

December 2, 1958  
Dictated November 23rd

Professor Z. K. Matthews  
University College of Fort Hare  
Alice, Cape Province

Dear Z. K.:

It has been some time since I heard from you, and indeed since you heard from me. However, I know that you realize we are following events in South Africa just as closely as we can. I do get a few publications from South Africa and in this way have received more detailed information than might otherwise have been the case. As you know, the coverage received in the American press is not very great. I rely upon correspondence from South African friends as much as possible, of course. But I am a little hesitant about corresponding with many people I would like to simply because I know censorship conditions prevail to some extent.

As I understand the situation now, the charge of treason has been dropped, but a new trial is to be instituted. The group of 91 has now been divided into two groups, consisting of 30 and 61. I don't know in which group you may be included. I rather get the impression that in the group of 30 the hard-core suspected Communists may be included. Their trial is to begin on January 19th, I infer from what I have read. The trial against the other 61, with the indictment as yet unstated, will begin some time in April. Is this about the situation, or is it different?

We have about decided here that we will launch again a rather broad emergency campaign for our South Africa Defense Fund. One of the difficulties, of course, is that we don't have as much detailed information as we need. Therefore I could use any general information that you can send to me. Do you have any idea how much money is needed and for what purposes? I shall also try to be in touch with the Treason Trials Defence Fund in Johannesburg about this. In addition, of course, to this follow-up on the original treason trial, we are very much interested in the Sekukuneland case and also the arrest of large numbers of women for pass laws violations. Fortunately, under our South Africa Defense Fund, we are not limited simply to raising money for the treason trial. Thus at an appropriate time we might also try to raise some funds for other cases. I should like to know whether anything concerted is being done at the present time in South Africa regarding other cases?

You will be interested to know that I am attending the All African People's Conference in Accra. I rather doubt that anyone will be able to get there from inside South Africa. How I wish I might meet some of the key leaders in South Africa there. I think it should be a very significant conference in spite of the fact that the problems which have to be solved will be tremendous.

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP  
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL



I hope that everything is going as well with you as can be expected under the circumstances. And I do look forward to hearing from you as soon as you can write.

Regards to Frieda.

Sincerely yours,

George

SECOND FOLD



Professor Z. K. Matthews  
University College of Fort Hare  
Alice, Cape Province  
Union of South Africa

AIR LETTER • AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL  
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED

FIRST FOLD

P.S.: George left last Friday for West Africa, and will be back just before Christmas. I wish you both might be in Accra too. Love to you. - Katie