

Origin and Purpose. Last year I was invited by Union Theological Seminary, New York, one of the leading theological schools of America, to join the Faculty of that institution for the academic year 1952-53 as a Visiting Professorship. Known as the Henry W. Luce Visiting Professorship of World Christianity, the Chair I was invited to occupy was made possible by ~~gifts~~ gifts from Mr Henry R. Luce, the Editor of the well known American Magazines, "Time", "Life" and "Fortune" and from the Henry Luce Foundation and was established in memory of Mr Luce's father, Dr Henry Winters Luce, himself a graduate of Union Theological Seminary of the Class of 1895, who was a missionary in China for over 25 years. Dr Henry W. Luce was an outstanding leader in the development of higher education of American religious leaders in the cultural and historical aspects of Asiatic civilizations and in the interchange of students and professors between the East and the West. The object of the Professorship is to bring to the Seminary foremost leaders from the so-called Younger Churches to take a position on the Faculty for periods of one year each to interpret to the students and Faculty the most important developments in the Christian movement in their own lands". In other words the concept behind this living memorial is that just as, under the impulse of the modern missionary movement, individuals and groups from the West have gone to various lands to convey the Gospel message, the time has come for the reverse process to take place, namely, for the receiving countries to send emissaries to the sending countries to discuss with future missionaries, future ministers in the sending countries and other church leaders the achievements, past and present, of Missions in their own lands, how the gospel message might be presented more effectively, what changes, if any, in mission policy, strategy and methods are dictated by changed and changing conditions in the countries to which missionaries are sent, etc. The incumbent is therefore attached principally to the Department of Missions in the Seminary which is at present headed by Professor Searle Bates, a Rhodes scholar and a graduate of Yale University, formerly Professor of History at Nanking University in China. Established in 1945, the Henry W. Luce Visiting Professorship of World Christianity has been held by the following distinguished scholars from different parts of the world:-

1945-46: Dr Francis Cho-Min Wei, President of Hua Chung College, China



- 1947-48: Dr Paul David Devanandan, formerly Professor of Philosophy and the History of Religions, United Theological College, Bangalore, India.
- 1950-51: Dr Leofly Levonian, Dean of the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 1951-52: Professor Gonzales Baez-Camargo, Theological Seminary, Mexico City, Mexico.

It was this illustrious band which I was invited to join, an invitation which I regarded not merely as a personal honour which I did not merit, but rather as an indication of the increasingly important place accorded to the continent of Africa and its problems in intellectual and other circles.

Other Invitations. In addition to the invitation from Union Theological Seminary, I received two other invitations from America. One was from the Africa Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. This body which has its headquarters in New York was sponsoring a Conference on African Affairs to be held at Springfield, Ohio from June 16 to 26, 1952 in which missionaries, government officials, Africans and other persons interested in African affairs were invited to participate. I was invited to read a paper before the Conference which was attended by about 300 delegates, including 40 Africans from different parts of the continent of Africa. A Report of the Conference has been published under the title "Africa is Here". The other invitation was from the Directors of the Phelps-Stokes Fund 101 Park Avenue, New York. Over 25 years ago this body had sent out two Commissions to Africa headed by Dr Thomas Jesse Jones and including in their membership the famous Dr J.E.K. Aggrey. The Commissions had made a study of educational facilities for Africans in the whole of Africa south of the Sahara and had published two Reports, entitled "Education in West, South & Equatorial Africa" and "Education in East Africa". Great changes had taken place in Africa since the publication of these reports, and the question on which the Phelps-Stokes Fund desired to seek the advice of those interested in the welfare of Africa and Africans was whether the time had not come for a fresh study to be made of African education in the light of the changing racial, political and economic conditions, and if it was felt that such a study was desirable, what would be considered to be suitable terms of reference for such a proposed study. In order to get the necessary



advice the Phelps-Stokes Fund decided to hold a Consultation at Springfield, Ohio, U.S.A. to which various experts on African problems were invited. This Consultation was to take place immediately after the North American Assembly on African Affairs referred to above which had as its theme: "The Changing Racial, Economic and Political Conditions in Africa south of the Sahara, and the Relation of the Christian Church and Mission to Them".

Travel Arrangements. The conditions of travel in the modern world are such that my acceptance of these invitations was dependent on whether I should be allowed to leave the shores of my homeland and on whether I should be permitted to enter the United States. Neither of these permissions could be taken for granted, especially in the case of a person like myself who had played some part in the public life of South Africa. Accordingly I started negotiations for the necessary passports and visas for my wife and myself in January, 1952 and it was not until the end of May that powers-towards be granted us South African passports valid for one year from the date of issue. As far as the U.S. visa was concerned authority for that came through only a few days before I was due to leave Alice for Johannesburg where I was to join Pan-American World Airways Flight 151 for New York. I left Palmietfontein on Thursday, June 12, 1952 at 11 a.m. and arrived at Idlewild International Airport, New York on Saturday, June 14, 1952 at 4.30 a.m., having touched down for refuelling at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo; Accra, Gold Coast; Dakar, French West Africa; Lisbon, Portugal; Santa Maria, the Azores; Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Travel by air is probably the most discrimination-free form of travel. Up in the air, 17 or 18 thousand feet above sea-level, travelling at 280 or 300 miles per hour, with one's fate even more firmly than at other times in the hands of Providence, things like the colour of one's skin pale into insignificance, and everybody becomes just--a passenger. Going through the Customs at an airport is a much less formidable proceeding than it is when one enters the United States by boat, and so within ~~xxx~~ an hour of our arrival I was on my way to Union Theological Seminary which is located on Broadway at 120th Street. This part of New York which was going to be my home for the best part of a year is in pleasant surroundings, with such well known institutions as Columbia University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Juilliard School of Music, the famous Riverside Church of Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick



## Statement to African Drum on the U.N.O. Question.

The Editor of Drum,

You are no doubt aware that one of the subjects which has been under discussion at U.N.O. in recent weeks has been the question of "the race conflict in South Africa resulting from the apartheid policy of the Government of the Union of South Africa. This subject was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly by 18 member States headed by India. South Africa opposed the inclusion of this item on the argument that to do so would violate article 2, para.7 of the United Nations Charter which bars the United Nations from intervening in any matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of member States.

