



PEN  
47 Sandown  
7700  
Ronderbosh

4 /3/92

Dear Sir/Madam

We hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19/2/92.

Your keen interest in the processes of CODESA, exemplified through your letter is highly appreciated.

Your submission has been forwarded to Working Group 2 for its consideration.

For your interest, we enclose a copy of the Declaration of Intent and the Terms of Reference.

Yours Sincerely

Murphy Morobe  
(Head: CODESA Administration)



International P.E.N. is a world association of writers

The Secretariat of Codesa  
(Attention: Working Group 2)  
P O Box 307  
1600 ISANDO

47 Sandown Rd  
7700 RONDEBOSCH

19 February 1992

Dear Sirs

I have the honour to address you as Chairman of the South African P E N Centre, an association of South African writers affiliated to International P E N. The latter has 103 Centres and is recognised by UNESCO as representing writers world-wide.

I enclose my Centre's NEWSLETTER No 176 dated February 1992. This indicates our activities and on page 7 records the International P E N Charter by which we are bound.

I have been asked by my Centre to record our policy in regard to freedom of expression. This may be summarised as follows:

1 Freedom of expression is a basic human right, which should be entrenched in a new Constitution for South Africa or in a Bill of Rights. In either event it should be protected by justiciability in the ordinary courts of law.

2 The content of the freedom is best expressed in sec 7 of the recent New Zealand Bill of Rights:

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.

This is substantially the same as art 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

3 Clearly, freedom of expression must be made subject to limitations. These can be expressed either in general terms (eg in a provision that the freedom is subject to such laws as are generally acceptable in a democracy) or in specific terms. The latter would require a formulation of the specific limitations already generally acceptable in a democracy - eg contempt of Parliament, contempt of court, defamation, electoral laws, copyright, official secrets, obscenity, and State security in time of a declared war or during a state of emergency formally proclaimed to meet a breakdown of law and order.

4 It follows from the above that my Centre is opposed to censorship (before or after publication), and accordingly believes that current legislation in this regard should be repealed. Films and television programmes require special consideration. These should be rated for possible age restrictions. We oppose any power to cut a scene or to ban a film or programme entirely - ie for all age groups. We believe that the upper limit for categories of age groups should, having regard to current legislation (eg as to the franchise and national service), be 18 and not 19 or 21.

I would be pleased to elaborate on any of the above or to reply to any consequential queries.

Permit me on behalf of my Centre to wish your Secretariat well in the crucial task of creating a democracy for South Africa.

Yours Truly

Adv B R Bamford SC

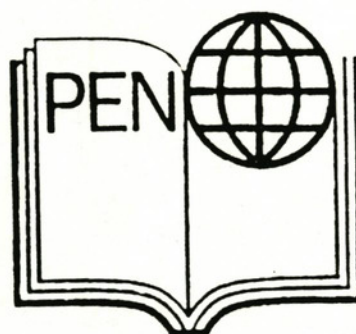




**SOUTH AFRICAN P.E.N CENTRE**

**An affiliate of International P.E.N**

**a world association of writers**



**NEWSLETTER No. 176    FEBRUARY 1992**



## 1 CHRISTMAS PARTY

We enjoyed a splendid evening with **Joy Collier** at 4 Kensington Crescent, Oranjezicht, on 3 December 1991, the tenth successive such occasion. Joy not only dispensed her famous wine cup and viands but also presented six books for the impromptu literary quiz. Specially welcome guests were **Dr D Padayachee** and his wife, who were visiting the Cape from Natal. Joy has sold her gracious home, but we understand that we may have the pleasure of being invited to her new residence at the end of this year. We thank her again for her generous hospitality.

## 2 NEW MEMBERS

We cordially welcome as Full Members **Tony Fleischer** and his wife **Dolores**, both of whom have several books to their credit. Tony was chairman of the South African P•E•N Centre in Johannesburg in the 1970's, when it was extremely active and co-operated productively with our Centre in Cape Town. Tony and Dolores now commute between homes in Portugal and Cape Town.

## 3 CONGRATULATIONS TO P•E•N MEMBERS

- \* **Dr Frank Bradlow**, on his article in the *Cape Times* in November 1991 on the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Sidi Rezegh;
- \* **James Ambrose Brown**, on his book *Retreat to Victory*, his diary of the North African campaign from Gazala to Alamein;
- \* **Dr Sue Hart**, on her continuing dedication to the environment through her organisation *Eco-Link* and its newsletter;
- \* **Jay Heale**, on his book *South African Animal Adventures*;
- \* **Alf Wannenburg**, on his short story *Sand Happy* in *New Contrast* (Vol 19, No 1).

