

Fort Hare, Alice, C.P
Union of South Africa
1.7.59

C2-109

Dear Donald,

Thank you very much for the letter which you wrote me, giving me not ~~only~~ welcome news about yourself and the family, but also about the proposed visit of Miss Dilley to Fort Hare sometime later in the year. I know something about her work and we shall look forward to seeing her when she comes.

We have just about wound up our work for the first half of the year. The students have gone and we are busy filling up report books. We have been enjoying some lovely weather, with cold mornings and bright sunny days, but I think that is about all we can praise as far as Fort Hare is concerned at the present time. The University College of Fort Hare Transfer Bill has been passed by Parliament and we are now waiting for the official take-over. We put up a long fight in the Select Committee which was appointed to consider the Bill after the second Reading, but as our Counsel said at the end of it all we achieved precisely nothing. The only alteration we were able to bring about in the Bill was the placing of a comma in a different place! Naturally everybody is feeling very despondent about the whole business. Those who are able to find posts elsewhere are leaving one by one. Our Principal Professor Burrows has been informed that he will not be re-appointed for next year, and the Minister has announced that there are one or two members of Staff that he will not have at Fort Hare because of their participation in political matters. That obviously is intended to mean me. I shall probably be kicked out in a few months' time. There is talk of the possible removal of Fort Hare to the Transkei which is now proposed to be the heart of Xhosaland. How soon that will be effected we do not know. The Secretary for Bantu Education (Mr F.J. De Villiers)

Dr P.A.W. Cook are coming to Fort Hare to attend a meeting of our governing Council on July 30 to give us the details about the transfer. There are rumours that a Prof. J.J. Ross of the University of the Orange Free State is going to be our new Principal, but that has not been confirmed. A Prof. Bruwer from Stellenbosch has been appointed Principal of the new college to be opened in Zululand and a Prof. Potgieter of the University of South Africa for the one to be opened at Pietersburg. So you see the Nats. are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet!

We were sorry that Knox was not able to go to Uganda as he hoped, but in recent weeks we have been informed by the Department of the Interior that "on reconsideration it has been decided to issue a South African passport in favour of your son John Knox". So we have submitted another application, and if it is successful Knox is planning to go to the United Kingdom where he has been admitted to the Medical School of Birmingham University. We are hoping for the best, but you will probably have seen reports in the Press of how they took away a passport from a Coloured student just when he was on the point of leaving for overseas! Refusals of passports, bannings of leaders, riots and boycotts-- these things are becoming the order of the day in South Africa, and yet the Nats. complain about an unfavourable Press overseas!

The Treason Trial is still proceeding on its weary pace. I was among those whose indictment was quashed by the Special Court in April. So was Joseph, but the Attorney-General has threatened to re-indict. The cases of the first 30 will be resumed on August 3. How long it will last, goodness alone knows.

I see from Press reports that Uganda is also having its share of political troubles. I must close with greetings to the family from us all.