

July 17, 1959

Professor Z. K. Matthews  
University College of Fort Hare  
Alice, Cape Province

Dear Z. K.:

Again it has been some time since I have written to you. I manage to keep fairly well informed on what is happening in South Africa in a number of ways -- by some correspondence I have, by the numerous periodicals I read coming from South Africa, and by the occasional well-informed visitor to the United States from South Africa. In general it has been rather fascinating in a morbid way to see how the Union government is trying to adapt itself to the modern mood of Africa in striving for self-government by trying to go through the form of "Bantu self-government." If it weren't so tragic it would be rather amusing. But one wonders what the future of Fort Hare will be. Will the curriculum be changed in any obvious way as a result of the University Law which I understand will be going into effect soon? What about your own status?

Another very interesting development that I don't have too much understanding of in the South African scene is the formation of the Africanist group and the break from the African National Congress. On the one hand, it seems as if the Africanists are following a pretty purely racist line, and yet on the other hand some of the statements which I have seen have not been entirely that. Since I don't know personally any of the people involved in this new movement, I am not quite sure what to make of it. I don't know whether there is anything responsible about it or whether it is rather completely irresponsible. At any rate, I would be glad for anything that you might be able to write me in brief about it.

The work of our Committee has been expanding pretty well. I don't know whether you met Dr. Homer A. Jack, who at the time you were here would have been minister of a Unitarian church in Evanston. He was in South Africa in 1952, I believe, and has been in other parts of the continent on two other occasions since then. He has just joined our staff as Associate Executive Director, and this is going to be a great help to me. We now have eight full-time people, and it means that although we are always up against it financially, we are able to branch out a bit more in the program we are carrying on. One of the latest things we have decided to do is to merge our South Africa Defense Fund into a broader Africa Defense and Aid Fund. The reason we feel it necessary to do this is that we must also be able to deal with the crises arising in Central and East Africa. We have had urgent appeals for help in those areas as well as continuing with requests to help in South Africa. Over the last two years or so we have sent close to \$50,000 to the Treason Trial Defence Fund in Johannesburg. I hope that with our expanded staff we will be able to do better

than this in our broader Africa Defense and Aid Fund.

We have been able to attract some attention both here and abroad by such projects as sponsoring Tom Mboya's visit to the United States recently, and also through our Africa Freedom Day event at Carnegie Hall on April 15th. We had a packed house and turned hundreds of people away, on that occasion. We've been getting good cooperation from the various representatives of the African Independent States here.

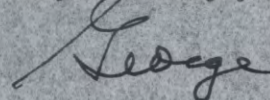
If there is ever any chance of your coming back to the United States we certainly would love to sponsor a cross-country tour for you which I am sure would attract the widest possible attention.

I was recently contacted by a good friend of mine who is an editor of a quarterly publication here entitled Dissent. I don't know whether you have ever seen this publication or not. It has articles in it by scholars and intellectuals who are liberal and Socialist, but definitely not Communist in their outlook. They asked me if, the next time I wrote to you, I might invite you to write an article for them. They would like something which would give an up-to-the minute appraisal of the direction of things in the Union of South Africa and how things look for the future. They hope to put out a special edition on Africa some time later this year. Therefore I am simply passing along their request to you in this letter. If you feel that you can write such an article I think it would be good.

I would dearly love to be able to see you again and sit down for a long talk. I know that my chances of getting into South Africa are almost nil at the present time, and I am likewise sure that you don't have too much chance of getting out. Nevertheless I do hope that we will be able to see each other some place before too many years have passed by. Incidentally, you may know that Jariretundu Kozonguizi left South West Africa illegally and is now in the United States. We have been working very closely with him as he petitions on behalf of the Herero people of South West Africa at the United Nations. He speaks in the highest terms of you.

My best regards to your wife.

Very sincerely yours,



Much love to both you and Frieda - Katie

George M. Hausel