

C2.140

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
50 MEMORIAL DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

October 19, 1959

Dr. Henry Van Dusen
Union Theological Seminary
Broadway at 120th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Van Dusen:

Your letter, and the copy of your communication to Professor Matthews have only just arrived and I hasten to reply at once.

As I told you in our phone conversation, your Committee's decision to invite Professor Matthews back for a second appointment is wonderful news, and I am sure he will deeply appreciate the honor and consideration it so strongly implies. I am equally sure that it will be of great help and comfort to him as he wrestles with the difficult decisions that lie before him. There is certainly no suggestion, either in this bid from the Seminary or in anything any of us have written him, of advice or prejudgment about that decision. I shall certainly pass on to him your own feeling of concerned uncertainty over the pros and cons of his present choices; indeed, Dr. Van Dusen, we all share it. The important thing is for him to have the knowledge that he does have some alternatives and that he has sympathetic friends deeply interested in his career and his welfare.

As to the second point about the public speaking engagements Professor Matthews might have while he is here, I assure he will himself respond to you directly on this point, and that there would be no one here, friend or foe, who could or would lead Professor Matthews to do anything but respect his own commitments in this regard.

To the best of my knowledge, it is perfectly safe to send your letter by the normal airmail channels, and I will be very glad indeed to have your advice that it has gone forward to him at Fort Hare.

Yours sincerely,

Harold R. Isaacs
Research Associate

HRI:lwf