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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORT HARE
Fort Hare, Cape Province,
South Africa.
18th May, 1956.

Dr. Henry P. van Dusen,
Union Theological Seminary,
Broadway at 120th Street,
New York 27, N.Y.,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Dr. van Dusen,

I am writing to thank you for the brochure dealing with the Program of Advanced Religious Studies which I have just received. I have been wanting to know how this new program was getting on. Indeed I was discussing it only a few days with Dr. Kenneth Snyder, the Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in Pretoria who was on a short visit to Fort Hare. I have been discussing with our Divinity Department the possibility of making a nomination, and it looks as if we shall be able to find a suitable candidate in the not too distant date. We are naturally anxious to recommend only those who, as the brochure puts it, "have demonstrated exceptional capacities for leadership" and can "undertake advanced preparation for their tasks".

You will by now be getting ready for your Commencement Exercises. I was very pleased to learn of the decision of Union to confer an honorary degree on Ds. J. Reyneke of the Dutch Reformed Church. I have known Ds. Reyneke for many years and have worked with him in missionary conferences and in the Institute of Race Relations. I know how his work was appreciated by the people of Bechuanaland when he was stationed at Mochudi in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. By the time he retired he was in charge of one of the most important D.R. Churches in the country, with Cabinet Ministers and other important Government officials as members of his congregation. In many gatherings at which hard things have been said about the D.R. Church and about the Afrikaner people, Ds. Reyneke has now the admiration of all by the manner in which he has been able, without bitterness, to expound the standpoint of the group he represents and to show an appreciation of points of view to which he did not subscribe. For his broad humanity, his catholicity of interests and his christian charitableness he richly deserves the honour to be conferred upon him.

We had our Graduation Ceremony a few weeks ago and I am sending you a clipping about it from one of our local newspapers. Arising out of the troubles we had at Fort Hare last year and the Report of the Commission of Inquiry subsequently appointed, our Principal, Professor C.P. Dent asked the Governing Council to allow him to retire, and I was invited to act until a new appointment is made. The Government has under consideration certain plans regarding higher education for Africans. We do not as yet know how these will affect Fort Hare but we are hoping for the best. We have a full complement of students this year and have had to refuse admission to a number, a step we are always reluctant to take when there is such a shortage of educated men and women in African society. On the other hand our Hostel accommodation is limited and we prefer our students to be in residence in the College rather than in private lodgings in the district.

I must close. Please convey our greetings to all our friends at Union. We shall always remember with gratitude the privilege we had of being members of your community. We have not given up the hope of visiting your great country again sometime in the future.

Yours sincerely,

S.Kh.

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