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The International Force of Moral Re-Armament

COAL MINERS FROM GERMANY

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NIGERIAN NATIONALIST LEADER

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BLACK AND WHITE FROM SOUTH AFRICA

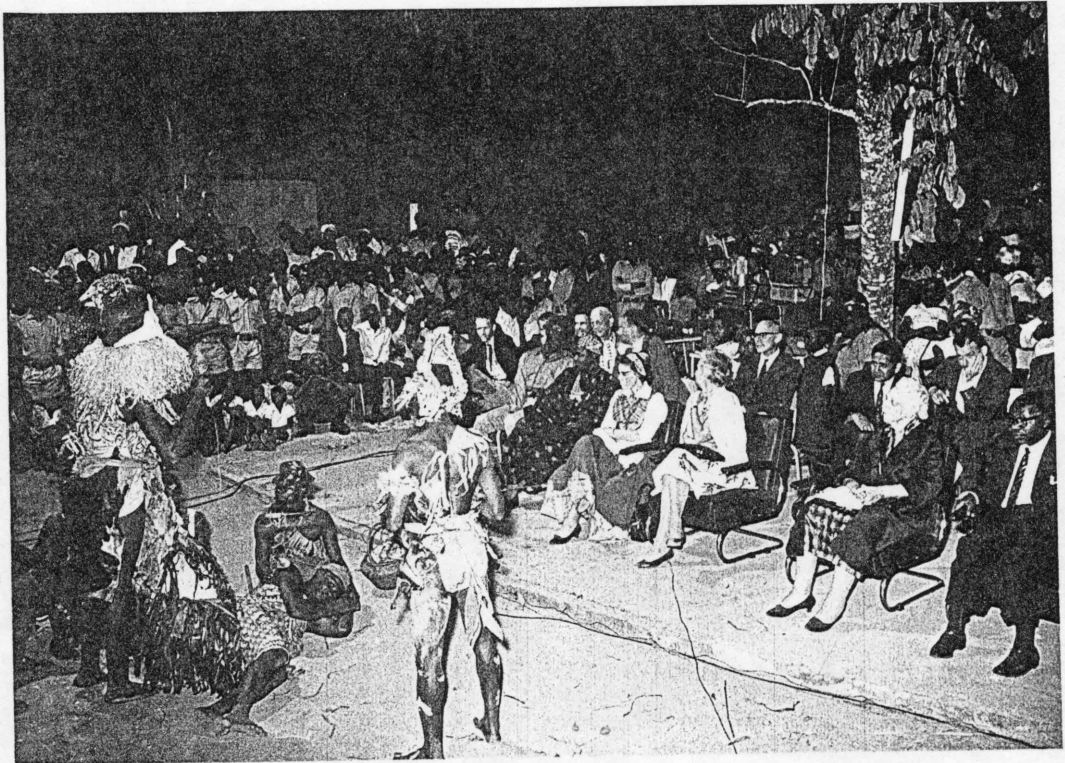
THE COLWELL BROTHERS — RADIO AND TV STARS FROM HOLLYWOOD

September 1995

These letters, unedited, were written to Moira from Central Africa 33 years ago. It was a great learning experience for us. Looking through them again in recent weeks it seemed to me that it could be of value to make them readable and available for family and friends. They were written from many places in many situations and are very personal really.

I am very grateful to Judy Caryer who has so kindly put my rough draft into readable form.

Roland Kingwill



AN INTERESTING EVENING IN THE CONGO

TAKING A MESSAGE TO AFRICA.

We were just busy with the jobs on the farm which need to be done in the autumn, when a telephone call from Johannesburg set us on a new course! The call was from our friends to ask us if they could bring on a visit six German miners who had come to work with our team in Africa for a time. We were glad to be able to welcome them - to the farm and to Africa. They were men who had worked in the coal mines in Germany. Some of them had been Communists, but all had found a Christian faith and were determined to help build a world which was ruled by God.

They arrived during the next week and we welcomed them. We started with the usual cup of tea and we could begin to know each other. Among the South Africans there were one or two who could translate. The miners thanked us for welcoming them and then presented Moira with a small, beautifully made replica of a miner's lamp which still stands in our display cabinet.

After tea we walked around outside to see the cattle sheds and some of the animals and then on round to the poplar bush below the fountain dam. While walking there Ken Gladwin, who at that time was working full-time with Moral Rearmament, turned to me and said; "It would make a big difference to these men if some South Africans would take time off their jobs to work with them here in Africa." It was a startling idea, but somehow it struck a deep chord in me.

After they had left us I continued to think about Ken's idea and began to feel that perhaps I was one who needed to go with them as they traveled in Africa. We talked it over and eventually decided that it was right and that I should let the team in Johannesburg know that I was ready and willing to travel with them. I was welcomed! We needed to plan ahead for the farm. Moira and Robert (who had recently left school) would deal with day to day things on the farm. I would try to keep in touch by letter.

So the letters became very important. We wrote regularly to each other, often giving advice about jobs on the farm. I found that the plans had been laid for a visit to many countries in Africa, and realised that we needed South Africans to take a part in building a God-led Africa. This was the aim which we planned to take to the countries which had invited a team to come. Bremer and Agnes Hofmeyr, Dr William Nkomo, Manassie Moerane (an African teacher) and I were the South Africans in the team of more than twenty people.

That was how I came to write to Moira from Johannesburg on 29 May 1962. She saved and filed the letters. I wrote of the very great challenges we met and the lessons I learned.

A JOURNEY IN AFRICA.

On Sunday, 29 May, I wrote to Moira from Johannesburg. I assured her that "many are thinking about you; I think you should know they care. My own conviction is to take on the whole battle and go all out - lay down my life for those around me. To seek no kudos, and fear no man's opinion. Clearly it is MRA or chaos - and if MRA fails it won't be God's fault, but hold-back in us."

"I'm so grateful to you and your real fighting heart. I'm grateful to

Robert and his willingness to take things on. I'm sure he will grow and mature. I feel we are at a point when great things can happen. We need courage and conviction. Let us go forward in faith and God's power."

The same day I wrote from Salisbury: "Had an excellent and safe flight of only two hours. Got through customs safely and quickly and Peter Hosken and Wilson were there to meet us. Came to this home and welcomed by Brem, Guenevere and others. William (Nkomo) and I share a room tonight which is a good move. I think he is a great fellow, meant to do higher things for Africa and I need to learn to live so he can be his highest.

After coffee, William and I were taken by Brem to meet the Federal Secretary of Home Affairs and then called on the Federal Minister, Mr Sanavu. Had a good time with both of them - they are keen to see our play; people are getting to know about it. Of course, the miracle of getting the cast and the fact of having put it on in Stellenbosch and Pretoria knocks the feet out of any negatives. The secretary said, "We have found no answer in political solutions. They are too shallow. We need something much more. This cast is really marvelous."

The plan is to move on to the Copper Belt this next week. There is a possibility that I may move on there tomorrow with Peter Hosken. Dave was okay in Johannesburg. He hopes to be on the road by Tuesday - and it looks as if after that the Transkei will be in the picture. Maybe quite a big move could be launched there by the play. There are so many possibilities opening up. There are more and more who turn to MRA as the hope. Here it looks as if many have lost hope of an answer without bloodshed. If we talk fearlessly and live God's answer truly, His answer will break through.

There is a firm invitation from Ruanda-Burundi from 15 June, from the Prime Minister who has seen the film "Freedom", first in Brussels and then in Dar-es-Salaam. So he wants this answer for his country. He has offered us transport and all our needs. The miners and others are all away at the Falls today, but will be back tomorrow. John Amata is also with them. There is going to be a tremendous and effective force here. I'd like to say "wish you were here", but God says you are in the heart of the battle where you are guided to be that day. I know you will have wonderful and satisfying days on the farm and I will soon be back with you.

Last evening Brem and I visited the Harpers. He was very interested and asked many questions, and Joan listened - and gave us some good tea. They both seem well and happy with a very nice home. They will certainly come to the play and maybe to some of the meetings planned over the weekend. Plans are for the play for Friday and Saturday night, a film on Saturday afternoon, a meeting on Sunday morning and "Freedom" on Sunday afternoon. With John Amata, Menassie and William Nkomo all here, it should be a terrific showing of "Freedom".

My g. this morning is to be ready to make the trip to Kitwe - and it is likely that I will be scheduled to go early tomorrow. It should be very interesting here over the weekend, but someone needs to go ahead.

William, the cook here, remembers Janet vividly, and we had a long

chat. He also remembers you and Robert being here for those few days. I must say the commitment and care Janet has lived will play a real part in the winning of Africa for God. It is the key, the question of caring; caring for people and helping them to live and be their greatest. This we need to do more of on the farm and in the district.

I think of you and Rob battling on the farm, but have the sense that you will live the faith and be victorious!

Luanshya - Sunday, 3 June.

Last night I needed three blankets and all the time I have been glad to have my wool suits to wear. At night we sit in front of a big log fire. The Hoskens have been very good and as parents, they are really backing Peter in his fight. Mr Hosken did not back him at all at one stage. One bad thing, these last two days I have been suffering from a first class streaming cold. It has been a disadvantage in the many interviews we have had to have. We have made good progress, but the obstacles, the apathy, the opposition here are the same as in South Africa. So far we have not got a terrible lot clear, but the mayor is to meet the force on Wednesday afternoon and the Council on Thursday. This will be a good beginning - not yet sure of all who will come. We expect about thirty to come. Dave will go back from Salisbury, I expect, and most of the cast will be in South Africa by tomorrow night.

Two points I think you should know are one, Billy S. is expected by the doctor to fully recover and have no lasting ill-effects, and two, Jens Magnus came to me and said, "You are the greatest revolutionary I have met. Without saying much you go ahead and do the things!" Well, I don't without your backing and I'm sure it is not the full fact, but it is nice to receive a little kudos at times. The team all went to the Victoria Falls and the game park and got back to Salisbury very thrilled by all they had seen. They had an excellent time there, and in Bulawayo. Today they have two meetings and that will end their time in Southern Rhodesia. Will come here for a week and move north again. I expect to be moving with them. It is only a week since I left home, but it seems like an age and so much ground has been covered.

Here you have these mining towns with every convenience, paved streets, electricity, tar roads. From Lusaka up there is not much. Mostly bush country which does not seem very suitable for farming. Here are a series of communities on their own. The Africans I have met so far seem very friendly. The African Mineworkers Union that was out on strike seems to be very well organised.

There is a section of whites who seem to have accepted African rule. But a big section here will have to get out - probably to South Africa and they are going to get as much as they can give as little as possible. They make the Africans bitter. Money is coming in large quantities through Accra and Cairo to the African National parties and they are organising and being egged on to divisiveness. They will have no answer here without MRA - and we need to go all out to give it. The choice is MRA or Communism - but we need decisively and effectively to live and present MRA.

I had supper last night with Maurice and Elaine Hall. They offered

accommodation. I met them unexpectedly working in the same section as Peter. They have a lovely family and cared for us very well. Pop Saul is staying with them and maybe someone else tomorrow. As you know, this is the oldest of the mines up here, the Roan Antelope.

