

5 MAY 1955

Fort Hare University is closed because secret authority exists

Students disperse quietly: Police stand by

EAST LONDON, Wednesday.

THE FORT HARE University College for non-Europeans at Alice was closed today by the executive committee of the College Council, the governing body of the college.

The 400 men and women students at the college were sent home in special trains. They dispersed quietly and there were no incidents.

Strong forces of armed policemen who were present for security reasons did not have to intervene in any way.

A statement by the executive committee of the college council says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of a secret authority. The authority, the statement says, is sometimes referred to as the "caucus," whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

At the morning assembly today students were told to disperse to their hostels. When they arrived at the hostels they were told the college was being closed and that they were being sent home.

Reinforcements

Police reinforcements, including a detachment of Railway Police, under the command of Captain C. J. J. Stander, were stationed in buildings and grounds of the college.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. van der Linde, Deputy Commissioner of Police at Grahamstown, was in command of police, drawn from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King William's Town, and Grahamstown.

Throughout the morning the situation at the college was quiet.

When the students were told of the decision to send them home they quietly packed their belongings and prepared to leave for the station. Lorries took the luggage to the station, the students following in taxis and on foot.

Security only

The police were on the college premises for security purposes only. They were not required to intervene in any way or to give any orders to a single student.

The first train left at lunch-time, carrying most of the students. Later in the afternoon the rest of the students entrained.

Railway police also boarded the trains.

By 6 p.m. everything was quiet at Fort Hare. The last student had left, and there had been no untoward incidents.

In September, 1950, three students were expelled for conducting a persecution campaign against fellow students who refused to boycott a reception given to the then Governor-General, the Rt. Hon. G. Brand van Zyl.

Sapa's correspondent in Cape Town reports that the South African Native College of Fort Hare

was officially opened by General Louis Botha on February 8, 1916. Classes began about two weeks later with a total enrolment of 20 students.

The college is administered by a governing council, to which the Government nominates four representatives according to the Higher Education Act of 1923 under which the college is incorporated.

Other members represent Rhodes University (to which the college was affiliated in 1951), the universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, the Basutoland administration, Native secondary education, the college senate, former students of the college, the Transkeian Territories General Council, the Churches of Scotland, and of the Province of South Africa, the Methodist Church of South Africa, and donors of sums of money to the college.—Sapa.

Africans' university closed because of student 'caucus'

From Our Correspondent

ALICE, Wednesday.

THE Fort Haré University College for non-Europeans was closed today by the executive committee of the College Council. Most of the 400 students have already left for home by special train. They dispersed quietly and there were no incidents. Police were present for security reasons.

A statement issued by Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college, said there was evidence of the existence within the student body of a secret authority.

This authority, it said, was sometimes referred to as the "caucus," whose instructions were obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

The council will consider the re-admission of individual students "in due course."

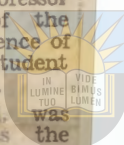
Under the influence of the "caucus," said the statement, the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence to get their views accepted by the college authorities.

Council resigns

"This has resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable. In consequence the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

"The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this 'caucus' upon student action, and was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as 'the struggle.'"



University of Fort Hare
Excellence

Date.....

See Also Overleaf

SECRET STUDENT BODY IN AFRICAN COLLEGE

Only Non-White University Closed Down As Result

ALICE, South Africa, May 4 (Reuter). — A state-sponsored university college — the only university for non-whites in the country — closed down today because of an alleged secret group among the students working against the college authorities.

The council of the college, Fort Hare, ordered the closure.

An official statement issued here by the local Native Commissioner, a Government official, said there was evidence of a "secret authority among the students attending the college. In view of the situation, and after considering a report from the college senate, the council's executive committee had decided it was impossible to continue the work of the college. The re-admission of individual students would be considered in due course.

The Native Commissioner's statement said that under the leadership of a secret authority known as "The Caucus," students had resorted to illegal methods such as boycotts and even violence in an attempt to impose their will on the college authorities. The activities of "The Caucus" had resulted in "the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable."

The students' representative council, a student body acting in liaison with the authorities, had found it necessary to resign.

Police reinforcements were sent to Alice from Grahamstown, about 60 miles away, and today special trains stood in the station at Fort Hare waiting to carry the dismissed students to their homes in various parts of South Africa.

Today's announcement was the first indication to the public of the trouble at Fort Hare.

CLOSING OF FORT HARE



PROFESSOR C. P. DENT . . .
Principal of Fort Hare
University College

Authorities React To "Secret Caucus"

The Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans at Alice was closed yesterday by the Executive Committee of the College Council, the governing body of the College.

The 400 men and women students at the College were sent home in special trains. They dispersed quietly and there were no incidents. Strong forces of armed policemen who were present for security reasons did not have to intervene in any way.

A statement by the Executive Committee of the College Council says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority. This authority, the statement says, is sometimes referred to as the "caucus" whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

At morning assembly at the College yesterday the students, who are all fee-paying, were told to disperse to their hostels—three men's and one women's. Once they had arrived at the hostels they were told the College was being closed and that they were being sent home.

Police reinforcements, including a detachment of Railways Police under the command of Captain C. J. J. Stander, who saw to the entraining of the students, were stationed in the buildings and grounds of the College. Lieut.-Colonel L. van der Linde, Deputy-Commissioner of Police at Grahamstown, was in command of the police, who were drawn from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King William's Town and Grahamstown.

LEFT QUIETLY

Throughout the morning the situation at the College was quiet. When the students were told of the decision to send them home they packed up their belongings and prepared to leave for the station. Lorries took their luggage to the station and the students followed in taxis and on foot.

The police who were on the College premises were there for security purposes only. They were not required to intervene in any way nor to give any orders to a single student.

The first train left at lunch-time carrying most of the students and later in the afternoon the rest of the students entrained. Railways Police also boarded the trains. By six o'clock everything was quiet at Fort Hare—the last student had left and there had been no untoward incidents.

STATEMENT

The statement issued by the College Council's executive says, "The constitution of the College provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities as is usual in university institutions for any representation that students wish to make either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives. Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

"There has developed evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the 'caucus' whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College. The result has been that under the influence of the 'caucus,' the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

"The boycott of the graduation ceremony, carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting, is another example of the influence of this 'caucus' upon student action and was deliberately designed to embarrass the College authorities and to bring discredit on the College. Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as 'the struggle.'

"In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the Executive Committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the College under present conditions. The Executive Committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the College for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course."

STUDENTS' DENIAL

A special correspondent of the Daily Dispatch in Alice reports that the last of the students left by train last night for their homes after denying the existence of a pressure group among the students.

A large group of students, interviewed before they left, said there was no "secret authority," "pressure group" or "caucus" within the student body. They said the College had been closed because

they had boycotted the College's graduation ceremony. That boycott was the result of unsatisfactory food and a recent decision of the council to prohibit them from visiting the women students in their common room.

Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the College, said later that the men students had been banned from the women's common room because that privilege had been abused.

"The stage had been reached where it was becoming a common room for everybody and this would not be tolerated at any university," he said.

The decision to close the College temporarily had been taken by the College Council alone and no Government department had been involved, he said.

STATEMENT BY VILJOEN

Question Tabled in Senate

(From Our Political
Correspondent)

CAPE TOWN,
Wednesday.

The Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, is expected to make a statement in Parliament tomorrow on the closing of the non-European University College of Fort Hare.

The Minister today received only a brief notification of the decision of the College Council to close the College. A full report is being sent to him by the Council.

A question has been tabled on the subject in the Senate. Notice of the question was given by Senator Leslie Rubin (Lib., Natives' Representative) today shortly after the news of the Fort Hare incident had been received. Senator Rubin directed the question to the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, but Dr. Verwoerd disclaimed responsibility for Fort Hare and said the question should be addressed to the Minister of Education, under whose control the University fell.

ADMINISTRATION

SAPA's correspondent here writes that Fort Hare, which was officially opened by General Louis Botha on February 8, 1916 is administered by a Governing Council, to which the Government nominates four representatives. The four Government representatives for 1953 to 1955 are the Secretary for Education, Arts and Science; the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Chief Native Commissioner of the Cape and the Chief Inspector of Native Education of Transvaal, or their alternatives. Other members represent Rhodes University (to which the College was affiliated in 1951), the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, the Basutoland Administration, Native Secondary Education, the College Senate, former students of the College, the Transkeian Territories General Council, the Churches of Scotland and of the Province of South Africa, the Methodist Church of South Africa and donors of sums of money to the College.

The Senate of the College, composed of both European and non-European members of the teaching staff, recognises the right of students to discuss on an academic level in the various student societies economic, social, political, religious and other problems and theories, but to safeguard the interests of the College as an educational institution, the facilities of the College may not be used for gatherings the purpose of which is to translate discussion into action subversive to the interests of Fort Hare.

4 MAY 1955

Established 1878

DURBAN, WEDNESDAY

FORT HARE NATIVE COLLEGE CLOSED DOWN BY AUTHORITIES

Police arrive as students are sent home by train

Daily News Reporter

FORT HARE COLLEGE, the biggest non-European college in South Africa, accommodating 360 students, was closed by the Executive Council of the College to-day.

A statement approved by the Executive Committee of the College Council and issued by Professor C. P. Dent, Principal of Fort Hare, says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority, sometimes referred to as the "Caucus," whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation. The students tended to obey these instructions rather than those of the constituted authorities of the College.

Armed police, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel L. van der Linde, Deputy Commissioner of Police at Grahamstown, have been sent to guard against possible disturbances.

Professor Dent told The Daily News that all was quiet. There had been no violence and the students, both men and women, were being sent to their homes in special trains which were leaving Alice early this afternoon.

He said there was a big boycott of the graduation ceremony on Friday last, but that was only a symptom of the trouble. The Students' Representative Council had been superseded and had found it necessary to resign. He emphasised that the closure was temporary. "We will now consider what steps to take."

The students, he said, came from all parts of the Union and the British High Commission Territories. The College was opened about 30 years ago.

Police reinforcements, who have been drawn from the surrounding areas of Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King William's Town and Grahamstown, are not only guarding the College buildings but are watching the entraining of the students for their homes. Most of the European constables are armed with rifles. A few have Sten guns.

A Police spokesman said there was an atmosphere of complete quiet as the sombre-faced students made their way to the railway station. About 50 policemen are on special duty.

THE STATEMENT

Professor Dent's statement says:

1. The constitution of the College provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities as is usual in the university institutions for any representation that students wish to make either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives. Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

2. There has developed evidence of the existence within the

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

CLOSING OF FORT HARE

Continued from Page 1

student body of the College of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the caucus, whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities.

This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

3. The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this Caucus upon student action and was deliberately designated to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college. Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as "the struggle."

4. In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the Executive Committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions. The executive committee has, therefore, decided to suspend all activities of the college for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course.

The Holloway Commission of Inquiry on separate training facilities for non-Europeans at universities reported that the University College of Fort Hare for non-Europeans was an established institution which had over a long period of years in many respects rendered admirable services to the non-European. The number of non-European internal students in attendance there was considerably larger than at any other university institution in the Union. The value of the existing buildings was £300,000.

University College Council alleges its authority has been undermined by 'secret' body MASS DISMISSAL OF FORT HARE STUDENTS

Police stand by as students leave

ALICE.

ARMED POLICE reinforcements were sent to Alice today to prevent disturbances as the 394 students at Fort Hare University College prepared to leave for home after the college authorities had closed the college.

Two special trains were ordered to take the dismissed students away from Alice this afternoon, reports Sapa.

The Principal of the University College, Professor C. P. Dent, asked for police reinforcements to stand by today in case of trouble.

The police have taken over the buildings and grounds of the college.

Lieut.-Col. L. van der Linde, Deputy Commissioner of Police at Grahamstown, is in command of the police, who are drawn from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King William's Town and Grahamstown. More than 50 policemen are standing by.

The first special train taking students away was due to leave at 2 p.m.

The situation at Fort Hare college was then reported to be quiet, with the police in control.

Women as well as men have been dismissed. Only staff remain in the college.

'Secret authority'

alleged

Fort Hare — the only non-White university institution in South Africa — was closed by the executive committee of the College Council, of which Prof. Dent is chairman.

A statement issued by Prof. Dent says there is evidence that a "secret authority" exists within the student body of the college.

This authority, he says, is sometimes referred to as the "caucus." Its instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

The executive committee says this has created an intolerable situation and the college has, therefore, been closed. Re-admission of individual students will be considered in due course.

No statement of the students' case was available today.

300 were absent

from ceremony

It is said that some 300 of the under-graduates did not attend the annual graduation last Friday.

Their absence was not noticed by visitors because the hall was filled with visitors (mostly Africans) and graduates.

Mrs. V. M. L. Ballinger, M.P. (Natives' Rep., Cape Eastern) and Senator L. R. Rubin (Natives' Rep, Cape Province) were expected to attempt to question the Minister of Education in the Assembly this afternoon about developments at Fort Hare.

Both M.P.s were reported today to be intending to visit Fort Hare tomorrow.

The statement issued by Prof. Dent was approved by the executive committee of the College Council. It says:

Please turn to Page 2, Col. 6.

students dismissed

(Continued from Page 1).

"1. The constitution of the College provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities, as is usual in university institutions, for any representation that students wish to make either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives. Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

Threats alleged

2. "There has developed evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority, sometimes referred to as the caucus, whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

"The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the college authorities.

"This has resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body, and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

'The struggle'

3. "The boycott of the graduation ceremony last Friday carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this caucus upon student action.

"It was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as 'the struggle.'

4. "In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the executive committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions.

"The executive committee has, therefore, decided to suspend all activities of the College for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course."



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Evidence Of Secret Student Body Alleged In Statement

GOVERNMENT CLOSES FORT HARE NON-EUROPEAN COLLEGE

Armed Police Take Over Buildings To Prevent Trouble

(South African Press Association)

ALICE, Wednesday.

THE Non-European University College of Fort Hare was today closed by Government officials at the request of the Executive Committee of the College Council.

A statement by the Native Commissioner says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority.

Armed police reinforcements were brought to Alice, today to guard possible disturbances as 400 Native students from the College prepared to leave for home. A police spokesman said trouble was expected.

The principal of the University College, Prof. C. P. Dent asked for police reinforcements to stand by in case of trouble. The police have taken over the buildings and grounds of the college.

The statement by the Native Commissioner on the closure, says: "1. The Constitution of the College provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities as is usual in university institutions for any representation that students wish to make either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives. Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

EVIDENCE

"2. There has developed evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority sometimes referred to as 'the Caucus' whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College. The result has been that, under the influence of 'the Caucus,' the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

"THE STRUGGLE"

"3. The boycott of the graduation ceremony, carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting, is another example of the influence of this 'Caucus' upon student action and was deliberately designated to embarrass the College authorities and to bring discredit on the College. Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as 'the struggle'."

"4. In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the Executive Committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the College under present conditions. The Executive Committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the College for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course."

The situation at the College is quiet and the police are in control.

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

S. African Government Closes Fort Hare

ALICE, Wednesday

THE non-European college of Fort Hare was closed by Government officials today. A statement by the Native Commissioner says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of a college secret authority.

This authority, the statement prepared to leave for home following the closure,

is sometimes referred to as a "caucus" whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

The statement says: "The result has been that under the influence of the caucus, students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence, with a view to the acceptance of their will by college authorities.

"This has resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destruction of freedom of opinion and action within the student body, and has become intolerable."

POLICE SENT FOR

Armed police reinforcements have been sent to Alice, the nearby town, to guard against possible disturbances, as 400 native students

The principal of the university, Professor C. P. Dent, asked for police reinforcements to stand by in case of trouble.

Lieut.-Colonel L. van der Linde, Deputy Commissioner of Police at Grahamstown, is in command of police, who are drawn from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King Williams-town and Grahamstown.—Sapa.

Die Burger

DONDERDAG, 5 MEI 1955

Die Sluiting van Fort Hare

DIE ontstellende stap van die owerheid van Fort Hare, om die inrigting vir onbepaalde tyd te sluit, is tog nie heeltemal onverwags teen die agtergrond van die voorafgaande moelikhede aldaar nie. Groepe van studente het al tevore die kollege-gesag uitgetart en onhanteerbaar geword. Nou gee die prinsipaal in sy verklaring 'n blik op ontwikkelinge wat neerkom op 'n skrikbewind van ekstremiste in die studentegemeenskap. Dit is gebou op intimidasie, boikotbewegings en selfs geweldpleging, so effektief dat nog andersdenkende studente nog die owerheid die terreur kon beëindig. Die enigste raad vir die onhoudbare toestand was om al die studente huis toe te stuur. Dié wat bereid is om hulle te gedra, sal dan later weer toegelaat word.

Hierdie gebeurtenisse laat iets sien van die strominge onder minstens 'n deel van die studerende Bantoe-jeug. Dit is te hope dat dit wye en diepe aandag sal geniet.

Die geestelike atmosfeer aan Fort Hare is liberalisties. Die ideale wat daar aan die studente gestel word, kan gemeet word aan die grade-dagrede van dr. E. H. Brookes waarvan ons 'n opsomming elders publiseer. (Dit was dié plegtigheid wat getref is deur die boikot waarvan die prinsipaal in sy verklaring melding maak.) Dit is ideale van gelykheid en volle burgerskap wat aan die knap jong naturelle voorgehou word, nie in aparte naturelle-gebiede of -instellinge nie, maar in Suid-Afrika as eenheidsgemeenskap. Wie kan dit 'n Bantoe-student kwalik neem dat hy, met 'n blik op die land en op die blanke openbare mening soos dit is, besluit dat daardie liberalistiese ideale alleen langs die pad van revolusie te bereik

is? By menige Bantoe-intellektueel het daarom 'n begryplike veragting ontstaan vir die pratende liberalisme van manne soos dr. Brookes. Nie by hulle, die pratende liberaliste nie, maar by die Russiese en ander revolusionêre soek baie van die geleerde Bantoes al hoe meer leiding en inspirasie. Hulle sien hulself nie as 'n aparte volk wat 'n aparte vryheid in 'n aparte tuiste moet vind nie, maar as 'n verdrukte proletariaat wat die hele landsbestuur moet verower om hul regte te kry. Dit is die gedagte-ontwikkeling nie net aan Fort Hare nie, maar in tal van „selle” in verskillende dele van die land. Die „regstreekse aksie” aan Fort Hare is maar oefening vir latere optrede op 'n breër terrein. En ook daardie optrede sal, soos die ervaring trouens al bewys het, nie die liberalistiese „vriende” van die Bantoe ontsien nie. Hulle word eerder die diepste verag, omdat hulle wel die ideale van gelykheid en integrasie verkondig, maar tot niks meer as praat bereid of in staat skyn te wees nie.

