

University College of Fort Hare,

P.O. Fort Hare, Alice, C.P., B2.124

Union of South Africa.

September 15, 1958.

[Hooper]
Dear Louisa,

I am writing to thank you very much for the nice long letter which I received from you while I was in Pretoria. I sent it on my wife who was also very happy to hear from you. This of course came after the very encouraging telegrams which we had received from you at the opening of the Trial. We may have seen in some of the newspapers the photograph which appeared of me receiving the telegrams which came from all over the country and from abroad and which I had the honour of distributing to the Accused. During the Trial I am staying in Pretoria within walking distance of the Old Synagogue, and so every morning I am the first to arrive, and so I receive all messages for the Accused.

As you may know by now the proceedings were adjourned on August 27 until September 29, after the Defence had delivered a very fine attack on the Indictment presented by the Crown. We all thought that with the very fine argument put up by Mr Maisels against the Indictment ~~xxxx~~ it ought to have been quashed, but instead the Court ordered the Crown to furnish better particulars against each of the Accused so that that each one should know what is the charge he has to meet. The Crown undertook to do that by September 15. In the meantime I am back at Fort Hare, trying to do my normal work as best I can with this cloud hanging over me and the other Accused. My own position here is becoming very precarious with this Trial lasting so long. So far the College authorities have been very patient, hoping that this thing will soon blow over, but their patience is not inexhaustible. Sooner or later they will decide to take action against me, which may mean not only the loss of my post but also of my pension rights. I had hoped to retire with full pension rights in a couple of years' time, but I suppose Swart & Co do not care how much suffering they cause with their Treason trials, apartheid measures, etc. So perhaps one of these days I may have to appeal to you for a job in the U.S. We shall see what we shall see.

You will have heard about the savage attack on the Chief at a certain meeting in Pretoria. Zami, Yengwa, Stalwart and myself were in Pretoria that evening, but we could of course not attend the meeting, but we went to fetch Chief from the meeting at about 10 p.m. only to find that there had been a disturbance there by these Pretoria hooligans describing themselves as Afrikaners. The Chief escaped with minor injuries but the consequences could easily have been much more serious. We are still waiting to see what the Government is going to do about it!

I do not think you know my younger son John Knox. He was at Wentworth when you were here. This year we were planning to send him to the Medical School of Birmingham University in the United Kingdom. He was due to start there in October. We applied for a passport for him months ago. We got a reply after the boat on which he was due to sail had left Cape Town, saying the Minister was not prepared to give him a passport. That is visiting the 'sins' of the father on the son! We have not given up hope. We are going to get him there somehow.

I must close. Please give my greetings to all my friends in the U.S. Tell them we are much encouraged by their support. Things here are I am afraid not going to improve in the near future, but we shall fight on, knowing that our cause is right and must triumph in the end. My address in Pretoria, where I shall be by the end of the month is
Street, Pretoria