

FORT HARE,

14th October, 1959.

The Principal,

I have studied the memorandum quoting statements made with reference to Fort Hare and giving their refutation. In my view there is no point whatever to be gained at this late date in endeavouring to refute statements or criticisms by individual private members e.g. Mr. J.A.F. Nel or Dr. de Wet. My suggestion is that the memo prepared by you be submitted to the Council for them to decide.

On the other hand action ought to be taken to refute the statement by the Minister himself re Fort Hare students being "turned into agitators" — and I enclose with this a draft resolution.

Furthermore I do not think that the Council is called upon at this stage to reargue its case with the Minister or the Government. Its resolution now should be confined to serious misstatements of fact.

(Sgd.) L.B.

[Leslie Blackwell?]

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Council of the University College of Fort Hare has had its attention drawn to a speech made in the South African Parliament by the Minister of Bantu Education during the 3rd reading debate on the College of Fort Hare Transfer Bill 1959 in June last as follows:-

"...his liberalistic friends have done everything they possibly could in the past through the medium of these institutions to indoctrinate the Bantu students. This they have done to such an extent that certain of our neighbouring states have notified us that they no longer want to allow their Bantu students to come to this country because we are turning them into agitators".

It regarded this imputation as so serious that it has caused inquiries to be made by the Principal in every quarter where students from outside South Africa have in the past come to Fort Hare. These include the following:

Education Department,	Swaziland
"	Southern Rhodesia
"	Bechuanaland Protectorate
"	Basutoland
"	Northern Rhodesia
"	Nyasaland.

In every instance the Department concerned has disclaimed any knowledge of any such statement. The inquiry sent and the replies received are attached to this resolution.

Council therefore expresses its deep regret that such a statement, which it characterises as irresponsible and untrue, should have been used by a Minister of the Crown to fortify the Government's action in taking over Fort Hare.

A copy of this resolution will be sent to the Minister and the Press.