britain.

I would be most grateful for any assistance you can give me in this way. I hope you won't consider me impertinent if I ask for this to be done as soon as possible. Colin has advised Gollancz that The question of Kenyatta's release is likely to come to a head in March, and this has determined the choice of the publication date. As a result, the manuscript has to be completed by early November.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Silvey.



Mr. Peter Abrahams,

c/o 'The Economist',

KINGSTON,

J A M A I C A.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Jonathan Silvey.

46, Elmwood.

Welwyn Garden City.

Herts.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGE
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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SIMON AND SCHUSTER, INC.
publishers

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20 • CABLE ADDRESS *Essandess* • TELEPHONE *Circle 5-6400*

September 17, 1956

Mr. Peter Abrahams
37 Jessel Drive
Debden, Loughton
Essex, England

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

I have just finished reading *A WREATH FOR UDCMO* and felt the need to write you, as a publisher who sees perhaps too many books and too many manuscripts, and tell you of the exceptional quality of your book. I think you have succeeded in doing what so seriously needed doing in a time when millions of words fail even to suggest the extraordinary thing that is African nationalism, both on a subjective and an objective level. You are a superb, beautiful writer, and I look forward with profound anticipation to the next book.

Should you come here, would you call me so that perhaps we can break bread together.

Sincerely yours,

Rudo S. Globus

RSG:JC

SOCIETE AFRICAINE DE CULTURE

"PRESENCE AFRICAINE"

42, rue Descartes - PARIS.

Paris, le 25 Mai, 1960

Cher Ami,

Par lettre en date du 19 Avril, nous vous avons soumis le projet de modifications au préambule de nos statuts conformément aux suggestions de personnalités de l'ONU, siégeant à New York.

Nous avons pensé que le statut consultatif auprès de l'ONU nous serait utile à l'heure où les hommes de culture de l'Afrique du Sud connaissent une situation particulièrement inquiétante et nous demandent souvent ce que nous pouvons faire pour eux.

Aussi vous serions-nous obligés de bien vouloir nous donner votre accord pour ces modifications. Une simple lettre nous suffirait.

Les délais sont tels que si nous retardions nos démarches de deux mois, notre dossier ne pourrait être examiné que dans un an. Aussi, dans le cas où nous n'aurions pas reçu votre réponse dans un mois nous nous autoriserons à considérer que vous êtes favorable à ces modifications.

Veuillez agréer, Cher Ami, l'assurance de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

A. Diop
Alioune DIOP

Secrétaire Général de la SAC.

AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CULTURE
"PRESENCE AFRICAINE"
42, rue Descartes - PARIS V°

Dear Friend:

The various resolutions of the second Congress of Negro Writers and Artists (Rome, March 1959) have traced for us a program of work on which we invite your participation.

Within the normal framework of this research, "Présence Africaine" official organ of the African Society of Culture, has drawn up, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Society, a program of action which will extend until the date of the next Congress. Four principal sections have been constituted in order to facilitate the editing of the Review, but without any intention of imposing rigid or paralyzing restrictions. These four sections of the editorial set-up correspond to the four principal Committees at the Rome Congress : Literature, Human and Political Science, Pure and Applied Science, Arts.

Our wish is to link the content of our Review more and more closely with the evolution of the countries of the Negro World, so that, on the cultural plane, we may contribute to the progress that is being realized on the political, economic, and social levels. Thus we shall attain a dual objective: that of serving this progress in a concrete manner, but also of encouraging our men of culture to base their research on the efforts of our peoples.

1) Literature

The enclosed letter will enable you to note that we intend to create an extensive program of information and research in this field, in line with the conclusions reached at the Rome Congress: Unity of Negro-African Culture and responsibilities of our writers.

2) Human and Political Science

In this area, we must take into account the evolution of African countries, an evolution that can be briefly described by two key-words: Independence and Unity.

Our Review must assemble, organize, publicize all the movements, all the realizations which tend toward this aim. In this connection we are submitting to you an enclosed letter-questionnaire, certain aspects of which will, we hope, claim your attention.

3) As for the Committees on the Arts, and Pure or Applied Sciences, we shall soon send you some suggestions for contributions. In order to set up the program of the Review in these two fields, we would be grateful if you would indicate to us all the data which impress you as being important.

