

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

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~~23rd~~ July, 1956.

Professor Z.K. Matthews,
P.O. FORT HARE.
Cape.

Dear Professor Matthews,

At the last meeting of the Institute's Executive Committee, some concern was expressed about the future of Fort Hare and of other proposed African Universities, and I was asked to bring the following to your notice in the hope that, should the Inter-Departmental Committee of Enquiry discuss such matters with your University, you could raise the points with it.

It is understood that the Government is investigating sites in the Transvaal for a Northern African University.

- (a) Is it advisable that such a University should be established in a rural area? The recent Committee of Enquiry into troubles at Fort Hare attributed some responsibility to its isolation;
- (b) It has been suggested and it is feared that the enrolment of students at such a University will be on an ethnic basis. Will this mean that Fort Hare will eventually enrol only Xhosa speaking students? Is such ethnic enrolment desirable?
- (c) Should other African University Colleges be established, will it be possible for them to offer more than very limited courses of studies? Assuming that the ethnic principle is not adhered to, is it possible or desirable for such colleges to offer varying courses which would avoid all but the necessary minimum of overlapping?
- (d) To what extent would the establishment of rural University Colleges eliminate part-time students?

/Is it not desirable ...2.

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- (e) Is it not desirable that such University Colleges should be established near larger urban centres?

As you know, the Institute is opposed to the abolition of the systems at present operating in the "open" Universities and Natal. Should the Government, however, proceed with its plans, it is suggested that these are some of the questions which might be raised with the Committee should the opportunity arise.

The Institute will be very grateful if you will help in this.

Yours sincerely,


p.p. Quintin Whyte,
DIRECTOR.