Dit is 'n dodelik ernstige ontwikkeling waarvan die sluiting van Fort Hare 'n simptoom is. Dit toon iets van die kragte waarmee Suid-Afrika al hoe meer te kampe gaan hê as invloedryke groepe of partye van blankes voortgaan om die land se koers aan te wys as integrasie van die rasse in 'n eenheidsgemeenskap van wit en swart. Daarmee gee hulle die Bantoe-ekstremis in sy aandrang op volle regte prinsipiëel gelyk. Hulle erken dat die sedelike reg oorwegend aan sy kant is. En wanneer dit eers deur blanke Suid-Afrika gedoen is, is 'n mag in ons land geskep waarteen niks op die duur — en die nogal korte duur daarby — bestand kan wees nie.

5 MAY 1955

FORT HARE GESLUIT

OOS-LONDEN.—Die natuurlike kollege Fort Hare op Alice het gister gesluit ná 'n besluit van sy besturende liggaam, die Kollege raad. Die vierhonderd studente het reeds die kollege verlaat en die meeste het met 'n spesiale trein na hul huise teruggekeer, berig Sapa.

Daar was geen voorvalle nie, 'n Verklaring wat deur die prinsipaal, prof. C. P. Dent, uitgereik is, lui dat daar bewys is dat daar onder die studente aan die kollege 'n geheime gesag is. Dit word soms die „koukus” ge-

noem. Die studente is so onder die invloed van die koukus dat hulle hom gehoorsaam en hulle soms tot metodes soos boikots, dreigemente en selfs geweld wend. Die toestand het ondraaglik geword, lui die verklaring.

Fort Hare staan onder die onmiddellike beheer van sy eie Kollegeraad, wat weer onder onregstreekse beheer van die Departement van Onderwys val. Die Departement het niks van die sluiting geweet nie.

Die Kommissaris van Polisie het gister meegedeel dat hy ook van die saak niks geweet het nie.

(Lees ook berig op bl. 3 en die hoofartikel.)

5 MAY 1955

Gradedag by Fort Hare

„AFRICANS, WEES
JULSELF!”Nataller oor Emansipasie
van Nie-Blankes

„DIE wesentliche feit is dat julle nie ‚nie-Europeane’ is nie; julle is manne en vroue met al die mag, presteervermoë en visie wat God gee aan manne en vroue wat na sy beeld geskep is,” so het dr. Edgar H. Brookes, voormalige senator wat tans aan die Universiteit van Natal verbonde is, verlede week gesê in ’n toespraak by die gradeplegtigheid van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare op Alice.

„Moet nooit tevrede wees om minder as dit te wees nie,” het hy voortgegaan, „en moet nie deur blindheid van verbeelding, koudheid van hart of swakheid van geloof, Quislings wees wat deur versuim om hul lotsbestemming te bereik, krag verleen aan die argumente van diegene wat hulle as minderwaardig brandmerk nie.”

VREES

Dr. Brookes het gesê dat hy hom niks kan voorstel wat beter daarop bereken sou wees om tot die emansipasie van die nie-blankes in Suid-Afrika te lei nie as intellektuele prestasies van so ’n treffende aard dat dit agting moet afdwing. „Moet nooit aan my sê dat dit nie gedoen kan word nie,” het hy verklaar.

Die bevolking van Suid-Afrika, het hy gesê, is vreesbevangen. As Fort Hare of enige ander universiteit jaarliks tien gegradueerdes kon lewer wat heeltemal onbevrees is, sou dit ’n omwenteling in Suid-Afrika meebring.

’n Gegradueerde van Fort Hare wat sy nuwe lewe binnegaan, moet noodwendig begeer om ’n volle burger in sy geboorteland te wees.

Hy moet noodwendig vir homself, en naderhand vir sy kinders, die vols moontlike opvoedkundige geleentheid begeer — toegang tot die hele wêreld se skatte van kennis en wysheid.

Hy moet noodwendig begeer dat sy medemens groter ekonomiese geleenthede te beurt moet val, met die geleentheid om grond te besit, om genoeg te hê om te eet en behoorlike onderdak, om vry te wees van die ewige, vretende bedreiging van skuld.

Hy moet noodwendig diep begeer om vry te wees van beledigings en onhoflikheid, die toerekening van minderwaardigheid, naywer oor sy bekwaamheid of prestasies, minagting vanweë sy ras of kleur.

„Laat ons almal duidelik en sonder dubbelsinnigheid toegee dat geen African-, Indiër- of Kleurling-student in die Unie geblameer kan word as hy dié ambisies het nie. Hy sou minder as ’n mens wees as hy dit nie hê nie.”

Dié ambisies geld vir alle mense. Daar is ander ambisies wat hy graag by baie gegradueerdes van Fort Hare sou wil sien.

Die waarheid behoort die rig-snoer van almal te wees, en om die waarheid te kan dien moet ’n mens in die eerste plaas aan jouself getrou wees en onbeskaamd jouself wees.

„As julle Africans is, beteken dit dat julle nie bewus moet probeer om hetsy African of on-African te wees nie, maar juisself. As julle juisself is, sal julle in julle deugde hê van Afrika, wat julle nie moet minag nie, en deugde van die breër wêreld van die Westerse beskawing wat julle geleer en as ’n skat bewaar het en wat julle moet probeer om te assimileer en werklik julle te maak.

„Hierdie universiteitskollege bewind hom in die benydenswaardige posisie dat hy gesteun word, somtyds ongetwyfeld om die verkeerde rede, deur die voorstanders van alle politieke gedagterigtinge in Suid-Afrika.

„Die verdedigers van apartheid verheug hulle oor die groei van ’n aparte, nie-blanke inrigting. Die verdedigers van integrasie verheug hulle daaroor dat uit Fort Hare manne kom wat deur hul prestasies ’n treffender bewys van die gelykheid van alle mense kan lewer as enige filosofiese argumente.”

15 MAY 1955

Talks on Fort Hare

The Argus Special Correspondent

FORT HARE, Thursday. — The governing council of Fort Hare University College has been summoned by telegram to an urgent meeting in Alice to discuss the situation at the college, from which the entire student body — a total of 360 men and women students—were expelled yesterday.

Meanwhile, Prof. G. F. Dent, the principal, is flying to Cape Town.

The meeting of the council will take place on Professor Dent's return from Cape Town.

All was quiet here and in the town of Alice, where many of the students are staying, to-day.

The police, drawn from neighbouring towns, who stood by while the students dispersed yesterday, left Alice last night when it was apparent that no disturbances were likely.

Professor Dent told me to-day that it was the intention to re-open the college as soon as possible.

'This will have to be decided by the governing council, which has been summoned to meet so that the whole situation can be discussed in full.'

MUST REAPPLY

Professor Dent said that as the students had been expelled they would all have to reapply for admission.

None had done so yet. Only the staff of the college were in residence, and they would remain at their posts until the college reopened. Their salaries would continue to be paid during the closure.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

GRADUATION: A Native student receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Dr. T. Altz, at a graduation ceremony at Fort

5 MAY 1955

All Fort Hare Students Gone

Cape Times Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — By 6 p.m. yesterday the last student had left the Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans at Alice.

The College was closed yesterday by the executive committee of the College Council, the governing body of the College.

The 400 men and women students at the College were sent home in special trains. They dispersed quietly, and there were no incidents.

Strong forces of armed policemen who were present for security reasons did not have to intervene.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

"SECRET AUTHORITY"

A statement by the executive committee of the College Council said there was evidence of the existence within the student body of a secret authority.

This authority, the statement said, was sometimes referred to as the "caucus", whose instructions were obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

At the morning assembly yesterday the students were told to disperse to their hostels. When they arrived at the hostels they were told the college was being closed and that they were being sent home.

Police reinforcements, including a detachment of Railway Police, who saw to the entrainment of the students, were stationed in buildings and grounds of the college.

Police were drawn from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, Kingwilliamstown and Grahams-town.

When the students were told of the decision to send them home they quietly packed their belongings and prepared to leave for the station. Lorries took the luggage to the station, the students following in taxis and on foot.

SECURITY ONLY

The police were on the College premises for security purposes only. They were not required to give orders to students.

The first train left at lunch-time, carrying most of the students. Later in the afternoon the rest of the students entrained.

Railway police also boarded the trains.

By 6 p.m. everything was quiet at Fort Hare. The last student had left.

5 MAY 1955

THE LAST TO
LEAVE

FORT HARE CLOSE-DOWN TENSION EBBS

Last students go home: deny 'secret authority'

(Herald Reporter)

THE last of 360 students of Fort Hare University College, 150 miles from Port Elizabeth, left Alice without disorder last night for their homes as armed police withdrew from College precincts. They denied the existence of a "pressure group" among students, following a College Council statement that a decision to shut down the premises yesterday until further notice was made necessary through the influence of a "secret authority" among the students.

The students were told of the decision of the Council at morning assembly yesterday.

This announcement was followed by the arrival of armed police reinforcements from Fort Beaufort, Cradock, King William's Town and Grahamstown under the command of Lt.-Col. L. van der Linde, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Grahamstown.

During the morning, the students, Natives, Indians and Coloureds of which about 300 were men and 50 women, packed their belongings and prepared to board special trains for their homes.

REINFORCEMENTS

In the meantime, armed police guards were sent to the college and reinforcements stood by in Alice in case of trouble.

No incidents were reported throughout the day and the students quietly boarded the trains.

They came from all provinces of the Union and some from as far afield as Nyasaland and Rhodesia.

It is believed that all the Union Natives would return to their homes, but those from outside South Africa would live with friends until the college was reopened.

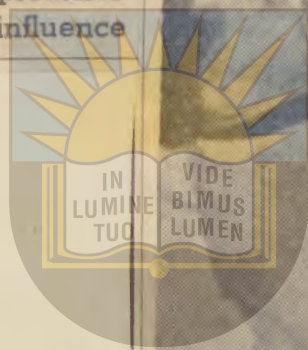
DESERTED

Last night, I found the College grounds deserted and the buildings all in darkness.

The last of the students stood quietly on the railway station waiting for the Port Elizabeth-bound train to take them homeward.

As this train pulled out, armed Railway policemen were seen on board, while both South African and Railway policemen stood by on the station.

A large group of students



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

QUIET AT FORT HARE

interviewed before they left Alice last night emphatically denied the existence of a "secret authority," "pressure group" or "caucus" within the student body.

They said that the College had been closed because they had boycotted the College's graduation ceremony.

Their boycott, they said, was the result of unsatisfactory food and a recent decision of the Council to prohibit them from visiting the women students in their common room.

A police officer told me that except for a few members, all the reinforcements brought into Alice had returned to their stations last night.

Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college, said that the men students had been banned from the women's common room because that privilege had been abused.

STAGE

"The stage had been reached where it was becoming a common room for everybody and this would not be tolerated at any university," he said.

The decision to close the college temporarily had been taken solely by the College Council and no Government department had been involved," he said.

The full text of the College's statement on the closure of the institution, released to me last night, read:

"The constitution of the College provides proper channels of communication between students and

the recognised authorities, as is usual in university institutions, for any representations that students wish to make, either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives.

"Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

CAUCUS

"There has developed unmistakable evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority, sometimes referred to as the caucus, whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

"The result has been that, under the influence of the caucus, the students have resorted to irregular methods, such as boycotts, threats and even violence, with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities.

"This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable.

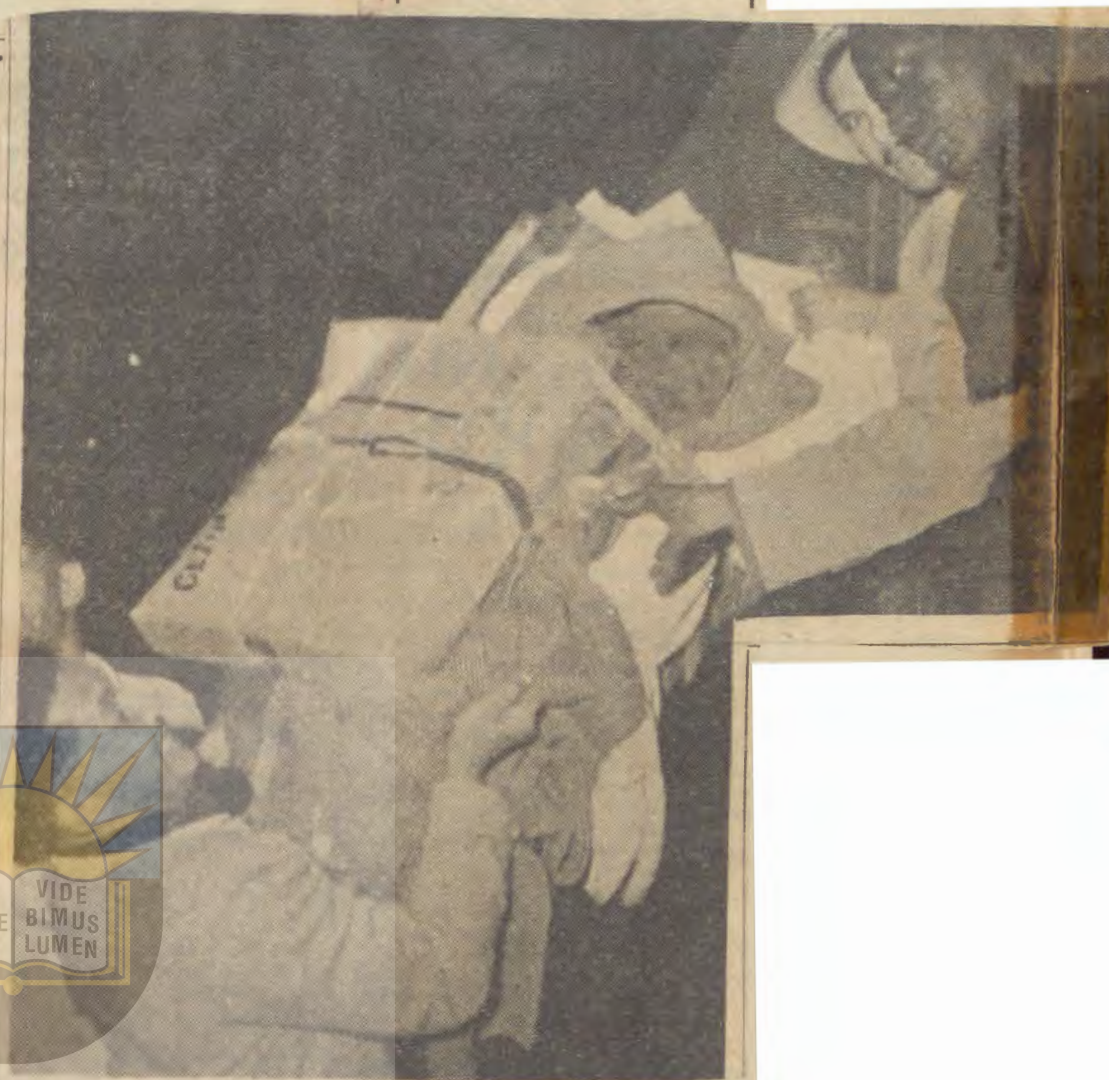
"In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

"The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting, is another example of the influence of this caucus upon student action and

was deliberately designed to embarrass the College authorities and to bring discredit on the College.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as "the struggle."

"In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the Executive Committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the College under present conditions."



A 3 1/2-hour, 150-mile, rush back last night by a staff photo Herald made possible the reproduction of the last home-bound departure of the last home-bound students. All students interviewed were with any alleged

The Mercury, King
William's Town

5 MAY 1955

FORT HARE CLOSED BY COLLEGE COUNCIL

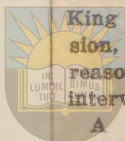
Mr. J. H. Dugard, Chief Inspector of Native Education, Cape, declined to make any comment when asked to do so by The Mercury this morning on the closing on Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans at Alice yesterday morning by the Executive Committee of the College Council.

The 400 men and women students at the College left the campus quietly yesterday to be taken to their homes by special trains. A strong force of Police, which included men from the King William's Town Sub Division, were present for security reasons, but were not forced to intervene in any way.

A statement issued to the Press by the Executive Committee of the College Council (the governing body of the College), said there was evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the "caucus". This body issued instructions to students which were obeyed often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

At the morning assembly yesterday the students, all fee-paying, were told to disperse to their hostels (three men's and two women's). On arrival they were told the College was being closed and they were being sent home.

Throughout the morning, students packed their belongings without incident and were taken to the station, where special trains were waiting. By six o'clock everything was quiet at Fort Hare—the last student had left and there had been no untoward incidents.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

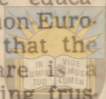
5 MAY 1955

Lessons from Fort Hare strife

GRAVE reasons must have prompted the decision of the Executive Council of Fort Hare to close temporarily the largest non-European university college in the country. The step, it must be stressed, was taken by the governing authorities on the spot.