We hope, dear friend, that these letters will initiate a regular collaboration between all men of culture in the Negro World, and we beg you to accept our best wishes.

Secretary-General of S.A.C.

AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CULTURE

"PRESENCE AFRICAINE"

42, rue Descartes - PARIS V°

COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE

In the Literature Section, the program of work has been planned as follows :

- 1) Organization of an active network of correspondence between our friends from all countries and the editorial staff of the Review, so as to provide for each issue of Présence Africaine:
 - a) News of the literary life of the correspondent's country and a bibliography of publications appearing in that country since the previous issue of the Review, with information concerning editors, translators, authors, etc.
 - b) Information on all cultural projects within the framework of resolutions adopted at the Rome Congress, which have been undertaken either by the Government, official organs, or by individuals or private concerns.
 - c) Collaboration of men of culture in each country on the preparation of our Dictionary of Men of Culture of the Negro World, one article of which will henceforth appear in each issue of Présence Africaine. The list of authors whose works and life will be studied must be approved by the Executive Committee of S.A.C. It will devolve upon men of culture in each country to contribute by preparing the articles.
 - d) In countries concerned, the revising of texts in vernacular languages and translations of these texts (in French, English, Spanish), so that by their publication we may help to stimulate the development of vernacular literatures. Short texts will be published immediately, after approval by the Committee of Présence Africaine, since it is agreed that the final objective is the widest possible diffusion of the great lyric, epic or philosophical works of the vernacular literatures.
 - e) Documented studies on projects undertaken in this field of vernacular literature by Governments, official organs, or private sources (publications, information centers, radio, etc.).

We therefore ask your very special collaboration on these matters which are related to our common program of getting to know the Negro World. All suggestions will be useful to us in this area.

2) The Editors of the Review have also prepared a plan of work (consisting of articles and editorials) on the questions stressed at the Rome Congress.

a) Language Problems:

- Evolution of traditional literatures as result of contact with the modern world
- Problems of communication between the various linguistic zones
- New literary genres or development of traditional literary genres (novel, poem, essay, etc.)
- African forms of the theater.

.../...

With respect to each of these points, we should be happy to receive information regularly on the method of handling the question in each country, along with basic studies, essays, and significant works.

b) Responsibilities of men of culture

- Ways in which men of culture are participating in the progress of their country
- Moral implications of this participation
- Cultural bases of the Unity of the Negro World
- Essays

We especially call attention to the need for all men of culture in the Negro World to reflect upon the real bases of their civilization. In this connection, the use and development of the literary form commonly termed "Essay" should be vigorously encouraged, without, however, attempting to limit this form stylistically.

We believe that a dialogue between all men of culture, published by Présence Africaine and within the framework of the objectives set by the Rome Congress, can only strengthen our cultural foundation, and provide a veritable impetus for our political and social realizations.

We trust that you will be willing to participate in this work to show this letter to all men of culture in your community, to reply to us about our program, and to specify those areas of the program in which the Review may expect your collaboration.

P.S. Address your reply to: Editorial Board of Présence Africaine
Committee on Literature

AFRICAN SOCIETY OF CULTURE

"PRESENCE AFRICAINE"

42, rue Descartes - PARIS V°

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

In the Committee on Human and Political Science, the proposed work program is as follows :

I - Independence and Unity

A) A few obstacles to be overcome :

- Balkanization
- Under-development
- Multiplicity of vernacular languages
- Linguistic zones of communication and their separation (French, English, Spanish, Portuguese)
- South Africa
- External economic and cultural pressures

We realize that each of these problems, which one often presents as insurmountable difficulties, can be rapidly solved and by our peoples themselves. In your country are there realizations, programs, studies on these questions? Have you personally done research on them or are you preparing to do so?

B) Conditions of Independence and Unity inscribed in the past or our countries.

If it is true that the Independence and Unity of Africa are inseparable, it is likewise true that they must be achieved according to the natural evolution of our history, not according to artificial plans or plans imposed from the outside. In this perspective, our labors in Human Sciences can render invaluable aid to the most modern, the most urgent political, economic, and social realizations. This consideration requires new approaches on the part of our scholars to the various branches of research. Scientific objectivity can here be allied with an increasingly specific reflection on the spirit and method which will proceed from the practice of these sciences by African scholars.

