

African Studies

20-10-59

Senator the Hon.L.I.Rubin,  
The Senate,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Senator,

You will no doubt have read in the Press about what has been happening at Fort Hare in connection with the Government's implementation of the Fort Hare Transfer Act. In terms of the powers granted to him under that Act the Minister of Bantu Education has arbitrarily terminated the services of several of the English-speaking members of our Staff. Those whose services have been retained have been warned that the same thing will happen to them if they 'sabotage' the policy of apartheid. The African members of Staff, including myself, have been offered "State posts" which will be governed by civil service regulations in terms of which mere membership of a political organisation will be regarded as an offence and they have been given 90 days in which to decide whether they will stay or go. None of us have as yet accepted this offer of appointment and the wild statements which the Minister of Bantu Education has been making in this connection are unfounded.

As for myself I have given the matter careful consideration and although I have not yet announced my decision I have made up my mind that I cannot stay on. That means that by the end of the year I shall sever my connection with Fort Hare, although this means that I shall have to forfeit my pension rights. I am therefore on the lookout for something else to do as from next year. You will recall that you and I have in the past discussed the possibility of alternative employment for me when I leave Fort Hare. I would be glad if you would do me the favour of discussing possibilities on my behalf either with Mr Kossew or Mr Wolf Heller in connection with either African Horizon or the Trans-Africa Credit Corporation.

I am sorry to have to trouble you in this way but I am sure you will understand the position in which I am placed by these developments.

Thanking you in anticipation for anything you may be able to do, and with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*J. K. Muthi*