

B1.2
Fort Hare,
Alice, C.P.
30-12-42.

Rev.J.A.Calata,
St James Mission,
CRADOCK.

Dear Mr Calata,

Just before I left for Pretoria at the beginning of this month to attend the session of the Native Representative Council I received a letter from Mr Martin Neayo, No.30 Loco Camp, S.A.R.&H., Cradock, in regard to certain complaints about the conditions of service and of living of Railway Workers in Cradock. The complaints related in the main to (a) lack of provision for quarters, (b) overtime pay, (c) hours of work (d) Compensation in case of accidents, (e) wages in general. After discussing the matter with Councillor Godlo on our way up to Pretoria, I decided to table a notice of question in the Council asking for information about what steps the Railway Administration was taking to attend to these matters as their non-European employees were concerned. The result was that the Railway Administration sent to the Council the reply of which I enclose a copy. What I should like you to do for me is to pass on to Mr Martin Neayo the enclosed letter for his information and that of his fellow-workers. You can assure him that we do not intend to let the matter rest there, and I shall be glad if they would give me information at a later date as to whether the improvements promised in this letter are being carried out. When the Council meets again in June, we shall review the whole position again, and if we can get definite complaints accompanied by well ascertained facts, we shall bring them to the attention of the Government as vigorously as possible.

I hope the rest of the meeting of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein went off well. I have not heard any further details. I am rather interested to know what happened about the Atlantic Charter Committee. I notice that it got a good deal of publicity in the Press. I think that the National Congress has very bright prospects indeed and if a vigorous drive is made for membership in 1943, much progress ought to be reported at the end of the year.

With compliments of the Season,

Yours sincerely,

Z K Nkomo
M.R.C. representing Cape Rural Areas.