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No 8

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Not to be sent,
please despatch

21st June, 1927.

Mrs. E. Lewis,
26, Loch Avenue,
Parktown West,
Johannesburg, S. Africa.

Dear Mrs. Lewis,

I now take the opportunity to reply to your letter of May 2nd, which came through Miss W. Holtby. As you rightly suggested in the letter I have made it a point to read it over and over again. When perplexing questions confront me, I have looked for refuge to your advice. On one occasion I was strongly tempted at Geneva, and this temptation came as a result of provocation from the South African Government's delegates, who, as I informed you in my previous letter, tried to oppose me and to discredit me personally. I almost felt to launch out a counter outburst against their insidious propaganda, but your advice overwhelmed me at the moment. I exercised the qualities of a statesman, and eventually I won against the forces of reaction.

I realise that you lose everything and gain nothing, by joining in such work as that organised by the I.L.P. here in London. It is absolutely true that you have alienated many S. African friends by openly supporting both myself and the I.C.U. but you know as well as I do that your efforts and those of both Mrs. Mabel Palmer and Miss Holtby, are of such paramount importance to humanity that future historians of African Trade Unionism are bound to record with admirable pride. I do not require to flatter anyone, but I cannot help mentioning that your work is similar to that of Bishop Wilberforce, the Saint, who, while the British Nation thought that the time had not arrived fought in and out of season for the abolition of slavery in the Empire. To-day, we honour his name. It is said that public opinion is not ready in S. Africa to give the black man his fair due, but you and Mrs. Palmer and others are endeavouring to educate S. Africa that she could not prevent the rise of African Trade Unionism. My people appreciate and acknowledge with gratitude your endeavours.

I enclose herewith an extract from a Swedish paper for your information, also a copy of statement I submitted to the British Trade Union Congress General Council. I hope to get your opinion on both.

With regard to my work at Geneva I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Political Secretary of the I.L.P. by a

leading

of Durban, Natal, to I.C.U.'s first friend in S. Africa,
S.L.

2.

leading official of the International Labour Office.

I returned to London last week and was warmly welcomed by the I.L.P. Miss Holtby and others. My programme covers the whole of the United Kingdom and this to be taken within six weeks. I am fearfully busy with interviews.

With sincere good wishes,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) CLEMENTS KADALIE.

6A, Nevern Place,

Earl's Court, S.W.5.

January 29th, 1930.

W.G. Ballinger, Esq.,
26, Loch Avenue,
Park Town, Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Ballinger,

I am sending this letter to Johannesburg because I do not quite know where you will be at present. I wanted to tell you that last Wednesday I was invited by Mr. A.V. Murray of the Training School of the Selly Oak Colleges, down to Birmingham to speak about the I.C.U. This was the result of a letter that I had written to the 'Manchester Guardian'. I went to Fircroft and met there its Warden Mr. W.W. Lee; he told me that in 1928 he corresponded with Kadalie whom he had met while he was over here in England, and that his Committee at that time had offered two bursaries, together with free tuition and board, to two young African members of the I.C.U. for one year each. The idea arose out of the conversation he had with Kadalie in which Kadalie explained how difficult it was to find officials for the Trade Union with adequate training and education. The Fircroft Committee decided that the College was founded to give every kind of assistance in helping to train leaders among working men. The original negotiations got as far as the offer which you will see in the correspondence I am enclosing, but owing to Kadalie's retirement nothing further was done. After my visit, Mr. Lee said that the offer could be reopened if suitable men could be found. You will see that the original suggestion was that students would be of no less than the English Matriculation standard, but I pointed out that it was probably very difficult owing to the standard of Native Education to expect this standard from the kind of young men who could benefit themselves from a year's visit to England. Mr. Victor Murray who had just published a book on Native Education in Africa, "The School in the Bush", bore me out in this, so Mr. Lee gave way, and said that if you could find two men whose ability to profit from a year's general training in economics or other such subjects, is vouched for by Howard Pym, Professor Macmillan, Dr. Brooks or other men of their standard known to us here in England, that the Committee would accept them instead of the matriculation standard. Plans to be taken now seems to me to be:

1) That you should recommend if you know of any two such men, who have been working with you in the I.C.U. and who you think would profit by a year's education in England.

2) That we should then start to work to try and raise their passage money and a certain sum for use during the vacations, as well

as the £10. per student for incidental expenses which Mr. Lee mentions in his letter. This would be easier if we had definite circumstances in view, as I could then go to the Society of Friends and possibly Roden Buxton, and do what I can to beg for money.