1) History - Revision and systematization of oral tradition and experimental knowledge of the Africans. Translation of epic poems and interpretation of biographies. Original interpretation of classic archives.

II) Sociology - Study of the traditional structures in their present dynamism and extension. Adaptation of these structures to the equilibrium of the Negro-African World.

The social structure: profound significance of its hierarchies its ways of life, and of its transformations. Foundations of economic and social solidarity, as well as land policy.

Family structure : Study of the notion of relationship (stemming from a common ancestor), of the extended or limited family; of polygamy or monogamy.

Traditional arts : Their links with metaphysics, their social functions. Reasons for their debasement or flowering.

Traditional education : Its hierarchic and initiatory character. Advantages and disadvantages.

III) Linguistic - Search for relationship between diverse African languages.

C) Present conditions that determine the struggle for Independence and Unity.

Scientific disciplines are intimately linked at this stage of research. We feel that, here again, the classic divisions between sociology, ethnography, etc. are likely to undergo new formulations.

1) The Crisis - Mercantile economy, monetary regime, industrialization have upset traditional structures, transformed the land policy, modified demographic equilibrium.

The school has confused individual and collective psychology.

Imported religions have reacted on the concept of the family, interpersonal relations, and the traditional metaphysics.

Finally, new forms of political life, hastening the degradation of certain structures, rejuvenating others, have given a new appearance to the Negro-African World.

II) the Options

Political Science will examine the possibility of adapting traditional structures to the modern conditions of political life; will study the problems of political parties, their relations with the masses, their mutual relationships, and their dynamic content; will study the forms of democracy suitable to Independent States; will define the means of attaining real independence; finally, will choose between the possible formulas of association: national government, regional government or pan-Africanism.

Economics will tackle the basic problem of under-development in order to define it, investigate it, indicate its characteristics and initiate solutions.

The development of countries politically liberated will be envisaged in a perspective that will lead them to a real economic independence which, without isolating them, will free them from servitude to the dominant economies.

Raising the standard of living without forming privileged classes and without wholesale destruction of basic economic structures.

Ethnography and linguistics, finally, will contribute, according to their means, to the realization of our independence and unity. Over and beyond racial and linguistic balkanisation, they will study the reciprocal influence of race and linguistics, and the adaptation of language to philosophical, scientific, and modern technical concepts.

III) - Realizations.

We are awaiting your articles and studies on the subjects listed above, but still another form of collaboration is possible. You can send us studies that have already been published. Send us information about official or private realizations or activities: study centers, congresses, debates. One point seems especially important: the establishment of chairs in the universities of the new independent states. We should like to know their program, to have an analysis of their method of functioning, and of the results obtained, along with, if possible, syllabi or series of lectures on the subjects in question, in order that we may eventually consider editing and publishing them.

In short, you are to be the links between us and the countries in which you live. Thus, everything that is accomplished there, along the lines that we have indicated, may be brought to light thanks to an active and reciprocal collaboration.

Send your replies to : Présence Africaine, Committee on Human and Political Science.

SOCIÉTÉ EUROPÉENNE DE CULTURE

VENISE - Piazza S. Marco, 52 (Procuratie Nuove) - Tel. 30210

Venise, le 19 janvier 1960.

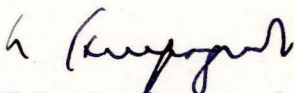
Le secrétaire général

Monsieur,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre du 13 courant dont je vous remercie vivement. Je regrette moi aussi très sincèrement qu'il ne vous soit pas possible de prendre part à la rencontre que nous organisons, mais je comprends fort bien vos raisons. Comme nous nous proposons de préparer aussi à l'avenir des réunions semblables, j'espère qu'une autre occasion se présentera pour votre participation.

Permettez-moi d'inclure une lettre que je vous avais adressée en septembre et qui nous a été retournée. Je pourrais attendre votre article jusqu'à la fin du mois de février.

