

Telegrams : Principal, Fort Hare

Telephones : { College 20  
Principal's  
Residence 43

P.O. Fort Hare

Rail : Alice

AFRICAN STUDIES

.....Department



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FORT HARE,

P.O. FORT HARE,

CAPE PROVINCE.

28th November, 1955.

The Native Commissioner,  
ALICE.

Re: Typewriter.

May I trespass upon your valuable time by asking you to do me a favour in connection with the following matter?

On September 27, 1955, I was visited by the members of the Special (Political) Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department, under the direction of Detective Sergeant Smith of East London, who were armed with a search warrant dated September 23rd, 1955, issued at Grahamstown. The warrant authorised the officers to search for various things e.g. "ledgers, bank statements, lectures, lecture notes, typewriters, etc", "the property of and related to" some forty odd organisations listed on the document, which might afford evidence as to the commission of the offence of treason or sedition or a contravention of the Suppression of Communism Act and which might be concealed in premises occupied by me.

I did my best to co-operate with the officers in the discharge of their duties with the result that they removed from my home and from my office at the College such material as they considered might be covered by the warrant. Among the things which they removed was a typewriter which is my own personal property. I thought at the time that the typewriter would soon be released, as it would be relatively simple to take a sample of the typescript for use in connection with any proceedings which might follow. Up to now this typewriter has not been returned to me and I am finding it very inconvenient in my work to have to do without it.

I visited the Police Barracks at Fleet Street, East London, where I made representations to the proper authorities about the matter. I was informed that the matter would be referred to the Magistrate, but have not heard anything further.

My purpose in writing to you is to request you to use your good offices on my behalf to secure the release of my typewriter. I quite appreciate the fact that it will take time for the rest of the documents seized to be examined, but I would be glad to have my typewriter released. It could always be called for again if required for any purpose.

Thanking you in anticipation of your favour.

Yours faithfully,

[Z. K. MATTHEWS]



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SUPPLEMENT TO EXISTING STATEMENT.

para.9: The three organisations named were selected to be the initial co-sponsors because we had already co-operated with them. At this time I did not know much about the C.O.D. and S.A.C.P.O. which had both been recently formed. I knew, however, that they were sympathetic to our aims.

"any other democratic organisation" - I can't say specifically who we had in mind, but we wanted to make it as broad as possible. "Democratic" meant organisations which believed in the rights of the people.

para.14: It was known to the Executive and possibly outside it as well, that I was preparing a memorandum. Therefore anyone who had any ideas sent them to me. I got suggestions mainly from executive members, but I can't remember exactly who.

para.16: My scheme as set forth in para. 12 was felt to be too complicated, and the meeting considered that it would be simpler just to have delegates elected by any group of people who were able to get together. I felt that



this would result in too large and unwieldy a meeting.

para.27: Fort Hare had just re-opened after having closed down for a period, and I felt that I could not be absent from my duties. I was a member of the committee in charge of re-admitting students and investigating the whole trouble.

I was not dissatisfied with the manner in which the C.O.P. was carried out. My fears that the meeting would be too big for detailed discussion were realised. I did not, however, regard this as a serious fault, and I think that the C.O.P. was well worth while.

para.28: I saw the text of the Freedom Charter for the first time at this meeting. I was satisfied with it. I opposed the idea that the N.E.C. should ratify the Freedom Charter, as I thought it was a policy matter which should be referred to Conference. This view prevailed.

The 1,000,000 signature campaign was nevertheless launched. I see no inconsistency in this. We approved of the Freedom Charter and regarded it as important, but it did not yet represent the official policy of the A.N.C.



The Freedom Charter.

Most of what is in the Freedom Charter was already A.N.C. Policy before. Nationalisation of industries was a new point. It does not mean nationalisation of all industries. It would in fact extend the scope of free enterprise. I approve of nationalisation of mines. It is basic to the welfare of all people in S.A. Its system of employing labour has social repercussions throughout the sub-continent. Banks, through their control of capital, may in fact control the government. It should be the other way about. I can't give concrete examples of "big monopoly industry". The general principle of monopoly was condemned.

Redistribution of land is not a new principle. It appears in African's Claims. It goes even further back - right to the Land Act of 1913. The distribution of land which was then made was regarded as unfair and has been so regarded throughout.

I think the state would have to use wide powers of expropriation. Experience shows that depending on people's willingness to sell is not sufficient. Compensation would be paid. I don't think we would set ourselves the objective of getting 80% of the land into African ownership. We would expropriate absentee landlords and give both white and black



farmers an opportunity of having their own land.

Courts shall be representative of the people. Means the same as Clause 2 of Bill of Rights in African's Claims. I don't understand the F.C. to mean election of judges - I do not approve of such a system.

para 33: 1955 was an election year and this always dominates the proceedings. afterwards there were not enough delegates to consider the charter.

ZKM on The Analysis:

Seems to be a course of lectures.

I have never seen it before.

It is not an A.N.C. point of view.

The goal described on the last page has never been set out as our goal. "Leading position of Africans" and proportional representation for other groups is not our policy. More like the Africanist view. It also envisages violence, which is not our policy.