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P.O.Box 81,
Alice, C.P.
2.11.60

The Hon. Mr Leslie Blackwell, Q.C.,
27 Dennekamp,
Wynberg, Cape.

Dear Professor Blackwell,

Thank you very much for your letter of 26th October. I must apologise for my delay in replying to the letter you wrote me while I was in Johannesburg. I was kept very busy getting ready to give evidence for the Defence in the Treason Trial and then I spent a week in the witness box. Immediately after that I returned to Alice where I have been engaged in picking up the threads of my practice.

Thank you for returning the case for opinion which I sent to you. I have handed the matter to Advocate Kentridge of the Johannesburg Bar. I found that he had dealt with this Queenstown matter before from a rather different angle. I am hoping to hear from him in the near future.

The sudden passing of Prof. Burrows came as a shock to the whole community here. The Fort Hare authorities were gracious enough, at the request of the students, to have a memorial service in the C.U. Hall in which I was also invited to take part. It was a very moving service and the tributes paid to the deceased by Prof. Davidson and by a representative of the student body were very touching. The next day there was a memorial service in the Cathedral at Grahamstown which was also well attended by the staff of Rhodes University and by students and staff from Fort Hare. The last piece of work for Fort Hare on which he was engaged was a History of Fort Hare, 1916-59. Dr Kerr and I had been associated with him in this work and we were just awaiting the return of Dr Kerr from overseas to finalise the matter. Dr Kerr got back just a few days too late, and now we shall have to complete the work without the competent advice of our dear departed friend. I feel that what happened to the Fort Hare he loved so well must have hastened his end.

Although we are living so close to Fort Hare we keep away from it as much as possible, so that we do not know very much about what is going on across the bridge. It does appear however as if this has not been a very happy. The students have been restive; they have resented the idea that they have been compelled to sever their relations with NUSAS; their SRC has ceased to function; they complain about the incompetence of some of the new lecturers although they admit that some, like Prof. Pont, formerly of Pretoria University, are outstanding. The Special Branch seems to be keeping a close watch on the place. You will have seen reports in the Press about how young Chiids, of the Geography Department, while on his way to Grahamstown with a couple of students in his car was stopped by the Special Branch while he and the students were searched. Chiids has as a result resigned from Fort Hare. All these things have contributed to the tension which exists in the place.

Fortunately the time for examinations has come round and students are now concentrating on their studies. I see that the Indian College will be starting next year. I suppose this will result in a serious reduction of the number of students at Fort Hare next year.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,