3) We should have to make arrangements for accommodation during the two vacations. Mr. Lee was strongly of the opinion that it would be a very good thing if I could arrange with Creech Jones for some of this time to be spent in the office of an English Trade Union so that the young men would see a certain amount of practical training of Trade Union methods.

I talked to several of the students at Fircroft, including a mining union organiser from Durham and another young miner from North Wales, and they seemed to think that, if the Trade Union would give leave for the young men to spend a certain amount of time in their offices, accommodation, and possibly hospitality, could even be offered them in the homes of some of the local members of the Union.

I think the first thing I want to know though, is whether you can recommend two such young men, who would be willing to spend a year in England. I am enclosing all the particulars and after I hear from you I will go ahead and see what we can do to fulfil the necessary conditions at this end. I imagine that the course would start from September next, for one year. I was delighted with Fircroft, the whole atmosphere of the place was delightful, and I enjoyed lunching with the men and talking to them. Perhaps you will let me know about the whole scheme.

With all good wishes,

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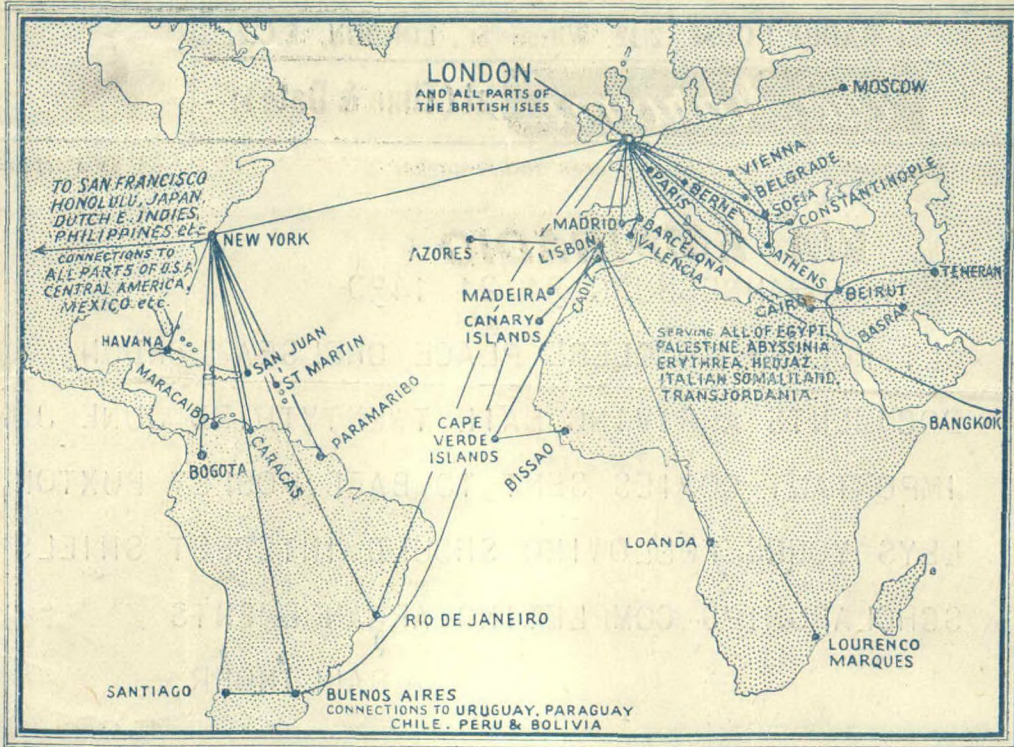
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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR I.C.U. STUDENTS.

TWO NATIVES TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN BRITAIN.

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

Two members of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of Africa have been awarded student scholarships for training at Fircroft College, Bournville, and will leave soon for England.

They are Alex Hlubi, a Swazi, and Modiakgotla, a Thaba N'Chu native, and son of Conan Doyle Modiakgotla, research and complaints secretary to the I.C.U. Both students will study trade union law, and will be away for about a year.

Next year it is hoped that five natives will be sent to the Danish College at Elsinore.—Reuter.

c/o Lewis,
26 Loch Avenue,
Parktown,
Johannesburg

30/4/30.

Dear Miss Holby,

It is indeed great news which you have sent by your last letter. You are a real sport to keep pegging away in my interests. I must confess to a misjudgement of Wedgwood, but his crusade on behalf of Zionism ~~did~~ does not appear healthy — although I haste to add I'm not anti-semitic. But the Jews in S. A. exploit the Natives at both ends. The Commercial-Trading section and the apostles of Communism, the later have either no regard for the real welfare of the Native, and only concerned in justifying themselves to the Comintern, or else cannot realise the shambles towards which their policy will lead the Natives.

