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Date: 18 December 1987

Dear Mr Pogrund

ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE

Please forgive the delay in sending a full response to your letter of 30 October 1987.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours was conferred upon Mr Sobukwe at a graduation ceremony held on 22 March 1958.

Mr Sobukwe had joined the staff of the University as an African Language Assistant in the Department of Bantu Studies on 1 August 1954. He was admitted as a candidate for the Honours degree at the beginning of 1955 but was required to complete some background (undergraduate) courses before writing the final Honours examination. In 1955 and 1956 he completed courses in Phonetics, Southern Sotho (2), Social Anthropology and Comparative Bantu Language, doing very well in most of these. In 1957 he completed the Honours degree, obtaining a second-class pass.

Mr Sobukwe's work for his Honours dissertation consisted in the collection and analysis of Xhosa riddles. The work was based on his study of the structure and content of riddle types in both Bantu and other languages and he was able to draw attention to certain features that had not been previously recorded.

As you probably know, Mr Sobukwe trained as a teacher at the Healdtown Training Institution before matriculating and going on to Fort Hare to complete a BA degree. If you do not have details of his early student career, please let me know since we have information about his attainments that I am sure will be of interest for your book.

As you will note from the enclosed copy of an obituary notice, Mr Sobukwe was a highly regarded member of the department in which he taught.

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It may be interesting for you to know that in 1959 he acted as reader of Bantu manuscripts for the Oxford University Press.

Mr Sobukwe resigned from the staff of the University in March 1960 when he was arrested.

We have quite a number of interesting press-cuttings that relate to Mr Sobukwe. Please let me know if you would like copies.

Yours sincerely

Diana Anderson

D M Anderson (Mrs)
Deputy Registrar (Academic)

Encl.

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