The next move is not yet clear. Ruanda is in the picture and also other possibilities. I'll keep in as close touch as I can.

3 June, 1962 - Luanshya

It seems I need to write a little. I'm sitting in an "Eskimo Hut" which is the tea-room in the Roan Antelope Mine club. I'm dropping you a line while Peter has gone to one of the meetings of his Trade Union. Peter and I left at 4.30 am; had a lovely breakfast at a cafe in Karoi and then went on to Kariba, half an hour from here. A wonderful sight - lake 175 miles long up the river now - the water is still due to rise two feet. It is a wonderful job and beautiful. The houses and hotel are perched right on top of the hill to get away from the heat. We pushed on, visited to African men in Lusaka, had coffee and sandwiches and arrived here at about 7 pm. It has been a long 500 mile journey. Had a warm welcome from Peter's parents who live on a small farm 6 miles out. A very nice spot.

Today we have been steadily battling to lay the groundwork for the coming of the force. Met the Mayor, the head of the local Trade Union and many others. I think we have made a good beginning, but there is going to be a tremendous battle here as everywhere. People try to put us into a box - a religious one, or a political one and we are constantly fighting to get out of the box. I realise how easy it is for me to settle back and get into some box myself. That is what has happened too often. I am determined to live in the realm of a world ideology brought to birth by God in this age.

The two main points in my g. today were,

- 1) The only test if you really love God is your willingness to set aside your inclination and to do what He says.
- 2) Wherever you are, you need to take full responsibility in detail for what happens; to take on with Peter here as I would in Graaff-Reinet or the Eastern Province.

This is a very lovely country with big trees, a pleasant climate, grass, many flowering big shrubs. Cold last night, but very different from what I expected. Of course also a very key situation. They have just ended a strike here, but by what I heard today, it is clear that the Commies are working at both ends, and aim to increase the bitterness and cut down profits. If we can have the right kind of answer here it can affect the Congo whose border is very near. I realise we are dealing here and everywhere in Africa with the very basic hope for the future. It we do not bring it, no-one can. We have been called to do so - and you and Rob on the farm, Dave somewhere in Africa, Janet in Caux, all have a basic tremendous part.

Peter is well known here and seems to be popular. There are a fine looking lot of people around and I pray that we do get to know the right ones. In Salisbury we called on the Pikes and the Harpers. Both will put up people and offered two beds each. With Bolin and William Nkomo we called on the "Daily News" editor, and had a good time. Also with Godwin Lewenika, who is now Minister, and many others. Here I met Maurice Hall and plan to see something of them. We will be here until the 14th.

Musoshi - 17 June 1962

I'm starting this letter at the above address. It is a little border post in the bush. We have Katanga men working through our bus checking passports and things. So we are actually in Katanga and should be in Elizabethville in about two hours time. Manassie, Beart Stoffel and Paul Garuf went ahead and joined us here with the news that all is well. Certain appointments have been laid on including a reception by the Mayor and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

We were all on our knees this morning praying for clarity and personal victory we need to have to go into situations. We are being welded by God into a sharp instrument and the beginning is when you want nothing for yourself. I say how ambition got in the back door again and me being envious of the brilliant speakers here, and me not being on the speaking list at all. The thing I need to do is lay down my life for others so they can give the great things they have. With the Germans, John, Manassie, William, Lottie, Ags, Jens and Co. it is not the speakers but men who can care for some of the details etc. I have been able to do that to some extent - but now in French-speaking area I will have to learn anew. But I so want to learn the secret of standing at the Cross and seeking nothing for myself and for you to learn that too. I think we have to grow in this, as a family we do tend to seek a last ditch security with each other instead of a clearcut determination that Jesus alone is at the core, and other relationships come out of that.

A little lot of Katangese with one woman in a green flowered dress stand outside as we steadily have our papers checked. It looks as if it is going to be quite a time.

I eventually got the Roland Willes on the phone. But I only got her. He sounded quite nice, but she said he had been in Salisbury and would be coming back on a late plane that night. She said they would get in touch, but did not do so before I left. I'm sorry, but Davy is coming up with "The Ladder" play. Maybe he could meet them. She said she had been at U.H.S. at the same time as Janet and Clare. We made some good touches in Kitwe, but if it will last will depend on what the follow-up can be. Peter alone cannot do much. But you do see here what a tremendous value there is in one man who stands with courage, faithfully over the years. Much has been able to be built on his faithfulness and God uses it mightily. It does show how much it matters if we do just go quietly ahead and keep going ahead steadily.

Ralph Travers has been with us up here. He came as far as the border and picked up the car that had to go back. A couple of the troops who have been in the Congo will join us here. We are going in a party of twenty-five - four Colwells and Pop, six miners, Hans Jorg Garies, three Africans, Beart and Paul, Arthur Strong and Chris and myself.

My g. has been that the farm will be okay and so will you. I feel sure Trev. can come soon.

This is a long delay. We are going to find a late arrival, a real test of character as we are going to be tired, thirsty and hungry. We are very much in the Tropics here now - though on the Copperbelt it stayed cold at night.

John Amata asked me last night if we have people in the South African team who really do stand fully for change without an attack from the north and a revolution within. There is no doubt in the minds of most here in Northern Rhodesia that the Federation will break and not be on the basis it has been. An African government will take over soon there. It can be excellent, but depends that the spirit of MRA really works. We have actually been called to save nations - and need to live at that level.

Monday

We got in safely after many delays at customs, immigration, etc and also three stops by different road blocks. Katangese and UNO soldiers toting rifles and sub-machine guns all on the ready to keep the wrong forces out. So we got in rather tired and very hungry - but the troops out ahead here had prepared the way. We had a good meal and found good clean accommodation in a rest house. We eat at the "Miner's Mess" and have very good cooking.

As you walk down the street you meet soldiers posted everywhere. Old machine gun nests in the park. A really embattled part of the world - being used to be part of the Communist battle. It is tragic and makes one see again how much we have failed this continent - by talking Christianity and living division.

Just had lunch with Brem, Ags and Co. They asked how you were getting along.

Elizabethville Airport. 21 June 1962

We are patiently waiting for the plane to take us to Burundi. Our task has come to an end here for the present, but we need someone to come back here. We have had very valuable times with real affection and a sense of responsibility for the Province. I do hope the matter with Leopoldville gets settled soon.

This will be a somewhat topsy-turvy letter as there is much to say that I must get across, but I do not want to try and get it all in sequence.

As I sit here Arthur and I have just been talking for the last hour with two Irish soldiers who are here with UNO. The airport is in the hands of UNO. As we drove up by bus from the town we noticed sandbags and defences of the huge anthills around here among the forest trees. Outside sprawling, setting or sleeping hundreds of Baluba who are being transported by UNO away from the big refugee camp outside here. It is one of those cruel operations we dominating people have been responsible for. Many of the Baluba are in good jobs in Elizabethville and now have to leave them. They are among the better educated and energetic tribes.

I continue in mid-air. I think we are about sixteen thousand feet up. Last night was one of the most marvellous experiences! Earlier in our visit we had met the Burgermeister - the Chief Mayor - then under him there are seven others. Several of them came in and we gave some of our convictions - and the Colwells did their marvellous singing. This opens hearts everywhere. Then he invited us all to a drink - orange-fizz, a real courtesy. He said that the town must know about it and on his initiative arranged two things, a 4 pm at Hotel de

Ville, a beautiful French type theatre. Here he introduced us to many leading people, White and African, including the Minister of Information, the top general and four of his staff as well as many others. It was good. We showed "Hope" and the miners, Brem, Aps, William John and Manassie spoke. (I have much to learn in all this.) Then we had a rushed supper and went out to a showing of "Freedom" in the open. The under-burgermeister in that area had laid it all on. There had been broadcasts about the date, the Colwells had also been on the radio. A crowd of four thousand must have been there, men, women and children. I walked around to see the reactions. They were following it all, some sitting in trees, some on roofs of houses. Really a marvellous crowd of people and there was no sign of anti-white! Belgians and others I met say there is a lot of anti-UNO and the cruelty they inflicted. It seems the West is the tool of Russia here who does not want the wealth of Katanga to be linked with the West. They are not worrying about the division between Ruanda and Burundi - no mineral wealth to worry about!

As you know, I have rather a slow action mind, which does not seem to be sharpening too much. But a few things are clear to me from my time in these parts. First of all the utter imbecility of the way we have lived and made a colour issue of things; and made people enemies who should be our friends. Fine people too, whom we have to some extent educated and then frustrated. When I see the stature of William and Manassie while men here of smaller stature are already Lord Mayor, General, President and are running the country successfully. It is such a waste besides everything else! The sin of holding onto privilege and the justifying it in the Church is beyond words. Many of the whites who have carried on here are perfectly happy working under an African government. It is clear they have to think in these terms for Northern Rhodesia right away. The only thing that matters is that the leaders need to have the moral character to withstand the softness of the West and the hardness of the East.

As I write now we have come down a lot and are flying between high mountains up along a lake. We are due to land fairly soon. I hear they say this is Lake Tanganyika. There are little houses, roads and sloods. It could almost be the Sneeuberg, except for the trees. Soon after that we landed safely. And though it is quite late we have had a day sitting around with customs, immigration, etc. I must finish this letter and see if there is a chance to post tomorrow. I'm sure you must be wondering if we landed safely - you should have had my letter giving dates of the planned move from Katanga.

As we were flying over the lake, we saw a white spire and big buildings high on a hill. This was the Catholic University campus and that is where we are now, and where we stay. We are living in students' rooms - most are off on holidays. The bare necessities are a wooden table against the wall with a light, a shower with a washbasin and a hard low bed and for supper soup, bread, oatmeal porridge, bananas and plenty of hot coffee.

Now we have just come from a meeting in a classroom with Sgr. Gasore - an African Catholic Bishop who met MRA in Europe last year, changed and has taken the main responsibility to invite the force here. They are very concerned about the immediate future and seriously plan to get MRA as a force to save the nation. It is a tremendous responsibility and if we do not live it we can actually condemn a country to division. The government are going to open the way for us.

It is a great task God has called us to here in Africa - and you, Rob, Dave and Co. are all as much a part of it as I am here. I do pray for you deeply - for South Africa has a very great responsibility and we have to change. The whites must open their hearts or we condemn ourselves and several other countries to a terrible retribution. The "Ladder" can do miracles and redirect Africa - the cast alone shakes people. I pray for all who are with that Team - they have gold in their hands and they need to give it away and enrich the whole world.

One sad point for me - I did not lock my suitcase and somewhere along the line, I had four shirts, a vest and some hankies stolen. Fortunately my two drip-drys did not go - so I can manage.

I hope you got my letter from Katanga. I'm going to get this off now without further ado as we are going down-town now to rally the people for an historic showing of "Men of Brazil". We are doing a three-way battle here for the Nation, for all of Africa and for the Catholic Church in general - we go all out all the time.

Last night we had an excellent showing of "Crowning Experience". A lot of people stayed to talk.

