

African Studies

16-10-59

Mr Seretse Khama,
P.O. Serowe,
Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Dear Chief,

It has been a long time since you last heard from me. Since our last visit to Serowe I have been busy with College work, especially with preparations for the "take-over" by the Government.

You will no doubt have seen reports in the Press about what the Government has started to do to Fort Hare. We have lost several of the English-speaking members of our Staff whose services have been arbitrarily terminated. The rest of the Staff have been offered appointments and have been given 90 days in which to decide whether they will stay or go. African members of the Staff, including myself, have been offered what are called "State posts" which means that they will be civil servants subject to civil service regulations. You can imagine that that is not a prospect which can be contemplated with equanimity by people who have previously enjoyed the usual freedom of university teachers.

When we last met we discussed the possibility of my coming to Serowe to serve in some capacity in the tribal administration. We did not of course go into the matter very deeply, but I wonder if you have considered the matter any further. As there is a possibility that I may be free from Fort Hare by the end of the year, I should be glad if could let me know what the possibilities are of a firm offer.

We were glad to learn that Beukes managed to get away safely. The Radley's of the Society of Friends, who visited you some time ago are with us at Fort Hare at present on their way, to Cape Town. We were glad to hear from them about you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,