

P.O. Fort Hare, C2 146
Alice, C.P.
Union of South Africa,
26-10-59

[Hooper]
Dear Louisa,

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you and a great deal has happened over here since that time. The biggest thing of course has been the banning of Chief. He was making such a deep impression on the South African public, especially the European public, during his travels in different parts of the country that the Govt. simply had to do something about it, and so they decided to confine him to the Tygèaaa district as they did before. But he continues to write from Groutville, and there is an endless stream of visitors from all parts of the world who come to see him about one thing or another. So he is not as isolated as they thought he would be.

The next thing of interest is the upsurge of feeling among the African women of Natal. They have all of a sudden started to fight against beerhalls, dipping tanks, pass laws, etc. Although their demonstrations have been peaceful, they have been arrested in large numbers and very heavy sentences have in some cases been imposed upon them. My son Joe who is now practising on his own as a lawyer in Durban has been defending them in a number of cases, while Arenstein and J.N. Singh have taken other cases. Altogether they are having an exciting time in Natal.

The third matter I wish to refer you to is the position at Fort Hare. As you may know the Govt. has passed a law empowering them to take over Fort Hare as from January 1960. Their first step in connection with the transfer has been to terminate the services of a number of the English-speaking members of our staff on the ground that they are 'sabotaging the policy of apartheid'. As far as the African staff are concerned, they have been offered continuation of employment as civil servants which means that they will be governed by regulations which make ~~MEMBER~~ mere membership of a political organisation like the A.N.C. an offence. I have been offered such an appointment and I have been given 90 days in which to decide whether I accept or not. If I do not accept, then I shall have to forfeit my pension rights for which I have worked at the College for 24 years. On the other hand if I accept I shall have to resign from the A.N.C. and my name and my reputation will be made use of to bolster up these tribal colleges. Well, my wife and I have considered the matter and our children have given their views, and we are all agreed that, whatever the consequences I must resign from Fort Hare. This means that between now and January I have got to try and find alternative employment either in this country or elsewhere. I have written to a friend in the U.S. to try and see what is available there. I should be glad if you would also look round on my behalf. Of course if something does turn up over there I shall then be faced with the problem of having to get a passport. Some of my friends over here are suggesting that in view of the great financial loss which I shall suffer--by resigning I shall lose approximately 20,000 dollars--perhaps a fund should be raised to compensate me for this loss and to make it possible for me to be free to concentrate on A.N.C. work now that I shall be free from my duties at Fort Hare. You know all about the great need there is for someone to do full time organisational work for our cause. But the trouble always is how such a person could be financed. Perhaps something could be worked out along that line.

The Treason Trial is still proceeding. It looks as if it will take a long time yet. In the meantime the Accused are suffering all kinds of privations. I shall be glad to hear from you soon. Did you go to Europe this summer? With greetings from all, I remain