At this stage it would be purposeless to comment on the immediate issue which compelled the Council to send the students home almost at a moment's notice. But it is obvious that the gates of an institution so largely offering higher education to the Native cannot be allowed to remain closed for long. Nor should the fact that some students appear to have been their own enemies harden European opinion regarding the educational needs of the non-European. For it is clear that the situation at Fort Hare is a reflection of the growing frustration among Natives who are able to go to a university and then pass on to try to make a rewarding living in a society in which they have no stake or voice. It is apparent, too, that some students—whether rightly or wrongly does not matter at the moment—must have tried the patience of the authorities at Fort Hare to breaking point. Here again South Africa sees yet another instance of the lack of leadership of moderate Native opinion.

The reasons for the absence of that guidance need not be probed now. But the moral that does emerge from the strife at Fort Hare is that it is unwise to isolate large groups of Natives from European tutelage and example, even in the realm of higher education. If left alone people with grievances brood on them and magnify them. The example at Fort Hare, indeed, stresses the unwisdom in this generation at any rate of imposing rigid university apartheid. Until the Natives are in a social and economic position to finance and administer their own higher education, it is better that they should not absorb that type of learning in complete isolation in which extreme Nationalism easily breeds.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

5 MAY 1955

Evening Post

May 5, 1955

TROUBLE AT FORT HARE

THE breakdown at Fort Hare University College seems to have taken everybody outside the College by surprise. No sign of it was noticed by most of the visitors at the annual graduation ceremony last Friday. And little has been disclosed by the University authorities so far about the *cause* of the trouble. For light on this important aspect of the matter we must await the statement that is due to be made in Parliament by the Minister of Education.

However, the report from our special representative, published today, does indicate that the breakdown between the students and the administration officers was partly a result of high feelings about current political trends.

Throughout the world—especially when a country is in the process of cultural change—university students have been found to be quick to give expression to political feelings, and often they do this in an extravagant and ineffective way. Till more information is available it is not possible to draw precise conclusions about the developments at Fort Hare. Yet it may not be too early to ask whether they provide support for the Government's demand for university segregation.

It has been found elsewhere in the world—notably in the United States—that racial feelings run highest in segregated institutions. That is one of the reasons for the present United States move to abolish segregation in education. Experience at South Africa's open universities, in Johannesburg and Cape Town, seems to support the findings abroad: we hear of little serious political or racial friction at the mixed Universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town.

Do not the recent unhappy developments at the exclusively non-White Fort Hare University College give local support to the finding abroad that segregation in institutions of higher education is bad for peace in human relations?

5 MAY 1955

Established 1878

AN URGENT FORT HARE SITUATION

Professor flies to the Cape for State talks

Daily News Reporter

THE Governing Council of Fort Hare University College have been summoned by telegram to an urgent meeting in Alice to discuss the situation at the College, from which the entire student body—a total of 360 men and women students—were expelled yesterday.

Meanwhile, Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college, is flying to Cape Town to-morrow for, it is believed, discussions with the Minister of Education, Arts and Science, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, and senior Government and educational officials.

The meeting of the Governing Council, on which there are four Government representatives, delegates from three universities, the Churches and the Basutoland Administration, will take place on Professor Dent's return from Cape Town.

The College was closed yesterday by the Executive Committee and the students were sent home. The Committee said in a statement that the College was being closed because of the existence of a secret student organisation, known as "the Caucus", which was challenging the College authorities and intimidating the students, often through fear of violence.

All was quiet in the College and in the town of Alice, where many of the students are staying, to-day. The police, drawn from neighbouring towns, who stood by while the students dispersed yesterday, left Alice last night when it was apparent that no disturbances were likely.

TO REOPEN

Professor Dent told The Daily News to-day that it was the intention of the College authorities to reopen the College as soon as possible.

"This will have to be decided by the Governing Council, which has been summoned to meet so that the whole situation can be discussed in full," he said. "One complicating factor in the reopening of the College is that the winter vacation is so nearby—the middle of June."

Professor Dent said that as the students had been expelled they would all have to re-apply for admission. None had done so yet.

Only the staff of the College were in residence, he said, and they would remain at their posts until the College reopened. Their salaries would continue to be paid during the closure.

THE COUNCIL

'Fort Hare to resume at earliest'

Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Thursday. THE Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen assured the House of Assembly this afternoon that Fort Hare University College would "resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps have been taken to restore order."

In the Senate, the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, on behalf of the Minister of Education, made a similar statement in reply to a question by Senator A. L. Boshoff (Natives Rep.).

The four Government representatives on the Governing Council are the Secretary for Education, Arts and Science; the Secretary for Native Affairs; the Chief Native Commissioner of the Cape; the Chief Inspector of Native Education in the Transvaal; or their alternates.

The Government's representatives are nominated under the Higher Education Act of 1923, under which the College is incorporated.

Other members of the Council represent Rhodes University (to which the college was affiliated in 1951), the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, the Basutoland Administration, Native Secondary Education, the College Senate, former students of the college and donors, the United Transkeian Territories General Council (Bunga), the Churches of Scotland, and of the Province of South Africa, and the Methodist Church of South Africa.

The college came into existence on February 18, 1916, when it was officially opened by General Louis Botha.

Before affiliation with Rhodes University, Fort Hare students wrote University of South Africa examinations. Now they prepare for Rhodes University degrees.

STUDENT VIEW

The existence of a "secret authority" at Fort Hare was denied by students who arrived in Port Elizabeth by train to-day. About 50 of the students who left Alice yesterday when the college was closed down are from Port Elizabeth. One of them said: "We have many student bodies like any other university. These are mainly social bodies that carry on openly with their activities."

The students said they had not noticed any intimidation or threats. Dealing with the boycott of the graduation ceremony last week, they said their grievances began when a ban was imposed by the university authorities on the use by men students of the common room at the women's hostel.

5 MAY 1955

Story behind Fort Hare trouble

POST Special Representative

ALICE.—The surprise sudden closing of Fort Hare University College yesterday was the climax of what is said to have been the unhappiest term in the life of the 40-year-old college.

Unknown to the outside community, tension between the student body and the college administration had been building up steadily since the beginning of the year.

The breaking point was reached on Tuesday. On that day the executive committee of the College Council decided that things had come to such a pass that it had no alternative but to close the University College for a time and send all 360 students home to "cool off."

Secretly all arrangements were made for the dismissal yesterday. A special train was ordered, and the students' tickets were prepared.

On notice board

Apparently the students suspected nothing when they went into their Assembly Hall as usual at 8.40 a.m. yesterday. They stood in mixed groups, men and women together, contrary to the rules for morning assembly.

After prayers, the Principal, Professor C. P. Dent, upon whom most of the strain of the past months had fallen, made a brief announcement and then he dismissed the assembly. He said simply that a statement pinned on the notice board outside would tell the students what was going to happen to them.

This is what they read on the board:

"In view of the situation that has developed in the College, the executive committee of the College Council has decided to suspend all activities of the College for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course.

All cheerful

"All students are required to leave the College by trains which will be available today (Wednesday, May 4), all bookings have been made and tickets must be obtained from the Wardens of the hostels in the usual way."

There was no disorder. The students stood around talking in groups and then went off to pack.

Three hundred students walked or drove in lorries through the town to the station for the early train through Blaney.

I passed this train on my way to Alice near King William's Town at 5 p.m. Its eight coaches were packed with cheerful young African and some Indian and Coloured men and women.

The only policemen I saw were six in one compartment. They all seemed to be quite happy, too.

Light on Fort Hare trouble

(Continued from Page 1).

Outside the station a small group of policemen stood by. Then they climbed into their vans and drove back to their various stations.

All day yesterday telephones in the offices of Professor Dent and the Registrar, Sir Fulque Agnew (Bart) were ringing as people in other towns tried to find out what was happening.

Professor Dent, the only university official authorised to speak, has declined to add anything to his earlier Press statement.

What has been happening at Fort Hare since February? The inquiries I made last night elicited some of the background details.

Firstly, the students arrived at the beginning of the year with many of them keyed up—consciously or unconsciously—by the feeling among educated Africans against the implementation of the Bantu Education Act.

A senior student told me that the whole affair should be viewed against that background.

At one hostel

Trouble started early at one of the three men's residences. Relations broke down between the Warden and the students. The residents or their representatives took the extraordinary step of writing to the church that controls this hostel to ask for the removal of the Warden.

The students were told to apologise. This they did eventually, but they then showed their feelings by boycotting all inter-house sport.

Then there was trouble over a film show, "Africa Untamed"—about wild animal life. Expecting full houses, the travelling owners of the film did not allow non-Europeans into the showing in Alice, although they normally attend all the regular cinema shows here. They sit together in the front of the hall.

In this case a special showing at the University for the students had been arranged.

But some students resented their exclusion from the show in town.

When the film came to the University, a stone was thrown through the window of the hall. It struck the projector and slightly injured a woman in the head. The incident was hushed up.

Then there was the trouble at "Eluk," the women's residence. It was alleged that misuse was being made of the common room on occasions when men visited their girl friends there. So a new rule was introduced limiting visits by men to "Eluk" to "business only."

Boycott meeting

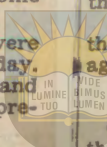
The tension built up. According to Professor Dent's Press statement, behind many of the incidents and "situations" were a group known as "the caucus," who led or drove others on.

Students deny the existence of such a secret authority. But it is probable that when those believed by the authorities to have participated in it apply to be reinstated they will be refused.

Last Thursday at 5 p.m. a "mass meeting" of students was held off the campus. There it was decided that the undergraduates would boycott the graduation ceremony the following day.

They wanted to bring home to parents and the public that all was not well at the university.

Only 15 undergraduates entered the space reserved at the back of the hall for them. There was a big crowd of visitors, however, and apparently few of them, including two visiting journalists and several photographers, noticed that anything was amiss.



5 MAY 1955

PIETERMARITZBURG, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1955

CLOSED DOWN: POLICE FORCE STANDS BY

Official statement alleges "secret ring"

Alice, Wednesday.

THE non-European college of Fort Hare was closed today. An official statement says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority.

This authority, the statement says, is sometimes referred to as the "Caucus," whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

In response to an appeal by Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college, police detachments have taken over the buildings and grounds of Fort Hare. The situation at the college is quiet.

The official statement says:

"1. The constitution of the college provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities, as is usual in university institutions, for any representation that students wish to make, either as individuals or as the student body through their properly-elected representatives. Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

"2. There has developed evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority, sometimes referred to as the Caucus, whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

"The result has been that, under the influence of the Caucus, the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence, with a view to the acceptance of their will by the

college authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body, and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

CEREMONY BOYCOTT

"3. The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this Caucus upon student action, and was deliberately designated to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college. Further evidence has come to light of the intention to con-

A LATE message from Capetown yesterday afternoon reported that the Department of Education said in Capetown that the decision to suspend the activities of the Fort Hare University College was taken by the Council of the College, which is the governing authority. The Minister of Education was informed of the decision by telegram yesterday and further information was awaited.—Sapa.

tinue what has been described as 'the struggle.'

"4. In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the college Senate, the executive committee of the College Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions. The executive committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the college for the present, and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course."—Sapa.

SENATOR QUESTIONS CLOSURE

Capetown, Wednesday.

IN the Senate today Senator L. I. Rubin (Nat. Rep.) gave notice that he would ask the Minister of Native Affairs (Dr. H. F. Verwoerd) tomorrow whether it was true that Fort Hare Native College had been closed, and whether the Minister would make a statement as to the authority under which this action was taken, and on the causes and circumstances attending this action.

Dr. Verwoerd: Is this not a matter for the Minister of Education, Arts and Science?

Senator Rubin: I am prepared to put the question to the Minister of Education, Arts and Science.—Sapa.

MAY 6, 1955

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Fort Hare will reopen, Assembly told

The Minister of Education, Mr. Viljoen, assured the House of Assembly this afternoon that the Fort Hare University College would "resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps have been taken to restore order," reports The Star's political correspondent.

The Minister read to the House the resolution (published yesterday) taken by the Executive Committee of the College Council.

The Minister said this resolution of the college authority was taken in terms of the scheme of government of the university college under the Higher Education Act of 1923.

The Executive Committee, to whom the powers of the council were delegated under the scheme of government, resolved to take the steps it had announced in order to establish proper discipline and to exercise proper control.

The Star's Durban correspondent states that the governing council of Fort Hare has been summoned by telegram to an urgent meeting in Alice to discuss the situation at the college, from which the entire student body—360 men and women students—was expelled yesterday.

Prof. C. P. Dent, principal of the college, is flying to Cape Town tomorrow for discussions, it is believed, with Mr. Viljoen and senior Government and educational officials.

All was quiet today in the college and in the town of Alice.

AFRICAN COLLEGE CLOSED

CAPE POLICE TAKE OVER

CHARGES OF HOSTILE STUDENT CAUCUS

From Our Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, MAY 4

The non-European University College at Fort Hare, Cape Province, was to-day closed by its council, because of alleged evidence of the existence of a "secret authority" among the students.

Police from neighbouring towns have taken over the buildings and grounds of the college at the request of its principal, Professor C. P. Dent. He issued a statement to-day, approved by the executive committee of the college council, declaring that the constitution of the college provided for proper channels of communication between the student body and the college authorities; such communications were always seriously considered. Evidence had appeared of the existence in the student body of a secret authority, sometimes called "the caucus," whose instructions were obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation.

As a result, the statement continued, students had resorted to irregular methods, such as boycotts, threats, and even violence, in attempts to get their wishes accepted by the college authorities. This had resulted in an intolerable situation which was destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body. The students' representative council had found it necessary to resign.

GRADUATION BOYCOTT

The boycott of a graduation ceremony, carried out under instructions from an unauthorized meeting, was another example of the influence of this caucus upon the students, deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and bring discredit upon the college. Further evidence had come to light of an intention to continue what was described as "the struggle."

In view of this situation, and after considering a report from the college senate, the executive committee had decided unanimously that it was impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions. The statement ended by declaring that the executive committee had therefore decided to suspend all activities of the college for the time being, and to consider the readmission of individual students in due course.

The situation at Fort Hare was reported to-night to be quiet. Officials of the Department of Native Affairs here claim to know nothing about the trouble. To-day's action was taken by the college council on its own initiative.

It is worth recalling that in 1950 three students were expelled for persecuting colleagues who refused to join in a boycott of a reception to the Governor-General. The boycott had been organized in protest against the Government's *apartheid* policy.

MAIN CENTRE FOR NON-WHITES

GROWTH OF FORT HARE

Our Special Correspondent lately in South Africa writes:—

The University College of Fort Hare was started in 1916 by the Union Government, the native councils of the Transkeian Territories and Basutoland, and mission societies. From modest beginnings (a first enrolment of 20 students), it has grown to be the main centre in South Africa for non-whites who seek higher education.

The number of students has risen, since the war, to nearly 400, and the Government makes an annual grant of about £30,000. This is the chief source of income. The Nationalist Government has declared that the rapid growth in recent years in the number of secondary schools for non-whites "encourages the expectation that the enrolment of the college will rise substantially."

All work at Fort Hare is of post-matriculation standard, except for special courses for the training of native ministers. Students sit for the examinations of the Rhodes University. A course of training for native medical aids has recently been instituted.

The commission of inquiry on separate university training for non-Europeans reported in February that Fort Hare and the non-European section of the University of Natal could not absorb even the majority of non-European students at the "open" universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand. The commission found that, even if African and Indian students were concentrated in an enlarged Fort Hare and Natal, post graduates should still be admitted to the "open" universities. Most South African universities are closed to non-whites.

Supporters of *apartheid* commonly defend their opposition to non-European attendance at white universities by pointing to the chances open to them at Fort Hare. Observers critical of South African native policy have, for many years, been invited to take due account of the existence of Fort Hare. It was described in 1936 by the then Archbishop of Canterbury as "a strategical point in the development of the Christian life and Church in South Africa." He said that it represented a phenomenon which was manifesting itself in every part of South Africa—the awakening of the native African races.

E5 MAY 1955

S. African college for non-whites closed

'SECRET' CONTROL BY 'CAUCUS' ALLEGED

ALICE (Cape Province), May 4: The Council of Fort Hare, South Africa's only University college for non-whites, today closed the institution.

An official statement said there was evidence of "secret authority among students." College graduation ceremony was boycotted "under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting." This was another example of the influence of this "caucus" on students' actions and was deliberately designed to embarrass the college.

The official statement on the closing of the college, which has about 400 students, mostly Africans, was issued by the local Native Commissioner, a Government official.

It said that the "caucus" issued instructions obeyed by students "often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college".

It added that the activities of the "caucus" had "resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable.

"In consequence, the students' representative Council has found it necessary to resign", the statement said.

The student Council is a body which, in South African Universities, governs student affairs and acts as a liaison between the students and the University authorities.

'THE STRUGGLE'

The statement said that the

"Evidence has come to light of intentions to continue what has been described as "the struggle," it continued.

In view of this situation and after considering a report from the college Senate, the Council's Executive Committee had decided unanimously that it was impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions.

It had decided, therefore, to suspend all activities of the college and consider the readmission of individual students in due course.

Today at Fort Hare special trains stood in the railway station ready to carry the dismissed students—men and women—to their homes in various parts of South Africa.

Today's announcement was the first indication to the public of any trouble at Fort Hare.—Reuter.

- 5 MAY 1955

Cape Province College closed

ALICE (Cape Province) May 4.

THE Council of the College today closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only University College for non-whites.

An official statement said there was evidence of a 'secret authority' among the students.

The statement said that under the influence of a secret authority some times known as "the Caucus," the students resorted to illegal methods in an attempt to impose their will on the college authorities.

The Police took over the college grounds and buildings. All college activities are suspended for the present.

Intimidation alleged

The official statement on the closing of the college, which has about 400 students, mostly Africans, was issued by the local native Commissioner, a Government official.