The South African view was overruled by an overwhelming majority only South Africa herself voting in favour of her own proposal. Once it had been agreed that this item should be included in the agenda, the subject was referred to a special ad hoc political committee on which all member States have one representative each to deal with and to make recommendations for consideration at a later stage by the General Assembly.

Michael Scott Intervenes. At this stage the Rev. Michael Scott, who is here holding a watching brief on behalf of the Africans of South-West Africa, wrote to the chairman of the special ad hoc committee suggesting among other things, that the committee consider the possibility of inviting me to give oral evidence before it on the subject of the apartheid legislation in the Union of South Africa, if such a course commended itself to the committee. At the same time he sent a copy of his letter to the different delegations represented on the committee.

This is where I began to come into the picture. Members of the South African delegation, assuming that I had suggested this course to Michael Scott, tackled me about the matter. The burden of their representations was that the acceptance of such an invitation would be regarded as a "hostile" act for which the Union Government would be compelled to take action against me, and that in the interests of my future as a leader of the African people, I should give an undertaking that I would not accept such an invitation, even before the matter was raised in the committee. I refused to give any such undertaking on two grounds. First, that it would obviously be premature for me to decline an invitation which had not yet been agreed upon. Secondly, that the African National Congress, of which I am a representative, had, as far as back as July, long before this issue was raised either by the Indian delegation or by Michael Scott, addressed a communication to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Trygve Lie, asking for an opportunity to place the grievances of the African people before the United Nations at its then forthcoming session; and as an official of that organisation I was in duty bound to hold myself in readiness to appear on their behalf, should their request be granted.

Fort Hare Threatened. In the meantime I received a letter from the Principal of Fort Hare, informing me that he had been warned by the Union Education Department that "the Department will be reluctantly compelled to take a very serious view of the matter as he (i.e. myself) is employed by your College which receives a considerable subsidy from the State". In view of this direct threat to the college, Professor Dent in his capacity as principal of the college, instructed me not to accept any invitation to appear at UNO. I replied that I had not in fact been invited as yet to appear, but that if such an invitation did come, I would then decide what to do about the matter and would not allow any intimidation to influence me in my decision. As if this was not enough undue pressure, I was also visited by a representative of the State Department of the United States who also used his "good offices" in an endeavour to dissuade me from taking a step that might be "kalamitous" as far as my future career in South Africa was concerned. I thanked him for his solicitude but indicated ~~xxxx~~ to him that if and when the invitation did come, I would do what I considered to be my duty according to my convictions without regard to the official pressure to which I had been subjected.

American Papers Silent. In the meantime the question had not been raised at all in the ad hoc committee. Moreover there was complete silence about it in the U.S. Press although there was apparently such a to-do about it in the South African Press. To this day not a single American newspaper



has referred to the matter. Eventually the issue was raised in the committee by the delegate of Liberia, a man whom I had not even met at the time. My wife and I walked into a meeting of this committee one afternoon just when the Liberian delegate was being appealed to by the chairman of the committee--the delegate of Greece--not to press this matter of an invitation to Professor Matthews as that would create a precedent as no individual had ever appeared as yet before that particular committee of the United Nations.

The Chairman suggested that "if Prof. Matthews wished to do so, he might submit a written statement for the consideration of the committee. When the Liberian delegate deferred to the suggestion of the chairman the South African delegate rose to thank the chairman for his "ruling" whereupon the chairman pointed out to him that this was not a "ruling" but merely an appeal to the Liberian delegate not to press the matter. The South African delegate went ~~xxx~~ on to say that he would protest against a written statement from me being received by the committee whereupon the chairman pointed out to him that he could protest if he wished ~~xxxx~~ but that that in itself would not preclude the committee from receiving such a statement.

Request of A.N.C. All this came as a complete surprise to me. I took the opportunity later to point out to the Liberian delegate that he was in error in supposing, as his speech seemed to suggest, that I had requested to be heard, but that the request came from the African National Congress (of which I was a representative) on behalf of the African people whose views would not otherwise be available to the committee, although they were vitally affected by the subject under discussion. The Liberian delegate took the opportunity at a later meeting to draw the attention of the committee to the request of the African National Congress. The letter which I wrote to the delegate of Liberia was accepted for circulation to the delegations at the request of the delegate of Haiti who commented very strongly on the "official pressure" to which I had been subjected and to which Fort Hare had been subjected. He also undertook to circulate among the delegates the memorandum of the African National Congress on the subject of apartheid before the matter comes before the plenary session of the United Nations. That is where the matter rests at present.

I am informed that it is suggested in the South African Press that I have been refused a hearing by the U.N. Actually, of course, no vote has been taken on the matter.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) Z.K. MATTHEWS.