

MEHQ1-27-5-39 an. 25, 1978

Dear Albie -

How wonderful it is to get your descriptions of your new life! You are so good at transmitting the joy you are feeling at the new world all around you! I remember my first trip to Cuba and the feelings of inspiration, hope, and possibility that it engendered in me.

I share the letters with comrades, because it is so important for us all to soak up your elation and also your perspective. Your feelings and views are of course so much more intense becauz of your other African experiences.

I originally thought we'd publish your 1st letter to me in Guild Notes. But I reconsidered, and Alexy had a lot to do with my reconsidering, as he felt very strongly we should ask you first. So - how would you feel about the notes section being published - and if not, how about writing a similar short piece (or long if you want) that could be published in Guild Notes. You needn't make it elaborate - your impressions are excellent for people to read. Let me know what you think, when there's time.

Of course I will be your Guild post box - I feel quite honored and more than that it allows me to keep up with you.

I have sent Ernie and Bill your regards and the notes section of your letter to Abby - how else to

tell them how you are doing. I can see Ernie's eyes sparkling as he reads!

The Guild is having a national meeting in mid February in Wash. D.C. and I think Southern Africa work will be focussed on quite heavily. Rexy is giving a workshop and plans will be made to increase our work. As a result of a meeting Rexy had with the Angolan U.N. Ambassador, the possibility of a Guild trip to Angola is being worked on. A letter was also sent to the Mozambicans and coincidentally the letter follows many of your suggestions. Phyllis & I drafted it - altho the President signed it - and I think its a good letter. Now we shall wait and see...

The situation between Cambodia and Vietnam has caused much concern here - and of course the bourgeois press makes much hay out of it. The statements I've read issued by each side don't help to clarify much, altho I must admit that the Cambodian claims of Vietnamese aggression are hard to believe. The horror of them using US weapons on each other is impossible to take in.

I have just finished an excellent book by Peggy Dennis called The Autobiography of an American Communist 1925-1975. Her husband Eugene, was one of the leaders of the Party and she herself was very active. It is such an instructive book - we make so many of the same mistakes over & over again! I hope someday to share it with you.

My work is continuing. The union has been going through some difficult times - many people

leaving or being asked to leave as the change gets made from a social movement primarily involved with organizing to a trade union primarily involved with administration and servicing of contracts. There are few elections this year-- and most of my cases are refusal to bargain cases-- where the union is charging that the company is not bargaining in good faith to reach a contract. The cases are long, drawn out, and horribly detailed. But it is obviously another tool that the companies use in this new stage of their fight. I continue to learn a great deal, but frankly I ache to be part of the battle in a more direct way.

I think of you often - try to picture you walking about, taking in the spirit of building socialism. And I'm so glad for you that you are experiencing all the things you write of.

Let me know if there are any ways I can be of help - things you'd like me to send, whatever.

La Luta Continua -

Love,
Joan

