

11-7

A STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF BEDA HOSTEL, FORT HARE.

Students of Beda Hostel, Fort Hare, refused freedom of worship. Hostel Committee suspended indefinitely. Petition for reinstatement of Committee results in suspension of fifty students out of an enrollment of 64.

The Warden of the Beda Hostel has, so far as the students can remember, refused to understand the students' point of view on any matters affecting the smooth running of the Hostel. The Warden has shown a positive unwillingness to understand the complaints of the students. He as much as denied the the students had opinions at all that he could consider in connection with the smooth running of the Hostel.

This attitude of the warden, his refusal to cooperate, culminated in his refusal to allow the Anglican students to play tennis on Sundays, a thing to which the Church of the Province does not object. The reason given for this refusal was that Sunday Tennis at the Beda Anglican Hostel would have the effect of asking other hostels, whose religions are against Sunday Sport, want to play too. The Warden failed to convince the students how members of other denominations would forego their religious beliefs just because their neighbours believed in something else. The student felt that this was an encroachment upon their religious liberty, in so far as their opinion was not sought on this question.

The students felt that they could no longer cooperate with a Warden who was not willing to cooperate with them. They, therefore, withdrew from those activities which they had hitherto undertaken of their own freewill and which reflected a harmonious community life in the Hostel.

The Warden then presented the Hostel Committee with a document which he asked the Committee to sign. The document among other things pledged the signatories to take part in Hostel sport and to worship in the accustomed manner. The Committee did not sign this document.

The members of the Committee were then called upon to appear before the College Discipline Committee individually. They were asked to sign the document. The Discipline Committee did not interest itself in what the Hostel Committee had to say about the matter. They had either to sign or leave the College. They were given one minute to decide. They did not sign and they were there and then suspended indefinitely on September the 17th, and told to take the next train home.

Resulting from the suspension of their Committee, the rest of the students of Beda Hall signed a petition to the Senate asking for the reinstatement of their Committee. The Beda students protested against the victimisation of their committee without being given even a chance to state their case. The signatories to the petition were then asked in turn to sign the said document. They refused and were also suspended indefinitely. They were then, compelled to leave the College.

The rest of the student body of the College questioned the high-handed action of the Senate in suspending a whole Hostel for a matter which did not involve a contravention of College regulations. A mass meeting of all the students was held on Friday, 18th. of September to protest against the action of the Senate and to demand that the suspended students be reinstated. Further developments are pending a reply from the Senate.

117
R

10th October, 1942

Professor D. D. T. Jabavu,
S.A. Native College,
Fort Hare,
ALICE.
C. P.

Dear Prof. Jabavu,

Thank you for your letter (dated 2nd September) on the subject of the Beda Hostel Committee's letter. At the end of last night's Executive meeting, the President made a statement for the information of the members present, in their private capacities, and the matter was discussed in a spirit of sympathy and understanding. Misgivings were felt, however, regarding the statement to be signed in future by studentson admission to the College, it being the general belief of those members taking part in the discussion that such a requirement is probably without parallel in any college in this country.

Unfortunately, I am unable to send you the initials you asked for, as they have merely been scrawled, and are quite indecipherable.

Yours sincerely,


L. M. POVALL
ACTING SECRETARY

LMP/NA

Dear Prof. J. B. [unclear] Thank you for your letter (dated
2nd Sep) on the subject of the Beta Hostel Committee's
letter. At the ~~the~~ end of last night's Exec. meeting,
the President made a statement for the information
of the members present, in their private capacities,
and the matter was discussed in a spirit of
sympathy & understanding. Hisgings were felt
however regarding the statement to be signed in
future by students on admission to the College,
it being the general belief of those members taking
part in the discussion that such a requirement
is probably without parallel in any college in
this country.

Unfortunately, I am unable to send
you the initials you asked for, as they have nearly
been scrawled, & are quite indecipherable.

-6 OCT 1942

Said



Acting Secretary
S.A.I. Race Relations
Box 97, Johannesburg

2nd Sept. 1942

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 29th ult, concerning the Beda Hostel Committee's letter, I should like to be emphatic in my expression of opinion, that this is not a matter in which, to my mind, the Institute should intervene, because it is a purely domestic matter in a school where there are non-Europeans and Europeans in both staff and student body. It is not a matter of race, nor of adjustment of relationships between races. It is a question of internal discipline versus insubordination, such as is likely to occur any time in any school. There is no racial significance about it, except, perhaps, that this happens to be the only establishment in South Africa where all the races are thrown together due to the nature of the institution.

