

c/o The Edge Press  
17 East 45th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
November 25, 1968

The Alien Commissioner  
Norwegian Government  
Oslo, Norway

Dear Sir:

I am a stateless person in political exile in New York. I would like to come to Norway to establish residence and earn a livelihood but I do not have a valid travel document.

I was born on March 21, 1940 at Pretoria, South Africa. I am presently 28 and unmarried. I left South Africa on May 9, 1966 on a valid South African passport, No. 93999, issued at Johannesburg on May 7, 1965 and valid to May 6, 1968. I entered the United States at New York on September 10, 1966 with an "I" visa for foreign correspondents which I obtained from the United States Embassy in Paris on September 8, 1966 and have been living here ever since. I applied for renewal of my South African passport through the office of the South African Consulate General in New York. However, as you may see from the enclosed copy of the Consulate General's letter dated May 21, 1968, I've been advised that my passport will not be renewed but that I could obtain an emergency travel certificate to permit my return to South Africa. Following publication of my book, "House of Bondage," I'm afraid to return to South Africa for fear of arrest, imprisonment, or worse.

Following the expiration of my U.S. visa and the South African Consulate's refusal to renew my passport, I consulted with an immigration lawyer and was advised to apply for a third preference residence visa under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. My application was filed on July 9, 1968 but no adjudication has as yet been made.

I was advised by my attorney that while action on my application is pending I shall not be allowed to leave the United States. This he said will take at least fifteen more months. I have been in the U.S. for the past 26 months and while this experience has been insightful to me, I cannot afford to remain here much longer since the nature of my work requires me to travel.

Without wishing to be negative about life in this country, it is quite evident to me that it will be difficult for me to work here at this particular period of my life. In my observation of the Black man's life in South Africa as presented in "House of Bondage," my personal attitude was committed to exposing the evils of South Africa. When I left home I thought I would focus my talents on other aspects of life which I assumed would be more hopeful and some joy to do. However, what I have seen in this country over the past two years has proved me wrong. Recording the truth at whatever cost is one thing but finding one having to live a lifetime of being the chronicler of misery and injustice and callousness is another. And such matter is about the only assignments magazines here

want to offer me because the subject matter of my first book happened to be centered on a "race" issue, the color of my skin - another incidental matter - and the fact that I endured and escaped the living hell that is South Africa.

The total man does not live one experience. He is molded and shaped by the diversity of other experiences into some form of the whole man. I will most probably return to the U.S. in the future to complete the cycle of study of my observations made here over the past two years.

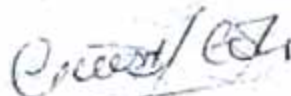
But right now my earnest desire is to have a breath of fresh air.

I appeal to you because Norway has consistently and unequivocally opposed the doctrines and practice of apartheid.

In conclusion, may I say that I am financially solvent and can maintain myself for quite some time. Let me refer you to the attached letter from my publishers and also that I have well-established professional contacts in both Norway and Sweden.

I hope my request will receive your sympathetic consideration and I thank you for your speedy reply. I earnestly hope it will be favorable.

Yours sincerely,



Ernest Cole