

C2 138
P.O. Fort Hare,
Alice, C.P.
Union of S. Africa
19-10-59

Dear Canon Collins,

I must begin by thanking you for your last letter in which you informed me about the safe arrival of my son in England. We have heard from him since his arrival in Birmingham and he seems to be settling down very well. I must thank you for all your assistance to him and can only express the hope that he will make good use of the opportunity which you are making possible for him.

You will no doubt have seen reports in the Press about what has been happening to Fort Hare in recent weeks. The Government is taking steps to implement the Fort Hare Transfer Act. With the powers granted to him under that Act the Minister of Bantu Education has already terminated the services of eight of the English-speaking members of our Staff, and has threatened to dismiss any of the remaining members of Staff who 'sabotage the policy of apartheid. With regard to the African members of staff they have been offered what are termed "State posts" which means that they will be subject to civil service regulations in terms of which, among other things, mere membership of a political organisation will be a serious offence. They have been given 90 days in which to decide whether they are going to stay or go. I am among those who have been offered these "State posts". This has presented me with a cruel choice because I am within two years of superannuation. If I decide to go I shall lose all my pension rights and if I decide to stay I shall find myself in an intolerable position. I have given the matter very careful consideration, but I am afraid I do not see how I can ever fit into the new set-up at Fort Hare. I have not yet made known my decision but I feel that in spite of the very heavy sacrifice I shall be called upon to make I shall have to go. I have of course considered the possibility of an appointment overseas, but I suppose there one would come up against passport difficulties. I am naturally worried about my commitments in connection with my son overseas, but I feel that one should not allow difficulties to force one to compromise on important matters of principle.

The Treason Trial is about to complete the third month of hearing but the end is not yet in sight. We cannot thank you enough for all your assistance in that connection.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.K.A.