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## Prof. Matthews Shows the Way

**T**HE address Professor Matthews gave before the conference of the Race Relations Institute was at once a reasonable presentation of the point of view of responsible African nationalism. Coming from a moderate and couched in moderate terms the things he said are worthy of close study by our rulers as well as our people.

We purposely refrained from publishing his speech immediately after its delivery because its real significance would have been lost in the events which occurred when and after it was given. Now is the best time to give it the attention it deserves.

He starts by pointing out the admitted impracticability of the unilateral solutions which the white people have from time to time devised to regulate relations between themselves and ourselves. He then goes on to reject the claims made by many whitemen to justify our oppression and ends up by correctly emphasising that co-operation between Black and White is the only way out.

We want to emphasise this fact too. As he rightly says, there can be no future for the African unless we as a race are prepared to work hand in hand with the Whiteman; but we do not want co-operation on any basis. We want co-operation on only one unalterable basis : absolute and complete equality. As the Professor pointed out, there have risen among us men and women who are fit to be the Trustees, not only of their own people; African men and women who are fit to be the Trustees for quite a good many White people as well.

Many people look at African nationalism with mixed feelings. But African nationalists have not concealed their intentions. They want a South Africa where there will be the maximum health, happiness and security for all, regardless of colour. This can never happen so long as political power rests solely in a racial minority which has proved conclusively that it is not capable of exercising the necessary responsibility entailed in the possession of this power, fairly. The African nationalist says give the African, the European, the Coloured and the Indian an equal right to say how they shall regulate their lives and take themselves out of the mess into which they have been thrown by the whiteman's unilateral solutions. If the whiteman genuinely seeks goodwill and not the political enslavement and economic strangulation of the African, now is the time to meet the African nationalist.

As Prof. Matthews has always taken pains to point out, if at all times the African will be faced with an inflexible and immutable wall of unreason, then none should be surprised when the boycott movement makes great progress. It is the African people's reply to the lack of reason in the ruler's attitude to African aspirations.

It is such a pity, however, that in his pursuit of the ideal of co-operation, Prof. Matthews has not up to now found it possible to quit the NRC—even when membership of this body constitutes an obvious humiliation of the African people.