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University College of Fort Hare,
Alice, Cape Province
Union of South Africa.
October 27, 1953.

Dr Andrew W. Lind,
Sociology Department
University of Hawaii,
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Dr Lind,

I must at the outset apologize for my long delay in replying to your letter of August 17, 1953. This ~~unfortunate~~ protracted delay was due to reasons beyond my control.

As you know, I returned to South Africa last May from the United States where I had gone to Union Theological Seminary, New York as Henry Luce visiting Professor for the academic year 1952-53. When I received your ~~invitation~~ letter extending an invitation to me to be a member of the Conference on "Race Relations in World Perspective", while fully appreciative of the significance of this important gathering, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{accepting} ~~and~~ willing to play my part in furthering the objectives of this important gathering, I was doubtful as to whether the Board of Directors ^{of my college} would be willing to ^{give me the necessary leave of absence} ~~release me~~ from my official duties for the period of travel to & from the Conference as well as the period June 28 - July 23, 1954. As it happens the latter period (June 28 - July 23) covers our half-yearly vacation when our college is not in session, ^{and therefore the leave required would be to cover the period of travel to & from the Conference} I have discussed the matter with the President of the College who, while he is not prepared to commit the Board of Directors at this stage, has indicated that consideration would be given to an application from me for leave of absence provided the period of absence could be cut down to a minimum. The Board of Directors meet twice a year, in November and March, and the matter will therefore be taken up with them in due course.

A more serious difficulty, however, would be that of my obtaining the necessary passport facilities to enable me to leave the country. The Government of the Union of South Africa is not

particularly allow Africans to visit overseas, especially ^{countries} if they ^{as I happen to be}
~~happen to be~~ connected with ^{bodies} political organizations such as
the African National Congress. As you may know ^{the premier political organization of Africans in the Union} during
my recent visit to the United States, the Union Government
refused to grant me an extension of my passport, as
a result of which I was compelled to return to South
Africa sooner than I had expected. The question raised
by your invitation is therefore whether the Union Government
will be willing to grant me the necessary travel facilities.

It might be of assistance to me in making
the necessary applications if you were to communicate
with (a) the Principal University College of Fort Hare informing
him about the invitation, with a request that he
use his good office with the Board of Directors to in
connection with my application for leave of absence
(b) the Minister of the Interior, Union Buildings, Pretoria
Union of South Africa, with a request that he give
favourable consideration to an application from me for
the necessary passport.

I have sent you a cable accepting your invitation
provisionally, but that acceptance is conditional upon the
matters referred to above.

In conclusion, ^{allow me} ~~to say~~ to say that I am deeply
appreciative of the honour you have done me in inviting me
to participate in this

University College of Fort Hare,
Alice, Cape Province,
Union of South Africa.
November 1.1953.

Dr Andrew W. Lind,
Department of Sociology,
University of Hawaii,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Dr Lind,

I must at the outset apologise for my long delay in replying to your letter inviting me to participate in the Conference on "Race Relations in World Perspective" to be held in Honolulu during the summer of 1954. This was due to reasons beyond my control.

As you know, I returned to South Africa last May from the United States where I had gone to Union Theological Seminary, New York, as Henry Luce Visiting Professor for the academic year 1952-53. When I received your letter, while I was personally willing to accept and play my part in furthering the objectives of this important gathering, I was doubtful as to whether the Board of Directors of my College would be willing to give me the necessary leave of absence from my official duties here for the period of travel to and from the Conference as well as for the period June 28 to July 23, 1954. As it happens the latter period (June 28 to July 23) falls during our half-yearly vacation when our College is not in session, and therefore the period of leave required would only be to cover the period of travel to and from the conference. I have since then discussed the matter with the President of the College who, while he is not at this stage prepared to commit the Board of Directors, has indicated that in all probability favourable consideration would be given to an application from me for leave of absence provided the period of absence would be kept down to a minimum. The Board of Directors meets twice a year, in November and in March, and the matter will therefore be taken up with them in due course.

A more serious difficulty, however, would be that of obtaining the necessary passport facilities to enable me to leave the country. The Government of the Union of South Africa is not particularly anxious to allow educated Africans to visit overseas countries, especially if they are connected, as I happen to be, with bodies such as the African National Congress, the premier political organisation of Africans in the Union. As it is, during my recent visit to the United States, the Union Government refused to grant me an extension of my passport to enable me to return to South Africa by sea instead of by air, with the result that I was compelled to return to South Africa sooner than I had expected, and had to forego attending a meeting of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland to which I had been invited to serve on The Preparatory Commission on Inter-Group Relations: The Church amid Racial and Ethnic Tensions in preparation for the Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held at Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A. in the summer of 1954. The question raised by your invitation is therefore whether the Union Government will be willing to grant me the necessary travel facilities. It might be of assistance to me in making the necessary applications if you, on behalf of the sponsors of the Conference were to communicate with

(a) The Principal, University College of Fort Hare at the above address informing him about the invitation and requesting him to use his good offices with the Board of Directors in connection with my application for leave of absence, and

(b) The Minister of the Interior, Union Buildings, Pretoria, Union of South Africa, with a request that he give favourable consideration to an application from me for the necessary passport.

I have sent you a cable accepting the invitation to participate in the Conference, but that acceptance is conditional upon the matters referred to above.

In conclusion, may I say that I am deeply appreciative of the honour you have done me in inviting me to share in the work of this important conference.

Sincerely yours,

Z.K. Matthews