

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE)

DEPARTMENT
OF
COMMERCE



TELEPHONE 2-8062
ORANGE STREET
CAPE TOWN
20th July 1961

Professor Z.K. Matthews
P.O. Box 81
Alice C.P.

Dear Professor Matthews,

This is a purely personal letter. I understand that you are thinking of discussing, in your Davie Memorial Lecture, the challenge to the universities of the African awakening, or something to that effect. That covers a vitally important field to which I myself have been giving a great deal of thought. The enclosed article from a recent CAPE TIMES (July 14th) makes it clear that I regard academic freedom - the free competition of ideas - as the basic right which we ought to protect in any new era.

Does not the occasion of your address provide a splendid opportunity for an assurance to White South Africa that you regard iron-clad entrenchments to safe-guard a White minority as a reasonable condition for the gradual sharing of political power with all races? I believe that the fear of being overwhelmed by African numbers is a greater barrier to the gradual enfranchisement of the African than the traditional feeling that the appropriate function of non-Whites is that of hewers of wood and drawers of water. The required entrenchments would not mean the perpetuation of White privilege but merely the prevention of Black privilege in a future régime.

In a criticism of my CAPE TIMES article a correspondent (P.M. Harker, CAPE TIMES, 18th July) asks: "Does Professor Hutt visualise a voluntary relinquishing of power and privilege, actual by the Whites and potential by the non-Whites?" My answer is: Yes, because it is in the interests of both parties. It is in the interests of the Whites because without some such condition in the not too distant future, they will lose the last chance of protecting themselves, as a minority, in the inevitable multi-racial order. It is in the interests of the Africans because, if they renounce the right to revenge for the injustices of history, and agree to explicit constitutional barriers to prevent such a result, they will be able to enjoy an incomparably more rapid movement towards full political rights and, what is even more important, towards gradual equality of economic opportunity. Moreover, it is in the interests of both Whites and Africans that actual and potential power to dominate should be relinquished, because both stand to lose from the catastrophe of a violent solution.

Of course, I cannot assume that you will agree with my approach. But I can assume, I think, that my point of view is one that you will wish to consider.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

K.W. Hutt