It said that the "Caucus" issued instructions obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence, and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

It added that the activities of the "Caucus" had "resulted in the development of a situation within the college, which is destructive of freedom of opinion, and action within the student body and has become intolerable."

"In consequence the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign," the statement said.

***The Student Council in South African Universities Governs students' affairs, and acts as a liaison between the students, and the University authorities.

- 5 MAY 1955

Non-White College
Ab64 **Closed**

University of Cape Town
Together in Excellence

ALICE (Cape Province), May 4.—Government officials today closed **Fort Hare**, South Africa's only university college for non-Whites.

An official statement said there was evidence of a "secret authority" among the students.—Reuter.

PIONEER, Lucknow, India.

5 - MAY 1955

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE CLOSED FOR NON-WHITES

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

LICE (Cape Province), May 4—Government officials today closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only university college for non-whites. 4664

An official statement said there was evidence of a "secret authority" among the students.—
Reuter.

POLICE STAND BY AS FORT HARE COLLEGE IS CLOSED

Secret Student 'Caucus' Subverting Authority

Alice (Cape), Wednesday.

WITH armed police standing by to prevent trouble, the non-European College of Fort Hare was closed to-day. A statement approved by the executive committee of the College Council, and issued by Prof. C. P. Dent (Principal of Fort Hare), says there is evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority.

This authority, the statement says, is sometimes referred to as "the caucus," and its instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

The 400 men and women students at the college were sent home to-day in special trains. They dispersed quietly and there were no incidents. The Principal's statement says the re-admission of individual students will be considered in due course.

Most of the students boycotted the graduation ceremony at the College last Friday.

The Principal's statement says: "The constitution of the college provides proper channels of communication between students and the recognised authorities, as is usual in university institutions, for any representation that students wish to make either as individuals or as the student body through their properly elected representatives.

"Such representations have always received the serious consideration of the proper authorities.

BOYCOTTS

"There has developed evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority, sometimes referred to as the caucus, whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

"The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the college authorities.

INTOLERABLE

"This has resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign.

"The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this caucus upon student action, and was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as 'the struggle.'

RE-ADMISSION

"The executive committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the college for the present and to consider the re-admission of individual students in due course."—Sapa.

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

The Fort Hare trouble

WITHOUT questioning the official reasons for the drastic decision to suspend teaching activities at Fort Hare and to evacuate all the students for the time being, we feel that an early public inquiry is necessary.

There can be little doubt that the authorities had no choice but to put their foot down firmly in an effort to purge Fort Hare of the spirit of insubordination and lawlessness which has infected the student body. Whatever grievances they may have had—and European college students, too, have been known to betray dissatisfaction and organize protests—the proper remedy lies through their own elected representative council.

At Fort Hare a secret and irresponsible clique had apparently gained control and was imposing its will upon the rest of the students by intimidation and physical threats. These are powerful weapons in a community where the individual is conscious of his helplessness against violence.

What has happened at Fort Hare challenges more sharply than ever the wisdom of establishing entirely separate non-European universities. In the mixed university the non-European, normally in a minority, has the opportunity to learn and practise the arts of civilized conduct which are as important as the acquisition of knowledge and degrees.

STAR
MAY 5, 1955

DERDAG, 5 MEI 1955

Die Volksblad

DONDERDAG, 5 MEI 1955

Die Sluiting Van Fort Hare

DIE omstandighede waarin die universiteitskollege Fort Hare gister deur die dagbestuur van die inrigting gesluit is, sal oral in die land vrae laat ontstaan oor wat presies onder die nie-blanke studente aan die gang is. Ons neem aan dat die toestand ernstig is anders sou die kollege-owerheid nie maklik tot so 'n drastiese stap oorgegaan het nie. Maar die verklaring wat gister uitgereik is, laat eintlik meer vrae ontstaan as wat dit beantwoord.

Daar word vertel dat die studente beheer word deur 'n geheime organisasie wat sy wil in so 'n mate op die studente afdwing dat die handhawing van rus en orde bykans onmoontlik geword het. Hierdie geheime organisasie het blykbaar so veel mag verower dat sowel verantwoordelike studente as kollege-owerheid magteloos teenoor hom te staan gekom het. Die gevolge van hierdie organisasie se optrede, so lui die verklaring, is dat die studente hul toevlug tot allerhande onreëlmattighede soos boikotte, dreigemente en selfs geweld geneem het in 'n poging om hul wil op die kollege-owerheid af te dwing. Nou wil die owerheid blykbaar deur al die studente huis toe te stuur van vooraf 'n siftingsproses aan die gang sit om die verderflike invloede by her-toelating uit te skakel.

Wat en wie sit agter hierdie geheime organisasie? Is dit bloot 'n plaaslike aangeleentheid onder 'n klompie weerbarstige studente? Of is daar verderflike invloede van buite wat die studente teen alle gesag oprui? Wat is hul griewe en wat beoog hulle met hul dreigemente oor moontlike geweldpleging?

Dit is vrae wat sonder versuim ondersoek en beantwoord moet word. Naturelle-onderwys in die algemeen is vandag in die smeltpot. Met laerskoolonderwys word 'n ingrypende nuwe rigting ingeslaan wat, na ons mening, uiteindelik tot groot voordeel van die naturelle sal strek. Het die tyd nie aangebreek dat hoëronderwys vir naturelle ook deeglik ondersoek word met die oog op noodsaaklike hervormings nie?

Daar is reeds allerhande vrae geopper oor die doelmatigheid en die rigting van die bestaande stelsel van hoëronderwys vir nie-blankes. Deurtastende ondersoek na die agtergrond van die jongste moleste by Fort Hare kan moontlik soveel aan die lig bring dat die Regering genoop sal voel om die hele vraagstuk van hoëronderwys vir nie-blankes van vooraf deeglik te laat uitpluis.

Intussen moet so gou as moontlik volledige besonderhede oor die toestand by Fort Hare bekend gemaak word. Die sterk optrede van die kollege-owerheid het reeds aangedui dat daar 'n groot skroef los is. Die hele land sal graag wil weet presies wat daar aan die gang is en watter geheime invloede besig is om die nie-blanke studente aan die neus te lei.

DIE BURGER

6 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Sal Hervat so Gou Moontlik

Die natuurlekollege Fort Hare sal so gou moontlik sy werksaamhede hervat nadat die nodige stappe gedoen is om die orde te herstel. Dié versekering is gister in die Volksraad deur mnr. J. H. Viljoen, Minister van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap, gegee.

Min. Viljoen het gesê dat hy deur die voorsitter van die uitvoerende komitee van die Kollegeraad, wat outonome beheer oor die kollege het, meegedeel is dat daar besluit is om die kollege te sluit. Dit was nadat onmiskenbare bewyse gevind is dat daar 'n geheime gesag onder die studente bestaan.

Min. Viljoen het 'n dergelike verklaring in die Senaat gedoen ten antwoord op 'n vraag deur sen. L. I. Rubin (naturelleverteenwoordiger.)

Extract from
Buenos Aires Herald, Argentine.

- 6 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Reopened

Cape Town

Fort Hare, South Africa's only university for non-whites, were a "secret society" was alleged to be operating, will be reopened as soon as order has been restored, the South African Minister of Education Mr. Johannes Vilgoen, said yesterday.

The University college at Alice, Cape province, was closed on Wednesday by the police after alleged threats of violence by the students "secret society".

Mr. Vilgoen said that the college — which has about 400 students, mostly Africans — was closed because of "a secret authority" which operated within the student body in conflict with the university authorities. (Reuter).

Extract from
Trinidad Guardian, Port of Spain.

6 MAY 1955

South African College ^{Abba} Closed

ALICE, Cape Province, May 5 (Reuter)—The Council of the college today closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only University for non-whites. An official statement said there was evidence of "a secret authority" among the students who resorted to illegal methods, such as boycotts, threats and even violence in an attempt to impose their will on the college authorities.

All college activities are suspended for the present. Re-admission of individual students will be considered in due course.

6 MAY 1955

The Cape Argus

May 6, 1955

Action at Fort Hare

THE public takes for granted that the executive committee of the Council of Fort Hare University College would not have gone to the extreme length of temporarily closing down the college if there had not been an absolute necessity for such drastic action. If, then, it asks for a full statement of the facts at the earliest possible moment, this request is made in the expectation that the evidence will show the action of the executive committee to have been fully justified.

There is an obvious necessity also for the college to resume its work and the students to return to their studies as soon as may be. The existence among them of a secret, subversive body has been announced by the committee, but it is not stated that all the students were members of this body. Some, perhaps most, were innocent of any connection with it; others, no doubt, had been drawn into its activities by those methods of intimidation for which certain Bantu movements have shown a peculiar aptitude. It is only right that those not guilty of deliberate participation should not have their studies broken off and their careers jeopardized as a punishment for the sins of others.

The college should be reopened as soon as possible: that is to say, as soon as the college authorities consider that they are in a position to carry out their duty of maintaining discipline. Obviously it is impossible for them to do so as long as there exists a secret and subversive body which has power over the students and uses it for the purpose of trying to impose its will on the college authorities.

Such actions certainly do not help the students or the Bantu people. Just as the only sufferers under the boycott of a few schools on the Rand were the Bantu schoolchildren, so the only sufferers by these subversive proceedings at Fort Hare are the students whose chances of qualifying themselves for a profession are compromised.

But there is another aspect of this unhappy affair. These troubles are the fruits of university apartheid. Wherever a university or college is set up for the use of a particular race or section exclusively, it becomes a centre of racial nationalism. Indeed, it would be strange if this were not so, for fomenters of racialist movements will obviously seek to win over the future intellectual leaders of their peoples while they are young and impressionable, and this can best be done in the universities. As long as there are separate colleges for Bantu, therefore, these institutions, in the very nature of things, must necessarily become centres of Bantu nationalism. The trouble at Fort Hare shows which way the wind is blowing, and what the results of university apartheid must be.

6 MAY 1955

Fort Hare

ON the assumption that the majority of students are innocent parties, it is essential that the efforts of the Council and the University College of Fort Hare should be directed at reopening the college as soon as possible. The public must accept the Executive Committee's statement that the drastic step of closing the college was necessary in view of the activities of "the caucus"; but if reopening is delayed a day longer than necessary it may have a disastrous effect on the careers of the innocent students. They have already been put to the expense of railway journeys to their homes in what was expected to be term time. If the college remains closed long their studies may be so severely interrupted that they may have to spend an extra year there—or at least some months if they are allowed, on failing by a narrow margin, to sit for supplementary examinations. Few of them are wealthy, and the extra expense will be a serious drain on their families.

The public will expect that further details will be published in due course to show exactly how serious the threat to college discipline was; and what steps were taken, before the drastic decision to close down, to remedy the situation. Meanwhile it is idle to speculate on the exact proportions of the blame to be assigned to this or that political group or to the race situation as a whole in the Union. The *Burger* yesterday roundly lays the blame on liberals. The fact is that tensions in any country, in any community or any section of a community, are apt to show in student behaviour; and it is one of the responsibilities of the community at large and of the authorities concerned to keep a proper perspective of the extraordinarily complex currents and cross-currents of emotional thinking in immediately post-adolescent human beings.

5 MAY 1955

University is barred to Africans

ALICE (Cape Province),

Wednesday

Government officials today closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only University College, for non-whites.

University of Port Hare
Together in Excellence

An official statement said there is evidence of "secret authority" among the students.

The official statement on the closing of the college, which has about 400 students, mostly Africans, was issued by the local Native Commissioner, a government official.

It said that the "caucus" issued instructions obeyed by students "often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college."

It added that the activities of "the caucus" had "resulted in the development of a situation within the college which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable.

"In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign," the statement said.—(PTC-Reuters).

6 MAY 1955

LONDON, FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1955.



These pictures illustrate the scene at Alice station on Wednesday when all the students of Fort Hare University College were sent home by the Executive Committee of the College Council. Left: A student sits with his luggage deep in thought. Top right: Some of the departing students wave cheerily. Seeing them off is the son of Professor Z. K. Matthews, a member of the College staff. Photos: Rhodes Tremeer.

FORT HARE PRINCIPAL FLYING TO CAPE TOWN

Minister of Education Says University Will Reopen at Earliest Possible Date

Professor C. P. Dent, principal of Fort Hare University College, will fly to Cape Town today. It is understood he will hold discussions with the Minister of Education (Mr. J. H. Viljoen), about the College Executive Committee's decision to close the University because of the activities of a secret body known as the "caucus" and its influence on the students.

Mr. Viljoen made a statement in the House of Assembly in Cape Town yesterday on the closing of the university. He read out the text of the resolution taken at the meeting of the College's Executive Committee and which was published in the Daily Dispatch yesterday in the form of a statement.

The Minister said this resolution of the College authority was taken in terms of the scheme of government of the University College under the Higher Education Act of 1923. The Executive Committee, to whom the powers of the

Council were delegated under the scheme of government, resolved to take these steps to establish proper discipline and to exercise proper control.

"I can give the House the assurance that the College will resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps have been taken to restore order," the Minister said.

In the Senate the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. H. P. Verwoerd, on behalf of the Minister of Education, made a similar statement in reply to a question by Senator L. I. Rubin (Natives' Rep.).

Alice is now clear of all students, but the teaching staff staying on at the College.

The students dismissed come from all provinces of the Union and some from as far afield as Nyasaland and Rhodesia. It is believed that all the Union Natives will return to their homes, but those from outside South Africa will live with friends until the College reopens.

STUDENTS SHOCKED

It is understood that all the students will apply for re-admission to the College at the first opportunity. This opinion was expressed by a group of students interviewed by a Daily Dispatch correspondent in Port Elizabeth yesterday in the course of their homeward journeys. All were surprised or shocked by the sudden events at Fort Hare and all were keen to renew their studies as soon as possible.

So anxious were they not to wreck their chances of being readmitted that they declined to give their names—and some would not even reveal the districts in which they lived.

A woman student said, "We were told there was a serious announcement on the notice board. We went to see it and found that the University was being closed down."

A 22 years old B.A. student who is on his way to Willowmore said he thought the College might re-open in a month or even less. The closing of the College, he said, had caused him a great deal of expense. "We do not know who is going to pay our railway fares when we go back," he added.

Another student who hoped to finish his course for a B.Sc. degree at the end of this year said he would get a job to tide him over while Fort Hare remained closed.

A 22 years old Indian student from Port Elizabeth said, "I will have to study in my spare time to keep up-to-date with the work and carry on with as much of the

only they that they knew that they could return to their homes. Although they were astonished there was no expression of resentment and their only misgiving was the attitude which their parents would adopt when they reached their homes.

The boycott of the graduation ceremony last Friday was the result of a decision by the main body of students and was not brought about by any secret pressure group, he said. The students had been careful to observe all College rules and had prepared the hall for the occasion as they had always done in the past. Attendance at the graduation ceremony was not compulsory.

The object in staging the boycott was to bring home to the authorities the fact that the students were concerned about their representations having been rejected or ignored. The immediate effect of the boycott was that the usual graduation ball scheduled for Friday evening was cancelled. It was only after an appeal had been made to the authorities on behalf of the graduates, who had invited their friends and relatives and to whom the ball was the crowning function of their day, that the ban was relaxed. Students who boycotted the graduation ceremony were not allowed to attend the ball and instead of members of SEC, Professor C. P. Dent, the principal, and his assistants officiated at the door.

Last year, said the spokesman, students had complained about the unappetising way in which food

was prepared. When they could get no satisfaction through normal procedure a hunger strike had been staged and then students were given permission to hold a meeting at which a suggested menu was drawn up. The suggestions were considered by the Senate and certain improvements were made. This year the food had returned to its former standard and representations had been of no avail.

FRATERNISATION

The other matter which had prompted representations through the SRC and which had also been unsuccessful—the ban on men students fraternising with women in the common room at the women's hostel—was regarded as unfair by the students. One student had carried things too far and the College authorities had placed the common room out of bounds. Men students were then allowed to visit women students who entertained them in two small rooms in the hostel. The actions of the student who had caused the incident were deprecated by all other students but they thought it unfair that they could no longer visit the women in a "public room." The students felt that if they could not fraternise freely under observation this would lead to clandestine meetings.

The student admitted that on occasions the students had held unauthorised meetings off the College premises to discuss these matters but said this had been done only when they had failed to get permission to hold a meeting officially.

syllabus as possible. He is studying for a B.Sc. degree.

NO "CAUCUS"

In East London yesterday, a former member of the College's Students' Representative Council said he could not understand the statement by the Executive Committee of the College Council that there was a secret authority known as the "caucus" imposing its will upon students in defiance of the constituted authorities at the College.

He knew of no such organisation and had not at any time been aware that students were being intimidated through physical violence or threats of violence. No threats had been levelled at members of the SRC by anybody.

The reason for the SRC's resignation was that it had not succeeded in respect of a number of representations made to the College Senate on behalf of the body of students and it felt it no longer commanded the confidence of the students, he said.

The announcement that the College was being closed came as a complete surprise to the students. They had seen police vans in Alice on Tuesday evening but did not connect their presence with the College. On Wednesday morning at assembly they were told to return to their hostels to read notices that had been pinned up and it was

6 MAY 1955

PORT ELIZABETH, MAY 6, 1955

Grave decision at Fort Hare

ONE may be sure that the Council of Fort Hare University College did not take the grave decision to close the College until further notice without very good reason. It must have appeared to the Principal and the Council that there was a strong likelihood that the College regulations were in danger of being violated by the students, and that the violation would be of a more serious kind than the recent boycott of the graduation ceremony. Evidently, too, ordinary disciplinary action, as usually practised in academic institutions, was deemed to be insufficient.

It is not so easy to comment on the denial by students of the existence among them of a "secret authority" or "pressure group." Individual students might well have no knowledge of any student body except the recognised Students Representative Council. But unbeknown to the majority there might nevertheless exist a small, close-knit group of student "politicians" able to exert a strong subversive or at least anti-disciplinary, influence out of all proportion to their number. An organism of this kind is indeed quite likely to come into being wherever frustrated intellectuals congregate, particularly when they belong to a racial group made restive by real or imaginary grievances.

