

Afr.Studies 25-2-59

Mr S.P.Ngculu,  
Lundie Memorial Mission,  
Xonyeni P/B.,  
P.O.Willowvale,C.P.

Dear Mr Ngculu,  
Thank you for your letter of the 9th inst in which you ask for my assistance in connection with the resolution which you wish to put before the next session of the Transkeian Territorial Authority. I suggest that the notice of motion should read as follows:-

"This Territorial Authority desires to place on record its strongest disapproval of the proposed Fort Hare Transfer Bill to be tabled before Parliament, especially as this step is being taken without consultation of the people primarily affected and without regard to the historical development of Fort Hare as an autonomous university institution similar to other university institutions in the country".

The reasons in support of the motion are contained in the motion itself.

1. This step is being taken by the Government without consultation with the people primarily affected by it. The Governing Council of Fort Hare, the Senate i.e. the Staff at Fort Hare, the Churches which established the Hostels, the donors who gave money for the establishment of the College--the Transkeian Bunga gave f10,000 towards the establishment of the College--the African people who collected money in different parts of the country for this College, even before Union was established---all these groups have not been consulted. They simply find that something for which they have worked for so many is to be taken away from them and handed over to the Bantu Education Dept.

2. When this College was established it was intended that it should be open to all the African people. They all took part in its establishment, and since its inception students from all parts of the country have attended it. Now we understand it is to be confined to the Xhosa-speaking only. This is against the traditions of a university that its students should compulsorily be confined to one tribe.

3. As a rule Universities are administered by Governing Councils consisting of the bodies interested in the development of the institution concerned elected by the bodies concerned. Now the Governing Council is to be appointed by the Government alone; the Staff is to be appointed by the Government; the Government is to decide which students shall be admitted. Altogether there is to be much too rigid a control by the Government.

4. The Bill stipulates that there are to be two Governing Councils, one executive council consisting of whites, and one advisory



Council consisting of Africans. Similarly there are to be two Senates, one consisting of whites and another consisting of blacks. This is contrary to the traditions of the College where black and white have always worked together harmoniously in both Council and Senate. This new arrangement is bound to cause a lot of friction between black and white in the College among both staff and students.

I think I have given you the main reasons which will enable you to move the motion. I think you should conclude by requesting that before the Government takes this drastic step an opportunity should be given to the bodies directly concerned, including the Transkeian Territorial Authority to express their views on this matter either before a Commission or before a Select Committee of House of Assembly.

I hope you have a copy of the Bill and will study it carefully before you speak. It might be wise also to discuss the matter with some other people before the meeting. Mr R.S. Canca, Attorney-at-Law, Willowvale, might also assist you.

I shall look forward to following the proceedings when this matter does come up later on.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zkh.