

C O P Y

J.13-4.a.
February 6th, 1953.

Principal C. P. Dent
University College
Fort Hare
Union of South Africa

Dear Principal,

The World Council of Churches has invited Dr. Z. K. Matthews to serve as a member on the Commission on "Inter-Group Relations - The Church amid Racial and Ethnic Tensions", preparing the second Assembly of the World Council at Evanston, U.S.A., in 1954, and to attend a conference of all the preparatory commissions to be held at Bossey, near Geneva, from August 11-19, 1953. Dr. Matthews has accepted membership, but at the same time informed us that it would not be possible for him to attend the conference next August, for the reason that he is expected to return to S. Africa in June to resume his duties at Fort Hare after a year's leave of absence.

It would seem to us to be of the utmost importance that Dr. Matthews attend the August conference this year, especially in view of the race situation in S. Africa. This conference will be the first full meeting of the Commissions, and will thus be a crucial stepping-stone in shaping the preparatory programme for the Evanston Assembly.

After correspondence with Dr. Matthews and with the Secretary of the Commission, the Rev. R.S. Bilheimer, New York, I should therefore be most grateful if you would consider the possibility of granting Dr. Matthews a further two months' leave, which would allow him to stay in the United States and in Europe until and through this World Council Conference.

An early reply would be appreciated, since in the event of such leave being granted, Dr. Matthews would have to re-arrange his whole travel schedule.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. Visser 't Hooft
General Secretary