

Jamaica.  
West Indies  
April 9, 1964

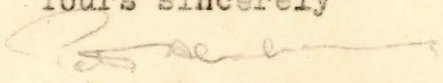
Dear Edouard Maunick,

I am sorry about the long delay in answering your original letter of January 28 and the follow-up of February 24. As you can see from my address your letter had to travel a long way, by way of several redirections.

I personally think that the very great distance involved would make my coming to the proposed Berlin meeting an unreasonably costly venture for the sponsors; also, I have not written any verse or poetry for over twenty years and so it will be a little far-fetched to call myself a poet: I consider myself a novelist and therefore not qualified to speak as a poet.

I am of course most interested in what you are doing and I wish the Berlin meeting all the success possible.

Yours sincerely



Peter Abrahams

M. Edouard Maunick,  
Congress for Cultural Freedom,  
PARIS.

# CONGRÈS POUR LA LIBERTÉ DE LA CULTURE

CONGRESS FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM

104, BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN PARIS (8\*) TÉLÉPHONE : EUROPE 37-59 CABLE : CULTURCONGRÈS-PARIS

Paris, 24th February 1964

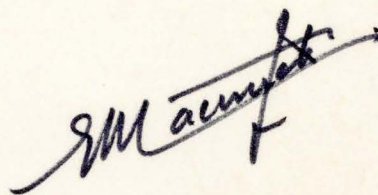
Mr. Peter Abrahams  
c/o Mr. Dennis G. Duerden  
The Transcription Centre  
38 Dover Street  
London W.1.  
England

Dear Peter Abrahams,

We sent you a letter of invitation to the Berlin meeting in September next. If ever you failed to receive the said invitation, please find enclosed a copy of it.

We will appreciate to know as soon as possible whether you will be able to come. Your acceptance together with the answers we have already received from the part of other African poets will add to the prestige of the meeting.

Sincerely yours,



Edouard MAUNICK.

# CONGRÈS POUR LA LIBERTÉ DE LA CULTURE

CONGRESS FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM

104, BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN PARIS (8<sup>e</sup>) TÉLÉPHONE : EUROPE 37-59 CABLE : CULTURCONGRÈS-PARIS

Paris, 28th January 1964

PRÉSIDENTS D'HONNEUR :

Theodor HEUSS  
Karl JASPERS  
Salvador de MADARIAGA  
Jacques MARITAIN  
Jayaprakash NARAYAN  
Reinhold NIEBUHR  
Léopold Sedar SENHOR

PRÉSIDENT DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF :

Denis de ROUGEMONT

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL :

Nicolas NABOKOV

*Dear Peter Abraham,*

As part of the Berlin Festival which is being sponsored by the Senate of the City of Berlin, the Congress for Cultural Freedom is planning a seminar under the provisional title of "Poetry in a changing world", to be held in collaboration with the literary magazine Akzente and Der Monat.

The purpose of this seminar is to bring together poets from Africa, America and Europe with their contemporaries creative in the field of fiction, the theatre, radio, television and the cinema. A few eminent literary critics will also be invited.

It is planned to make the meetings as informal as possible, so as to encourage personal contacts between the participants.

The formal sessions will be based on the free discussion of specific subjects, and contributions by individual participants will take the form of concise statements, rather than longer papers on general subjects. It is hoped that small working groups will grow out of these formal sessions, to study specific problems in greater detail. Our aim is to allow the poets to come to a clear definition of the role of poetry in our time, by studying and comparing the newer media now prevalent. Another problem is that of the relations which poetry can have with these other media.

Some of the topics which could be discussed at this meeting are :

- (1) A comparison of the meaning of poetry and of the role of the poet in the industrialized societies and in the societies in development.
- (2) Is there such a thing as a universal language in poetry ?  
What is the role of regional and national origins ?  
Can poetry remain universal in translation ?

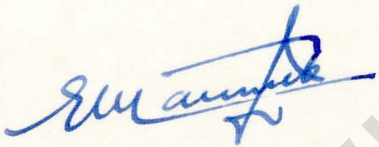
- ( 3 ) The world of poetry and the world of fiction.
- (4) Can TV and the movies be a means to poetic expression or are they merely means of communication ?  
We speak of "poetic language" in Radio, TV or movies:  
What is the relation of this language to poetry ?
- (5) What is the role of the modern critic towards poetry ?  
Does this role help or hinder poetic creation ?

No attempt to set a plan of the meeting has been made here, but a few topics have been suggested which, I hope, will lead you to make your own suggestions.

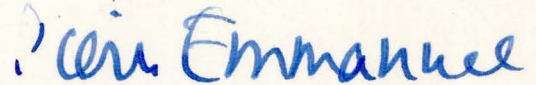
We have been asked by the Congress to organize this meeting and would be very happy if you accepted to take part. Would the date of September 19 to 26, in Berlin, be suitable ? Your travel and local expenses will be borne by the sponsors.

We are looking forward to an early reply and remain,

Sincerely yours,



Edouard MAUNICK



Pierre EMMANUEL

Mr. Peter Abrahams  
c/o M. Dennis G. Duerden  
The Transcription Centre  
38 Dover Street  
London W.1.

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# COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES

25 EAST QUEEN STREET,  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.

**President:**

Lady Blackburne

**Chairman:**

D. S. A. FitzRitson, Esq., O.B.E., J.P.

**Vice Chairman:**

Dr. H. D. Huggins, M.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.

