

Union Theological Seminary,
3041 Broadway,
New York 27, N.Y.
March 25, 1953.

Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft,
World Council of Churches,
17 Route de Malagnou,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Dr Visser 't Hooft,

You will recall that on February 6, 1953 you addressed a letter to Principal C.P. Dent of the University College of Fort Hare, Union of South Africa in which you requested him to consider the possibility of granting me extended leave of absence from my duties at Fort Hare in order to make it possible for me, among other things, to attend a conference of the preparatory commissions for the Evanston Assembly to be held at Bossey, near Geneva, from August 11-19, 1953.

I have just received a letter from Principal Dent in which he informs me that the Governing Council of Fort Hare at its recent meeting has consented to grant me the necessary leave of absence on condition that "the World Council of Churches will have to be prepared to meet all the costs involved in your attendance.....provide all additional travelling, and the cost of your maintenance over there for all the additional time required"

While the question of leave from Fort Hare may be said to have been satisfactorily settled, there is another problem which may not be so easily settled, and that is the question of the extension of my passport. Unfortunately I hold a passport which expires on May 20, and I am at present in the process of applying for an extension of my passport to cover the period of transit for my return journey to South Africa. I have already secured a passage on the French liner s.s. "Liberté" leaving New York on May 15, 1953, and on the Union Castle liner, 'Stirling Castle' leaving Southampton on June 11, 1953. I have reason to believe that the Union Government authorities are not anxious to have me prolong my stay abroad. If therefore I am to accept your invitation to attend the conference in Geneva as I am willing to, in the light of Principal Dent's letter, it will be necessary for the World Council of Churches to make representations to the Union authorities in regard to the extension of my passport to cover the necessary period, and for the specific purpose indicated. I have no other purpose for which I should like to extend my stay abroad, and my intention is to return to the Union as soon as possible after fulfilling my commitments overseas.

I am writing you immediately as I realise that the matter is one of some urgency. As I say the matter is already under consideration in regard to an extension to cover transit from America to South Africa, and I have no assurance that that application will be granted. It is for that reason that I feel that the question of a further extension will require your personal intervention.

Trusting that your endeavours will meet with success,

Yours sincerely,