

'Fight for the right'

[1961]

B6.51

CAPE TOWN — The people of South Africa should carry on the fight for the right to be full citizens of the country, Prof. Z. K. Matthews said here.

He was speaking at an informal multi-racial gathering given in his honour before his departure yesterday for Europe to take up a post with the World Council of Churches at Geneva.

He said it was his firm intention to return to South Africa "perhaps in more interesting times".

He said, "There is one message I would like to leave with you and that is that none of us, no section of the population and no individual, should allow himself to be denied the rights to the citizenship of this country, no matter what the law says.

"We must continue to fight for the whole of South Africa, not

some little corner of it in Pondoland or Sekukuniland.

"There is nothing here in South Africa that has not been built up with our combined efforts and all are entitled to a share in the results. I hope the Government will not succeed in so intimidating the different groups that they will not fight for the rights that are theirs.

"There is a subtle form of intimidation going on and the whites are more intimidated than the Africans—they have so much more to lose. I hope this fear of governments and what they can do to our bodies will not affect our spirits and our souls."

Prof. Matthews said he had always felt that people in South Africa were made to believe by the politicians that they were

more antagonistic to one another than they really were.

"I think it is idle for these people to tell us that the more we are separate the happier we will be. The fact is that the more they try to separate us the more we get together."

He said he could not refuse the call which came to him from the World Council of Churches to be African secretary in the division of inter-church aid and service to refugees.

"For one thing, I have a son who is a refugee and many friends who are refugees. I have felt that by going to Geneva and doing this work I would, in a way, still be serving South Africa, because South Africa is part of the continent of Africa, although sometimes we are led to believe that it is not," he said.—SAPA.