The Catholic father here has arranged for MRA to be on his programme on Sunday in his half hour on radio. Several will be speaking - Manassie and Brem of South Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, etc. will also speak and the Colwells will sing. This is a key broadcast on Independence Sunday. Monsgr. Gasore, who is really the key man here and chief invitor to Burundi says there are many who do not read at all, but in all the banana groves they have radio sets and listen.

Pop and I are walking our three and a half mile trip down again and aim to do a lot of inviting for tonight. We have had news that the Ladder team are going to Rhodesia. They certainly need to find change there or they are in for very serious trouble. And when that starts it won't be far from our own country. Realistically and practically it is MRA or chaos in Africa, and we can go all out on that truth.

Usumbura

14 June 1962

After some delay one car load got off to Kitega yesterday afternoon, most of the others leave at 12.30 for Kitega by bus. It is quite a slow trip through the mountains to the old capital. This has been arranged by the Commissioner of Defence who has been very eager for the force to go there. They have also arranged for the bus, etc. I'm not in the party as there are things I need to follow through here and also some people need to keep in touch so arrangements can keep moving toward the big open air showing planned for the African Governor who is also arranging for publicity over the radio and with a loudspeaker truck through the streets. This will climax our time here which has been very valuable. We have learned many lessons and we have also had the chance to meet leaders and ordinary men of all communities and to give them news of an answer to division. Of course almost the biggest thing is when they just meet us for the first time - and find so many races and languages working together as one unit.

It is strange that one of the greatest advances ever made in the world battle has been here over the last two days. The Bishops' Conference

of Burundi and Ruanda are meeting here this week - one of the points on the agenda was MRA. They had asked one of the higher up priests to lay a report on the table which was apparently fairly objective. But in the last month several Bishops have met some of our force. The upshot was two nights ago we showed "Crowning Experience" to one Bishop up here. He arranged for the whole conference plus priests and nuns to see "Crowning Experience" and they were extremely positive. Last night they saw "Freedom", again in the conference.

The upshot has been a great advance as far as the Catholic Church is concerned. For Burundi they have given the full right and welcome for their people to go all out with MRA, and they appointed one of the professor priests here to be a kind of liaison officer. They are also going to recommend to the Pope that he makes a positive backing statement re MRA for the whole church. One man who spoke after the film said that we use the film to put God in His rightful place - while many "religious" films, for instance, The Ten Commandments, were sentimental, and Communists use the film for causing division. Another Bishop said that MRA was introducing God where priests can no longer go and take the message to Asiatics and militant Nationalists who were hostile to the Church, but who now can think of their national problems from a spiritual angle.

The Archbishop said that he thanked God for bringing this Grace to Earth. He will do his best to reassure Rome that there was nothing against the Catholic Church and anyone who wishes to work with MRA need find no hindrance. They would like it to spread over the whole of Burundi. One bishop wants to talk more this afternoon, and also wants to see "Hoffnung" which we will show him up here. So that is a big step forward which might mean real advance in this next year.

The other thing has been a battle on the Asian front. I have had a lot to do with arrangements for that. Last week we had an excellent showing of "Crowning Experience" for them - warm reception, cool drinks, positive talks, etc. We had arranged the main plans with Mr Patel, a Hindu, but had all other communities invited. Now yesterday the move was on for another showing in the same place, and we have found all kinds of opposition and misrepresentation of facts, which shows how subtly the enemy works. Two main things we gathered over the phone were firstly, he who owns the cinema and gave the drinks free is a Moslem, but the Hindus got the thanks and praise. (Not really true.) Secondly, he thought it was for a lot of Americans and finds there are a lot of South Africans. (William and I met him the first day and talked over plans.) So I have a date in half an hour to go down to see, apologise and try and fight for the answer with them all. But that is how it is. We advance, the Communists come with a counter move - and then we must move again.

Saturday, 14 June.

Just a few of us left here last night and we had "Hope" in French for the Bishop from Ruanda who is a friend of the Vicar General Gasore on whom the whole move here has been hinged. Se seemed to be very positive - we had time with him earlier in the afternoon. But they do have very heavy loads to carry and sore hearts in Ruanda. There was big political intrigue there and a massacre and many refugees let into the country. Now separated from wife and family and do not know where to find them - or sometimes how to get them out of the country. We do not always realise the depth of suffering and sadness in the nations and we do need to live to bring the answer. That will not be

easy or cheap. We also had last night some Shamele Moslems with whom I have been in touch. They were warm but need lots of change and care.

Usumbura 23 June 1962

There is a little time to write now; things may get hectic later. As I write "Liberte" is running for the second time at this university. William and I spoke together to introduce the film for the students who have finished their exams today. They were very attentive to all we could tell them. I think we will have some interesting talks when they come out. A few of them speak some English - guess they have been in touch with Tanganyika.

This is a marvellous place and would be a wonderful place for a conference for all of Africa. The buildings stand on an area half a mile square. It was made possible by bulldozing a hilltop down about two hundred feet. It took three years to do the levelling alone and the building has cost over one million pounds. No-one knows what the future is to be. Ruanda and Burundi are to become separate states - and those from the one will not go to school in the other as the agreement stands today.

This is a poor country, mostly steep hills and mountains. They can grow patches of mealies, coffee, bananas, beans and sweet potatoes, but the land is very steep and erosion will be serious soon, I am sure. Communication in the country and will outside countries is not easy. The economy will scarcely be able to exist without subsidy of some kind.

They want to work with all countries including South Africa, they say. I get a warm hand when I begin a speech saying that we South African Whites have lived selfishly and arrogantly. We have caused frustration, bitterness, misery and death and have been a point of division all up Africa. Through MRA I found change, etc. It burns in me that we Whites have done so badly and are still so blind, so unwilling to change and take on the ideology that could unite Africa. Instead we do the other thing. I believe we as a family are called to "carry the bag". Where that leads in the months ahead, I don't know. For Dave it may mean taking on the full maturity of a world revolutionary and making the "Ladder" and the men with it grow in stature. For Rob it may mean early and serious responsibility for the farm - which is meant to be in the revolution all the time. For you and me it may mean being apart a while longer - but in obedience and joy. I long that we be all united, but I do learn to trust God and live in patience.

I'm feeling very out of touch with South Africa. I cannot raise our stations on the radio, though I can get the BBC sometimes and so get world news. The "mail plane" comes only once a week so none of us have had much in the way of letters. The miners get a bit downhearted sometimes about no news. I am trying to take it all with patience.

Last night the Commissioner for Defence came up here and saw "Freedom", and took time with us afterwards to plan for the future in this country. At his invitation we will be showing "Freedom" in the army camp tonight and are due to have supper shortly and go down in army transport. We are about three miles from town up on the hill. There is no MRA transport or buses from town up the hill here, so we

have not moved from the campus for two days.

My heart really goes out to these people. Those living in the hills are very poor and they only have tiny bits of steep soil to cultivate. Unless the West cares in a new way this can only become Communist controlled, possibly through the more mature African states.

I'm thinking instead of trying to make a lot of notes about things which go through head and heart while moving through these parts. If I try to write to you fairly fully and you perhaps file the letters, I would be able to recapture a lot when I get back and need to use it.

Pop and I have just walked about a mile down the hill. Quite steep and good exercise walking back. We got quite near to the little oblong huts built with a framework of timber and then covered in mud and thatched quite thickly with grass. There are a few with corrugated iron. The people are quite friendly and greet you in their language or French, neither of which I am very good at! There are two tribes throughout the country, the Watussi and the Baruti, from two kinds of origin. The Tutsi come from the nomads of the north; the others related to our own people. The Tutsi have been the more politically mature and have steadily taken over control, which has been a source of friction. The Baruti are beginning to take over now as more get educated. They are the more populous tribe.

I've not got all this straight yet. But Burundi moves fast and with enthusiasm to independence. We have been invited as a force to take part in the Independence celebrations - so that may be of real interest and an opportunity.

By then we should be well-known as the Commissioner plans to send us deep into the interior next week. I think we shall have a real chance to speak to this nation.

Sunday, 23 June.

I'm back in my little "cell" after our morning Team meeting which had quite a bit of news and a little planning for a meeting and a film this evening for the nuns of the convent and hospital where Ags, Lottie and Kirsten stay. The poor ladies have suffered one of the worst of tragedies which could befall a woman in Central Africa. Their suitcases were swiped right here at the College. They must have been taken while we were having supper. We had taken our luggage to our rooms, but theirs stayed in the courtyard as they were to be taken down to the other place. Lottie had a little money. They went down to town and found nothing they could buy. She travelled in a wool dress to save weight and that is all she has now to wear. All the little possessions have gone too, which are irreplaceable photos, jewellery, etc.

The tragedy here is people are pulling out. Businessmen and others are out or going - they expect the franc to fall in value, that there will be difficulties and maybe reprisals. On the other side the government policy is to work with the whites (though they do not want the army) on a basis of equality. They realise they need the technicians. So there is a lack of goods coming in, lack of real communication. That also is forcing us to live here by faith and allow God to work out the moves for us. We cannot get "activist" and are completely dependent on the government and others taking initiative and moving us. That is what happened last night. The

army fetched us in a jeep and a bus. About two thousand must have been there in a kind of open shed. They were introduced to the whole force and then saw "Freedom" so met Mutanda and Adamu.

We stayed talking a long time and got to bed at 12.30. The young soldiers were eager to hear more. Some of the officers and their wives were there too. This is a very new army as they had only Congo troops here before, and they are only at the beginning of their training. They had wives and children there too.

Each morning from 6.30 am the Mass is said. Several of us have been going to the 7.00 am and kneeling a long time. They have a lot of ritual, and language I do not understand, but find it a good time to pray and finish my quiet time there. It is a big church and today it was full early and again at seven o'clock. Literally hundreds came out of the hills, down the winding paths and filled the church. The majority by far here who have any Christian teaching are Catholic. Tragically poor as any in the Transkei, worse off than most. We all feel deep concern about what will happen to the nation. It can be wide open to Communism if white men here do not decide to lay down their lives to help in the building up of the country. For its own sake, and not for profit. But the only men who will do that are men who have been trained in MRA. Kennedy has his idea of a "Peace Corps" which is very good, but unless those men and women are morally armed, they will be communists or used by them. You see more and more clearly that MRA is the instrument God has raised in this age and the one thing that can save civilisation from chaos. We do not have to burn and go all out for it. Though just at present it demands much prayer and patience.

Evening:

I'm going to write a little more. The trouble is that one does not know how the post operates here and if you will get this by air soon, or if it will take weeks. I'm going to try to get this away tomorrow anyway. They have some very beautiful stamps here.