As a group, non-European university students in South Africa constitute a problem that has so far remained unsolved. Fort Hare, as an institution, meets most of the requirements outlined to the Holloway Commission by those universities and public bodies which are known to advocate segregation. But the view more likely to commend itself to liberal-minded persons is that of the Universities of Cape Town and of the Witwatersrand, which lays emphasis on the importance of extra-curricular contact in the moulding of students, of the mutual discussion of problems, and of the exchange of ideas outside lectures and laboratories as a vital part of university education. Such extra-curricular education is of particular importance for Bantu students because they have no equivalent in their own culture for intellectual exercise, which the European has with his centuries-old civilisation.

Contact between European and non-European students enables them to obtain a better insight into, and understanding of, each other and this fact in itself constitutes a valuable contribution towards a peaceful relationship between the races. The antagonism displayed by the Fort Hare students may indeed be no more than the overt expression of a deep-seated repugnance to enforced segregation.

6 MAY 1955

Students bewildered at closing of Fort Hare

(From Our Correspondent)

EAST LONDON, Thursday.

STUDENTS at Fort Hare University College were at a loss to understand the statement by the executive committee of the College Council that there was a secret authority known as the "caucus" imposing its will upon students in defiance of the constituted authorities at the College, said a former member of the College's Students' Representative Council in an interview at East London today.

LECTURES OVER



One of a group of Fort Hare students, many of whom were somewhat bewildered by the unexpected shut-down of the College, is seen at an early stage of his homeward journey which ended last night.

He knew of no such unauthorised body and had not at any time been aware that students were being intimidated through physical violence or threats of violence.

No threats had been levelled at members of the S.R.C. by anybody. The reason for the S.R.C.'s resignation was that it had not succeeded in respect of a number of representations made to the College Senate on behalf of the body of students and it felt it no longer commanded the confidence of the students.

Surprise

The announcement that the College was being closed came as a complete surprise to the students, he said. They had seen police vans in Alice on Tuesday evening but did not connect their presence with the College.

On Wednesday morning at assembly they were told to return to their hostels to read notices that had been pinned up and it was only then that they knew they were to return to their homes.

Although they were astonished there was no expression of resentment and their only misgiving was the attitude which their parents would adopt when they reached their homes.

Boycott

The boycott of the graduation ceremony last Friday was the result of a decision by the main body of students and was not brought about by any secret pressure group.

The students had been careful to observe all College rules and had prepared the hall for the occasion as they had always done in the past. Attendance at the graduation ceremony was not compulsory.

The object in staging the boycott was to bring home to the authorities the fact that the students were concerned about their representations having been ignored.

The immediate effect of the boycott was that the usual

Continued on page 2

Bose Gees in Fort Hare

DIT is baie duidelik dat 'n bose gees in die laaste tyd losgeraak het in die natuurlike kollege Fort Hare en dat die betrokke owerheid eenvoudig daartoe gedwing was om die inrigting vir onbepaalde tyd te sluit. Na een van die ver- naamste bronne van hierdie gees hoef daar seker nie ver- gesoek te word nie. In saam- werking met die liberaliste en sekere „nie-politieke liggama- en kerke” bestee sogenaamde leiers van die natuurellemening teenswoordig hul energie aan agitasies om 'n swart revolusie aan te stook, en dit wil kom asof 'n groot deel van die studerende Bantoe-jeug in Fort Hare hierdie revolusie maklik ten proef gevat het. Hul gevoelens en sienings is reeds mateloos verpest, soveel so, dat dinge soos boi- kots, dreigemente en selfs ge- weld by hulle iets doodgewoon geword het. Die toestand het, volgens die hoof van die inrig- ting, eenvoudig „ondraaglik” geword.

Hierdie verpestingsproses gaan ongelukkig feitlik onge- stoord voort, want aan stories wat van Opposisiekant, en ver- al deur die liberaliste en hul pers, versprei word as sou die Regering daarop uit wees om Suid-Afrika se natuurlike bevol- king te mishandel, te veronreg- en te verdruk, is daar blykbaar geen einde nie. Onophoudelik word dit by die natuurlike inge- pomp dat hulle alle rede het om ontevrede te voel, om hul lot te bekla en om met haat en agter- dog vervul te wees. Kan dit ooit verwag word dat die stu- derende Bantoe-jeug nie hier- die stories gretiglik oal sluk nie? Is die wrange vrugte daarvan dan nie baie duidelik in hul gedrag te sien nie?

Laat hierdie betreuenswaar- dige ontwikkeling op Fort Hare vir 'n ieder en 'n elk van ons, en veral vir ons liberalistiese vriende met hul integrasiebe- leid, opnuut die les leer: Stadig en versigtig tog oor die klippe met die natuur!

6 MAY 1955

HOUSE HEARS WHY FORT HARE CLOSED

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Thursday.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SCIENCE (Mr J. H. Viljoen) in a statement in the Assembly today on the closing of the University College for Natives at Fort Hare by the College authorities, said he had been advised by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the College Council, which was an autonomous body and in which the control of the College was vested, that at a meeting of the Executive Committee the following resolution was taken:—

"There has developed unmistakable evidence of the existence within the student body of the College of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the caucus whose instructions are obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College," reports Sapa.

"The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion.

Action within the student body has become intolerable. In consequence the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign. The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this caucus upon student action and was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as the struggle. In view of this whole situation and after considering a report from the College senate, the executive Committee of the Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the College under the present conditions.

"The executive committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the College for the present and to consider the readmission of individual students in due course."

From Durban The Friend correspondent reports that the governing council of Fort Hare University College have been summoned by telegram to an urgent meeting in Alice to discuss the situation at the College.

Meanwhile Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college, is flying to Cape Town tomorrow, for, it is believed, discussions with the Minister of Education, Arts and Science, Mr J. H. Viljoen, and senior government and educational officials. The meeting of the governing council, on which there are four Government representatives, delegates from three universities, the churches and the Basutoland Administration, will take place on Professor Dent's return from Cape Town.

The Basutoland Administration delegate on the governing council of the Fort Hare University College is the Director of Education in Basutoland, Mr D. H. Creed-Newton, M.B.E.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Die Oosterlig

6 MAY 1955

FORT HARE SAL GOU WEER HERVAT

VOLKSRAAD. Die natu-
rellekollege Fort Hare sal so
gou moontlik sy werksaamhede
hervat nadat die nodige stappe
gedoen is om die orde te
herstel. Die versekering is
gister in die Volksraad deur
mnr. J. H. Viljoen, Minister van
Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap,
gegee.

Min. Viljoen het gesê dat hy
deur die voorsitter van die
Uitvoerende Komitee van die
Kollegeraad, wat outonome be-
heer oor die kollege het, mee-
gedeel is dat daar besluit is om
die kollege te sluit. Dit was
nadat onmiskenbare bewyse
gevind is dat daar 'n geheime
gesag onder die studente be-
staan.

Min. Viljoen het 'n dergelike
verklaring in die Senaat gedoen
ten antwoord op 'n vraag deur
sen. L. L. Rubin (Naturellever-
teenwoordiger). (Sien ook berig
op Bladsy 9).



6 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Open As Orde Daar Herstel Is

(Parlementêre Verslaggewer)

KAAPSTAD. — Die natuurlike kollege Fort Hare sal so gou moontlik **sy** werksaambede hervat, nadat die nodige stappe gedoen is om die orde te herstel. Die **sy** versekering is gister in die Volksraad deur mnr. J. H. Viljoen, Minister van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap, gegee.

Min. Viljoen het gesê dat hy deur die voorsitter van die uitvoerende komitee van die kollegeraad, wat outonome beheer oor die kollege het, meegedeel is dat daar besluit is om die kollege te sluit. Dit was nadat onmiskenbare bewyse gevind was dat daar 'n geheime gesag onder die studente bestaan.

Min. Viljoen het 'n dergelyke verklaring in die Senaat gedoen ten antwoord op 'n vraag deur sen. L. I. Rubin (naturelle-verteenwoordiger).

6 MAY 1955

TH



PROF. C. P. DENT
—at the airport this afternoon.

Fort Hare chief in P.E. today

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

PROFESSOR C. P. DENT, principal of the University College of Fort Hare, passed through Port Elizabeth by air this afternoon.

He is going to Cape Town to interview the Secretary for Education, Mr. H. S. van der Walt, on the trouble that caused the executive committee of the College Council to close the college on Wednesday.

Tomorrow he will probably see the Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, and others who are concerned with the university's difficulties.

Professor Dent said he could make no further public statement till he had seen the Secretary for Education.

Even then it might be some time before a full statement was issued.

It would be a long statement.

He hoped that later more information would be made available about the "secret authority" within the college.

6 MAY 1955

Student View Of Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

Port Elizabeth, Thursday.

The existence of a "secret authority" at Fort Hare University College was denied by students who arrived here by train to-day.

About 50 of the 394 students who left Alice yesterday when the college was closed down, are from Port Elizabeth.

One of them said: "We have many student bodies, like any other university. These are mainly social bodies that carry on openly with their activities. I have never heard of a caucus or secret authority."

The students said they had not noticed any intimidation or threats.

Daily Representative,
6 MAY 1955
Queensto

Principal of Fort Hare Flies to Cape Town



EAST LONDON, Friday

Professor C. P. Dent, Principal of the Fort Hare University College, was to fly to Cape Town today where it is understood he will interview the Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen.

Fort Hare was closed on Wednesday by the Executive Committee of the College Council because of activities of a secret body known as the "caucus" and its influence on the students.

All the students were sent home on special trains. The staff has remained at the College.—Sapa.

FORT HARE SLUIT OOR ONDERGRONDSE BEWEGING

OOS-LONDEN. — Die natu-
relle kollege Fort Hare op Alice
het Woensdag gesluit na 'n
besluit van sy besturende lig-
gaam, die Kollegeraad. Die
vierhonderd studente het reeds
die kollege verlaat en die
meeste het met 'n spesiale
trein na hul huise teruggekeer,
berig Sapa.

Daar was geen voorvalle nie,
'n Verklaring wat deur die
prinsipaal, prof. C. P. Dent,
uitgereik is, lui dat daar bewys
is dat daar onder die studente
aan die kollege 'n geheime
gesag is. Dit word soms die
„kokus" genoem. Die studente
is so onder die invloed van die
kokus dat hulle hom gehoor-
saam en hulle soms tot metodes
soos boikots, dreigemente en
selfs geweld wend. Die toestand

het ondraaglik geword, lui die
verklaring.

Fort Hare staan onder die
onmiddelijke beheer van sy eie
Kollegeraad, wat weer onder
onregstreekse beheer van die
Departement van Onderwys
val. Die Departement het niks
van die sluiting geweet nie.

Die Kommissaris van Polisie
het meegedeel dat hy ook van
die saak niks geweet het nie.

6 MAY 1955

Students deny 'secret authority' at Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH, Thursday.

THE existence of a "secret authority" at Fort Hare University College was denied by students who arrived here by train today. About 50 of the 394 students who left Alice yesterday when the college was closed down, are from Port Elizabeth.

One of them said: "We have many student bodies like any other University.

"These are mainly social bodies that carry on openly with their activities.

"I have never heard of a caucus or secret authority."

The students said they had not noticed any intimidation or threats.

Dealing with the boycott of the graduation ceremony last week they said their grievances began when a ban was imposed by the university authorities on the use by men students of the common room at the women's hostel.

The students wanted to hold a mass meeting to discuss the matter, but the authorities would not allow it.

That led to the boycott.

Some of the students interviewed said they did not know whether they would be able to return to the college.

They had been officially informed that admission of individual students would be considered in due course.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

- 6 MAY 1955

College building *Albu* occupied by police in South Africa

CAPETOWN, May 5: A secret ring known as "The Caucus" University of Fort Hare together in excellence yesterday caused the closing of Fort Hare University College in Grahamstown, the only South African University exclusively reserved for African students. It was closed by the police who acted on a request by the Principal, Mr C. P. Dent.

The Principal asked for police protection as 394 African students prepared to leave for their homes in all parts of the Union and in the British High Commission territories. The police occupied the building and grounds and armed reinforcements from Grahamstown were standing by in case of trouble, which was expected.

The University Executive Committee has decided to suspend all College activities for the present and to reconsider the re-admission of individual students in due course. New enrolments of students were stopped last year by the Union Government.—AFP.

Extract from
Indian Express, Madras.

6 MAY 1955




University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Abbe CAPETOWN, May 5.

Fort Hare, South Africa's only University for non-Whites, where a "secret society" was alleged to be operating, will be reopened as soon as order has been restored, Minister of Education Johannes Viljoen said today.

Police Close University

CAPE TOWN, Thurs.—
Government officials at
Alice (Cape Province) have
closed Fort Hare, South
Africa's only university col-
lege for non-whites.


University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

An official statement said
that there was evidence of a
"secret authority" among
the students.

The official statement said
that under the influence of
the secret authority, some-
times known as "The Cau-
cus," students resorted to il-
legal methods such as boy-
cotts, threats and even vio-
lence in an attempt to im-
pose their will on the col-
lege authorities.

The police took over the
college grounds and build-
ings and in response to an
appeal from the college
principal, Professor C. P.
Dent, police reinforcements
were sent to Alice from
Grahamstown, 60 miles
away.

6 MAY 1955

No. 3676 (May 6, 1955)

SOUTH WEST STUDENTS WERE AT FORT HARE COLLEGE

With the closing of Fort Hare, several non-Europeans students from South West will also be sent home. There are a few Herero students in the University College from South West and the majority of them come from Windhoek.

Fort Hare, South Africa's University College for non-Europeans at Alice was closed down on Wednesday by the College Council and four hundred students left for their homes all over the Union and South West Africa by special trains, reports Sapa from East London.

The Executive Committee of the College Council — the Government body — said there was evidence of the existence of a body within the student authority, sometimes referred to as "Causcas," whose instructions were obeyed by students through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than instructions properly constituted by the authorities.

Police squads on Wednesday took over the college grounds and buildings, stood on the station platforms as a security measure but there were no incidents and the students dispersed without disorder.

— Sapa.

Student View Of Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

Port Elizabeth, Thursday

The existence of a "secret authority" at Fort Hare University College was denied by students who arrived here by train to-day.

About 50 of the 394 students who left Alice yesterday with the college was closed down, returned from Port Elizabeth.

One of them said: "We have many student bodies, like other universities. These are mainly social bodies that can get on openly with their activities. We have never heard of a caucus or secret authority."

The students said they had not noticed any intimidation or threats.

Daily Representative
6 MAY 1955

Principal of Fort Hare Flies to Cape Town

EAST LONDON, Friday

Professor C. P. Dent, Principal of the Fort Hare University College, was to fly to Cape Town today where it is understood he will interview the Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen.

Fort Hare was closed on Wednesday by the Executive Committee of the College Council because of activities of a secret body known as the "caucus" and its influence on the students.

All the students were sent home on special trains. The staff remained at the College.—Sapa

Tip

BLADSY NEGE

SLUIT OOR RONDSE GING

het ondraaglik geword, lui die verklaring.

Fort Hare staan onder die onmiddellike beheer van sy eie kollegeraad, wat weer onder afdelingsreghoedige beheer van die Departement van Onderwys is. Die Departement het niks in die sluiting geweet nie.

Die Kommissaris van Polisie het meegedeel dat hy ook van die saak niks geweet het nie.

Extract from
Times of India, Bombay.

- 6 MAY 1955

COLLEGE CLOSED Ab664 DOWN Biggest In S. Africa

"The Times of India" News Service
CAPETOWN, May 5: The non-European University College of Fort Hare, Cape Province, was closed yesterday by the College Council because there was "evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority."

Armed police reinforcements from four centres stood by as 394 African students prepared to leave for home.

The Fort Hare college, opened 30 years ago, is the biggest non-European college in the Union of South Africa.

Extract from
New York Times, U.S.A.

- 6 JUL 1955

Special to The New York Times.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, July 5—Classes were resumed yesterday at Fort Hare College, South Africa's only all-Negro college. *Abbey*

The institution at Alice was closed indefinitely May 4 after officials charged that a group of students had virtually seized control.

Only 150 of the 320 students expelled two months ago were on hand yesterday.

Extract from
Christchurch Press, New Zealand.

6 MAY 1955

UNIVERSITY FOR NON-WHITES

CLOSURE ORDERED IN SOUTH AFRICA

ALICE (Cape Province), May 4.
Government officials today closed
Fort Hare, South Africa's only univer-
sity college for non-whites.

An official statement said that there was evidence of a "secret authority" among the students.

Under the influence of the secret authority, sometimes known as "The Caucus," students resorted to illegal methods such as boycotts, threats, and even violence in an attempt to impose their will on the college authorities, the statement said.

The police took over the college grounds and buildings, and in response to an appeal from the college principal Professor C. P. Dent, police reinforcements were sent to Alice from Grahamstown, 60 miles away.

7 MAY 1955

Personality parade

HE WORKS FOR FORT HARE AND THE BANTU PEOPLE

IN Cape Town to-day is Prof. Clifford Parker Dent, who has been intimately connected with Bantu education all his life and is now one of the central figures in the temporary closing of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans.

Rather shy and self-effacing, but holding strong principles, his friends say he will always do what he sincerely believes is right and what is best for the future of Fort Hare and for the Bantu people as a whole.

He was born in 1899 at Ixopo, Natal, the son of Methodist missionary, the Rev. Charles Edward Dent, who was for 13 years in charge of the Nongoma Mission station in Zululand.

'Those were the days before the national roads,' says Professor Dent, 'and it sometimes took us four days to cover 25 miles in a donkey-wagon on our way to boarding school.'

His education began at the Maritzburg College, and continued after a year at Natal University College (now Natal University), at Rhodes, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Science in 1920.