## 4 A PRIZE-WINNING POEM

We are pleased to be able to reproduce the poem by **Geoffrey Haresnape** which won the first prize in the English Association's 1991 Literary Competition for Satiric Verse. It is a parody on *To His Coy Mistress* by Andrew Marvel (1620 - 78), the best-known lines of which are perhaps:



*The grave's a fine and private place,  
But none I think do there embrace.*

**TO THEIR COY STATE PRESIDENT**

**with a 'Viva!' to Andrew Marvell –  
this 'old' South African relic from the MK archive**

Without the Land Acts, and with time,  
This coyness, sir, would be no crime.  
We'd be prepared to look each way  
At any possibility  
You by Kunene River's side  
Could keep your line. We by the tide  
Of Hudson would complain. To check  
You, we have waited since the Trek;  
And you could, if you wish, dig in  
Until the day MPs are thin.  
Ten years would go to list your sins;  
Ten more to count your double chins.  
We'd wait (near the Caprivi Strip)  
An age to watch you lick your lip,  
Wag a fat finger, be a bore,  
While endlessly you hold the floor.  
Our paper politics would grow  
Larger than pumpkins, and more slow:  
For you have told us that the State  
is waiting to negotiate.  
But at our backs we always hear  
Ancestral voices loud and clear.  
They cry there is an urgency  
To our responsibility.  
They say you fiddle every Bill  
To circumvent the people's will.  
Your speeches must no more resound,  
Nor must the Broederbond be found  
**Maintaining all its secrecy  
To bolster its hegemony.**  
After in-depth analysis,  
We see we have no choice but this:



Our strength of arms must give the lie  
To your superiority.  
The grave's a fine and private place,  
But not exactly Die Tuynhuys.  
Now, therefore, while it is your turn  
To benefit from what you learn;  
And while the news along the wires  
Is just of crowds and township fires,  
Now let us bargain while we may,  
Rather than Ratel through the day,  
Let us utilize each hour  
Working out ways to transfer power;  
Or we will roll all our strength and all  
Our protest into one ball;  
And tear in fury with rough strife  
Into the country's daily life  
Although we may not spike your gun,  
We know we've got you on the run.

## 5 WORLD CONGRESS

Dr Nick Lee was our worthy official delegate at the 56th International P•E•N Congress in Vienna during November 1991.

He reports:

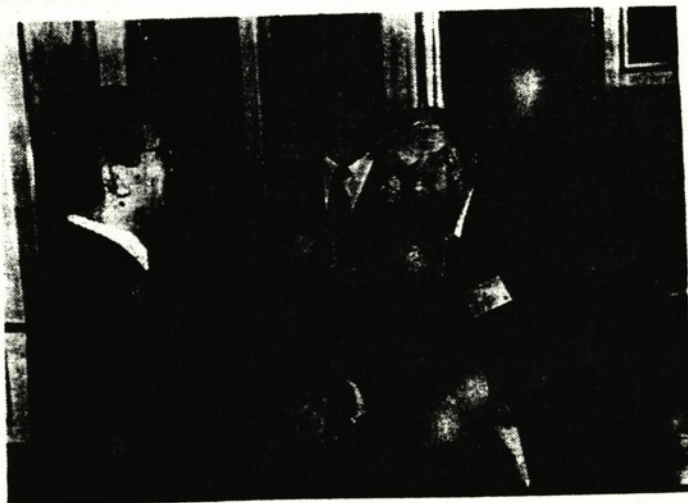
*Vienna in November and an icy cold wind from the east but no snow yet. The beautiful city of the Hapsburgs, Sigmund Freud, Mozart, gemütlichkeit and the 56th International P•E•N Congress, the opening of which was attended by a host of dignitaries, including Austrian Federal Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitsky, Vice Chancellor and Minister of Science and Arts Dr Erhard Busek, Minister of Education Dr Rudolf Scholten and Mayor of the City of Vienna Dr Helmut Zilk. Like Ancient Gaul (yes, I know it's a cliché but I still like it), P•E•N Congresses are divided into three parts; the meeting of delegates in the mornings, the literary sessions in the afternoons, and the "Encounter, Readings and Improvisations" during which members congregate to do their thing, whatever that thing might be, in the evenings. As a delegate is required to attend the morning sessions, a certain amount of selection is necessary when considering what other sessions to attend if brain death by early evening is to be avoided, and energy conserved for the intensive social programme which on this occasion included a reception by the Austrian Federal Chancellor, a reception by the Foreign Minister, a*