This evening at 6.00 pm we showed "Hope" in French to some of the nuns down in town. Some very fine looking people, but many of them full of fear because of what happened in the Congo. Some of us walked down. It is about three and a half miles, a lovely walk, but also sad, for there are many white homes abandoned and the bush is growing over the windows. One wonders what is the future of Africa and the world to be. There is no doubt that civilisation of pure materialism of West or East is not in God's plan and we will see it replaced. Man will destroy himself through the evil forces he himself perfects - or change and accept the cleansing of the Holy Spirit. Today it appeared there were two planned invitations for the force - to the Congo and to Nigeria. What the Guidance will be is not clear yet. But we are likely to be here another fortnight. One just has to utterly trust God in a situation like this and wait. It is going to teach us all a lot about the spiritual truths.

Heine Charrier from Switzerland joined us today to act as an interpreter. Janet could not have known as he did not bring me a note from her. I wonder how she is and how things are with her. The plan is to open Caux and in August and apparently plans are in hand for good political delegations to come. We hope that many will go from Africa - you can see how desperately training in life-changing and ideology is needed. And the battle for people to really change and be free of jealousy and ambition.

I think of you all and fight not to get homesick or anxious. I know God will lead you all as he will lead us here.

How are Duma, Auntie, Dompie, Con and Shirl, Wally and Nancy and all? How are old Harry, Daniel, Adam, Sakkie and all the bunch? Does the tractor still work? Oh, it all seems so far away, so dear, so wonderful. Much love..

1 July, 1962 A Nation is born!

It was a great privilege to be given seats in the stadium on this historic day when Burundi was given independence. I wrote at that time a short description.

"Today Burundi, the small mountainous agricultural country in the heart of Africa celebrated its independence, with rich ritual, in the Church, with massive parades and great rejoicing among the people.

It has been an indescribable day. We were officially invited and seated at the functions at the Church in the morning and in the stadium for the parades and speeches and the official lunch!

From the stadium I looked across the vast crowds to the hills with banana plantations on the lower slopes, at the home of the hill farmers higher up, and in the background high grass-covered mountains. A marvellous picture of beauty and of life in Africa. Behind me was the roomy ordered town of Usumbura and beyond it Lake Tanganyika.

A good deal of the time I watched proceedings over the shoulder of a steel helmeted, camouflage-tuniced, disciplined African paratrooper, who presented arms or stood at ease with his bayoneted rifle as ordered from time to time. The whole amphitheater was ringed with paratroopers while, in the middle, infantry were drawn up for inspection by the King who arrived a little later than expected, but resplendent in his white uniform with blue sash.

The King was greeted with shouts and cheers and singing and magnificent drumming by the band! Twenty-five tall men with blue tunics over white flowing robes beat drums of hollowed logs in magnificent, spectacular manner at a speed to be seen to be believed. At a given signal the Belgian National Anthem was played, the Belgian flag was lowered and the green and red with white cross Burundi flag was hoisted. The Belgian Governor spoke with generosity and the King and Prime Minister of Burundi replied and emphasised the aims of the new nation of responsibility, peace and co-operation with everyone. A twenty-one gun salute was fired, the soldiers formed into columns and marched around the stadium and then back to their camp. They were followed by the Youth Party in coloured dress marching in time to their own band, then the equivalent of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies marching in step and saluting their country and signifying their determination to live for their nation.

As they marched in their hundreds, I thought, "All Africa is marching forward on eager feet. If that march is to be with discipline and charity and co-operation depends much in we in South Africa live with discipline, in charity and co-operation.

Our destiny, our opportunities are so much greater than we realise!

Usumbura 5 July, 1962

At last I've been able to get a pad and can begin a letter today. Shopping here is not easy and you certainly cannot get all you want. Besides, cash is very scarce. Managed to get down town for a while this morning, mainly to plan with the Indian community for a showing in one of their halls. One has to wait around a lot to get people free to plan with you. However, kindly Mr Baksh gave us a lift in his car and took us to the stationery shop among other things. Yesterday I was so short of paper that I had to make notes on the back of an old pad.

We have been learning great spiritual lessons up here. For one, that activity is not necessarily the way God wants to work things. So there have been days when you could not do much more than rest, pray and write. It was then that I got home-sick and doubting - but see the sin of it now. God did send me here to be part of the force. It is the force He uses, not a few brilliant individuals, though some need to be spokesmen and in the public eye more than others.

Then, as we begin to face our sin and demand, God was able to break through in His own way. The Colwells, Arthur and Chris were invited to an informal supper party - but the King and Princess were also invited. At the end of the meal there was a lot of singing and the Colwells sang the "Kurundi" song they had written. This broke a lot of ice. The next day we all had an audience with the Prime Minister which was very effective.

While we were there, his secretary came in to ask if our film was sixteen or thirty-five millimetre - and discovered they were planning to have a special showing of "Freedom" at the Pagidus Cinema. This came off last night. A number of distinguished people arrived and we sold them a number of pictorials, etc. It was getting on to 8 pm when a jeep arrived. Army men in camouflage uniforms and with rifles hopped out, stood guard all around and then, as usual, the King and party arrived. Suddenly the cinema was full with a mixed audience and many had to stand. We were all introduced as a force and quite a number spoke from different parts of the world. But the thing which always cuts through is the white and black united and with the same commitment.

To continue with last night, people were very much moved and challenged. Some of the Government are keen to arrange an open air showing for Saturday night. If they will carry it through remains to be seen. There are negative forces at work here, as everywhere. I think, because there is not much wealth involved, they have not moved so far here yet, but they are here. There is also a lot of drink and impurity. Gosh, one does feel the price we have to pay to make some amends for what we who call ourselves Christians have done in Africa is going to be high. Some of us need to take it on. The most obvious thing at the cinema foyer last night was a high framed picture of Brigitte Bardot with her blouse just about off. The kind of picture which does wrong things to me - what does it do to the African people - and what sort of standard does it set?

Since I got this started the mail has arrived for me. What delight to get news from home. Your letter of 20th - much thanks. I can realise you do feel down and afraid of the job sometimes. I hope that

by this time my letters with answers to some of your questions has arrived.

Today I also got a letter from Charles which gave news of their visit to Gordonville. I'm glad to have his news and he reckons you and Robert are doing fine. This is good news, which I could see was the fact anyway. Now I'm off to see an amateur film about the country.

Friday

I'm divided in mind whether to get this off quickly today or to write more and take more time about it. My g. this morning is to take on the changing of South Africa and the Continent more maturely. Things are not at all stable and many people don't expect South Africa to go on much longer as it is at present. The American Vice-Consul said to me the other day; "You don't have much time left to put things right in South Africa." Africans take it for granted there will be big changes in the status quo soon. So we need to live on the right level which does take mature responsibility for change at the right level. This morning over breakfast I was talking to Manassie and William. They say the Communist plan in South Africa is well advanced and the present leaders are not the people the Communists will back in the end. There are other men, so far not prominent, in the "nationalist struggle" who they are training. So we do live in desperately serious times, and only change and God can show the way.

A big breakthrough here has been the radio. First the Catholics asked us to use their half hour. This was so effective and won the broadcasting manager so that he invited the Colwells to come again. They came and brought John Amata with them. The result is that MRA has a daily half hour from 8.30 to 9.00 pm. On Wednesday it was William, Brem and I; yesterday it was the Germans and today I think Basil will be in the picture. Always with the Colwells to link. They lift it and are a wonderful bunch.

There is no newspaper so this is the best way to speak to the nation. There are radio sets in all the banana plantations and little homes.

There are high government people who have talked about arranging a big open-air showing of one of the films. But this has not matured yet. Tonight we show "Crowning Experience". God bless you and keep you all. You are much in my heart and prayers. I live but that God may rule so all men may live in harmony. Africa can bring the answer.

6 July, 1962

B.P. 440 Usumbura

I posted you a rather unfinished letter today with a photo in it. There are plans for Ruanda within the week and the Congo in the distant future, but we have to await developments from people in the country to take initiative. It is not South Africa with much transport and many contacts where we can always take some initiative if we want to. But you have to build up people after you meet them. Miracles have happened. As I write I am sitting outside the Kit-Kat Theatre which is full of Indian, Pakistani Arab people looking at "Crowning Experience" which we have just introduced. William and I spoke for Africa. Brem will speak at the end of the film.

I read your letter and made some notes of things. I need to wait to reply after I have told you some of the other things. We have no

doubt now that there are people with another ideology here and they are busy undercutting our work, but we have had some wonderful changes and more will be coming in these next days. But we need to keep alive and ready to battle. China has real designs on Africa and there are serious days ahead for us all. The PAC leaders say; "We have an appointment with time in South Africa and we will not miss it." It may seem all easy and quiet in that country, but we dare not sleep or slumber. We need to change to keep the revolution going.

Tonight "The Ladder" must be opening in Rhodesia. I am sorry Dave has not written.

General Bethlem and Manassie had two days in Katanga where they had time with two top men, both of whom would like to go to Caux this summer. They came back with the report that things are being badly misrepresented about the Congo, which I fully believe. Saw a report in one of the London papers about giants, Pygmies and all kinds of atrocities in Ruanda and Burundi which are gross lies. Today the General took off for Leopoldville and then Brazill and Mackinac. He is a very dynamic fellow and is really all out to build the new world.

Did I say there is a probability of our taking off for the interior of this country early next week? When that happens I think communication with letters may be very slow so you can expect a gap. You might keep writing to this address until I let you know to the contrary. There will be some arrangement here to post on. In fact there are people here in the government who feel we should take a house and have some people here permanently. This is in some ways an out of the way corner, yet it is strategic and can affect all of Africa, especially central and south. Ags and Co. have already been looking at a house.

My own g. this morning was to accept the challenge of statesmanship, to more seriously take on the change of South Africa. I'm not that way by nature, but I can claim it from God. He gave me a new peace of heart and showed me it is not brilliance in the brain of one or two, but God's power in a force which really has the telling effect on the nation. I had a long delay at that point. Two Indians came to speak to me and now we move on to the end of the film.

Muriel is singing "The world walked into my heart". What a thrilling song that is. It makes me think of the battles in the E.P. last year. They are going to mature rich fruit.

Saturday evening

I wonder if Rob played rugby again today and if he scored another try. This morning we had a very deep Team meeting and not much more has happened. We got in touch with a few of the Asian community who were deeply touched by the film last night and the talks before it was shown.

We need to do some strategy planning in the next day or two and see how to move. We have a magnificent team here, but we cannot all be fully employed all the time. Some may need to move and a holding force stay on here for a while.

In the ^{meeting} team this morning we were facing some disunities and also lack of real fight. One thing has been not being able to move from place to place and proclaim the ideology, but the basic pioneering of getting to know and start with people. Also not knowing the language

makes it difficult. More so for the Germans. We have found quite a few Greeks and Belgians who speak English, and now in the Asian community there are many who don't know French, but really want English literature.

So all have to some extent been going through some of the battles I have and shared with you. To some extent I have won through and decided to go all out and to have no demand for myself, though there are things I long for, especially to be with you and to be back home. But Hansjorg said this morning; "The only thing that can destroy our work in Africa is ourselves." That I believe to be very true. When men decide they want to get back to Germany or South Africa more than they want to fight where God has sent them, there is danger of destroying the work. And there is not much that keeps Africa from falling into chaos and communism. Take real effective MRA living out and you have nothing.