**Hon. Treasurer:**

Odel Fleming, Esq.

**Executive Secretary:**

Mrs. H. R. Ballysingh, M.B.E.

**Training Officer:**

Miss Elsie M. Sayle.

Telephone 4248

11th July, 1961.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

You have very kindly agreed to be an adviser to the Conference on Social Development, and for this we are very grateful.

Our Planning Committee thinks that it would be pleasant and useful if you met informally with the leaders and those of the participants who will have come in by Sunday afternoon the 16th July. Could you come at 7.30 p.m. for a drink and an informal hour? We believe it would be helpful if all sections of the Conference could meet in advance of the actual week of work which is to follow.

We should be very pleased to have you join us.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. H. R. Ballysingh*

(Mrs. H.R. Ballysingh)  
Secretary,  
Standing Committee on Social Services

7th February, 1961.

Secretary,  
Art Advisory Council,  
Ministry of Housing and  
Social Welfare,  
90, Hanover Street,  
KINGSTON.

Dear Sir,

Ref: No. VIII/S16<sup>III</sup>

With reference to the above  
Mr. Peter Abrahams will be unable  
to attend the meeting of the Arts  
Advisory Council scheduled for the  
17th February, 1961, due to a  
previous engagement.

Sincerely yours,

/us.

Secretary/ Accountant.



MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE,  
HANOVER HOUSE,  
KINGSTON,  
JAMAICA W.I.

No VIII/S16<sup>III</sup>

6th February 19 61

Dear *Mr. Abrahams,*

The next meeting of the Arts Advisory Council will be held at 3:30 P.M. on Friday the 17th of February, 1961, at the Ministry of Housing & Social Welfare, 90 Hanover Street and it is hoped that you will make every effort to attend.

Yours sincerely,



(.O.G.Harrison)  
Secretary.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,.....  
c/o West Indian Economist,  
.....  
164-166 Harbour Street,  
.....  
Kingston.

1 Farringdon Cres.,  
Kingston 6.

20th January 1961.

My Dear Peter

For some years past, it has been one of my dreams to see in Jamaica a Cultural Resort Village, where artists, musicians, and other persons of creative talent, whether professional or amateur, can meet together in a stimulating atmosphere amid informal surroundings.

Provided the necessary capital can be raised, and a suitable scheme and programme formulated, there is every reason to believe that the Government of Jamaica will make available a most attractive and desirable site for such a project, within a short distance of Kingston.

Along with one or two friends of mine, I have been working on this idea, and our planning and thinking has reached a stage where there is something concrete to be put forward to interested persons.

Naturally we need the help and assistance of all persons of good-will who are knowledgeable and prepared to make a contribution in terms of advice, time and money, to this venture.

We plan to call a very informal meeting for Thursday, 2nd February at the Ministry of Development, 24 East Race Course, at 5.30 p.m. to disclose further details of the scheme, including plans that have been made, the cost of laying-out the site, and the existing prospect of raising the capital.

We are counting on you to be present on that occasion to give us your help and ideas, in bringing to Jamaica something new, and something that we are certain you will agree Jamaica needs.

Yours truly,

*Karl Parboo Singh*.....

KARL PARBOO SINGH for  
COYABA (JAMAICA) LIMITED.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE  
(TRANSVAAL)

TELEPHONE 33-0469

P.O. BOX 9207

(ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY)

26. BARKLY ARCADE,

38 MARKET STREET,

JOHANNESBURG.

17th Sept., 1956.

Dear Peter,

Find enclosed a letter to the Congress of Negro Scholars of the  
World.

In case the original letter delays in reaching Paris do hand over  
this copy to the Secretary of the Negro Scholars Congress.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours in the Struggle,

*C. P. Pietersen*  
C. P. Pietersen,  
FOREIGN SECRETARY.

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE

(TRANSVAAL)

TELEPHONE 33-0469

P.O. BOX 9207

(ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY)

26. BARKLY ARCADE,  
38 MARKET STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

.....17th Sept., 1956.

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the oppressed Negroes of South Africa I wish your Congress good luck and success.

I visualise this Congress as one of the most historic achievements to emerge from the Negro Scholars of the World. This will be a Congress by which the Negroid group will be ~~mutually~~ judged, whether they stand for emancipation and freedom or for oppression and white domination.

The convening of this Congress has made the people of Africa in general and South Africa in particular more determined to resist injustice, colonialism, racial discrimination and white supremacy.

My organisation would have liked to have representatives at this gigantic assembly which will inspire us to make greater contributions to the cause of Negro liberation.

We hope with your assistance we will be directly represented at the next Congress which we feel and suggest should be held in America in order to strengthen our alliance and bring into the struggle our isolated brothers in that Continent.

The people of Africa need the assistance of the Negroes of America and ultimately a day will dawn when colonialism and white domination will be things of the past.

I urge you in the name of the youth of South Africa to work

asingly towards that great freedom of the Negroes to think and do things for themselves. We assure you that we will work unceasingly for that common objective.

I have the honour to be,

Yours for a Free World,

*C.P. Pietersen*  
C.P. Pietersen.  
FOREIGN SECRETARY

P.S. Please send the decisions of the Congress and all other material  
You must please inform me from time to time of what is happening.

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