Re Scholarships. Your January letter mentions "two" the cable "one Bursary". I have fixed up two Natives — one vouched for by the Rev. John Dube of Natal and Principal of Amingintoti College. He failed to pass his Matric at Lovedale. Is a member of the Gemiston Bish of the I.C. U. and will be in London sometime during July to 'record' for "His Masters Voice". I understand all expenses, such as passage, is being attended to by the Rev. Dube. The name is Alex. Hlubis. He will go on to Fircroft, so soon as the term commences, and informs me that he has sufficient for 'pocket' expenses.

The other Student is a son of the Research Secretary ^{Conan} Doyle Modiakgotla. He is 18 yrs of age and has had a good education. Is a Thaba 'Nchu B. F. S. (Native Reserve) Native. Desires to take up more the law side of Trade Unionism etc.

Modiakgotla has worked all through this trying period of nearly two years with only an occasional recompense in the form of wages. He hopes to travel with his son to England and to attend

the Negro Conference and Commonwealth Labour Conference. He will be financed by his uncle who is one of the Thaba Nchu Chiefs. He is a really fine type and will give you tons of facts and general information.

The enclosed 'cuttings' indicate my ^{recent} activities.

The African Congress is practically a defunct body.

Mrs Bethick Lawrence is coming back to Jhb, after her visit to the Victoria Falls, specially to have a talk with some of the leading Natives and to really see Native Life. Her talk on Women's

Suffrage was followed by a 'books tour', which she fortunately has the sense to realise. She wants me to have a private meeting with the British cabinet. I wish it could be made possible as few at home realise how the British Protectorate ^{or want of policy,} policy plays right in to the hands of the S. A. Union Government.

The Bishop of Bloemfontein (Walter Carey) sent me a note yesterday, from Capetown saying, that "Col. Bresswell, Minister for Labour would like to discuss with me privately ———"

"(1) Economic Position of Natives" —

"(2) Communism" —

"(3) Native Legislation."

I'm quite willing but cannot proceed to Capetown at my own expense — more especially as time and again, by voice and pen my position, conclusions and suggestions must have been brought to his notice. If you can manage things have a talk with the Bishop. He is worth 'writing up', but be careful. Almost forgot to mention he is on his way home and — % Canon Rose, Brighton will find him.

The I. C. U. looks like to take a new lease of

life, and without being too optimistic I think the warring factions will come together and discuss their differences immediately after the East London trial of Kadalie and Co.

My mail is being badly tampered with these days; but of course you have for long been a suspect as a disturber of the peace and "Native Agitator" by proxy. A fine reputation for a now? respectable Feminist, Woman Journalist, and Novelist. Is the other book out yet?

Regards to all friends and do thanks to Col. Wedgwood. I will write him later.

Sincerely,

W. G. Ballinger

Earlsmere
11. Princess Place,
Parktown,

Johannesburg 14/5/30.

Dear Miss Holthy,

I have today received your urgent note re Fircroft. The present position is that we have arranged for two students on the assumption that two bursaries were available. I have today cabled Fircroft asking them to admit both applicants as it is unwise to send only one.

One of the applicants is a son of the Research and Complaints Secy — Conan Doyle Modiakgotla. He is a Thaba 'Nchu (C. F. S.) "Reserve" Native and desires to study Trade Union Law etc. His father is a fine type of Native. He (Modiakgotla senior) expects to attend the Commonwealth Labour Conference and Negro World Conference — both I understand to be held in London. His chief (Tenzang) is financing him. The Thaba 'Nchu Natives are an interesting group — very independent and in some respects quite a rising middle class. "C. D. M" is an expert Master Builder.

The other applicant is a Swazi resident at Germiston some 12 mls from Jhb. He is Lovedale and Ohlange (Natal) educated. His references are good, and in general bearing he seems the right type. His Passage is being paid by "His Master's Voice" people who are having a series of records made. The party, of which he will be a member will leave S. A. sometime in July under (I understand) the care of The Rev John ~~Dube~~ Dube Principal of Ohlange (Amanzimtoti) Institute, Natal. Dube is a Zulu and a highly respected man.

Both applicants have been warned that no financial assistance is available other than that granted for the bursaries.