Veuillez croire, Monsieur, à l'assurance de ma haute considération.


(Umberto Campagnolo)

Monsieur Peter Abrahams
The West Indian Economist
164-6 Harbour Street
KINGSTON, Jamaïque

Reia in fa 12-1-60

SOCIÉTÉ EUROPÉENNE DE CULTURE

Venise, Piazza S. Marco, 52 (Procuratie Nuove), Tel. 30.210

Venise, le 8 décembre 1959.

Président

GIOVANNI PONTI

Vice-Présidents

ANTONY BABEL
THEODOR BRUGSCH
FRANÇOIS MAURIAC
LEWIS MUMFORD
EUSTACE M. W. TILLYARD

Secrétaire général

UMBERTO CAMPAGNOLO

Monsieur,

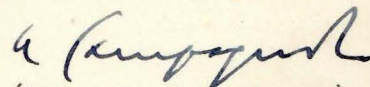
D'accord avec la Société africaine de culture et ayant l'appui d'institutions et de personnalités politiques, culturelles et religieuses, notre Société prépare une rencontre d'hommes capables de représenter avec autorité les cultures de l'Afrique noire et de l'Occident, dans le but de contribuer à une compréhension et à une collaboration plus féconde entre les peuples des deux civilisations.

La rencontre se tiendra autour du 20 février 1960, à Rome, et durera trois jours. Ouverte par deux conférences publiques (qui nous sont déjà assurées), l'une de M. François Mauriac et l'autre de M. Léopold Sédar Senghor, elle se poursuivra dans des entretiens privés, où une trentaine d'invités, provenant d'Afrique, d'Amérique et d'Europe, discuteront en toute liberté les questions posées par le but de la rencontre. Parmi ces invités, je puis, pour mieux préciser le caractère des entretiens, citer les noms de A. Schweitzer, J. Price-Mars, A. Malraux, A. Paton, K. Barth, A. Moravia, J.P. Sartre, R. Wright, R. Marañ, S. Quasimodo, L. Aragon, A. Césaire, Graham Greene, L. Hughes, Père Dubarle, J. Huxley, I. Ehrenbourg, K.A. Busiah, J. Rabemananjara, Houphouët-Baigny, Père E. Huddleston...

Nous avons ici l'honneur de vous demander si vous accepteriez de participer à ces entretiens. La Société européenne de culture offrira à ses invités une indemnité de voyage et l'hospitalité.

Nous vous saurions gré de vouloir bien nous faire parvenir le plus promptement possible votre réponse de principe, pour nous faciliter l'organisation de la réception et des débats. L'invitation formelle et le programme détaillé vous seront envoyés dès que nous aurons formé la liste complète des participants.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, avec les remerciements pour la bienveillante attention que vous prêterez à cette lettre, l'assurance de ma haute considération.


(Umberto Campagnolo)

Monsieur Peter Abrahams
c/o Faber and Faber Limited
24, Russell Square
LONDON W.C.1

SOCIÉTÉ AFRICAINE DE CULTURE

PRESENCE AFRICAINE

PARIS le January 31st, 1959

2006/C

Mr. Peter ABRAHAMS
Editor of the Paper
National Party
KINGSTON

Jamaica

Dear Sir,

We very sincerely wish that you might get the possibility to write a paper for the second Congress of Negro Writers and Artists for instance, on the following subject:

The NOVEL AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING

- 1) ROMANESQUE STYLE
- 2) THE ASPIRATIONS OF AFRICAN PEOPLES

Or any other subject at your convenience, according to the general scheme of the Congress and the different Circulars which you certainly already received, and we are again sending under separate cover.

Please could you let us know urgently this paper could reach us before the end of february.

We do hope that will be possible and remain, Dear Sir

Very Sincerely Yours

The Secretariat of the S.A.C.

J. Robin

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS. W.O.219

Transvalia Building - 21 Stiemens Street - Braamfontein.

Johannesburg.

President: Dr. Ellen Hellmann.

Telephones: 44-4360/8/9

Director: Quintin Whyte.

Telegrams: "UBUNTU"

P.O.Box 97. JOHANNESBURG.

3rd August, 1954.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,

37, Jessel Drive,

Loughton,

Essex,

ENGLAND.

