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MISS MARY BENSON

69 GREAT PETER STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Telephone: Abbey 4946

20th January 1955.

My dear Alan,

I am writing on behalf of The Bishop of Chichester, Fr. Raynes, Lord Hemingford, Christian Action and ourselves, to tell you that we are about to make an appeal in this country along the lines of the enclosed statement. We are hoping for a pretty representative list of signatories and it should go out towards the end of the coming week. I shan't go into all the involved reasons for this not having been done before - maybe when you next come over shall tell you a bit about it and you will know about events at that end.

We discussed our appeal with Bishop Reeves last week and he has agreed to its terms, and was very helpful indeed over working them out. We shall be appointing a number of trustees - some from each organisation - to act at this end, and shall form a Trust which we hope will be registered as a charitable one.

Would you consent to be one of our advisers in South Africa? We should be very grateful indeed. We feel, and the Bishop stressed this, the importance of having a small group of advisers whose reputations stand very high in South Africa - both to advise us on objects you think should be helped, and to consider any requests that may be made to us for assistance from there, and give us your advice. We had naturally also thought of asking Trevor Huddleston, but the Bishop points out that he may well be one of those whose school or work we may be assisting and that would make things awkward for him. So the others we intend to ask are Edgar Brookes, Prof. Harris at Wits., and either Mr. Coker or Judge Lucas. Also Leo Marquard in the Cape - we are only writing to you at the moment to get your immediate reaction and advice. Also I am writing to Fr. Huddleston with whom we have been in touch all through. Do say yes - I know you have a great many things on your plate - but to us you are the key person in this and apart from your standing there and here and in the States, you are someone we all know and who could be both wise and frank (and both of course) and practical.

We meet early next week to work out the details for setting up the trust. We shan't want to put out the appeal without the assurance that there is a responsible means of ensuring the funds proper distribution.

Many thanks for your nice cable. with love -
v. much like your articles in Collier's. It is

7.
Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

3rd February, 1955.

Dear Pixie,


I had a message from Trevor Huddleston saying that he had already given permission for you to use my name, but I am not sure what it was for. If it was to be a trustee, that is quite alright.

You now ask whether I would consent to be one of the advisors for the Appeal. Yes, I would certainly do so, and if you want my advice, I also recommend Brookes, Harris, Marquard, Coaker, and Lucas.

I hope this letter will be in time for you because I was away in the Cape last week. I think I shall send you a cable just to let you know of my agreement.

Another AFRICA DIGEST has arrived. It really attains a very high standard. I enclose a postal order for £1.1.6.

Love to yourself and Michael.



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