Trusting sincerely that the Executive will take, or understand this view, I am

yours sincerely,

D.D.T. Jabavu

*Answered
10.10.42
Jub*

N.B. Can you kindly send me the initials used by the writer who advised "for Hostel Secretary"? I think I am entitled to know because I would have seen the original had I been able to attend the Executive meeting.
D.D.T.

117
NOV
29th September, 1942

~~29th~~
SOUT

Professor D. D. T. Jabavu,
S.A. Native College,
Fort Hare,
ALICE.
C. P.

Dear Professor Jabavu,

With reference to the attached copy of a statement by the Committee of Beda Hostel, Fort Hare, received last week, I am writing to you as Vice-President of the Institute, for your opinion as to what action (if any) the Institute should take in this matter.

I should point out that the statement, unsigned, was attached to a note, initialled but not signed. "for Hostel Secretary", and was addressed to the "Institute of Race Relations".

As this matter is to come up at the usual monthly Executive meeting which is to be held next week, I would appreciate having a reply to this letter by next Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

L. M. POVALL
ACTING SECRETARY

LMP/NA

117

EXEC GEN

5047

23 SEP 1942

20th. September, 1942.

Fort Hare.

The Institute of Race Relation,
Box 97,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing herewith a statement for
your information.

Yours faithfully,

for Hostel Secretary.

ack. p.c.
24/9/42

Bring this to the notice
of the Executive at its
next meeting.

R.F.A.T.

I am writing to the Principal
of Fort Hare.

A/Rus/17/11

12th June, 1953.

Professor Z.K. Matthews,
University College of Fort Hare,
ALICE.
C.P.

Dear Professor Matthews,

This is to welcome you back to South Africa, and to express, on behalf of the General Purposes Committee, our regret at the reception you received when you arrived. The Committee wishes to know whether you would want the Institute to take this matter up with the authorities.

As Mr. Ngcobo will have told you, he acted as watch-dog for you in your absence and he will show you the correspondence received from the Minister of Justice. I hope that you approve.

Meantime, all good wishes and I am looking forward to having a long talk with you.

With all good wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte
DIRECTOR

QW/NB

~~FWS~~
A/Pub/17/1

2) Please return
all papers to
FWS.

→ 1) Mr. Urey

See below my report to last
G.P.C. meeting. This was
noted.

A further point was raised
viz. short notice which
Prof. Muehleis received to
return to SA & his
unfortunate reception
(detectives at the airport
- followed him till the
plane. Searched his papers
& books.)

It was agreed that we should
write to him expressing regret
at these things and asking
whether he wishes IRIC to
take any action?

Shd I write or rather you?
I suggest you. Prof. M. wd prefer
it.

FWS
5/6/53

6(i)

Prof. Matthews - Minister of Justice

- (i) During debate on the Public Safety Bill the Minister of Justice quoted from statements made by various prominent Africans, apparently with the object of proving that many ^{educated} Africans were anti-European.
- (ii) He also quoted from an article by Prof. Matthews, ~~the~~ "An African Policy for South Africa" which appeared in one of our Journals in 1949.
- (iii) Before quoting ^{from} Prof. Matthews article the Minister said: -
- "In the first place I want to quote what a so-called moderate person like Prof. Matthews wrote a few years ago: -
- Prof P
Otho Star
um
- (iv) Read quotation (TAG A) -
- (v) Mrs. Baillie, during the debate, pointed out that the Minister was quoting Prof. Matthews out of context.
- (vi) I wrote to the Minister pointing out that the whole article was a plea for co-operation between European & Non-European & that Prof. Matthews had, in the quoted paragraph, merely tried to describe the view of those Africans who were against co-operation with the Europeans.
- (vii) The Minister's reply. (Translation)

6 (i)

A/Pub/17/1.

6th May, 1953.

Mr. Selby Ngcobo,
Economics Department,
University College of Fort Hare,
FORT HARE. C.P.

