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SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

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RESTATEMENT OF AFRICAN LAW PROJECT

15th December 1960

Dear Mr. Matthews,

Several weeks ago I was discussing the Restatement of African Law Project with Mr. A.J. Kerr, who is in England on study leave from Rhodes University. Mr. Kerr suggested that I write to you about the Project.

The aims and working methods of the Project are set out in the extracts from its first Annual Report which I enclose. Briefly we are trying to investigate and record, or stimulate the recording of, African customary law in the English-speaking parts of Africa. The objects of my visit are described in the "Instructions for First Field Survey", of which I enclose a copy. I am particularly interested in discovering what has been written to date about customary law, especially material which has not been published and which may be in Government files and places like that. I am also interested in any proposals for the recording of customary law which may be in contemplation.

Initially I shall be visiting Swaziland, Basutoland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1961, from March to June, in order to discover and list any relevant material on customary law.

It would be very helpful to have your comments, any suggestions of law sources not generally known and the names of any persons doing work in this area.

Yours sincerely,

*William T. McClain*

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