

Fort Hare,  
Alice, C.P.  
14-2-51

Chief Tshekedi Khama,  
Rametsane,  
P.O. Molepolole,  
Gaberones Station, B.P.

Dear Chief,

Thank you for your letter of the 6th inst. and for the enclosed documents. I was very sorry that I could not make the trip to the North to be present at the interview with Mr Gordon-Walker. I am confident, however, that you and others present were able to give him something to think about. We are expecting him here this week-end and I hope to be able to have a word with him although his visit will very rushed.

I am glad to hear that you will be proceeding overseas to discuss further with the British Government. I am very suspicious myself that the British Government is using the Seretse incident in order to undermine the whole conception of chieftainship in the Protectorate, not only as far as the Bamangwato are concerned. The Council idea which they seem to favour has got that as its underlying basis. After all we in the Union have had a great deal of experience of the Council system, and far from being a system intended to foster democracy in the tribe as a whole, it is used to strengthen the position of the Native Commissioner (or District Commissioner as you call him).

In regard to the possibility of my accompanying overseas the prospects are not too bad. At the present moment I have been granted six months' leave from the College, and my intention was to spend that time in doing some writing up of material which I have been collecting for a number of years. I wanted to have a complete rest from politics. Now the suggestion you are making is raising a new problem. Before I make up my mind about the matter there are one or two matters about which I should like to have some information:-

- (a) When are you likely to go overseas?
- (b) What in general would be the subject of the talks overseas?
- (c) Would the idea of my being drawn into these talks be acceptable to Seretse's supporters? As you know I have been friendly and loyal to both of you, and have always tried to be objective in viewing the problems with which both of you are faced. Actually it seems to me that it would have been an excellent idea if we could have got the British Government to invite me to these talks as an impartial adviser acceptable to both parties. What do you think of that idea?
- (d) Do you think the Union Government would give me a passport to proceed overseas. I am not exactly persona grata with them just now, especially since my resignation from the Native Representative Council. I have also recently attacked Malan for the speech he made on the Protectorate issue. I think, however, that if the British Government indicated that my services were required by them, the Union Government might be induced to grant the passport. Otherwise I would simply have to say I was proceeding overseas for my leave. I don't think they would refuse that, and all we would have to do is to arrange that we are in London at the same time.
- (e) How would you be proceeding overseas, by sea or by air?
- (f) How would the trip be financed?

I shall be glad to hear from you about the matters in the near future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,