Dear Mr. Ngcobo,

On March 4th I informed you that we had written to the Minister of Justice about his version of Prof. Matthews' article, "An African Policy for Africa". We have now received the Minister's reply and I append a copy of a translation for your information:

"Your letter of March 4th regarding my reference in Parliament to Prof. Matthews reached my office during election time and I could unfortunately not reply to it earlier. In the circumstances do excuse me for the delay.

"I must confess that I do not quite understand why I am being hauled over the coals (tereggewys word) in your letter. In my speech to which you referred, I attempted to show what the attitude of certain Native leaders are, namely that it is directed against the Europeans and I quoted various examples to prove this. I also quoted from Prof. Matthews' article to show what his view was on the aim of the movement for "African Nationalism". I had the full article in my possession at the time and had read it. No statement was made by me that the view expressed was also that of Prof. Matthews.

"His expression of opinion on the "ultimate aim of such a movement" was valuable because of the fact that he is usually described as a moderate person. I did, of course, as is clear from my statement, express my personal doubt about his moderation by referring to him as a "so-called moderate person." That this doubt was not unfounded now appears from reports of speeches made by Prof. Matthews in the United States in which he is saying things and making accusations which cannot be expected from any moderate or reasonable member of our South African population.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) C.R. Swart."

.... / 2

(3)

This reply will be considered by our General Purposes Committee when it meets on May 26th.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

1951

F.J. van Wyk,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

FOOT MARK

Dear Mr. Nicolaas,

On March 2nd I informed you that I had written to the Minister of Education about the version of "The Minister's Office" in the "An Almanac for Africa". He has now received the Minister's reply and I attach a copy of a translation for your information.

Your letter of March 2nd regarding my reference in Parliament to Prof. van Wyk's reference to the "An Almanac" edition and I could not help but be surprised in the circumstances as regards the delay.

I only regret that I do not have the original copy of the letter which you sent me and which I returned to you in my reply. In my reply I stated that I had no information as to what the status of the letter was and I am sorry that I did not direct a request to the Minister of Education to provide this. I also stated that I had no information as to what the status of the letter was and I am sorry that I did not direct a request to the Minister of Education to provide this.

The translation of the letter is attached to this reply. I am sorry that I did not have the original copy of the letter which you sent me and which I returned to you in my reply. In my reply I stated that I had no information as to what the status of the letter was and I am sorry that I did not direct a request to the Minister of Education to provide this.

Yours faithfully,
F.J. van Wyk.

A/Pub/17/1.

4 Mei 1953.

Sy Edele die Minister van Justisie,
Uniegebou,
PRETORIA.

Waarde heer,

Ek skryf om u baie hartlik te bedank vir u brief Nr. J. 19 van 29 April aangaande Prof. L.K. Mathews. Ons stel u antwoord baie hoog op prys veral daar ons weet hoe besig u is.

Met hoogagting,

Die uwe,

F. van Wyk.
ONDERDIREKTEUR.

~~No. 12/13~~

FWW

Mr. Whyte

I'll bring the attached to
the home of G.P.C..

Don't you think we should
acknowledge receipt in some form
& thank the Museum for the reply?

If you agree, kindly indicate
the lines on which I should reply.

Thank you

FWW

11/9/53

ask
+ J.W. Whyte - very grateful for

detailed reply
particularly at such
busy times.

M. W. W. Not very bright.
A rough translation
below. JW.



By beantwoording meld asb.
In reply please quote

J. 19

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Ministerie van Justisie,
Ministry of Justice,

Uniegebou,
Union Buildings,

PRETORIA.

30 APR 1953

29 APR 1953

Die Onder-Direkteur,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
Posbus 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Waarde heer,

U brief van 4 Maart - aangaande my verwysing in die Volksraad na Prof. Z.K. Matthews - het my kantoor bereik gedurende die verkiesingstydperk en ek kon ongelukkig nie eerder daarop antwoord nie. Verskoon asseblief in gemelde omstandighede die vertraging.