Even though here the Catholic Church has done much and broken new ground, educated and built up the leadership, there is real division on racial lines, and in some cases active part in politics, which will steadily bring confusion instead of answers. So though it would take a long time to explain all I feel, I know in my heart we are called to carry our Cross, you three and me here. We play for the highest stakes and we dare not fail. Good night and God bless you all.

Monday, 9 July

Again, time is short and I think I should get this away. I have ten minutes before the team meeting and after that we need to get into action. We had a marvellous day yesterday. Manassie and I with two others spent most of the morning with three Ishmaeli Indians who have businesses here. We were able to cover a lot of ground and were battling in the main for them to organise a party and invite some leading African and European personalities. They will begin to work on that for Wednesday. Then in the afternoon, the Governor of the district of Usumbura came in and we had a good time, many of us speaking and giving some of our convictions. Then he spoke a while and said that he was absolutely at our service and ended by deciding to sponsor a big open-air showing of "Freedom" next Saturday.

At 5.30 pm we set off, thirty of us in a bus, at a fast speed round sharp bends, through the mountains, climbing and dipping. It is all mountain once you get away from the flats around the lake. We went past steep valleys with thousands of banana trees, cassava, oil palms, little patches of mealies and sweet potatoes, etc. on steep, steep slopes. It was dusk when we arrived at a little Mission where several black Sisters in white habits were standing to watch our arrival and welcome us. Then the children and others began to arrive. We had no lights except the cars and a little engine to generate power for the loudspeakers. In the dark the crowd grew to several hundred. The Colwells were able to sing and begin to warm the hearts. Before long many of them were singing the chorus of the Burundi song. John led the meeting, William and I spoke for South Africa, Brem and Ags spoke at the end with the miners, Damasie, Lottie and others.

These were the simple people from the villages around, and of course, some of the priests and even a Bishop who was there by chance, and they were warm and very appreciative.

We do not always evaluate the miracles of MRA, that in a country where much anti-white propaganda has been made, in a nation where the soldiers are still deployed all over to make sure there is no disturbance, we go into situations and can speak to the people and challenge them to really live for their nation and face the basis on which freedom could and should be built. We have been meeting the King, the Prime Minister, Governor, the common men and women, Asiatics, Arabs and Belgians. On no other basis and with a smaller vision could you do this.

I will write more if there is time. I will try to get the Congo address and let you have details if any further plans get clear. This is a major battle for Africa so we need steadily to go all out and be ready to fight ahead, pray and care. Blessings and love.

Usumbura

10 July, 1962

As I write Burundi broadcast is on and the MRA half-hour is on the go! At the same time "Freedom" is running at an open air showing where there must be more than thirty people. The Colwells sang, the miners were introduced and two of them spoke. Then William introduced me and I spoke and then introduced the film. We move ahead with miracles and we are touching the country. The guidance has been not to move around a lot, but to concentrate here and really have a sound base from which we can advance in the years ahead.

This is a strategic place, a real crossroad in Africa. You find all kinds of people come and pass through, Arab, Indian, Paristnis and many different African people come and pass through. They have close ties with the Congo, Uganda and Tanganyika.

Yesterday a bishop from Ruanda was here. He is a friend of Msgr. Gasore on whom the advance here has been built so we had most of the force rallying around him. He saw "Man of Brazil" in the afternoon (introduced by the main stars) and "The Crowning Experience" in the evening. He decided that MRA was the answer - "a renewal in Christ". He and others have moved in the matter and invited the Bishops' Conference, now in Usumbura, to come up here to the College to see a picture and meet the team tomorrow evening. I will probably be able to tell you something about that before I end this letter.

The Brazilians left today for Leopoldville and will have a part in preparing the way. No clarity about time at this point, but I think in most minds it is not a long stay there and then to move on. My own g. is not clear yet, except I must keep backing the force and the right time for me to return will become clear. Often I don't feel very effective and don't seem to have real contributions to make at team meetings. However, I do play a part and God did send me here for a purpose.

I look forward keenly to news. Letters seem to come on Thursdays from South Africa so I must bear my heart in patience.

Wednesday, 11 July.

I shall have to get a new discipline and clear thinking into my life. So much happens in so little time when you are part of a force like this. You may not be in it all the time and often are not an active ingredient, but things do happen and God works miracles. A few men followed through a point of guidance with the man in charge of the

police so we had two showings of "Freedom" for police and families. Last night just about a whole township turned out, a crowd something like five thousand. William and I spoke at the introduction and what a warm-hearted lot they were. Marvellous people, but hungry for an idea to fill their hearts and desperately in need of people who will take on and build up the economy.

Today the main force are busy preparing and planning for two projects. We have this broadcast, half an hour daily, which gives an opportunity to speak to the nation, and people are listening in. We have had much encouragement, and also the enemy attacks! Today we have to do one for tomorrow. In fact most times the shows are taped at 3.00 pm and broadcast at 8.30 pm. The Colwells are getting well known and I must say they have a marvellous gift which they use absolutely unselfishly. The faces in the crowd just light up when they sing. Then tonight we are to have a chance which has never occurred anywhere in the world. The eight Roman Catholic bishops of Ruanda and Burundi are in conference here. Some of our African priest's friends had to invite them to come and see "Crowning Experience" here tonight and to meet the force. This is on the cards now so it can be one of the biggest blows ever. So we pray for it and prepare.

The other afternoon the governor of Usumbura came along to talk over plans with us. He said he was at our service and ready to help in any way. In the end he decided to encourage a mass open air showing at the old stadium on Saturday night. So that is also moving along and could be a miraculous time. There will be a lot of work needed to get it in order. There is no doubt that we have had tremendous chances here and have been able to do much. But it is only the beginning. Much work will have to be done and we will need a solid base here and a few people of the team staying on here. Then later we will have to have waves of MRA rolling through, as the miners have done in South Africa and the "Ladder" follows in some of the areas. Plans were to have a few days up country. Now that is altered so that only one night will we be away. We are leaving tomorrow sometime for a place called Kitega and show "Freedom" there and then come back. On Sunday some fly to the Congo and others follow on Monday. I guess postal arrangements will get a bit out of joint and I wonder if you have continued to write here. I only got the Congo address when your last letter was closed, and wrote it on the back, but that may not be clue enough for you to have begun writing there. How long we should stay there and how we move after that is not clear yet, and still less what my part is. The part I play in the activities is not so important. What is, is that I live so that I strengthen and do not undercut the commitment of men like William and Manassie. These men are more than gold and they have been called by God to rescue the Continent from chaos and give it direction under God. So whatever God's plan for me is, it is also related to the development of these men. But so far I have no G. to go to Caux.

I have had quite a bit to do with the Asian community here, largely because they speak English and so we can get down to brass tacks. I have just been trying to arrange with them for another film show and maybe the kind of meal at which some of the Government leadership can be included. They are positive. Things have been working slowly and now we really have no nights open.

It is strange to have news of South Africa. Only the other day I heard the Lions had drawn the First test, but I know nothing of the football news - even less of the political situation. It is hard to

visualise how things are down there and what is happening. Here of course everything is completely integrated; all hotels, cafes, etc. and it is all quite natural, very decent. Stuff is quite expensive so the ragged and dirty do not go to the hotel - those that go know how to behave. We all walk around as gentlemen in suits!

There has been another major loss. Ags and Kirsten left their handbags in the car and went for a little walk on the beach at the lake. When they came back everything had been taken including a lot of traveller's cheques. This looks like a very foolish loss though. A lady should not be parted from her bag in this country where there is so much poverty and stocks of all commodities are dwindling.

The Belgians have pulled out to a large extent and people wait to see how things are to move. Import licenses are not being granted and so things grind to a halt, unless some new impetus comes along. For instance we have friends here who own a soap factory. They say it was one of five, but because the others ran out of caustic soda they have had to close and only two factories can keep going.

These men used to have business in the Congo. They still have some connections there. They say it is a fabulously rich country if properly developed. All kinds of things can grow there as well as the minerals. That explains clearly again why Russia is so interested in keeping the Congo out of alignment with the West. There is much need in these countries and only MRA can give the right answers. If we cannot challenge men to live above corruption, drink and immorality, the whole show will sink into a morass.

The interesting thing is the Communists are now also beginning to see the need and say the youth need moral re-armament! Maybe they will move faster and more effectively than the materialist West.

Thursday I have a few minutes before the team meeting and my g. is to get this letter away with the first opportunity. Lately I have been trying to get a variation in the stamps on the letters so you can get a selection. Without language and time it is often difficult to get across what one wants. They are very slow at the Post Office. We are expecting to go to Kitega today, but so far there is no clarity. We have not yet heard from the Commissioner who is arranging it. In the end the bishops asked us to bring the film to Bishops Court where they are, partly to avoid publicity. They had an excellent time with the bishops and many priests, nuns and others. They apparently had a very positive reaction to "Crowning Experience" and those who spoke! We sent a very streamlined team down. What Ags said goes very deep with people here.

Pop, William and I have rooms next to each other and have been sharing our guidance regularly. You have to battle to do this. Personal discipline is as important as when you are alone on the farm. No-one pushes you to anything. You need to have guidance and take your own initiative. This is right, but not easy, otherwise you would soon be leaning on one or two "leaders" and that would kill the work in the end. Frank saw that clearly enough and fought for it. And we need to keep straight on this too.

My guidance is to fight to keep real and simple and myself. Not to take colour from anyone around me. You who know me know how difficult it is for me to keep clear of ambition and favour seeking.

As I write I am listening to Katanga Radio which is describing their celebration yesterday of their independence.

P.S. We have just finished a long team meeting getting news and strategy. It is clear now that a busload goes on to Kitega, but it looks as if I may well be one of a small group who stay behind. Someone has to go on with the preparation for the big show on Saturday and if they go it looks as if they need to make a good job of it and go all out. There is a lot of "unclarity" about next steps, but God has it in hand and if we are just willing, it will work out right. I must say one needs a lot of guidance and humility in this situation.

13 July, 1962.

My luck was in; I got one letter from you yesterday and one this morning so I have had a feast of home news. The one letter was posted on 10th so it is only a few days old. So glad to get it and the cuttings of the article you used in the Advertiser and about Rob's rugby feats. He seems to be getting the idea of the game and can take initiative. Very good as long as he keeps really fit and does not let himself get soft.

To deal with some of the things in your letter. First your prayer to be fit and take each day in victory is right on the button. God will let me go back at the right time - meantime live fully and give your heart there and I must give mine fully here, however much I long to be back. But the destiny of nations has been entrusted to us and we need to let God rule our movements.

14 July, 1962.

I have just read a lovely letter from Janet which I enclose with this. Her thought to give whole heart where you are at that moment is a thing I need to learn too. So often I'm thinking of the next thing, or longing to be back on the farm, or some sin like that.

Have been down to help some in preparing the stadium for tonight. Things are pretty primitive in some ways and we had to sweep out the grandstand with "takke" from trees around. They are busy building a stage in the middle from which we will sing and speak before the film goes on. Pop and I have taken on the books which is quite a job. As I look out of the window at the lake it looks very calm and there are a couple of fishing boats lying out a couple of hundred yards from the shore.