University of Fort Hare
PROFESSOR DENT . . .
 With Gale and Paton *Together in the field for cultural interests.*

After graduation he returned to Natal for post-graduate study. He was a contemporary of Dr. George Gale, formerly Union Secretary for Health, and Alan Paton, author of 'Cry the Beloved Country.'

In 1922 he was appointed a lecturer in physics and chemistry at Fort Hare, which was then only five years old.

It has been said that during his whole association with the college he has more than anybody else been responsible for the expansion and improvement of cultural interests among the students.

'Fort Hare is different from other colleges,' says Professor Dent, 'inasmuch as so many of our students are far older and more mature than the average, and in many cases they are men and women who have struggled during the early part of their adult lives to save enough money to further their education to university standard.'

Teaching family

He was appointed Professor of Chemistry at Fort Hare in 1941 and was appointed principal nine years later.

'I am not the only one in my family interested in Bantu education,' he says. 'My elder brother, Railton, is the Chief Inspector of Native Education in Natal, and a younger brother, George, is an inspector in the same department.'

Apart from his interests at Fort Hare, he is a member of the Governing Council of Kingswood College and is also a governor of the missionary educational institutions at Lovedale and Healdtown.

He was a keen rugby player, being capped for N.U.C. in 1921. 'But,' he says a little ruefully, 'I'm



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afraid I'm a little old for it now, I would have liked to see the Province game this afternoon, but I shall have to fly back to Alice almost immediately.

Fishing

'These days, if ever I am able to get away for a few days, I spend my time fishing, and one of my biggest ambitions is to catch a really large tunny, which, of course, we rarely see near East London.'

Of his twin sons, who both fought through World War II as fighter pilots in the S.A.A.F., only one has followed in his father's footsteps. He is teaching in Natal; the other is a veterinary surgeon.

R.K.R.M.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

FORT HARE PRINCIPAL:
Mr. C. P. Dent, Principal of the Fort Hare University College, for non-Europeans, seen on arrival by air in Cape Town yesterday. Mr. Dent went straight to Marks Buildings, Cape Town, for discussions with Government officials about the closing of the College on Wednesday.

7 MAY 1955

A.N.C. protest at closing

JOHANNESBURG, Saturday. —

The working committee of the African National Congress in Johannesburg protested last night against the closing of Fort Hare University College.

The congress says the students have been invited to apply for readmission, and 'it can safely be assumed that when applications are considered some applicants will be refused admission.'

The college was closed this week by the authorities, who said there was a secret caucus among the students.—Sapa.

Puzzled by Publicity

DISPATCH
MAY 7, 1955.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Professor C. P. Dent, principal of Fort Hare University College, had no official statement to make when he left East London Airport yesterday for Cape Town. He is to hold discussions with the Minister of Education (Mr. J. H. Viljoen) about the College Executive Committee's decision to close the University because of the activities of a secret body known as the "caucus" and its influence on the students. The picture shows Professor Dent chatting to a fellow-passenger before boarding the aircraft. His only comment was that he was "puzzled" by the amount of publicity given to the closing of the University.

, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1955

PROF. DENT AT CAPE



Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the Fort Hare University College, is pictured here on his arrival in Cape Town, where he has been having talks with the Secretary for Education, Mr. H. S. van der Walt, about the trouble which caused the College Council executive committee to close the University last week.

7 MAY 1955

FORT HARE CLOSED "TO CREATE ORDER"

—J. H. Viljoen

Capetown. Thursday.

THE Minister of Education, Arts and Science, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, in a statement in the Assembly today on the closing of the university college for Natives at Fort Hare by the college authorities, said he had been advised by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the College Council, which was an autonomous body and in which the control of the college was vested, that at a meeting of the Executive Committee the following resolution was taken:—

"There has developed unmistakable evidence of the existence of this caucus upon student action, and was deliberately designed within the student body of the college to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the caucus whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as "the struggle." In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the executive committee of the Council has decided unanimously that it is impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions.

"The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion.

ACTION "INTOLERABLE"

"Action within the student body has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign. The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is

"The executive committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the college for the present, and to consider the readmission of individual students in due course."

WHY STEPS WERE TAKEN

The Minister said this resolution of the college authority was taken in terms of the scheme of government of the university college under the Higher Education Act of 1923.

The executive committee, to whom the powers of the Council were delegated under the scheme of government, resolved to take these steps to establish proper discipline and to exercise proper control.

"I can give the House the assurance that the college will resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps have been taken to restore order," the Minister said.

In the Senate, the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, on behalf of the Minister of Education, Arts and Science, made a similar statement in reply to a question by Sen. L. I. Rubín (Natives Rep.).—Sapa.

7 MAY 1955

Die Volksblad

SATERDAG, 7 MEI 1955

Beskawing En Kultuur

DIE onlangse gebeure aan die universiteitskollege Fort Hare vestig die aandag opnuut op die diepste grondslae van die opvatting oor rasse-aangeleenthede in ons land. Tewens behoort dit 'n vingerwysing te wees vir dié mense wat meen dat die Westerse beskawing 'n grootheid is wat jy binne die mure van 'n universiteit in die loop van 'n aantal jare kan aanleer.

Dit het nou al gewoonte geword om te praat oor die kleurvraagstuk en oor kleurverskille. Eintlik is dit 'n bietjie jammer, want ten diepste gaan dit nie om kwessies van vel en kleur nie, maar oor verskil in beskawing. En, let wel, nie net oor verskil in beskawingsstand nie, maar oor onoorbrugbare verskille ten opsigte van beskawingsvorm. Nog 'n fout wat dikwels gemaak word, al is dit maar 'n denkfout, is om beskawing te verwar en te vereenselwig met geleerdheid en kultuur. Wat gaan gebeur wanneer die nie-blanke in ons land, as gevolg van vermeerderde en verbeterde onderwysfasiliteite, dieselfde stand van beskawing bereik as die blanke? Dit is die vorm waarin die vraag gewoonlik gestel word, en selfs oortuigde voorstanders van apartheid staan meermale verleë daarteenoor.

Dit sal derhalwe goed wees om te herinner aan 'n wyse woord wat wyle genl. Hertzog jare gelede uitgespreek het. Hy het gesê: „Beskawing is iets totaal anders as boekgeleerdheid; dit gaan ook veel dieper as die begrip kultuur. Geleerdheid is maar één van die toevallige vrugte van die beskawing”. Ons kan dit ook anders stel. Selfs 'n ongeleerde man kan hoog beskaafd wees, terwyl aan die ander kant geen volk ter wêreld ooit 'n bepaalde beskawing kan verwerf deur middel van akademiese geleerdheid of tegnologiese vooruitgang nie.

Iv kan wel die kultuur van 'n ander volk aanneem; jy kan sy taal en sy leefwyse oorneem. Maar nooit kan jy 'n ander beskawing aanneem nie. Geen enkeling en geen volk kan deur 'n wilsbeslissing verander van beskawingsvorm nie, net so min as wat hy daartoe opgevoed kan word. Verstandelike ontwikkeling kan wel 'n mate van kulturele veredeling teweeg bring, maar die menslike denke kan geen beskawing skep nie. Sy wortels lê veel dieper as dit.

'n Volk of 'n groep volke se beskawingsvorm is in laaste instansie die vrug van 'n eeuelange proses waarby die religie die alles beslissende dryfkrag is. So is dit 'n historiese feit dat ons Westerse beskawing berus op die grondslag van die religieuse grondmotief van die Christendom. Dit is die wortel waaruit ons beskawing gegroei het en wat aan hom, ondanks latere verval en insinking, nog steeds sy kenmerkende eiesoortigheid verleen waardeur hy radikaal onderskei word van beskawings wat uit 'n ander dieptelaag voortgekom het. Verligting en kultuur, geleerdheid en tegniek is niks meer nie as sommige van die vrugte wat gepluk word van dié beskawingsboom wat sy lewenskrag put uit die Christelike religie. Die vrugte mag nie verwar word met die boom nie; en die boom mag nie los gemaak word van sy verborge voedingsbron nie.

Solank 'n volk, blank of nie-blank, in sy groot geheel nog leef uit 'n nie-Christelike lewensbeginsel, kan hy innerlik nooit deel word van ons Westerse beskawing nie. En die Westerse kultuur en verligting berei hom ook nie voor vir toekomstige lidmaatskap van ons beskawing nie. Intendeel, dit moet noodwendig vreemde vrugte vir hom bly wat voortdurend innerlike spanninge verwek. Beskawings is nie uitwisselbaar nie.

Die Suidwester, Windhoek

7 MAY 1955

FORT HARE SAL WERKSAAMHEDE HERVAT

KAAPSTAD, Vrydag. — Die natuurlikekollege Fort Hare sal so gou moontlik sy werksaamhede hervat nadat die nodige stappe gedoen is om die orde te herstel. Die versekering is gister in die Volksraad deur **mr. J. H. Viljoen**, Minister van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap gegee.

Min. Viljoen het gesê dat hy deur die voorsitter van die uitvoerende komitee van die Kollegeraad wat outonome beheer oor die kollege het meegedeel is dat daar besluit is om die kollege te sluit. Dit was nadat onmiskenbare bewyse gevind is dat daar 'n geheime gesag onder die studente bestaan. Min. Viljoen het 'n dergelike verklaring in die Senaat gedoen ten antwoord op 'n vraag deur Sen. L. I. Rubin (Naturellevet-teenwoordiger) (Eie berig.)



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

7 MAY 1955

A.N.C. WANTS FORT HARE INQUIRY

JOHANNESBURG, Saturday.

—The working committee of the African National Congress issued a statement in Johannesburg last night protesting against the closing of Fort Hare University College.

The statement says that students have been invited to apply for readmission and "it can safely be assumed that when applications are considered some of the applicants will be refused admission."

The college was closed this week by the college authorities who said that there was a secret caucus among the students.

The statement says that the college authorities have adopted a method of expelling students without laying particular charges against them.

It calls on the Governing Council to readmit all the students unconditionally. The appointment of an impartial commission of inquiry into the situation, is also asked for.—Sapa.

7 MAY 1955

S. AFRICAN COLLEGE CLOSED DOWN ON GOVT. ORDER

ALICE (Cape Province), May 4: Government officials today closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only university college for non-Whites.

An official statement said there was evidence of a secret authority among the students.

The official statement said that under the influence of a secret authority sometimes known as the caucus, the students resorted to illegal methods in an attempt to impose their will on the College authorities.

The police took over the College grounds and buildings. All college activities are suspended for the University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

The official statement on the closing of the College which has about 400 students, mostly Africans, was issued by the local Native Commissioner a Government official.

It said that the 'caucus' issued instructions obeyed by students often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the College.

It added that the activities of "the caucus" had resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable.

In consequence the Students Representative Council has found it necessary to resign, the statement said.

(The Student Council is a body which in South Africa universities govern student affairs and acts as a liaison between the students and the university authorities).

Extract from
Times of India, Bombay.

7 MAY 1955

ASSURANCE BY

Abba MINISTER

Fort Hare University

CAPE TOWN, May 6: Fort Hare, South Africa's only university for non-Whites where a "secret society" was alleged to be operating, will be re-opened as soon as order has been restored, the South African Minister of Education, Mr. Johannes Viljoen, said yesterday.

Mr. Viljoen said that the college, which has about 400 students, mostly Africans, was closed because of "a secret authority" which operated within the student body in conflict with the university authorities.

On Wednesday, the Council decided to suspend all activities and consider the readmission of individual students in due course.

Special trains took the dismissed students, to their homes in various parts of South Africa.—
Reuter.

8 MAY 1955

“Inside story” of college closing

JOHANNESBURG,

Saturday.

THE working committee of the African National Congress issued a statement in Johannesburg last night protesting against the closing of Fort Hare University College.

The statement says that students have been invited to apply for readmission and “it can safely be assumed that when applications are considered some of the applicants will be refused admission.”

The college was closed this week by the college authorities who said that there was a secret “caucus” among the students.

The statement says that the college authorities have adopted a method of expelling students without laying particular charges against them.

It calls on the governing council to readmit all the students unconditionally, and asks for the appointment of an impartial commission of inquiry.

The principal of Fort Hare University College, Mr. C. P. Dent, told a Cape Town correspondent this morning that he would very shortly send a circular to the parents of every student telling them in exact detail the whole inside story of the sudden closing of the college on Wednesday. “We have nothing to hide,” said Mr. Dent, who had just had discussions with the Minister of Education, Mr. Viljoen, and the Secretary for Education, Mr. H. S. van der Walt.

After the circular had been sent to parents and benefactors of the college it would become available for general publication, Mr. Dent added. — Sapa and S.N. corr.

Fort Hare

THE Dramatic manner in which Fort Hare College closed last month, caused nation wide concern. It was the first time in the history of the country that such an action had been taken by a university authority against an entire student body.

Newspaper reports have thrown little light on the basic reasons for the action taken by the principal of the Institution, Mr. Dent. Interviews as reported, from the principal and the students have hitherto been of a nature to further confuse than to clarify the matter.

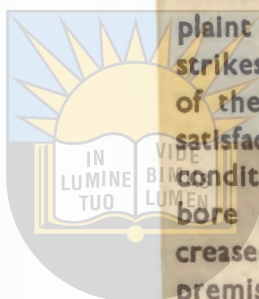
Now for the first time, there comes to light more details of the reasons for the closing down of Fort Hare College and for this we have to thank the Students Representative Council of the University of Natal which interviewed 40 present and 50 past Fort Hare students.

The question of diet has been a long existing complaint of students at Fort Hare and many have been the strikes enacted against this problem. In 1954, a boycott of the dining hall during the principals absence, lead to satisfactory redress from the college authorities, but food conditions deteriorated on his return and complaints bore no fruit. Student grievances were further increased when police were found to intrude college premises for reasons which the students could not explain. To consider these difficulties, the principal was petitioned for the holding of a meeting. The petition was refused and a meeting was held outside the college premises where the decision to boycott graduation ceremony was taken, as a protest against existing circumstances.

This statement denies the existence of a secret caucus, superseding the students representative Council, or the presence of any feeling of no confidence felt by the student body towards the S.R.C.

In view of this information, one feels the action of the principal in closing the college thus unceremoniously to be rather high handed. Students at a university are not high school children and respect is accorded them universally by university authorities. The relationship of the Fort Hare College authorities and its students does not conform to this pattern. It is to be expected that a mature students body striving towards self realisation should object to such discrimination. One feels that the conflict was hardly of the seriousness to deserve the closing down of an entire institution and thus unnecessarily focus the attention of the entire country on a sensitive body of students, endangering their reputation. The principal and the college authorities could have come to amicable settlement with a little more tact and a little more sympathy with the student body.

We learn that the principal has now sent out circulars to all students asking them to apply for readmission if they desire to come back to the college. In these circulars, students are asked to give information about the boycotts staged in 1955 and to tell on students meetings, authorised or unauthorised held within the college premises or elsewhere.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

One cannot but condemn any body which requires students to give such information on their activities. In simple language the circular asks students to tell on each other and is devised to weaken student solidarity. One still feels that this whole Fort Hare conflict could even now be appropriately and satisfactorily settled, by the re-admission of all students and by the setting up of an Impartial Commission of Inquiry into student grievances.

9 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Details Promised

(From Our Political Correspondent)

CAPE TOWN, Sunday

The principal of Fort Hare University College, Professor C. P. Dent, said here today that further information about the unrest among students at Fort Hare, which led the College Council to close the institution, would be released next week.

The College Senate would meet on Monday, he said, and the College Council on Wednesday. Letters would be drafted to explain to parents of the students who have been sent home the circumstances leading up to the closing of the college and copies of these letters would be released to the Press. They would give more details of the trouble at the college than were given in the Council's Press statement this week.

Professor Dent arrived in Cape Town on Friday night. He saw the Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, and officials of the

Education Department and flew back to East London today.

The executive of the Teachers' League of South Africa, in a statement to SAPA yesterday protested against the closing of Fort Hare, demanded its reopening and said all students should be reinstated "without victimisation of Coloured teachers in the Cape and has about 1,500 members and many student associate members at Fort Hare.

The Working Committee of the African National Congress also issued a statement protesting against the closing of the university. It could safely be assumed that when applications for re-admission were considered, said the statement, some of the applicants would be refused admission.

The statement accused the College authorities of expelling students without laying particular charges against them.

The ANC demanded the appointment of an impartial commission of inquiry into the situation.—



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Daily Representative
9 MAY 1955 Queenstown

FORT HARE CEREMONY FOR B.B.C.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN.

When the graduation ceremony was held at the non-European university of Fort Hare the proceedings were filmed by Dr. N. Maartens, of King William's Town for a B.B.C. television programme.

The B.B.C. asked Dr. Maartens to take 200ft. of 16mm. film. The film was flown to England and will form part of a television programme the B.B.C. is preparing on South Africa.

9 MAY 1955

Protest at Fort Hare Closing



University of Fort Hare

CAPE TOWN, Sunday.—The Executive of the Teachers' League of South Africa in a statement yesterday protested against the closing of Fort Hare University College and demanded its reopening.

The league consists mainly of Coloured teachers in the Cape and has about 1,500 members and many student associate members at Fort Hare.—Sapa.

9 MAY 1955

Closing of Fort

Hare

SIR,—The closing down of the only African University College, Fort Hare, smells of apartheid politics.

At this University there are Chinese, Indian, Coloured and African students. In fact it is a non-European University. The Minister of Native Affairs, Mr. Verwoerd, acting under his heinous Bantu Education Act, finds it difficult to enslave the present students' minds. He wants new students or to re-admit "Ja Baas" students who would co-operate in cutting their own throats in the working of the Bantu Education Act. Graduation ceremonies are part of this Act.

