

The High Commissioner  
for the Union of South Africa,  
South Africa House,  
Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

Dear Sir,

re SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

I have been studying Sir Herbert Baker's preliminary plans with Mr. Helbing.

In particular we have been considering the best position for the boiler house and air conditioning plant with special reference to getting the chimney flue as far away from the air intake as possible.

In some ways Duncannon Street end of the building has advantages over the Strand end. It would be near the cinema which requires separate ventilation plant, the flue would be at that end of the building where the prevailing wind leaves it, and there are other advantages.

Before making a final decision it will be well to study trial holes to show what the existing strata are, as the heating chamber will require somewhat extra depth and we naturally wish to put this where the foundations may require extra depth. Mr. Helbing is arranging the trial holes so that this may be ascertained.

Another point occurs to us on which we ought to have definite assurance from you. If placed near Duncannon Street it would of course be in that section of the building which you cannot begin much before the rest of your building may be nearly finished, owing to the Post Office temporary occupation of this northerly portion of the site. It would therefore definitely involve that all the southerly portion of your building to be built first would be without heat or ventilation until the last or northerly portion were completed subsequently, and there could therefore be no question of temporary occupation of the southerly portion in advance of the rest.

It would be of great advantage to us to hear from you whether such arrangement would be agreeable to you or not.

Another possibility would be to put the boiler house against Duncannon Street as above suggested and build the north half of the new building first, leaving the Post Office where they are at present. By the time the north half of our building is finished I assume that the new Post Office

- 2 -

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9/9/30.

in the adjoining building would be ready to receive them and they could then go into their permanent quarters at once while we carry on with the south half of our building. This would appear to involve moving the Post Office once, instead of twice or even three times.

Yours faithfully,

OSCAR FABER. (SGD.)