

99 Claremont Avenue,
New York 27, N.Y., U.S.A.
November 27, 1952

[dent] Dear C.P.D., Thank you your letter of October 27 in which you inform me about the communication which you have had from the Union Education Department. When I received your cable asking me to await your letter I suspected that some sort of threat had been directed against the College because of the so-called Scott proposal. To us at this distance it is surprising how jittery S.A. has become about a matter which is regarded as so insignificant here that it has not even been mentioned by a single newspaper. I suppose that the name of Michael Scott is like a red rag to the S.A. bull. I say this because the request for an opportunity to place the grievances of the African people before the U.N. was directed to the Secretary-General of the U.N. by the African National Congress, as far back as July, at which time there was not such a hullabaloo made about the matter; but now simply because the same idea has occurred to Michael Scott all sorts of dire consequences are threatened! Are people expected to stop thinking because Michael Scott is alive?

The S.A. delegation has of course been at pains to show that legally, the U.N. has no jurisdiction to discuss matters which are 'essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a member State', but they have of course not been able to answer ^{the question} as to who should decide whether any particular issue is one of essentially domestic jurisdiction. Clearly that cannot be a matter of ~~domestic~~ unilateral decision by individual member States but rather one of collective decision. At all events the intimidation of individuals or institutions with which they are connected by member States because of possible ^{unsolicited} invitations to appear before international tribunals is in my opinion indefensible on both legal and moral grounds. At any rate the line I am taking at present is that I have not been invited by any international tribunal to appear before it nor have I sought any such invitation. When it does come I shall make up my mind about it. There is no sense in jumping over a stile before one comes to it. Thank you for your advice about the matter in which I have been placed in an invidious position not of my own choosing, but I want to assure you that I will not permit intimidation by the Union Government to influence my decision when the time comes for me to make it. S.A. representatives here have done their duty in this regard, and it remains for me to do mine, having regard to all the circumstances. If the decision I make does not commend itself to you I hope you will believe that I have given the most serious consideration to your views, knowing as I do your genuine interest in the general welfare of all people in S.A. In short, I have not decided one way or the other, and it may even be that I shall not be called to make any decision, as the idea to invite may be turned down by the U.N.

I am sorry to hear about the trouble you have been having as a result of your address to the Bunga. I shall be glad to get the text of your address. You are experiencing what some of us have encountered. One has to weigh every word that one utters in these days, and in the mood in which the African people are, any word suggestive of support of the status quo in South Africa must be very painful to them, especially when uttered by people closely connected with their work. Anyway I suppose the exams have quietened things somewhat.

I was sorry to hear about the death of Miss Lyle. That was a great loss, the end of a life of devoted service to the cause of higher education among all groups in South Africa. Her life was not lived in vain. What is this I hear about the possibility of the Wrights leaving? That will certainly be a great loss to the College. In case they leave before we return, tell the Wrights that we shall never forget the invaluable contribution they made to African higher education and the real friendship they gave to so many in a country where such friendships are unfortunately becoming rarer every day.

2/ I am sorry to say that I have not yet got anything positive to report as far as fund-raising is concerned. The American 'bigwigs' have been so busy with the election campaign that it has not been possible to get them to^{to} think of anything except whether they 'like Ike' or 'love Adlai' (Stevenson). Well, they have now definitely ^{decided} that they 'like Ike' and so we hope the country will rapidly return to sanity. An American election campaign has to be seen to be believed. The amount of money spent on it is absolutely wicked. Think of the Republicans spending thousands of dollars on broadcasting on the last night of the election alone! The more tragic thing is the number of people who are now looking for jobs because there has been a change of government. That's democracy gone crazy.

The work at 'Union' is very pleasant though very strenuous.

FIRST FOLD

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AIR LETTER

Prof. C. P. Dent,
University College of Fort Hare,
P.O. Fort Hare C.P.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

MESSAGE MUST APPEAR ON INNER SIDE ONLY
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

3/ The Staff are all very fine people to work with. Faculty meetings are held monthly like our Senate meetings. There is a Faculty Luncheon every week when the Faculty dine together and have an address from some visitor or other which they discuss briefly afterwards. There is also a monthly Dinner of the Faculty when one of their number gives a paper on some academic subject, followed by discussion. This is apart from courses of lectures given by various members of the Faculty to the Seminary as a whole. Faculty-Student relations are excellent; these are of course all post-graduate students, many of them senior fellows who are married and here with their families. Being a theological seminary, Chapel is held regularly every morning i.e. from Monday to Friday, and is on the whole very well attended, although it is voluntary.

I must close. Please convey my kind regards to all my colleagues. I cannot say I envy them the corrections which they are coping with just now. All I can give them is my sympathy for what it is worth! With best wishes,
Yours sincerely 3.K. Matthews