With a little time on hand I can write some more. Hansjorg, who is a great fellow who really serves, said the other day, "The fight in Africa is much more important than most of us realise. How long would we hold onto a position if the Communists had the chances we have. It is only lack of commitment that can really bring us down in failure." If we have real commitment to God and seek nothing for ourselves, even to go home, then we ^{can} bring division. Of course, ambition and jealousy are just as deadly in a team and need to be constantly faced.

God has really done things here. We have not been able to get credit for our activity or anything like that. We have just had to spend hours waiting for the next thing to happen.

John is very keen for a team to go to Nigeria, but is keen for more Africans to join the team that goes there. It is a thing which is needed very much. They can do things we never can. I thank God for them and pray He gives me the power and fire which does not fail them. But one must go deeper than that. Your commitment must be simple and absolutely to God, not for anyone's sake but for God's sake. To the thing He says and give your whole heart all the time as Janet says.

This is the heart of Africa and a very strategic situation. The Russians are opening an Embassy with the man who has been in Stanleyville. I expect the other Iron Curtain countries will be doing so too. Tanganyika has a big Chinese Embassy and that is quite near. The strategy is for China to move more in these areas. The USA are changing their Consul for an Ambassador and some of the UNO people have already arrived, though they are not military people. The UNO is one of the arms of the wrong ideology. It is tragic, but how can it be otherwise? The USA has no ideology and many of their top leaders are not morally strong. You see the urgency of the task to which we have been called. There is nothing else for the world.

15 July, 1962.

Dear Robert

It was good to see the report in the newspaper of how you are taking initiative in the rugby field. I hope you keep fit and hard for it. Last night was a tremendous experience. We had a stage in the middle of the stadium with palm branches all around the front. It was dark so we had spotlights trained on the stage. Two of the men here take a lot of responsibility and do hard work in getting lights fixed, the screen up, loudspeakers and the projection machines put ready. The crowds come in a steady stream, a contingent of soldiers with tin helmets marched in and were formed around the equipment and in front of the stage. The Governor of Usumbura arrived and kicked off the evening by welcoming MRA to Burundi and telling people not to believe any of the negative stories about MRA which have been floating around town. The Communists are very clever, they say this is a Protestant team in a Catholic community and that we get money from the Imperialist powers, also that there are a lot of South Africans with the team. (S.A. is very unpopular in these parts.) There is not doubt about the ideological war. I hear a Russian diplomat from the Congo is to be appointed Ambassador here. This is a very poor country from a business point of view, but a key place in the whole future of Central Africa. When we realise the Congo is bigger than India and Pakistan together and very rich for agriculture, water and minerals not yet exploited, you can begin to realise how important it is.

To continue about last night. People streamed in; there must have been in the region of three thousand, all races, but mostly African. John Amata led the evening and introduced first the Colwells who have earned a very warm place in people's hearts here. (Besides singing at many meetings and in firms, they have been on radio at the best time in the evening every day for the last ten days or more.) Out of each group in our force some spoke - two of the German miners spoke, then Jens and Lottie von Beunigen, Brem and Ags Hofmeyr and William Nkomo. Then came the film which was very beautiful out in the quiet African night with a warmly responding audience. At the end John Amata and Menassie appear in their robes in the film, "Freedom". And people catch their breath as they challenge them to change and live moral standards for the sake of their nation and their continent.

Today most of the team are leaving. They are at the airport already. The rest of us go tomorrow to the Congo. There will be big battles to fight there and I guess much more for me to learn. So I look forward to moving there even though we have had such a worthwhile time here.

Ted Colwell works away steadily at his lessons with Pop Saul. For this last while William, Pop and I have been sharing our guidance each day. You have to make a definite effort to do this or you don't get it done once you get involved with the jobs for the day. One needs to be disciplined wherever you are - that is the battle.

16 July, 1962.

We are doing a hop, stop trip to Leo. We stayed for an hour at Albertville after travelling for an hour down Lake Tanganyika, then flew across a mountain, over a big flat with trees, and have just had a cool drink here. In the plane it was mostly Congolese flying in. In the plane next to me was a middle-aged Lulua who had ten words in English and I knew about five French! From it he gathered I was a farmer in South Africa. His first question was "Blanc or Noir" associate - the only way he could ask was by making signs of eating - so I told him that the thing that really matters is change of heart and doing things together. Then I have him a pictorial in French which he devoured word for word. You immediately have a sense of UNO as you arrive. Indian and Malay soldiers in blue berets and rifles, etc. And some of the Indian soldiers with beards and blue "doeks". They look quite smart, seem to have good discipline and they get good pay. Evidently in UNO people are very disillusioned because of the graft and the fact that people come to get the pay and not to serve. Well, that is just the sickness of this age.

The African women in these parts are colourful with bright wrapover skirts and bright "doeks". It is African country alright and you see them with the same problems of naughty children and difficult husbands and all that we have.

It was a scramble to get on the plane at Usumbura this morning. Organisation is by no means a hundred percent and though we had been booked for ten days, we found they had cut us off, so only a tough battle got us on the full plane. Yesterday it was worse and our party got away, but all the luggage was left behind. I think only the Colwells instruments went. I think we have their luggage on today. The Africans have not been trained yet to the discipline of caring for detail. It is part of our technical heritage that we have not taken the time to pass on. They have by nature other good qualities and we need some of them, as they need our technical exactness.

We have taken off again and I write as the plane bumps a little getting nearer Leo. I have a new seat-mate who is a very well-dressed African gentleman on his way to America as far as I can make out, but he has no English.

I guess there will be the usual hour-long battle with Immigration and Customs. We will arrive late - I wonder where we will stay!

I sit and wonder how we can get people to really take on this glorious task in Africa. Last night I managed to get Springbok Radio and

African Survey. It is so small even if true. The African states are in great need and we must care enough to supply it or someone else does. Without an ideology with moral backbone nothing will help. UNO will spend money and greedy people will use it for their own benefit.

Last night another one of those miracles! Father Carracana, a Jesuit African priest and professor, who has worked closely with us all these weeks, brought in a friend he wanted us as a team to meet. It was 8 pm with just a few of us around. Some had gone to visit in town, Pop and I were in our rooms packing suitcases when the word came, "Join us if you can." So we joined them and began to talk to them about South Africa, Germany, etc. as well as we could and threw the ball around a little! Then he spoke and said we had touched him very much. He would open all the doors he could, would tell his friends that the negatives they had heard about MRA were wrong. He could arrange a meeting with all Parliament and others. He turned out to be the Secretary of the National Party ruling the country with a big majority, one of the top MP's who had been with the Prime Minister to UNO. So it really means we can move at the right level there, which is the level at which MRA should be aiming all over the world. It is the most needed idea anywhere.

Now I see the steward taking round some buns. I have hopes we'll get a drink of some sort. I've not tasted tea for weeks and one of these days I'm going to sit down in the study again and if Elsie does not bring me a big pot of tea and lots of hot water there'll be trouble in the camp! I long for news of them all.

This is a four-engined plane, definitely a little old and in need of steady cleaning. It runs well though and the pilot comes down without a bump and takes off well.

Tuesday, 17 July, 1962

We arrived safely at Leo at about 6 pm last night. We moved to supper at the main MRA home here and then straight into "Freedom" in a lovely hall in Zoo Park. There were not a great many people there, but an interesting evening in very beautiful surroundings. It is a lovely city as far as we have been able to see it - which is little indeed. It seems we are booked for films tonight and again tomorrow and it looks as if it is going to be a battle - as MRA always is. You cannot drift upstream, you have to row the boat! Next morning: A few more minutes before the meeting - just had breakfast of coffee, cheese and white bread. Here we are again in the cloisters of a Catholic College. Cells for each of us, but not all here. The Africans are in the MRA house. Ags, Brem, Lottie and Kirsten are in another home, so we are spread around. We need to find a way to make this week really effective. Bill Close and Paul Danton (Swiss) have been setting things up here.

The job I do not enjoy is the constant laundry to do, but I'm getting used to it.

Leopoldville - 17 July, 1962.

This morning we have been celebrating Lottie's eighty-second birthday. What a challenge her life is and what a challenge she gave us all this

morning as she shared her guidance - to think of herself less, not to be afraid to speak straight to people and to give her heart and soul for this fight. She spoke of how she felt hold-back in the team had killed Frank before his time. She told of how the Queen of Romania had come out weeping one day as Frank challenged her about lying around on holiday instead of fighting the battle, which she said was true. And then he had the whole team come in and blazed at them. It always makes me think of my own commitment. Is it deep enough and am I holding back? Though so far my conviction of staying as a farmer and fighting from there has strengthened rather than anything else. But at the same time my thought is to live so we can give the highest here all the time.

Then my thought was much for William whom the Devil is really attacking. Here he is powerful and extremely effective and his heart has gone out to the Congo. He fights like a lion for them. But now he gets news that his house is in danger - all others around are being bulldozed away for it is going to be taken over by Europeans. The old lady in charge of the home is anxious and says she has heart trouble, and wants to go to her home. There is also neglect of his practice and the doctor supposed to do his work is unreliable and apparently drinking, etc. So what a price he has to pay and it makes it really hard for him. And you see how much we actually need to be willing to pay and to carry the weight with them. The Cross is never easy to accept, but Jesus promised to make it light. So we need to take the next step we see.

Last night we had two shows more or less concurrently, "Freedom" in one army camp - a very good reaction. Then at the Zoo Theatre we had "Men of Brazil". The whole force introduced and a few spoke. Afterwards I met the man who is President of the Agricultural Co-operatives for the whole Congo. We have a date with him this morning. As I write now I'm waiting for the car to take me down to him.

In the morning William, Damasio, myself and Daniel Mottu, a translator, for the chairman of the trade union. There are a lot of people here from Angola, very troubled about the future of their country. They say the film "Freedom" was written for Angola. It is not only torn by the anti-Portuguese battle, but the two chief African leaders are divided too. The one leans toward the West and the other to the East. That is much the pattern around Africa and falls in excellently with the communist strategy. That is the way it goes, and those are the things God has called us to answer. You cannot do it unless you give people a commitment and they accept Absolute Standards. From Angola a lot of students have gone to Iron Curtain countries for education. This is actually the phase we are in now, in the overall development of communist strategy, taking the most intelligent young people and training them. This is what happened in China, we know too well.

Later: Since beginning this we went to our date with the agricultural man. It was not an easy assignment as William could not come in the end, so Mottu, Damasio and I went. French was our host's language and Damasio only knows Portuguese, so a lot of the time one of us was completely out of the conversation.

Leopoldville is a big place and really a very attractive city indeed. Many beautiful buildings and nice wide streets, not just blocks but many angles as far as I can see. The people move around with a sense

of confidence, but with many problems that have to be solved. Besides the political battles for position and all that, there is the question of getting the country running properly and building up the economy. The airport here was nice and clean and well-kept, which is not true for many of the other airports we've been to lately. Yesterday we drove along to see the Congo river from Stanley's statue. They have a lovely big statue of him and four of the Africans who made the journey of discovery with him. What a terrific feat that was. You only appreciate it when you see the country.

