

African Studies

26-10-59

Dr S.M.Molema,  
P.O.Box 11,  
Mafeking, C.P.

Dear Rra,

You will no doubt have noticed in the Press that there are all kinds of developments taking place at Fort Hare as a result of the "take-over" by the Bantu Education Department as from January, 1960. A number of members of Staff have had their services arbitrarily terminated and the remainder have been offered continuation of employment under entirely new conditions of service which will turn them into civil servants and not university teachers. I am among those who have been done the doubtful honour of being offered continuation of employment. Contrary to the unfounded statements that have been made by the Minister of Bantu Education I have not yet accepted his offer, and indeed the more I think about it, the more I am satisfied that I cannot accept his offer. Consequently I am now casting about for an alternative. You will recall that when we last met, we discussed the possibility of my coming up to Bechuanaland to serve in some capacity in the tribal administration of the Bamangwato which has been so hard hit by the untimely demise of the late Tshekedi Khama. It looks now as if I may be available for that as from next year. I have accordingly written to Seretse to find out whether they are in a position to make me a firm offer. I am writing to ask you to follow up this matter on my behalf and to let me know at your earliest convenience what the possibilities are.

I am naturally considering a number of different alternatives and I should like to know before I commit myself elsewhere whether there is anything forthcoming in the place that I would really like to go to. I know that you are working on a number of interesting developments in the B.P. The question is whether I can be fitted in somewhere so that I may make my experience available in connection with these developments. Anything that you can do to assist me in this matter will be deeply appreciated.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*J. M. Molema*