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PLEASE QUOTE:
MR. WENTZEL/RP
OUR REF.....
YOUR REF.....

31st July, 1961.

Mr. Alan Paton,
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF
NATAL.

1 Reply

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your letter of the 26th July, 1961. Sorry that I was unable on Friday to answer your telephone call. I have had the flu but am one hundred per cent again.

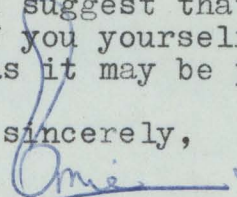
You may remember that by arrangement between us we decided to give no press publicity at all to this action until summons had been issued and that furthermore, the publicity would be reserved for the "Sunday Times". On Thursday, one of the reporters of the "Sunday Express" called on me and told me that Julius Lewin had sent him a note telling him about your contemplated action. I have no idea where Julius Lewin got this information. Perhaps you would have some idea but please do not mention the matter to Julius, as this was told to me in confidence by the reporter.

In any event I refused to discuss the matter with the reporter, but a press report appeared in the "Sunday Express". From reading the report it would seem that somebody from the Express telephoned you and got some information out of you. I understand that you phoned John Wilson on Friday and asked him to try and stop publication in the "Sunday Express" and he has asked me to tell you that he tried to do this but without success.

I have briefed Rex Welsh on opinion in this matter and will write to you again about it as soon as I have his opinion.

I shall, of course, give no information to the press without reference to you and I would suggest that in this matter it would perhaps be better if you yourself make no press announcement of your action, as it may be prejudicial.

Yours sincerely,


ERNEST M. WENTZEL.

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

14th August, 1961.

Dear Ernie,

Thank you for sending me Rex Welsh's opinion which I endorse also. I am sorry for having caused all this trouble for nothing.

You suggest that no further action should be taken, and you will then close your file. This is the only point on which I seek enlightenment. In that case, will you write to DIE KERKBODE and say that I am satisfied with the retraction, or do you really mean that you would do nothing at all? Please advise me on this.

The second point is what to do about the Press. The SUNDAY EXPRESS had something to say. Do we just let the matter die? It would be unfortunate if the matter were raised again, and perhaps maliciously, as it could be.

My last point - G.H. has written a letter to PRESBYTERIAN LIFE (a copy of which I enclose), which will not improve the situation. He seems to have a naive belief that there is a big difference between writing an article and recommending it to readers. He might easily prod PRESBYTERIAN LIFE into writing to DIE KERKBODE and saying, yes, they made a mistake, but what a natural one to make. I am hesitant now to tell DIE KERKBODE I will be satisfied with an apology, because they might well reply they had received information which made them unwilling to give one.

Yours sincerely,

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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