There is always a lot going on and it is difficult to keep up with it all. Last night there was to have been a showing of "Freedom" in Lingala for the men of the airforce at the camp at 6 pm and "The Crowning Experience" at the Zoo again. So we went out to the camp. Several planes were standing around, but not much else. It took time to hunt up the men and the situation. Eventually a very smartly dressed African officer turned up and things began to happen. We had it outside, wives and children came, danced around and played games just like any other children. Then they spotted one of the Colwells and at once he was "Gerie Kopa" (Gary Cooper) and Pop was Buffalo Bill. They did some rope tricks much to the delight of the children. Eventually we had a full line up and William introduced the film and we went on from there to do a line up at the Zoo Theatre which was absolutely full, sold books, did all the necessary jobs and got to bed at 11.30 pm. It is a tremendous experience to be here among the Congolese we have heard so much about. They are very warmhearted and friendly with us all. I've taken a great liking to them and know you would love them and the hundreds of children. Of course there are bad eggs and all kinds as in any nation, but they long for the right direction and they have a leadership which has neither the experience or the built up character to take on an enormous task such as this. A genius could not lead this country to its destiny. So we do need to go all out in doing that.

The German Ambassador is inviting the force to a reception on Tuesday and it looks as if there will also be an invitation by the Liberian Embassy for Thursday. Our people are in touch with the Ghanaian who is UNO head here and he may be coming along to a meal on Sunday. So these are valuable touches. If these men will truly take on the battle with us remains to be seen. It also depends on how long we can stay here. One thing is sure - you do not get anywhere unless you actually begin to change men. This is the most important thing that lasts. And that only happens when you can live so the Holy Spirit works in people's hearts until they make a decision to change permanently.

Tonight one of the key men is coming in for supper and we have two films to introduce and speak on. So we have quite a lot of moving around. Shortly Pop and I are going to have supper with some Canadians he met here. They are in the civil work at UNO and it will be interesting to hear what they can tell us and see some of their side of the picture. I'll perhaps be able to say something about that when I finish this letter later.

Monday, 22 July, 1962.

On Saturday night we were surrounded by Congolese paratroopers, but not in a hostile mood. We had been invited out to their camp as their guests and they set out to entertain us, and we to entertain them in return. This is the first time anything like this has

happened. It was all a marvellous experience. It was outdoors at the Officers' Mess. Chairs were arranged and special easy chairs in front for our team and iron chairs at the back. Everyone was standing around when we arrived and were shown to our places. Then there was a wild stampede for the remaining chairs and the police came in and blew whistles and ordered all the men out and they let the ladies and children rush for the chairs, which was quite a scramble.

Then the evening began. One company of the battalion put on an act showing the "fight of our ancestors" with dancing and throwing sticks (for spears) and then the victory song. Another company showed a witch-doctor curing a very sick woman and another "the strongest man in the world", but even he was overcome with sleep. It was really giving their hearts to us. Then we had lots of Colwell songs, a few speakers and showed a film. The American and British attaches came, so it was all very worthwhile.

In the morning at 7 am some of us went down to see the early Saturday march past the saluting base. We stood with the captain in command. It was a very smart and disciplined lot of men. You hear a lot of negatives about the Congo, and there certainly are a lot of problems, but on the other hand there are answers beginning to come. The army has good men among the officers who are seeking a way to build the right idea into the force. They are asking for training in MRA and films. This afternoon some of the team are going to have a conference and show a film to the officers in this area. It will be a great chance, especially for those who have had army experience and for Africans who can speak with special authority.

24 July, 1962. Leopoldville

I have just read your letter of 16th so I feel a little caught up with home news for which I have felt very starved these last days. I don't know if a letter between went to Usumbura. Thank you very much though it also makes me unhappy to feel you live under strain. What matters is that you find peace of heart and not that you run the farm as well as I would if I were there.

I'm sure the farm is in God's plan and it will work out one of these days that we can do for it what is necessary. I'm not sure when I will get back, but I feel it is not many weeks ahead. When it does happen I feel there will be a new spiritual advance that we must take together.

Today Damasio told us that he had a cable last night to say his son is in jail, apparently caught pinching a car. His wife is facing all this alone. He feels he may have to go on Thursday. Think of the heartbreak in those very tough areas. The children have very little hope of growing up with moral backbone. Damasio has made a great contribution and will be missed from the team. John Amata also left today for Nigeria. I think he wants to go and prepare, and also to see to the arrival of Joy and family. Two of the miners went back to Germany yesterday, so the team is reduced somewhat.

I think I told you things are not right at William's home and he has an urgent pull in that direction. But so far he is holding to his commitment here and doing the most tremendous and attractive work with the people of the Congo. This can be the saving of this nation.

As to the farming I don't know what to say. If it is so dry there is

nothing one can do. I hope to be back in time to class the sheep. I know there are a lot of things on the farm that have been neglected this year, but that is the price of our commitment. It is clear as a bell that MRA can save Africa, but only if we go all out. If it does not, chaos will supervene; here, in Rhodesia and in South Africa. It is the one glorious hope. It is not a big price to pay for our grandchildren's future if you and I must be separated for some months, as little as you or I would choose it. It is the constant fight of doing what God says instead of following our own inclination, even if you see no result and get no praise.

I have been wondering why you do not invite Peggy McRobert or Margaret Morgan to stay with you for a time. The thing is the life of our team always hangs in the balance. Selfishness in any one person can stop an advance, and break the faith in others. We cannot longer be our own, we have been bought at a price, and called to lay all thought of self aside. My longing is to rush home, but God says, "Wait a while. There is more to be done for me."

Yesterday we had a marvellous day. We went and were warmly received at the Army department dealing with printing, publications and radio. Especially now known in the Congo are the three Africans of "Freedom" and the Colwells. Then in the early evening the Congress of Trade Unions and later the Brazilians who are here with UNO saw "Men of Brazil" and we had a team presentation. I met a Canadian couple who were very interested and wanted to know more. So we may be able to have some touch with them again.

There seems to be some time for writing now. This morning there has been a real battle in the team - things rock the boat. You see again how self will and selfish plans can endanger nations. There seems to be at least another week with valuable appointments here. Things are just getting at the right level. There is a plan ahead for Nigeria and the Germans, or some of them, want to go home, as indeed I long to do. So this came up, not with us all. At such times something curls up in me and that is just my old sin of self-protection. I don't want to be wrong, so I keep quiet. But real freedom is when you are willing to be wrong.

Meanwhile I'm waiting for my g. about my own place in God's plan. I'm sure it is to return and care for the farm, but just when is hidden in the mists of the future. I know I accepted full commitment to what God says and I do want to trust Him. I know MRA is the one force which can quite give the world the basic moral backbone without which civilisation will just disappear in chaos and mess. I also know we dare not try to live MRA in our way - it must be God's way and with the deepest commitment. I know too that we in South Africa have got a very great responsibility, and you and I need to go all out. But when your faith gets small and your heart gets demanding then it pulls me backwards a great deal.

But the thing I get most concerned about when we have doubt or division in the team, which comes from the Devil, it must shake the confidence of men like Manassie and William and John. Not a great many Africans have really taken on the battle and we need really to care for them, lay down our lives for them. I find my thinking and planning with the team is very limited as I don't know the situation so I am not in key positions. I am not able to speak as effectively as Brem and Aps, so when there is limited speaking I don't speak. So to do the small things and care is my main contribution and I do it

joyously and in the power of the Lord.

Soon it will be Claire's birthday. I hope you and Rob may plan to stay a day or two with them. I'm sure God will care in a true sense for you and for us all. You are quite right to battle and pray that I'm not guided by circumstances or by what I think others might think or say, but to be guided by God only. Without MRA giving men a practical and effective faith, the nations of the world must go down to terrible chaos. The marvel is how people are turning to seek this answer all around the world. But I'm sure too that as fast as it goes it will last only if we who take it on live the real life of faith and love of God.

There are two army contacts and a reception at the German Embassy on the cards today. The place is miraculously open to MRA even though Communism is strongly at work. We have the chance no-one else has and we need to use them to the full. I must go, God bless and keep you. Live the faith and have no fear.

26 July, 1962. Leopoldville

I brought out my unhappiness at the team meeting about home. The thought came afterwards to send a telegram to Peggy McRobert to ask if she could go to the farm and be company for you for a while. I do not feel it right for you to be alone on the farm so much. Personally I long to be back, but while God tells me to stay here I must obey. It is not for ourselves, but we may hold the future of the whole continent in our hands here.

There are many things to be done. Today we have two appointments with Cabinet Ministers and this evening an invitation to the Ambassador from Liberia. Last evening we had a good reception at the German Embassy. All the time we are meeting ordinary people and the army response and people change deeply in the army.

There are other things on the cards. We are to be received as a force by the President and will be showing him "Crowning Experience" in his residence. This is a wonderful opportunity, quite a miracle. There is also a plan afoot to go to Brazzaville for one quick stab there. But we live into all these situations and opportunities. You do see God is beginning to bring something tremendous here. When the Congo really applies MRA and they begin to see this is what they want, then they will begin to have an answer for Africa.

And our own country - the Prime Minister here when he saw William said, "I was the one who moved the resolution against South Africa, but I have been shown through MRA that there is another way." So we can save the future from here. There is no doubt that the "status quo" in South Africa is going to be changed. It will come the MRA way or the Algerian way. And I feel it is worth much sacrifice on our part now to keep the second way from coming.

Last night I met a young German who works at the Embassy and he says he hopes to holiday in South Africa, so I invited him to the farm. He is keen to come.

I enclose my last letter from Janet who fights on courageously as ever. I'm keeping fit physically. This is a much cooler climate than I expected, though it is a good time of the year. This is a very

graciously laid out city with many beautiful buildings, but also many problems that have to be dealt with.

27 July, 1962. Leopoldville

Events pile up so fast it is difficult to keep up with the news. Today it is just 2 months since I left home. How much has happened! How much still needs to happen. Clear direction for me to go home is not clear, but I feel it will be before the end of this month. We shall see!

I have been through quite a spiritual battle, and had a couple of stiff challenges, but think I have come through now to a clearer peace in my living, and have more courage, I think.

Did I tell you that the miners and Heine Kasser from Switzerland who was with us for a month have gone back to Europe. John Amata also went back to Nigeria partly to spy out the land for the move there and partly to arrange for his family to come back from Caux. Damasio has to go back to be with his son who got into trouble. (We have our battles to face, but I thank God that our children have taken the road of discipline and the love of God, even if they do not write as often as they could.)

Plans are beginning to be made for Caux and Macinac which are open and much is being done. This morning my guidance was we move toward a crisis in South Africa and we will need wisdom and clarity of God to see how to do the right things. We could become a great nation if we care for people as people, but we could be a costly failure.

Yesterday I found peace of heart after I had G. that it was a sin to be concerned about yourself and your own problems, while you battle for the heart of a nation, to really give my heart and take full responsibility where I am for that day or hour.