Dear Peter,

You may, or may not, be surprised to get a letter from me under the above heading. Perhaps Tony told you about me. I have been with the Institute since February this year.

Peter, we have written separately to the Editor, "International Affairs", to ask permission to republish in our "Race Relations Journal" your excellent article on the "Conflict of Culture in Africa" in the July "International Affairs". But it's also been suggested that as I know you (will you ever forget that trip to the airport?) I should write to you personally, because you (it is stated) disapprove of the Institute. You apparently consider it a "bar to the progress of the Non-European peoples".

Look, chum! Far from actively barring any people or any person, our trouble is that too many people don't know what the heck we do! In point of fact, what we have done in the past 25 years is to investigate just the things that you yourself have condemned in your books.

We have investigated such things as:- Do Non-Europeans get enough food with what they are paid? What sort of places do they live in? How many Africans can read and write? Having found the facts, we publish them, and through that, quite a lot of action has been taken. All right: not enough; we both know that; but that is 'nt our fault! We publish the facts and it is for other people to take the action.

And therefrom stems your misconception. I had this same argument with Tony a few months ago. He said, in effect, "We published two stories - the Bethal story and the story of how Henry went to jail for four days; and immediately we got something done. What do you do?"

The answer is that we do substantially the same thing - finding out the truth - only in a different way. As you, obviously, from your article, are well aware, there are two sides to every question; and in this country, one of the sides is occupied by the Government. We can get co-operation from Government departments which "Drum" could never get; and that is useful in digging out what the newspapers will persist in calling "the true facts". Collaboration does not mean we agree with them; it just means we play it easy - and get results that way. "Drum" has its way; we have ours. We both

have/...

have a part to play in what the left-wing boys would call "The Struggle".

Certainly some of our recent pronouncements, particularly our letter to Dr. Malan, have been, as they say "on the nose". I don't see how you could possibly see bars to Non-European progress in them - on the contrary, rather the reverse.

All this is simply to indicate that I think the Institute, in the words of "1066 And All That" is "A Good Thing" and I do hope that you will allow us to republish your article.

I hope all goes well with you and yours. In retrospect, I realise that that journey to the airport must have been even more nerve-racking for you than it was for me (and it was, believe me!) but I got you there in one

piece (just!) which, I imagine, is the final test!

I have, sir, the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

David Macrae Taylor,
Institute P.R.C.

have...

**AÉROGRAMME
AIR LETTER
LUGBRIEF**



MR. PETER ABRAHAMS,

37 JESSEL DRIVE,

LOUGHTON, ESSEX,

ENGLAND.

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**SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER**

D. Macrae Taylor,

S.A. Institute of Race Relations

P.O. Box 97,

JOHANNESBURG,

SOUTH AFRICA.

FIRST FOLD - EERSTE VOU

SECOND FOLD - TWEEDE VOU

AFRICAN WRITERS WHO'S WHO

1956 - 1957

212 Mendi Rd.,
New Brighton,
PORT ELIZABETH

17th August, 1956.

Mr Peter Abrahams
37 Jewel Drive
Loughton, Essex, England.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that I am now compiling a book of short Biographies of African Authors and Journalists to be published early next year.

All African writers and journalists are requested to send to the Editor of this book copies of their Biographies (to be written in the third person in English) and accompanied by their postcard size photographs on or before the 30th ~~September~~, 1956.
NOVEMBER

Since the expense of producing such a book will be very high, it has been decided that no complimentary copies shall be issued to anyone. The price of the book is expected to be about 5/6d. or 7/6d. per copy.

I am, therefore, asking you to assist me in making this effort a real success by sending to me your life-story and photograph as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

G. Soya Mama

G. SOYA MAMA.
(Editor & Publisher).



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February 12, 1969

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Cayaba
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Langston Hughes has been commissioned to do an anthology for Indiana University Press called **POETRY FROM BLACK AFRICA**, and he has asked that we appeal to you so that he can include your "No, Colored; Lonesome Road" in it. Mr. Hughes' permissions deadline is fairly pressing, so I'd like to ask for as quick a decision from you as possible.