Ek moet bely dat ek nie presies kan begryp waarom die teregwysing in u brief vervat aan my gerig word nie. In my toespraak waarna u verwys het ek probeer aantoon dat die houding van sekere naturelleleiers en bewegings werklik is, naamlik dat dit teen die blanke as sodanig gemik was en ek het talryke voorbeelde uitgelees om my bewering te staaf. Ek het ook uit Prof. Matthews se artikel aangehaal om te toon wat sy beskouing oor die doel van die beweging vir „African Nationalism" is. Ek het wel sy hele artikel in my besit gehad en van die inhoud kennis gedra. Geen bewering is deur my gemaak dat hierdie standpunt ook dié van Prof. Matthews self is.

Sy beskouing oor die „ultimate aim of such a movement" was waardevol juis omdat hy gewoonlik as 'n gematigde bestempel word. Ek het natuurlik, soos uit my woorde blyk, my persoonlike twyfel te kenne gegee oor sy matigheid deur na hom te verwys as 'n „sogenaamde gematigde persoon".

Dat hierdie twyfel nie ongegrond was nie, blyk nou uit verslae van toesprake wat Prof. Matthews in die Verenigde State lewer en waarin hy dinge verkondig en bewerings maak wat niemand van 'n gematigde en billike inwoner van Suid-Afrika sou verwag nie.

Die uwe,

I suggest we acknowledge
receipt of this letter
& then drop the matter.
Do you agree? JB

Translation

Dear Sir,

"Your letter of March 4th regarding my reference in Parliament to Prof. Matthews reached my office during the election time and I could unfortunately not reply to it earlier. In the circumstances do excuse me for the delay.

"I must confess that I do not ~~under~~ quite understand why I am being hauled over the coals (Loreijewys word) in your letter. In my speech to which you referred, I attempted to show what the attitude of certain National leaders are, namely that it is directed against the Europeans and I quoted various examples to prove this. I also quoted from Prof. Matthews' article to show what his view was on the aim of the movement for "African Nationalism". I had the full article in my possession at the time and had read it. No statement was made by me that the view expressed was also that of Prof. Matthews.

"His expression of opinion on the "ultimate aim of such a movement" was valuable because of the fact that he is usually described as a moderate person.

I did, of course, as ~~also~~ is clear from my statement, express my personal doubt about his moderation by referring to him as a "so-called moderate person".

That this doubt was not unfounded
~~and~~ now appears from reports of
speeches made by Prof. Matthews
in the United States in which he
is saying things and making
accusations which ~~to~~ ^{cannot be expected from any} moderate
or reasonable member of our
South African population

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) C. R. Swart.



By beantwoording meld asb.
In reply please quote
J. 19.

1/ Mr. Whaley ✓
2/ Faw

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Ministerie van Justisie,
Ministry of Justice,

Uniegebou,
Union Buildings,

PRETORIA.

Mr. O.
P.L.
A/Paw/17/1

11 MAY 1953

7 MAY 1953

The Director,
The S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Justice to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo and to inform you that he has already replied personally to Mr. van Wyk's letter and the latter has replied expressing his appreciation.

Yours faithfully,


PRIVATE SECRETARY.

ORIGINAL No 1
CHARTERED MILL

A/Pub/17/1

24th April, 1953.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

On the 4th March, 1953, my colleague Mr. F.J. van Wyk sent a letter to you drawing your attention to the article by Professor Z.K. Matthews which we feel was incorrectly quoted recently. The Hon. the Minister of Defence has repeated this and we should be grateful for your comments. It is only fair to Professor Matthews that we draw your attention to this, particularly as it appeared in one of our publications.

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte
DIRECTOR

A/pw 1/7/11

4 Maart 1953.

Sy Edele die Minister van Justisie,
Uniegebou,
PRETORIA.

Waarde heer,

In die afwesigheid van die Instituut se Direkteur, is ek versoek om die volgende aangeleentheid onder u aandag te bring:-

Volgens Hansard-verslag No.3 van 1953 van die Volksraad se debate - die Engelse uitgawe - het u tydens die tweede lesing van die Wetsontwerp op Openbare Veiligheid na 'n artikel van Prof. Z.K. Matthews verwys wat in een van hierdie Instituut se publikasies verskyn het ("Race Relations: Vol. XVI, No.3: 1949"). In u toespraak het u, volgens die Verslag, die volgende paragraaf uit die betrokke artikel aangehaal:-

"There is the further point that when Africans speak about non-co-operation with the Europeans, for them the logical outcome of such a policy would be the development of African nationalism and the adoption of a policy of 'Africa for the Africans'. The ultimate aim of such a movement would be the eventual capture of the whole country for the eight million Africans and the removal from it of those Europeans who are not prepared to live here on terms of equality with its African nationals. The 2½ million Europeans who talk so glibly about the repatriation of ¼ million Indians may not realize that to the African nationalists the repatriation of 2½ million Europeans does not appear any more preposterous or impracticable".