I know Mr. C. P. Dent, the Principal of the University personally. He is an intellectual giant. He cannot fail to control the students. The expulsion of the students is a diabolical act influenced by the satanical "Ossewabrandwag", a subterranean organisation within the Nationalist Party of South Africa which is bent soul and body on repealing the anti-slavery act of 1834.

NEPHAS TEMBO.

Ndola.

Die Oosterlig

10 MAY 1955

GEHEIMSINNIGHEID OOR REBELSHEID VAN FORT HARE-STUDENTE

KAAPSTAD.

GEHHEIMSINNIGHEID word deur die hoof van die naturelle-
kollege Fort Hare, prof. C. P. Dent, bewaar oor die bron
van die rebelsheid onder studente wat daartoe aanleiding was
dat die inrigting verlede week gesluit is. Hy is nie bereid om
die aard of die oorsprong van die georganiseerde ongehoor-
saamheid te bespreek nie.

Op Saterdag het prof. Dent in Kaapstad 'n gesprek van 'n uur met die Minister van Onderwys, mnr. J. H. Viljoen, en die Sekretaris van Onderwys, mnr. H. S. van der Walt, gevoer waarin hy uiteengesit het wat gebeur het. Daarna wou hy niks sê nie, behalwe dat die senaat van die Kollege gister vergader het om die saak te bespreek, dat die kollegeraad môre daarvoor byeenkom en dat hy besig is om 'n verslag oor die gebeurde op te stel.

Hierdie verslag is in die eerste plaas vir die ouers van die leerlinge bedoel en sal oor 'n paar dae klaar wees. Hy sal dit dan ook aan die pers beskikbaar stel.

Daar blyk dat die omstandigheid, ondanks prof. Dent se geheimhouding, nie iets is wat van buite af in die studentekring kom nie. Die ongehoorsaamheid is nie iets wat aangepor word deur 'n buite-invloed soos die Kommunisme nie. Ook is die weerstand nie iets wat beperk is tot 'n besondere seksie van die leerlinge nie. Die leerlinge bestaan hoofsaaklik uit naturelle, maar ook uit Kleurlinge en Indiërs. Die ongehoorsaamheid is dus 'n spontane opstandigheid wat uitsluitend teen die kollege se owerheid gerig is.



University of Fort Hare
Excellence

10 MAY 1955

College council to meet

DECISION AT FORT HARE TO-MORROW

The Argus Correspondent



ALICE, Tuesday.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Fort Hare non-European college will decide to-morrow what steps it will take to deal with the "subversive elements" whose activities led to the expulsion of the college's 360 students.

The college senate, which has among its members some of the college's non-European teachers, met yesterday to frame a letter from the college authorities to the pupils' parents.

The draft of the letter will be among the matters to be discussed by the executive council.

NO DETAILS

Prof. C. P. Dent, principal of the college, said to-day that no details could be disclosed of the senate meeting.

The decisions taken to-morrow by the executive council would be conveyed immediately to the Minister of Education, Arts and Science (Mr. J. H. Viljoen), he said.

10 MAY 1955

FORT HARE COUNCIL TO DECIDE

The Executive Council of the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice will decide to-morrow what steps it will take to deal with the "subversive elements, whose recent activities led to the expulsion of the college's 360 students.

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11 MAY 1955

Fort Hare to decide today what steps to take

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice will decide tomorrow what steps it will take to deal with the "subversive elements" whose recent activities led to the expulsion of the college's students.



DURBAN, Tuesday.

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Die Westelike Stem
Potchefstroom

11 MAY 1955

WOENSDAG, 11 MEI, 1955.

DIE WESTELIKE STEM

NATURELLE-UNIVERSITEIT GESLUIT WEENS ONDERMYNING

DIE MINISTER VAN ONDERWYS, MNR. J. H. VILJOEN,
HET 'N VERKLARING IN DIE VOLKSRAAD GEDOENN OOR
DIE TYDELIKE SLUITING VAN DIE UNIVERSITEITSKOL-
LEGE VIR NATURELLE TE FORT HARE.

Daar bestaan rede om aan te neem dat die Regering die insident in 'n ernstige lig beskou, veral omdat dit 'n aanduiding is van wat vandag in sogenaamde intellektuele kringe onder die Bantoe-bevolking aangaan.

Blykens 'n verklaring wat die prinsipaal van die kollege, prof. C. P. Dent, uitgereik het, sou daar bewys bestaan dat daar onder die studente aan die kollege 'n geheime gesag is, wat somtyds die "kookus" genoem word.

Hierdie "geheime gesag" moedig die studente aan tot wanordelikhede, met die gevolg dat 'n toestand ontstaan het wat as "ondraaglik" beskryf word.

Die aanduidings is dus dat hierdie "geheime gesag" in sy wese 'n Kommunistiese sel is.

Daar bestaan alle rede om aan te neem dat die gebeure aan Fort Hare aan niks anders as Kommunistiese bedrywighede toegeskryf

moet word nie; dit is daarom dat die Regering die saak in 'n ernstige lig beskou.

Die Minister of die Regering het egter niks met die sluiting van die kollege te doen gehad nie.

Fort Hare is 'n outonome liggaam onder beheer van sy eie kollegeraad en dis hierdie raad wat besluit het om die werksaamhede aan die kollege te skors. Die eerste wat mnr. Viljoen van hierdie stap verneem het, was toe hy deur dr. T. Alty, voorsitter van die raad en prinsipaal van Rhodes-kollege, per telegram in kennis gestel is dat die kollege gesluit is en dat 'n volledige verslag aan die Minister gestuur sal word.

Die posisie by die kollege was dat daar aanhoudelike pogings aangewend is deur die geheime "kookus" om die gesag van die kollegeraad te ondermyn, die studente afvallig te maak en dissiplene in die wiele te ry.

Die Minister het gesê dat daar onmiskenbare getuënis is van die bestaan van 'n geheime gesag, wat somtyds die "kookus" genoem word, binne die studenteraad van die kollege.

"Die bevele van die kookus word gehoorsaam hoofsaaklik weens vrees vir liggaamlike gemeldpleging en ander vorms van intimidasie, en hierdie bevele word eerder gehoorsaam as die van die saamgestelde owerheid van die kollege.

"De gevolg was dat die studente onder invloed van die kookus met wanpraktyke begin het soos geweldpleging met die doell om hul wil op die kollege-owerheid af te dring.

"Die boikot van die gradeplegtigheid, wat op las van 'n onwettige vergadering gedoen is, is nog 'n voorbeeld van die invloed wat die kookus op die optrede van studente uitoefen. Dit is met voorbedagte rade gedoen om die kollege-owerheid in die verleentheid te stel en om die kollege in diskrediet te bring."

11 MAY 1955

Fort Hare: 3-hour talk



The Executive Council of the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice spent more than three hours to-day discussing the events which led to all 360 students being expelled.

The Council adjourned for lunch without completing the statement which is to be sent to parents before the students are readmitted. The Council was expected to remain in session until 4 p.m.

11 MAY 1955

'Secret Authority' Within Student Body

REASON BEHIND CLOSURE OF FORT HARE

By CYRIL DUNN
"Observer" Service

JOHANNESBURG, May 10.

IF Balliol (famous Oxford University college) had been closed without warning by armed police from Oxford, and the nearby towns of Reading and Didcot, and all the students abruptly sent down, the stunning effect could not have been greater in England than the news last week from Fort Hare has been for all educated Africans here.

Fort Hare, the university college for Africans near the town called Alice in the eastern province of the Cape, has been forcibly shut down. Under an escort of armed police from all the neighbouring townships, the entire student body of 400, most of them Africans but some Indians, have been put aboard special trains and packed off home.

The decision is that of the executive committee of the college council, according to a statement issued by Prof. C. P. Dent, the principal. The reason given is that "a secret authority" exists within the student body. Instructions issued by this underground caucus, backed up by threats of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, have been obeyed by the students in the instructions issued by the constituted authorities of the college.

IRREGULAR METHODS

"The result has been that the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the college authorities," says Prof. Dent. A situation has developed within the college, the Prof. adds, which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action, and has become intolerable.

A recent graduation ceremony was boycotted on instructions from this "secret authority," the statement goes on. The boycott was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and bring discredit on the college.

All activities of the college have been suspended "for the present." The readmission of individual students will be considered in due course.

Fort Hare was opened in 1916 and so is, by African standards, venerable. It occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of all educated Africans in the Union, if only because it is where most of them took their degrees. It goes in mainly for arts degrees and for teacher training. It stands within a mile or two of Lovedale, the historic educational centre founded by the Church of Scotland in 1841.

The first reaction of a leading White educationalist here to the news was to describe it as "a staggering confession of failure without precedent in the history of South African education."

'BLACK NATIONALISTS'

"It is true that Fort Hare has been breeding Black nationalists for some time," he said, "but so have lots of other places in South Africa. For ten years past it has been known that the student body there has been in an aggressive frame of mind towards Whites and towards the Government, both of the college and of the country. Some students have adopted a Black African nationalism in its least attractive form. When the Liberal Party speakers went there not long ago, they found the students unwilling even to listen to them. But to close the place down because the authorities cannot cope with some extremism in the student body shows a bankruptcy of ideas on human relations."

The boycott, as applied by the

student body, is a traditional form of African protest. It was applied when the Governor-General, Dr Ernest Jansen, visited Alice and the students were required to line the route and cheer.

A former student at Fort Hare said the so-called "secret authority" existed in the college when he was there and was well known. He thinks that today it represents the outlook of the African National Congress Youth League, influenced a little by a Trotskyist organization, called the Sons of Young Africa.

The unanswered question at the moment is, of course, how far the Nationalist Government is concerned in this drastic action. It has come hard on the heels of the ruthless government decision to expel nearly 4,000 Transvaal African children for boycotting the new system of Bantu education, and dismiss 120 African teachers. The Government's determination to crush all resistance to the new form of education is apparent, and they are at least unlikely to deplore the evident intention to weed all "unsuitable" students out of Fort Hare. The presence of armed police and the laying on of special trains to take the students home, does not suggest that the college authorities acted alone.—Copyright

The Fort Hare Episode.

SOME OUTSIDE COMMENT

The closing of the University College of Fort Hare by the Governing Council last Wednesday has been a subject of public interest throughout the country, and has been a matter of comment in the Press. Here are two from Border papers that may be of interest.

FORT HARE MYSTERY.

The breakdown at the University College of Fort Hare this week again made unhappy news about South Africa, on front pages around the world.

Nobody should be surprised at this. When a university anywhere is suddenly closed and all the students are ordered to go home it is news everywhere. And when the dismissal is carried out in the presence of armed police, specially summoned for the occasion, people must inevitably conclude that affairs have taken a grave turn. That must have been the impression created in the minds of millions of newspaper readers and radio listeners by the news from Fort Hare this week.

Thus it is desirable that the Minister of Education or the University College Council should make a full statement on the whole affair soon, and clear up particularly the mystery surrounding the alleged secret student organisation.

Several questions call for answers. Why has it not been possible so far to identify members of the "secret student caucus" which is accused of undermining the University College administration? Why is it that all the many students interviewed independently in East London and Port Elizabeth so far deny all knowledge of such a secret organisation? Surely there must be some among them with a sense of responsibility, who would not be deterred by fear of victimisation from telling the truth?

It is indeed a puzzling affair. All reasonable people will accept that the executive committee members felt they had no alternative but to do as they did—apparently with the approval of the senior non-White as well as White members of the staff. Clearly the conduct of some students placed an intolerable strain on the authorities.

But the University College authorities owe it to themselves and to South Africa to speak more fully and frankly about the developments last February, March and April that culminated in the decision last Tuesday to dismiss all 364 students the next day, with the police standing by.—Evening Post (Port Elizabeth.)

DRASTIC STEP AT FORT HARE.

The decision to close down Fort Hare, the Native College at Alice, is

emphasising, if not indeed glorifying the rebels, when on their account, the authorities close down the whole institution?

It is unfortunate, and patently purely coincidental that this Fort Hare incident has followed so closely the application of Dr. Verwoerd's controversial policy on Bantu education, and the Minister's recent instructions to ban for ever from their schools the children involved in the boycott in the Transvaal. Overseas, at least, they will add two and two and make half a dozen, and those who have no affection for the Union may even suggest that the Minister was looking for an excuse to close down Fort Hare. We know that is untrue, of course, for it was a decision of the College authorities and not of the Government, but what material for propaganda has been given to those who will make full use of it!

Whatever way it is looked at, the incident is a most unhappy one, but we hope that sufficient note has been taken of the promise of the authorities to consider readmission of students (innocent ones presumably) in due course.—Queenstown Representative.

The College Principal

AN APPRECIATION.

Under the heading "He Works for Fort Hare and the Bantu People," R. K. R. M. writes in the Cape Argus:—

In Cape Town to-day is Prof. Clifford Parker Dent, who has been intimately connected with Bantu education all his life and is now one of the central figures in the temporary closing of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans.

Rather shy and self-effacing, but holding strong principles, his friends say he will always do what he sincerely believes is right and what is best for the future of Fort Hare and for the Bantu people as a whole.

He was born in 1899 at Ixopo, Natal, the son of a Methodist missionary, the Rev. Charles Edward Dent, who was for 13 years in charge of the Nongoma Mission station in Zululand.

"Those were the days before the national road," says Prof. Dent, "and it sometimes took us four days to cover 25 miles in a donkey-wagon on our way to boarding school."

His education began at the Maritzburg College and continued after a year at Natal University College (now Natal University), at Rhodes, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Science in 1920.

After graduation he returned to Natal for post-graduate study. He



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

indeed a drastic one. The reason for the decision is still not really clear, although the College authorities speak of some secret organisation within the student body who had been exerting their will through intimidation, and in defiance of the authorities. That is a very serious charge, and, if proved, warrants the expulsion of the rebel students. Expulsion would be the course followed in similar circumstances in any scholastic institution anywhere in the world.

However, the expulsion of the innocents along with the guilty, the expulsion of the intimidated along with the intimidators requires further explanation, and will not be readily understood without it. Students everywhere are inclined at times to be rebellious. How often the overseas cables report a student riot or student strike. The consequence is almost invariably an inquiry followed, where necessary, by disciplinary action, including the expulsion of the ringleaders. The interpretation of the report from Fort Hare is that there is a small group of students who call themselves a "caucus," who are dominating the docile and innocent majority. The "caucus" was presumably responsible for the semi-boycott a few days ago of the College's graduation ceremony. They deserve to be kicked out. But is it not over-

Gale, formerly Union Secretary for Health, and Alan Paton, author of "Cry the Beloved Country."

In 1922 he was appointed a lecturer in physics and chemistry at Fort Hare, which was then only five years old.

It has been said that during his whole association with the College he has more than anybody else been responsible for the expansion and improvement of cultural interests among the students.

"Fort Hare is different from other colleges," says Prof. Dent, "inasmuch as so many of our students are far older and more mature than the average, and in many cases they are men and women who have struggled during the early part of their adult lives to save enough money to further their education to university standard."

He was appointed Professor of Chemistry at Fort Hare in 1941 and was appointed principal nine years later.

"I am not the only one in my family interested in Bantu education," he says. "My elder brother, Railton, is the Chief Inspector of Native Education in Natal, and a younger brother, George, is an inspector in the same department."

Apart from his interests at Fort Hare, he is a member of the Governing Council of Kingswood College

THE FORT HARE EPISODE.

and is also a governor of the missionary educational institutions at Lovedale and Haldtown.

He was a keen rugby player, being capped for N.U.C. in 1921. "But," he says a little ruefully, "I'm afraid I'm a little old for it now. I would have liked to see the Province game this afternoon, but I shall have to fly back to Alice almost immediately."

Of his twin sons, who both fought through World War II as fighter pilots in the S.A.A.F., only one has followed in his father's footsteps. He is teaching in Natal; the other is a veterinary surgeon.

Continued in next column

92 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Students

To the Editor, Daily Dispatch.

Sir,—Fort Hare student opinion has been misrepresented in the Press. In your issue of May 5 it is reported that at Fort Hare there is a secret society called "Caucus." This we deny emphatically.

In a statement published by the college governing council it is alleged that there is provision for "proper channels of communication between students and recognised authorities . . . for any representations through their properly elected representatives." This statement is shocking to us who heard the principal say that what has been passed by the governing bodies of the college cannot be questioned by students. This was when he announced the regulation about fraternisation with the women. When we requested an emergency mass meeting of students on this regulation, the principal rejected this. This is the only way through which we make our wishes known to the college authorities. This refusal, therefore, shows that there are, in fact, no "recognised proper channels" for us to make known our grievances. This is not the only time that we have been frustrated by the college authorities.

Whenever the student body has disagreed with the authorities, it has done so as a mass. Whenever a decision has been taken to do something, it has always been a majority decision of the students. At the college, the principal does not allow freedom of opinion for he prevented us from expressing our views.

The boycott of the graduation ceremony has not been by any secret authority. It was an expression of the feelings of the whole student body after the "proper channels" had been closed.

We have been dissatisfied with the food; and remarks that it is better than what we get at our homes have reached us. Many students have been expelled from the college on suspicion and this the students resent.—I am, etc.,

STUDENT, K.W.T.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

FORT HARE CLOSED—

NEW AGE

NORTHERN EDITION

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper

Vol. I, No. 29

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1955

PRICE 3d.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE "SECRET CAUCUS"

WITHOUT any warning, the principal of Fort Hare University called in armed police and announced last week that the university had been closed and the students sent home.

The pretext for this incredible action was that a group of students called "the caucus" was alleged to be intimidating the students. No evidence of this was given.

HERE, IN A TELEGRAM FROM PORT ELIZABETH, THE NEW AGE CORRESPONDENT GIVES THE FACTS AND BACKGROUND TO THE SHUT-DOWN.

On Friday, 29th April, students at Fort Hare University College staged a complete boycott of the graduation ceremony. As a result the Executive of the governing council decided to suspend all college activities until further notice.