If your reply is positive, would you be good enough to send on the source of this poem and the copyright line as I have not been able to locate in our files any information about it which would enlighten us? Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Stepany
Permissions Department

/ccs

P.S. Mr. Hughes is offering a fee of \$20.00.

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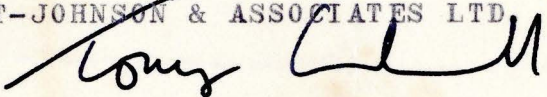
10th January, 1963

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
The West Indian Economist,
164 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

This is just to remind you of your promise
to send copy for a Newsletter for Reginald Aitken Ltd.
Kindly do what you can in this connection as early as possible.

Yours very truly,
STEWART-JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES LTD


ANTHONY A. GAMBRILL
Account Executive.

AAG/mb

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36 PARK STREET
PARK LANE
LONDON W.1

8th July, 1964.

Peter Abrahams, Esq.,
Coyaba,
Red Hills P.O.,
St. Andrew,
Jamaica, West Indies.

Dear Peter,

When Mr. F. L. Sangster was over here, he suggested that you might be interested in writing a biography of Sir Alexander Bustamante if commissioned by us to do so.

We shall be very happy to make proposals if you are interested as I tried last year unsuccessfully to start a book of this kind.

With kind regards to the family,

Yours sincerely,

Van Milne

E. M. Milne

Sender's name and address: **THOMAS NELSON & SONS LTD.**
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LONDON, W.1.

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Peter Abrahams, Esq.,

Coyaba,

Red Hills P.O.,

St. Andrew,

JAMAICA, WEST INDIES.

25th June, 1962.

Please forgive the delay in replying to your letter of June 4, but I am working under very great pressure at the moment.

I would have loved to undertake your assignment but unfortunately I am so very heavily committed at present that I am afraid that I will not be able to do justice to such an important subject. I am also committed to an enormous amount of radio work for independence and I must also do a special story on Jamaica for the American magazine "Holiday".

I would, however, like to suggest two possible alternatives if you have not already made other arrangements. First, I would suggest Mr. A. L. Hendricks, the General Manager of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation, who is himself a poet and who is greatly interested in the cultural life of Jamaica. Mr. Hendricks is also the chairman of the Government Arts Advisory Council. He will be in London sometime next week with the Jamaican mission led by Sir Alexander Bustamante. So you could contact him when he arrives.

My second suggestion is Mr. Cedric Lindo who is the B.B.C. representative in Jamaica and who is as knowledgeable about West Indian Art and Literature as anybody else I know in the region. Mr. Lindo and Mr. Hendricks, incidentally, are compiling an official anthology of Jamaican Literature to celebrate independence. I shall write the introduction to this anthology.

I am very sorry indeed not to be able to undertake this assignment myself.

Yours sincerely,

PA/ul.

Peter Abrahams.

Mr. P. J. R. Harding,
Editor,
The Times,
London E.C.4.,
England.

THE TIMES

1785

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED
PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE
LONDON, E.C.4
TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 2000

June 4, 1962.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Jamaica, as you know, will become an independent State on Monday, August 6 and to mark the occasion The Times will publish a Special Supplement on Friday, August 3.

I am inviting Sir Alexander Bustamante, Mr. Macmillan and the Secretary of State for the Colonies to contribute short messages for the Supplement and subjects discussed in articles will include the people of Jamaica, the island's agriculture, industry and external trade, foreign relations and others.

After discussing the Supplement at the office of the Commissioner for the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras in London, I am now writing to ask if you will undertake one of the most important articles; this is an account - 1,100 words in length - of Jamaica's recent achievements in painting, writing and other cultural activities, including, if there is space and you think fit, such fields as architecture, book publishing and the press.

I very much hope that you will agree to write this article, for which I am offering a fee of twenty guineas. If you will, may I have it here, please, not later than Friday, July 6?

I should be most grateful for the loan of any photographs - or the suggestion of sources from which they could be obtained - that could be used to illustrate this article.

Yours sincerely
P.J.R. Harding

P.J.R. Harding
Editor, Special Supplements.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
West Indian Economist Trust Ltd.,
164/166 Harbour Street,
Kingston,
Jamaica.