

MCH91.275-29-1

Dear Joan, friend, comrade, intimate, adviser!

At the more personal level, I'll write briefly, this really belongs to another era for me. Here's hoping we keep up the closeness - at the big distance! And here's hoping I don't lose my romanticism - otherwise what's it all about for us, we aren't oppressed? As long as we don't impose it on others, and take any possible hurt or disappointment on ourselves, and then not too deeply. Não é? Not so? (I'm learning just enough Portuguese to mess up my English, and not enough to speak). I regret that instead of giving you backing for behaving honestly and carrying your own struggle forward, I got pre-occupied with my own thoughts and responses, which in a way had nothing to do with you. If ever we do meet up again, I hope we are good to each other.

This letter supersedes my first letter and complements my second one.

With love,

Albéric

Postscript: What does 'October' mean to you? Politically?
Have your friends (-er) have twisted it into something nasty.
You should have been here last week - the week to celebrate
October - it would have healed and re-affirmed so much.
They put it beautifully: 'Humanity's first liberated
zone.' The guy who services the University residence
whistles the International as he sweeps; a server at the
cafeteria wears a Lenin badge: 'Um grande homem', he
tells me. There is strong affirmation for the practical
support which the S.U., G.D.R. & other such states are
giving to R.P.M., and a special regard for October and
the Party of Lenin; also, a particular love for Cuba and
the Cubanos; but also a refusal to be drawn into
disputes between socialist states. R.P.M. is part of the
liberated zone of humanity, but it is also 'non-aligned'.
It castigates imperialism, but there is no cheap anti-Americanism,
in fact, never attacks on people, the focus always on
systems, ideologies, structures. The struggle on the
diplomatic front must be tackled with creative diplomacy,
not with abuse or stunts. All part of the Frelimo style.
President Samora is ebullient, vivacious, a marvellous speaker
especially with the people at large, but his personal dynamism
complements rather than reflects the basic Frelimo mould,
which is quieter, a little more formal. And, as far as I can
see, the Comrade President puts his special talents at the service
of the Central Committee, utilising his prestige, experience and
gifts to sawy collectively worked out policy, to shake up
bureaucracy and challenge sloppy methods of work. The evolution
of the popular revolutionary line in the bush of northern Mozambique
in the late 1960's made a brilliant and decisive contribution to
world socialist transformations - it makes me proud to be a
southern African!