*magnificent ball at the Vienna City Hall, and a 'Heurigen' (informal wining and dining, mainly the former) in the impressive and ancient cellars of Klosterneuberg.*

*A most unexpected pleasure was the appearance of President Vytautas Lansbergis of Lithuania, who travelled from Vilnius to Vienna to thank International P•E•N formally for its support for freedom of expression which had played no little part in enabling Lithuania to regain its independence from the Soviet Union, which, incidentally, the delegate from Moscow P•E•N assured us no longer exists, no matter what the newspapers may say. Unfortunately, much of the conference was overshadowed by the sombre events not far to the south, where a civil war was raging in Yugoslavia, and the historical port of Dubrovnik was under siege and in danger of destruction. One of the many messages initiated by the Congress was one of the Yugoslav government urging it to avoid destruction of the priceless cultural heritage enshrined in the ancient city of Dubrovnik.*

*As a 'new boy' at this Congress, it took a few days to find my way around and to tune in to the vagaries of speech of the polyglot speakers from all over the world. However, one impression remains very strongly with me, which is that it is absolutely vital for South Africa to be represented at these Congresses, preferably by two delegates, but at least by one. Although difficult for a small centre like ours, I would also suggest that if at all possible, delegates should attend these Congresses more than once to establish some sort of continuity of representation, which is where the Europeans and Americans score heavily.*



Prof Alexander Giese, President of Austrian P•E•N, greets Dr Nick Lee at a reception given by the Austrian Foreign Minister, Alois Mock.



## 6 NAPAC PLAYWRITING PRIZES

The Natal Performing Arts Council seeks plays which have not been performed before and which have a subject matter which is of direct relevance to South Africa. The five winning plays will be produced in a repertory season at the Playhouse in Durban during 1993; the authors will be invited to work with the directors during rehearsals. Entries should be sent to

Napac Drama, P O Box 5353, Durban 4000,

before 1 July 1992. It would be pleasant, and proper, if P•E•N members won all five prizes.

## 7 PUBLICATIONS

We are grateful for receipt of the following:

- \* *Article XIX Bulletin* (Issue 13, November 1991), the journal of the International Centre Against Censorship;
- \* *English Studies in Africa* (Vol 34, No 2, 1991), a journal of the humanities published by the University of the Witwatersrand;
- \* *Slug Newsletter* (Vol 13, November 1991), a molluscan miscellany produced by P•E•N member Gus Ferguson;
- \* *Catalan Writing 7*, a journal published by the Institute of Catalan Literature.

## 8 MEDIA CONFERENCE

Tony Fleischer attended on our behalf the conference on *The South African media in the transition to democracy* held at the University of the Western Cape at the end of January.

## 9 THE 57th WORLD CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL P•E•N

This year's Congress will be in Barcelona from Monday 20 to Sunday 26 April. Our Centre is entitled to send two official delegates. I am delighted to be able to inform members that Tony and Dolores Fleischer, who live part of the year in Portugal, are willing and available to attend as our delegates. We wish them a happy stay in Barcelona and look forward to their report on the proceedings.



## 10 SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Subscriptions for 1992 are due as follows:**

<b>Full Members</b>	<b>R30</b>
<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>R15</b>

Please remit to the Membership Secretary:

Ms V-E Stewart  
23 Westbrook Court  
Main Road  
7700 Rondebosch

NB The subscriptions have had to be increased (in terms of an AGM resolution), owing to rising costs in the printing and mailing of the NEWSLETTER and to the need to maintain our annual levy to International P.E.N. The Committee takes this opportunity of recording the advantages of membership:

- \* Our members have access to P.E.N Centres world-wide;
- \* Our Centre is entitled to two delegates to the annual International P.E.N Congress – the host Centre meets the costs of their board and lodging;
- \* Members receive our NEWSLETTER;
- \* Members are invited (free of charge) to our annual Christmas function and to functions to welcome overseas writers.

The Committee asks you to continue to support our Centre.