There is no doubt that this nation is hungry for this answer and we need to give it. It has been a real privilege to have been here and does give one a clear idea of the issues in Africa. William is very effective. With his education, his revolutionary experience and his realisation of sin in the way of drink, etc., as he shares with Presidents, Bishops and ordinary men and women he begins to change them. He could give Black Africa a new direction almost single handed. But he also gets concerned with situations back home and we need to take full responsibility for that.

This is a very beautiful city, some very attractive buildings, some huge, high flats. The climate at this time is pleasant, seldom hot, most of the time overcast but it does not rain. The people on the whole are friendly and mostly greet you warmly in the street if you make the first move. I should say the anti-white wave has gone past. (It was Communist strategy.) They would not tolerate the old arrogant type of apartheid white, but anyone who is ready to think, work and plan with them is welcome. They also do that with the Belgians, many of whom have come back on a basis of service. A Sudanese officer, with a high rank, had dinner with Brem and others the other day and said a very notable thing, "The two greatest discoveries of this age are nuclear power, and MRA can make it possible for nuclear power to be used for the benefit instead of the destruction of mankind."

Saturday - Leopoldville

At 8.45 am we were in special seats on the saluting base for the special army parade in celebration of their second year of independence. We had been invited and accepted as a force and occupied the one side while the Ministers and Embassy diplomats (including Russia), high UNO officials and, of course, the Commanding General, Mbutu. All around the big parade ground the troops were drawn in review order. Then the Minister of Defence arrived in state and walked with the general reviewing the troops, who shouldered and presented arms as ordered with absolute precision. The drummers would give a signal every now and then. Then they played the National Anthem and everyone stood to attention.

Then the band marched forward from our right and played in marvellous time with bandmaster and all dressed in white helmet, light blue tunics, white trousers, black boots - a picture of smartness. They marched past then formed up opposite us and kept up the music as battalion after battalion marched past, gave "eyes right" in excellent precision. There is no doubt the discipline of the army is getting good now. Everyone on parade was African - which is something the South Africans really need to see and understand is happening all over Africa.

There are many of the officers, including General Mbutu, who ascribe the improvement of morale to MRA. Bill Close (An American who has worked here for a long time) and others have kept in close touch with the army and are really changing the people. Some of them have cleaned up on drinking and womanising and are so able to set a standard. They see the necessity and simply take it on.

Friday

This has been a very notable day. We went out to Lovanium University which is about ten miles from here on a hill. A beautiful place with lots of good buildings for faculties and an atomic reactor, big hospital, residences for students (no women yet) and nice houses for the staff. Bishop Barcoli, a very well known and brilliant African from Kasai is Vice Rector. We had the whole morning with him. He was a good host and gave us all lunch at the staff restaurant.

He was begging us to go to Kasai where there is trouble. He says he knows the good that MRA has done and how it was the rallying point for unity at the time of big troubles.

He feels it could be that again. So far no decision has been taken to accept this invitation.

One of the basic problems here is the corruption. The money is used wrongly. Now for eight months the teachers have received no salary.

30 July, 1962Leopoldville

Your letter of 23rd took exactly a week to get to me which is not bad. The way you write sounds happier - or should I say, more courageous. If Barbara could come down that would be excellent because I feel you need people around you can care for all the time.

Here we keep pegging away at many situations and all kinds of things. One basic battle is to get back on the radio. It is a cabinet decision - some are for it, some are against. Those against are saying we are too anti-Communist. (Some of the ways we have presented our message in the past has given cause.) We have stressed the Communist danger too much and not given truly the world scope of our message. You certainly have to keep learning. In this part of Africa you realise they know quite a bit about Communism and do not really want it. But they do not want what we have in the West - Colonialism and Capitalism.

Last night six of the men had supper with Mr Gardiner, the Ghanaian who is head of UNO. They had a very good time and learned many things and about the pressures he is under. The Colwells came in half way through the evening and really opened his heart as only they can do. The one thing that gets clear is all the trouble does not come from Moscow. The capitalists in Belgium, other European countries and the USA are just as ruthless and counts people just as little in the struggle for wealth and power. There seems, just at present, to be little real hope of agreement. We need to pray and keep on the fight for moral stability which must come before political and economic stability. There is no doubt about extensive corruption and immorality in high circles - and also pretty good living by UNO people who get big salaries and bring no answers with them.

Since starting this letter I had news that our Dave and Dave Beal have gone down to the farm. I am delighted about this and feel God has given you this gift after you decided to live on the ball again. I pray this will be a rich time for all of you and that you fight the right battles and build each other in faith and wisdom.

Last night was bed after midnight. We went out to Lovanium University for showing "Crowning Experience". A few of us went early and had supper with some of the students. One of them could speak English and I could share with him without having to go through an interpreter. Then we had a line-up. The Colwells, William and Brem spoke, Lottie and Willie Schween - all of us introduced - a very warm response. Also some clear-cut Communists in the audience - not all African!

This morning was again a wonderful chance to deal with basic battles in a nation. William, Manassie and I all spoke (with a translator) all morning with the President and Vice President of DPA, one of the three big political parties in Angola. The one man in Vice Prime Minister of the provisional government in exile. They say their thinking has been influenced by MRA and they would like to apply the standards and ideas in getting a solution for the country, but it is impossible to meet the Portuguese and they dare not go into their country or they would be "liquidated".

Tonight one of the cabinet ministers has invited us to show a picture in his African area. He also wants to tell what Frank did in the Congo. It can be a very interesting time.

I think this will be my last letter from here. My g. is to move back home quite soon. A likely date is to travel on 6th, but that depends on bookings and other things. I'm anxious to be with you all. All plans of the team are not yet clear. Lottie offered Brem and Ags a ticket to Johannesburg to be there for Greta's eightieth birthday.

The German miners go back on the 6th; Hansjorg, Paul Garief and Charles Pigeout go back to Burundi to deal with things there. The hope and plan is to have a lot of people at Caux by the end of this month.

Now I'm going to close. I'm going to give my heart fully here and fight fully here until I leave and then fight in South Africa. I have learned many deep lessons which I hope will mean permanent change in me. (Posted Tuesday, 31st at 3.30 pm.)

Saturday - Leopoldville

Teachers received absolutely no pay so there is real resentment and division. And this is one of the big battles in the Congo. Some people draw, or use, lots of money, others starve. The Communists are able to exploit this and UNO tries to keep order and hopes for the best. But unless you can build up moral standards and give them a sound ideology it cannot possibly happen. MRA is the most important force in the world and the one hope.

Then last evening President Kasavubu received us in his very beautiful home near the Stanley monument overlooking the beginning of the Congo rapids. The river is a splendid sight from there. It is a lovely big home with very nice furniture. It was a warm-hearted reception. The miners, William, Manassie and a couple of others spoke to him for a long time. Pop and I spoke to some others, through an interpreter. Lottie and the ladies met with Mrs Mbutu. We were first served cool drinks, then coffee, and then we showed "Crowning Experience" and it all went very well. It was a most effective time and the President will not forget it. The miners topped off the evening by presenting him with a miner's lamp.

The river is marvellous and several miles wide with building of Brazzaville in sight. Just at the statue is the beginning of the "rapids" which make a roaring sound as the water rushes down. Harnessed, they could surely produce much power, but they are also a disadvantage as the river is not really navigable except below the rapids. But stuff has to be taken some miles down river to get it to the sea.

Transport is one of the main problems here and roads and rail do not really cover the country. Added to that I think there is a real shortage of trucks to carry the produce even when there is a road. A friend told us he was constantly having demands for help because produce was rotting on the farms. So some people starve although the food is there, rotting on the farms. This kind of thing is wrong and something should be done.

I've been writing this in the fourth storey apartment in which Pop and the Colwells stay. We made some tea and now have to get ready to move to the next date which is with the African bishop here, then go to supper at the Zoo Restaurant and will show "Hoffning" there. It is quite a programme. The zoo is the top meeting place with a good restaurant where ministers usually come for meals. Beautiful flowers and gardens and some wild animals in cages.

We had a good audience last night for "Hope", the best we have had so far here. Pop and I sold books, but cannot talk this language.

That marks the end of our stay in Central Africa. Within a day or two after this I caught the plane from Leopoldville to Johannesburg where Nico Ferreira met me at the airport, turned the car around and took me straight to Gordonville. So ended a great adventure, and the learning of many lessons. It was wonderful to be back on the farm, with Moira and Robert.

POSTSCRIPT

What is Moral Rearmament (MRA)?

Moral Rearmament is not a political movement or party; not a religious denomination; not an exclusive organisation!

It is a fellowship of men and women who have committed their lives to obey God, to seek His direction in all things; to put right what is wrong everywhere. To live so that men led by God lead the whole world. By living under the authority of God to learn how to make enemies into friends.

It calls for a revolution of the spirit which would make a bloody revolution unwanted and unnecessary. It is for all men and women everywhere - all around the world.

To build our New South Africa we must have foundations of love and truth. This cannot happen without the help of spiritual values - it is open to all faiths. Each of us has a part - to find the way we need to check our personal lives by God's standards - absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love - and be prepared to make restitution where possible.

We know that when man (or woman) listens, God speaks, when man obeys, God acts. We need to find the way to victory over ethnic hatreds which cause so much division and bloodshed.

Names and countries used in Roly Kingwill's letters to home from the Belgian Congo (DRC)

Moira Kingwill – Spouse
Children- Clare, Janet, David, Robert

South Africans mentioned

Ken Gladwin
William Nkomo
Manasseh Moerane
Bremer Hofmeyr (Brem)
Agnes Hofmeyr (Ags)
Ralph Travers
Margaret Morgan
Peggy McRobert
Nico Ferreira

Southern Rhodesia

Peter Hoskin

UK

Guenevere (Morton)
Arthur Strong
Kirsten Channer?

Nigeria

John Amata

Northern Rhodesia

Godwin Lewanika

Kenya

Mr Patel

Switzerland

Heine Karrar(SP) (Heini Kassar SP)
Daniel Mottu

Sweden

Jens Wilhelmsen

Germany

German Miners
Hans Jo...?

Netherlands

Lottie van Beunigen

Brazil

Damasio Cardoso

USA

Colwell Brothers - Paul, Ralph, Steve
Dr Bill Close
Dave Beal

Ghana

Mr Gardiner

Rwanda (Ruanda)

Monsignor Louise Gasore

Belgian Congo (DRC)

General Mbutu - Military Commander
Bishop Barcoli, Vice Rector Lovanuam University
Fr Carracan

Country Unknown

Joan Harper
Maurice and Eliane Hall
Pop Saul
Hans-Jorg Garries
General Bethlehem

Countries and towns

Northern Rhodesia

Kitwe
Luanshaya
Copperbelt

DRC (Belgian Congo)

Katanga
Elizabethville
Baluba (Luba)Tribe

Burundi

Usumbura (Bujumbura)
Kitega

Plays

The Ladder

Films

Crowning Experience
Freedom