

EXTRACT from "The South African Outlook", August, 1966

" Dr. Z. K. MATTHEWS

It is reported from Gaborone, now the administrative capital of the territory formerly known as Bechuanaland and now after independence to be called Botswana, that Professor Z. K. Matthews, at present one of the Secretaries of the World Council of Churches for Africa and formerly Professor of Social Anthropology and Law at the University College of Fort Hare, has been appointed the representative of Botswana at the headquarters of the United Nations.

Professor Matthews is a native of Kimberley and took his Junior Certificate at Lovedale. He entered Fort Hare in the matriculation class in 1918. Afterwards he continued his studies at Fort Hare for the degree of B.A. of the University of South Africa which he obtained at the close of 1923, and was capped the first graduate of the College in May 1924. He was then appointed headmaster of the Secondary School at Adams College in Natal, where he continued privately his studies for the degree of LL.B. He was then awarded a scholarship to Yale University in the United States, where he graduated M.A. He then studied Social Anthropology under Professor Malinowski at the London School of Economics and on his return to South Africa in 1936 he was appointed Lecturer in African Studies at Fort Hare. He was subsequently promoted to be professor of Social Anthropology and Law and continued in the post until the College was taken over by the Department of Bantu Education in 1960, when he resigned. He practised as an attorney in Alice but shortly after accepted the position with the World Council of Churches, which he still holds. He must have a most complete knowledge of Africa as a whole from his travels in the continent in the interests of the refugees who were his special care during his tenure of his present post.

He has also been a member of various commissions and other investigating committees on Africa, including the De La Warr Commission into Higher Education in Uganda and the Sudan, and the Native Representative Council in the Union. In 1951 while on leave from Fort Hare he was invited to be a guest lecturer in Union Theological Seminary, New York. In 1961 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Both the new state of Botswana and Dr. Matthews are to be heartily congratulated on this appointment, the first on being able to offer the appointment to such a well-qualified representative of their nation, and Dr. Matthews on being selected for a new post for which his whole career has so admirably prepared him to hold with distinction. Not the least of his qualifications is that he is married to a lady who will discharge her share of the duties of the new office with a like distinction. "

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