U het egter volgens die Verslag van u toespraak, die volgende opmerking gemaak voordat u die paragraaf aangehaal het:

"In the first place I want to quote what a so-called moderate person like Prof. Matthews wrote a few years ago".
(Ek onderstreep).

Hierdie opmerking het by sommige van ons lede die indruk geskep dat u die Volksraad wou laat glo dat die opvatting wat

in die aangehaalde paragraaf uitgespreek word, deur Prof. Matthews persoonlik gehuldig word. Hierdie indruk is blykbaar versterk deurdat u verwys na "An African Policy for South Africa" en dan die paragraaf aanhaal asof die aanhaling 'n opsomming sou wees van daardie "African Policy". As die betrokke artikel in sy geheel gelees word, blyk dit natuurlik baie duidelik dat dit glad nie die geval is nie. Trouens, Prof. Matthews se "Policy" soos in die artikel beskryf, is een van samewerking tussen blank en nie-blank en die deel deur u aangehaal was slegs 'n beskrywing deur Prof. Matthews van wat die Bantoe-voorstanders van 'n beleid van "geen-samewerking-nie" dink of sê.

Dit kom ons dus voor asof u nie die hele artikel gelees het nie, maar dat slegs die paragraaf deur u aangehaal onder u aandag gebring is. Graag sal ons van u in dié verband verneem. Ons voel oortuig dat u nie opsetlik 'n wanvoorstelling wou gee van Prof. Matthews se eintlike opvattinge nie en vir geval u nie die hele artikel gelees het nie, stuur ek u 'n eksemplaar daarvan. Graag vestig ek u aandag op die slotsin van Prof. Matthews se artikel wat soos volg lees:-

"Co-operation alone can rightly constitute a suitable watchword for a strong, prosperous and united South Africa".

Dit, inderdaad, was nog altyd Prof. Matthew se standpunt en dis die standpunt wat hy noukeurig in die artikel "An African Policy for South Africa" uiteengesit het.

Met hoogagting,

Die uwe,

F.J. van Wyk,
ONDER-DIREKTEUR.

4th March, 1953.

Mr. Selby Ngcobo,
Economic Department,
University College of Fort Hare,
FORT HARE.

Dear Mr. Ngcobo,

Mr. Whyte is at present in Natal and I have just returned from leave. On my arrival your telegram about the speech of the Minister of Justice in which he quoted Prof. Matthews was handed to me for attention.

I have studied the Hansard report of the speech and while the Minister correctly quotes Prof. Matthews' article, I agree with you that the version is "garbled" in that the Minister's speech created the impression that the views expressed in the quoted paragraph are the personal views of Prof. Matthews and that the impression is further created that the quoted paragraph is a fair summary of Prof. Matthews' "An African Policy for Africa". Nothing is, of course, further from the truth and I have written to the Minister pointing this out and asking him for his comment. As soon as I receive his reply, I will write to you again.

We do wish to thank you for bringing this important matter to our attention.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

F.J. van Wyk,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

13 FEB 1953

Journal 3 of 1949

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. - POSKANTOORTELEGRAAFDIENS.

T. 27.

This form and envelope should accompany any enquiry. - Hierdie vorm en koevert moet alle navrae vergesel.

G.P.-S.1602-1951-2-225,000-200. S.

No. _____

RECEIVED
ONTVANG

M.H. please get from
23RT +

OFFICE STAMP.
KANTOORSTEMPEL.



GJG379 CAPETOWN 22 1438. =

QUENTIN WHYTE PO BOX 97 JHBURG

SENT.
OORGESEIN.

~~get. Harvard & give to F.W.~~

SWART QUOTES GARBLED VERSION OF Z K. MATTHEWS ARTICLE IN

1951 RACE RELATIONS NUMBER PROTEST = SELBY NGCOBO +

*This Leong will send up relevant
Harvard*
97 1951 +

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

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