Last weekend I had a series of talks with Mrs Bethick Lawrence. As a result a meeting was arranged with some leading Natives (4) including the I.C.U. of Africa's General and Administrative Secretaries. The outcome is that Miss Hodgson and I have agreed to draft a memorandum for Mrs Lawrence to present to the British Cabinet and the people who take such a deep keen interest in S. A. Native Affairs. It will be a sensational document embodying facts which will indicate how much the British Government is responsible for the oppression of the Black people. It will assuredly interest all friends to know that "The Bunga" — Transkeian Parliament last week debated a resolution, asking that the Transkei be transferred to Britain. It was carried by 29 to 24. It of course is impossible, but symptomatic. But if the S. A. Union government cares to investigate and publish the facts of Protectorate mal-administration, it will have a good case agt the British Government. The Guardian Letter was in the Leading S. A. papers in prominent places on the lead pages. I.C.U. affairs show a steady improvement, but the finance is slow to come in due to the steady stream of Land (Native) boy. defalcations that are being exposed and ^{the catapaws} punished by imprisonment. Unfortunately the principals have all managed to avoid arrest.

A few "cuttings" etc enclosed.

Regards to all Friends

Sincerely,

W. G. Ballinger.

Just heard that the Branté Studies Comm. of Witwatersrand will have given me a grant to study the reaction of

the Bechuana Natives to Industrial conditions.

The grant is £60 for approx. two months and includes - Pay, Travel and Maintenance for Native Asst. Interpreter and Travel Maintenance for self.

I propose to take Admin. Secy - Ben Gwabini as Asst. Interpreter.

So as not to be too long away from I.C.U. Headquarters we will do the investigation in two periods of approx. - one month each.

It is a big step forward for the Bantu Studies people. I understand that it was the arguments of Prof's Mc Millan and Hobbly and Dr Shapiro that got the grant. W.Y. '33.



FIRCROFT.

Founded 1909.

Telephone: 116 Selly Oak.

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RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER — EDUCATION OF WORKING MEN. —

Recognized by the Board of Education.

FIRCROFT,
BOURNVILLE,
BIRMINGHAM.

August 15th, 1930.

Miss W. Holtby,
19 Glebe Place,
Chelsea. S.W.3.

Dear Miss Holtby,

Very many thanks for your letter of Aug. 13th. It is extremely good of you to take so much trouble about these African students and we appreciate the fact that you are doing it without obligation and only because of your keen interest in the South African problem. Sometimes we may have sounded a little impatient about the arrangements and we ask you to accept our apologies if this has been so. You will agree, however, that the standard of business conducted from the African end has not been a very high one and we shall try to impress upon the students here the necessity for prompt and efficient handling of business affairs in their Organisation. We note that you will send us the sum of £55 toward the fees when required and we shall be glad to receive this as soon as convenient to you by cheque made payable to Fircroft.

We note that you will be away from August 22nd to September 15th but if any difficulty arises in your absence we will communicate with Mr. Noble.

Hoping that you will have a pleasant trip abroad and with kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Bursar.



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FIRCROFT,
BOURNVILLE,
BIRMINGHAM.

October 17th, 1930.

Miss W. Holtby,
19 Glebe Place,
Chelsea. S.W.3.

Dear Miss Holtby,

We are glad to tell you that Alex Hlubi has arrived here safely. One of our students met him at the Station and brought him out. We are impressed already by his personality and feel sure that he will settle happily.

It seems extraordinary that you should have had to go to such trouble about getting permission for him to remain here and also to lodge money as a guarantee for his return. Probably you are satisfied that this sort of thing cannot be avoided, but we should be very glad to use any influence we can here, if you wish it, to secure some change, if possible, in the system which makes these restrictions possible.

We should again like to thank you for all that you have done to settle the affairs of Hlubi.

Yours sincerely,

S. D. Mueser

Bursar.



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FIRCROFT,
BOURNVILLE,
BIRMINGHAM.

February 7th, 1931.

Miss W. Holtby,
19 Glebe Place,
Chelsea. S.W.3:

Dear Miss Holtby,

Many thanks for your letter about Hlubi. He spoke to me two or three days ago and I intended to write to you.

I cannot promise that he will be accepted for another year at Fircroft. His application will have to be considered by a committee. Nor is it certain that there will be Bursary help for him. As Modiakgotla did not turn up, the £50 which you got from Mr. Buxton, ^{and your own} went towards Hlubi's bursary, and the bursary which was available for a second South African went to a German student.

I confess I have not been quite certain of the wisdom of keeping Hlubi for another year in England. He is a man of excellent character and gets on very well with everybody else. He works hard and he is modest. But he has the idea in his head of keeping long enough in England to take a degree. He seems confident he can do it in about 4 years. I can't be certain. In some respects he is very backward. It is largely a question of a very limited experience rather than lack of mental capacity, and he has certainly increased the range of his vocabulary a great deal. Do you think it would be a good thing for him to stop at Fircroft for another year apart from the question of preparing him for a University? I wish Mr. Ballinger had not remained silent. I don't know how far Hlubi's period in England will help him to get any sort of position in the I.C.U. There seems to be no responsibility one way or the other, and I think that Hlubi feels that the I.C.U. is not interested in him, though he is anxious to give his services to the Union in a well qualified capacity.

