

U N O :

Recently statements have been published in the Press about attempts to intimidate Prof. Z. K. Matthews, member of the A.N.C. Executive, from giving evidence at UNO. Here we are privileged to give Prof. Matthews's personal account, written specially for DRUM

THE EDITOR OF DRUM:

YOU are no doubt aware that one of the subjects which has been under discussion at UNO in recent weeks has been the question of "the race conflict in South Africa resulting from the apartheid policy of the Government of the Union of South Africa." This subject was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly by 18 member States headed by India. South Africa opposed the inclusion of this item on the argument that to do so would violate article 2, para. 7 of the United Nations Charter which bars the United Nations from intervening in any matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of member States.

The South African view was overruled by an overwhelming majority, only South Africa herself voting in favour of her own proposal. Once it had been agreed that this item should be included in the agenda, the subject was referred to a special *ad hoc* political committee on which all member States have one representative each to deal with and to make recommendations for consideration at a later stage by the General Assembly.

Michael Scott Intervenes

AT this stage the Rev. Michael Scott, who is here holding a watching brief on behalf of the Africans of South-West Africa, wrote to the chairman of the special *ad hoc* committee suggesting, among other things, that the committee consider the possibility of inviting me to give oral evidence before it on the subject of the apartheid legislation in the Union of South Africa, if such a course commended itself to

the committee. At the same time he sent a copy of his letter to the different delegations represented on the committee.

This is where I began to come into the picture. Members of the South African delegation, assuming that I had suggested this course to Michael Scott, tackled me about the matter. The burden of their representations was that the acceptance of such an invitation would be regarded as a "hostile" act for which the Union Government would be compelled to take action against me, and that in the interests of my future as a leader of the African people, I should give an undertaking that I would not accept such an invitation, even before the matter was raised in the committee. I refused to give any such undertaking on two grounds. First, that it would obviously be premature for me to decline an invitation which had not yet been agreed upon. Secondly, that the African National Congress, of which I am a representative, had, as far back as July, long be-

fore this issue was raised either by the Indian delegation or by Michael Scott, addressed a communication to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Trygve Lie, asking for an opportunity to place the grievances of the African people before the United Nations at its then forthcoming session; and as an official of that organisation I was in duty bound to hold myself in readiness to appear on their behalf, should their request be granted.

Fort Hare Threatened

IN the meantime I received a letter from the Principal of Fort Hare, informing me that he had been warned by the Union Education Department that "the Department will be reluctantly compelled to take a very serious view of the matter as he (i.e. myself) is employed by your college which receives a considerable subsidy from the State."

In view of this direct threat to the college, Professor Dent in his capacity as principal of the college, instructed me not to accept any invitation to appear at UNO. I replied that I had not in fact been invited as yet to appear, but that if such an invitation did come, I would then decide what to do about the matter and would not allow any intimidation to influence me in my decision. As if this was not enough undue pressure, I was also visited by a representative of the State Department of the United States who also used

THIS husky-voiced Sepia beauty was born in the United States' North Carolina twenty-four years ago of cotton-sharecropper parents. She was picking cotton at the age of eight!

With her dancing and singing itch growing stronger, she went north, to New York, and joined Katherine Dunham's (who appears on the music page) negro dancers. She did so well as a dancer that she left for a European tour with them in 1948. There she tired of dancing as just another trouser and left the group. She began singing on her own. With the aid of her sultry voice, she toured Europe—from London to Istanbul!

And she did everything, everywhere. She sang in "Gay Paree," ballet-danced in Stockholm, and jitterbugged in Istanbul with the famous tap-dancing Nicolas Brothers.

Returning to America after this chequered tour, she sent New York wild when she appeared in a Broadway show, "New Faces." At long last she had "arrived" on the star-packed, glittering half-mile that is every showman's paradise!

That was early this year. Since then she's been having a hectic—and gay—time. Every evening she appears in "New Faces," then rushes to night clubs to entertain after-midnight audiences with her songs. Her choice of songs is wide—thus her popularity. She sings love and folk songs—in six languages! These, with the swaying motions of her rippling body (as you see in one of the pictures), leave the lovers in her audiences walking on star dust.



SINGING (ABOVE) in a New York night club after midnight, Eartha thrills the audiences with her rippling body and songs in six languages. **KEEPING FIT (BELOW)** on the roof of her apartment. When she isn't doing this, she's either in the park playing base-ball with small boys, or cycling.