I think it would be well worth while for Hlubi to visit

P.T.O.



Durham in the Easter vacation. He will get introductions to Trade Union leaders.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. D. C.

Warden.

P.S. I think that if our committee thought it advisable for Hlubi to stay at Fircroft another year they would very likely grant him some bursary aid.

Feb. 9th 1931

Dear Mr Hlubi,

I have just had a letter from Mr Howard Pim, the chartered accountant in charge of the I.C.U. finances, enclosing one from Mr Ballinger concerning your application. They both strongly advise you to return to South Africa as arranged at the end of the summer term. They say you are badly needed there, and that though you would have a very good time here if you stayed to do university work, they cannot advise us to give you further assistance to remain when you are so badly needed out there.

I am afraid that this will disappoint you, and of course you must do as you wish. If you can raise money through your father church or otherwise, to stay for one more year, you can do so, provided that the Warden recommends your application. But with this definite statement from Mr Ballinger and Mr Pim that you are needed for work with your own people, the case is rather changed. I did suggest to you before that after this year here in England, it might be that the best preparation you would have for leadership would be routine work in South Africa actually among the conditions that you will be working to relieve. I feel sure your return would be welcomed, and I fear lest your continued absence would be mistaken for a desire to shirk work which awaits you there.

I have sent the correspondence to the Warden, and advise you to talk the matter over with him. I know you are anxious to remain, and I am anxious for you to have the best possible chance. But I cannot myself promise to guarantee your financial support for another year here. I certainly cannot, against the wishes of Mr Ballinger, divert moneys to you that would otherwise go to help continue the work in South Africa. So much is needed there, and it is possible that another year here would not make you any more use to your people out there than you will be after one year's experience.

I think that the sporting thing would probably be to go back and do your best there. But of course the ultimate decision rests with you.



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RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER — EDUCATION OF WORKING MEN. —

Recognized by the Board of Education.

FIRCROFT,
BOURNVILLE,
BIRMINGHAM.

April 1st, 1931.

Miss W. Holthy,
19 Glebe Place,
Chelsea. S.W.3.

Dear Miss Holtby,

Many thanks for your letter with enclosure from Mr. Ballinger, which I return.

I quite understand his attitude towards an extension of Hlubi's period in England. I think Hlubi has himself shewn a lack of keenness about returning to work in the interests of the natives, but this can be partly explained by Mr. Ballinger's prolonged silence on the matter. Now, however, he seems definite enough and Hlubi ought to recognise that he really is wanted.

I still think that another year at Fircroft will be good for him. As I have said before, he is quite intelligent but very backward in general knowledge and also slow in learning. He has in fact been recommended for another year by our Selection Committee and he has agreed to pay £15 towards the £75 from his own resources. I am sure he can afford to do this.

You ought not to lend him anything. You have been extremely generous to him and I do not want you to think of giving any more help. But if you can influence anybody to contribute towards the £60 which has to be found, I should be very grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Warden.



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Recognized by the Board of Education.

FIRCROFT,
BOURNVILLE,
BIRMINGHAM.

October 3rd, 1931.

Miss W. Holtby,
19 Glebe Place,
Chelsea. S.W.3.

Dear Miss Holtby,

Many thanks for your letter of October 2nd. I think you have been exceedingly generous to Hlubi and I had no idea that you had helped him to such an extent. I understood from him that he had no difficulties with regard to personal expenses, but he did not make it clear to me that you were advancing him money. I shall tell him when I see him today that he cannot count on stopping at Fircroft after Christmas; it is clear that he must not borrow any more money from you. It seems to me that he has a very slight sense of responsibility. If it is possible for him to finish another year here it would be a very good thing for him to spend a vacation in a Trade Union office. I am sure he ought to make up his mind to help his Union and I will do what I can to help him to maintain his interest in the Movement. At the moment I think it best to prepare him for leaving after Christmas. If he does leave then I am sure he will have got something out of his stay in England, but it will not be good for him to think he can stay on indefinitely. I hope he clearly understands that he owes you money; and meanwhile I thank you very much for your generosity to him and your interest in the College.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. W. W.
Warden.

I have written to Mavumbela & to
Dehoran. *J. H. H.*

*I rent the £5 necessary -
Hlubi has £5 himself -
when he needs more - I could
possibly send a letter - But
must do all I can to Ballinger. *W. H.**

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