These events are a reflection of the utter failure of the authorities to isolate African students from social and political trends in the country generally.

CAUSE OF BOYCOTT

The immediate cause of the boycott arose in connection with a change of rules at Elukanyisweni, the women's residence. There had for some time been tension between women students and the authorities who tended to regard the women contemptuously as school girls. There was particular anger at the attempts to prevent the men and women students from meeting normally. Until recently men were allowed to visit Elukanyisweni between five and six in the afternoon and seven and eight in the evening. Suddenly, without consultation, the rule was altered and social visits were prohibited altogether.

The women students were particularly incensed because this meant that for all practical purposes they were shut up in their hostel from six in the evening unless there was an evening function to which they were allowed

to go. The women demanded a mass meeting.

S.R.C. PROTEST

The Students' Representative Council, in accordance with college rules, requested a meeting from the University Senate and submitted an agenda as has happened on numer-

ous occasions.

PERMISSION WAS REFUSED

The students then called a mass meeting outside the college campus and there decided to boycott the graduation ceremony as a protest against the banning of their meetings.

The S.R.C. resigned as a protest against the manner in which the Senate treated its representations and thus undermined its authority among students.

(Continued on page 8)

FORT HARE CLOSED

(Continued from page 1)

Although attendance at graduation is voluntary the Senate and particularly the principal were shocked at the effectiveness of the boycott. The public and Press did not notice there was a boycott as visitors and graduates filled the graduation hall, but the principal did. He appealed to the Governing Council Executive which promptly decided to close the college temporarily.

In its statement the Council attributed the boycott to a "secret authority" influencing the students through violence and intimidation.

This is a typical statement of all authorities in South Africa to-day when faced with the reaction of Africans to unjust treatment. The truth is that since 1948 the Administration at the college have viewed the actions of the African people generally and the students in particular through the jaundiced eyes of Nationalist civil servants.

Ordinary student complaints are seen as part of the liberation struggle of the African people. Casual remarks of students are regarded as confirming evidence of sinister plots of African Nationalists and Communists to capture Africa. What in other university colleges would be dismissed as student talk is magnified by conscience-stricken authorities beyond all proportion.

OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

To counter the development of the democratic movement outside speakers have been brought in. At one such meeting, over a month ago, Moral-Rearmament men including Selope Thema were loudly booed by the students. At such meetings more often than not students are not given the chance to reply. If a speaker speaks the people's language, attempts are made to qualify and discredit his speech. The absence of genuine forums of student opinion and stifling of such meagre ones as do exist have virtually driven student politics off the campus. Meetings are openly held outside college grounds and decisions are taken there.

These meetings which take the place of those refused by the Senate are perhaps what is referred to in the sensational Governing Council statement as the "secret caucus" organisation.

SPECIAL BRANCH

This idea of secret subversive organisation probably emerges from and is certainly encouraged by special branch men of the C.I.D.

attached to the Alice police. Since early last year these have been detailed to watch the students.

Basically difficulties at Fort Hare are due to attempts to produce men who will passively accept the social forms of a decaying segregated society. The authorities are unwilling to accept the inevitability of change and are bewildered by the behaviour of those whom they regard as wards. The panic measures of the Governing Council are the only remedy they can think of.

They hope to weed out trouble-makers, but their problem goes deeper. What the college needs in its directing bodies is big men not men who approach the problem of Fort Hare as one of protecting the college by ingratiating themselves with the present apartheid government, but men of courage, imagination and purpose—men who are forward-looking and are prepared to lead the college out of the rut into which it is getting itself, to join the march of the common people the world over against racial bigotry, obscurantism and reaction, for freedom, humanism and science.

Christian Recorder

MAY 13, 1955

FORT HARE

ACCORDING to a news report, the Governing Council of Fort Hare University College plans to take "all reasonable means" to discover the names of the students responsible for the recent alleged subversion and intimidation at the College and to exclude them from re-admission when the College re-opens probably by July 1, and also decided to appoint a two or three-man Commission to look into conditions of life and work at the College. Members of the Commission would not be members of the College or the College Council.

The order of importance of the decisions seems to us to be, firstly, that an endeavour will be made to re-open the College by July; secondly, that an independent Commission will be appointed; and, thirdly, those students responsible for the incidents which led to the closing of the College will not be re-admitted, the latter being the most delicate and onerous of the tasks that face the College authorities.

It is imperative that the College should be re-opened at the earliest opportunity as a matter of prestige and interest of those students who had nothing to do with the reasons for its closing temporarily, and that academic studies should be interfered with as little as possible. It is equally imperative that disciplinary action must be taken against those undermining control, and an effort made to trace those who exercised what has been called secret authority through what is known as a Caucus; but it is of similar importance that the strictest justice must be applied in the search for the culprits, and those who have the responsibility of this task are not to be envied.

The most reassuring aspect of the Governing Council's decisions is the willingness to allow people outside the College to look into conditions of life and work there. If the Council was satisfied that the decision to close down temporarily was justified, there was no need to appoint such a Commission; but the fact that the decision has been made suggests that the Council is anxious for independent advice and welcomes it with a view to seeing if any suggestions can be made whereby the College in all its aspects can be improved for students and staff.

That may result in something which will improve well-being at Fort Hare or it may not; but it is the happiest phase of an incident that has left a note of sadness among those who have a warm regard for Fort Hare and the splendid work it has accomplished. And the note will be most poignant among the large number of educated Africans who regard Fort Hare as their spiritual home and who are to-day endeavouring to implant its traditions among their own people.

13 MAY 1955

FORT HARE MAY OPEN JULY 1

ALICE, Thursday.

THE Governing Council of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the College will be re-opened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says an official statement released here today by Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the College.

The College was closed down last week by the Council's executive committee because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy properly constituted authority.

Today's statement says the Governing Council met yesterday and resolved to confirm the action of the executive committee which suspended all activities of the College.

It also resolved to approve the following notice to be sent to parents: "It is the intention of the Governing Council to reopen the College as soon as possible and it is felt that this should be possible by July 1.

"Governing Council has the right to refuse admission for registration or re-registration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the College."—Sapa.

13 MAY 1955

OPENING VAN FORT HARE



DIE universiteitskollege vir natuurlike Fort Hare, sal waarskynlik weer op 1 Julie heropen word. Die kollege is verlede week gesluit weens die beweerde bestaan van 'n „geheime koukus” wat studente sou gedreig het en hulle sou verplig het om bevele van die beheerraad te verontagsaam.

Die beheerraad het hierdie week die studente se ouers in kennis gestel dat die kollege so gou moontlik heropen sal word en dat die waarskynlike datum 1 Julie is, berig SAPA.

Die raad het besluit om 'n kommissie aan te stel om toestande aan die kollege te ondersoek en aanbevelings insake verbeterings te doen.

13 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Might Reopen by July 1

Alice, Thursday.

THE governing council of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the College will be reopened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says an official statement released today by Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the College.

The College was closed down last week by the Council's executive committee because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy properly-constituted authority.

Today's statement says the Governing Council met yesterday and resolved to confirm the action of the executive committee which suspended all activities of the College.

It also resolved to approve the following notice to be sent to parents:—

"It is the intention of the



Governing Council to reopen the College as soon as possible and that it is felt that this should be possible by July 1.

"Governing Council has the right to refuse admission for registration or re-registration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the College.

"It is its intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the College, and for the intimidation and resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse readmission to them.

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3, owing to the fears of students then in the College. We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks. It is still unfortunately necessary to protect students, so all information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with re-admissions and will be carefully considered by that committee.

13 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Open Dalk Weer Op 1 Julie



ALICE. — Die beheerraad van die Universiteitskollege van Fort Hare sal die ouers van studente so gou as moontlik in kennis stel wanneer die kollege heropen en dat dit moontlik teen 1 Julie sal geskied, lui 'n amp telike verklaring wat gister deur prof. C. P. Dent, hoof van die kollege, uitgereik is.

Die kollege is verled' week gesluit nadat inligting van die bestaan van 'n beweerde geheime koukus wat studente intimideer, aan die lig gekom het. — (Sapa.)

13 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Sal Heropen

ALICE.—Die Raad van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare vir nie-blankes sal die ouers van studente in kennis stel dat die Kollege so gou moontlik sal heropen—moontlik op 1 Julie—lui 'n amptelike verklaring wat gister hier deur prof. C. P. Dent, hoof van die Kollege, uitgereik is.

Die Kollege is verlede week deur die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Kollegeraad gesluit, omdat daar sprake was van 'n geheime „koukus” wat die studente geïntimideer en aangemoedig het om die behoorlik-ingestelde gesag te verontagsaam.—(Sapa.)

Die Oosberig P.K.

13 MAY. 1955

FORT HARE OPEN ALLIG OP 1 JULIE

ALICE.— Die Raad van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare vir nie-blankes sal die ouers van studente in kennis stel dat die kollege so gou moontlik sal heropen, moontlik op 1 Julie, lui 'n amptelike verklaring wat gister hier deur prof. C. P. Dent, hoof van die Kollege, uitgereik is.

Die Kollege is verlede week deur die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Kollegeraad gesluit omdat daar sprake was van 'n geheime koukus wat die studente geïntimideer en aangeemoedig het om die behoorlik ingestelde gesag te verontagsaam.— (Sapa.)

13 MAY 1955

Daily Dispatch

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1955.

Sun rises 6.51 a.m., sets 5.17 p.m.

Lighting up time 30 minutes after sunset.

THE CLOSING OF
FORT HARE

We withheld comment on the closing of Fort Hare University College when the news was made public because we felt that the full facts had not been given and that it would be unfair to use the vague and unconvincing statement of the Executive Committee of the College Council as a basis for criticism. Even the rather foolish remark of the Principal of Fort Hare, made as he left by air for Cape Town, that he was puzzled by the amount of publicity given to the news, did not "draw" us. We were determined to wait for the explanatory statement that was promised after Professor Dent had seen the Minister of Education and the Governing Council of the College. No explanatory statement has been forthcoming, but the Governing Council has now issued a statement announcing that the College is to be reopened and that a commission of inquiry will be set up to investigate the conditions of life and work at Fort Hare and make any recommendations for their improvement considered necessary.

We have already said that the statement issued when the College was closed was vague and unconvincing. We repeat it now. The closing down of a University College is an exceedingly serious and drastic step to take and if there were circumstances at Fort Hare which justified such a step, it should not have been impossible to give the facts—instances and details of insubordination, threats and use of violence—supporting the decision to close the College. No such facts and details were given. The statement issued alleged the existence of a desperate state of affairs within the College, caused by some mysterious student body, but it was entirely unsubstantiated and neither the Principal nor members of the College Council would add a word of explanation. As a statement justifying the drastic action taken, it was

The reason is obvious from the statement by the Governing Council published today. This makes it quite clear that the Council hopes to collect evidence justifying its action (and its former fears) from the students who are to be readmitted. In fact, the statement might be read as meaning that only those students who are willing to give full information "about the events of the last few weeks" (and information satisfactory to the Principal) will be readmitted to the College. This, to our way of thinking, is an admission that the College Council had no hard facts to go upon when it closed the College and that it acted hastily under the influence of rumour, suspicion and fear. To say the least, this is not an illustrious example of good government.

If the Governing Council had been as satisfied with the action of its Executive Committee as its statement says, we doubt whether it would have decided to have an investigation into conditions at Fort Hare conducted by an independent commission. However, everyone interested—and particularly the students—will welcome such an investigation, for there are good grounds for the fear that the College authorities have ignored representations made to them by the Students' Representative Council, and even prohibited discussion by the student body of matters of concern to it.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

13 MAY 1955

FORT HARE MAY REOPEN ON JULY 1

Ban On Alleged Agitators

ALICE, Friday.

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL of Fort Hare University College for Non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the college will be reopened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says an official statement released here yesterday by Professor C. P. Dent, principal. The college was closed down last week by the Council's executive committee because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy properly constituted authority.

Yesterday's statement said the Governing Council met and resolved to confirm the action of the executive committee which suspended all activities of the college. It also resolved to approve the following notice to be sent to parents:

"It is the intention of the Governing Council to reopen the college as soon as possible and it is felt that this should be possible by July 1.

"The Governing Council has the right to refuse admission for registration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the college.

"It is the intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the college, and for the intimidation and resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse re-admission to them.

MUCH INFORMATION

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3, owing to the fears of students then in the college. We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks. It is still unfortunately necessary to protect students, so all information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with re-admissions and will be carefully considered by that committee.

"If we receive that co-operation and are able to open by July 1 students who have been guiltless, and those whose obedience to the boycott instructions has been their only offence, will have lost one week of instruction and the mid-year examinations which are not essential to their success. They should return to an atmosphere so much better suited to study as to more than compensate for the time lost.

EXPENSE

"Even the expense of their journey home and back will be for most, the same as the normal expense for the mid-year vacation.

"We do ask also that those bodies which award bursaries do not take immediate decisions regarding the withdrawal of their bursaries, but await the decision of the council regarding re-admission."

The council also decided to appoint a two- or three-member commission to look into the conditions of life and work at the college, and to make any recommendations for improvements.—Sapa.

13 MAY 1955

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READERS' OPINIONS

Nothing about the Fort Hare caucus

To the Editor of the
Evening Post

Sir, — The information supplied by the Governing Council of Fort Hare in its statement or circular is surely very disappointing, since it is supposed to supply facts which the whole country has been anxiously awaiting.

In fact, the most important feature of the statement is the fact that it gives no information on the very issue which is said to have been the direct cause of the close-down — namely, the existence of a caucus or secret pressure group.

No information whatever is supplied on this point, which is the crux of the matter. It is alleged that such a secret group exists, but no evidence is given to show that this is more than an allegation. When are we going to be given this necessary evidence?

The tactic of admitting students *only* if they are prepared to submit evidence that such a secret group exists is surely a form of blackmail.

It is highly undesirable, especially as there are two dangers attached to it: Students may well fabricate evidence in order to make sure of being readmitted, and the fact that this evidence will be confidential means that there will be no possibility of checking whether this evidence is, in fact, correct.

It is hard to believe that a person such as Professor Dent, whose integrity is accepted,

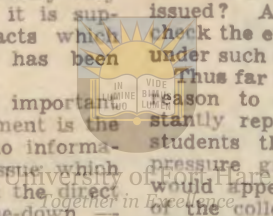
could have resorted to a device such as this.

When are we to be given evidence of the existence of a caucus—apart from the unsubstantiated statements thus far issued? And how are we to check the evidence that is given under such circumstances?

Thus far there seems to be no reason to disbelieve the constantly repeated statements of students that no such secret pressure group exists, and it would appear that the closing of the college was not merely unwise, but unwarranted.

J. E. NEWTON.

Port Elizabeth.



13 MAY 1955

Fort Hare to reopen as soon as possible

Right reserved to refuse re-registration

ALICE, Thursday.

THE governing council of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the college will be reopened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says an official statement released here today by Prof. C. P. Dent, principal of the college.

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It also resolved to approve the following notice to be sent to parents:

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"Governing council has the right to refuse admission for registration or re-registration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the college.

ALL MEASURES

"It is its intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the college, and for the intimidation and

resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse re-admission to them.

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3, because of the fears of students then in the college. We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks. It is still unfortunately necessary to protect students, so all information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with re-admissions and will be carefully considered by that committee.

ONLY OFFENCE

"If we receive that co-operation and are able to open by July 1 students who have been guiltless, and those whose obedience to the boycott instructions has been their only offence, will have lost one week of instruction and the mid-year examinations which are not essential to their success. They should return to an atmosphere so much better suited to study as to more than compensate for the time lost.

"Even the expense of their journey home and back will be for most the same as the normal expense for the mid-year vacation.

"We do ask also that those bodies which award bursaries do not take immediate decisions regarding the withdrawal of their bursaries, but await the decision of the council regarding re-admission."

The council also decided to appoint a two or three-man commission to look into the conditions of life and work at the college and to make any recommendations for improvements. The members of the commission will not be members of the college or the college council, the statement said.—Sapa.

CAPE TIMES

13 MAY 1955

FORT HARE TO REOPEN

ALICE. — The Governing Council of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the College will be reopened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says an official statement released here yesterday by Prof. C. P. Dent, Principal of the College.

The College was closed last week by the Council's Executive Committee because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy properly constituted authority.

According to the statement, it was resolved to approve that a notice be sent to parents informing them about the reopening of the College and of the Council's desire for full information from students regarding the events of the past few weeks. —(Sapa.)

13 MAY 1955

An Inquiry at Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

Alice, Thursday.

The Executive Council of the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice, plans to take "all reasonable measures" to discover the names of the students responsible for the recent alleged subversion and intimidation at the college, and to exclude them from readmission when the college reopens, probably by July 1.

This was decided at a meeting of the governing council yesterday to discuss the events at the College which led to the entire student body of 310 men and 50 women students being expelled.

The Council decided to appoint a two or three-man commission to look into conditions of life and work at the college. The members will not be members of the college or the college council.

13 MAY 1955

Fort Hare will not readmit all

ALICE, Thursday.—(Sapa).

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Today's statement says the Governing Council met yesterday and resolved to confirm the action of the executive committee which suspended all activities of the College.

It also resolved to approve the following notice to be sent to parents.

"It is the intention of the Governing Council to reopen the college as soon as possible, and it is felt that this should be possible by July 1.

Right to refuse

"The Governing Council has the right to refuse admission for registration or reregistration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the college.

"It is its intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the college, and for the intimidation and resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse readmission to them.

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3, owing to the fears of students then in the college.

Co-operation

"We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks.

"It is still unfortunately necessary to protect students, so all information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with readmissions and will be carefully considered by that committee.

"We do ask also that those bodies which award bursaries do not take immediate decisions regarding the withdrawal of their bursaries, but await the decision of the council regarding re-admission."

The council also decided to appoint a two or three-man commission to look into the conditions of life and work at the college.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Fort Hare discussed

Dr. W. F. Nkomo and Paul Mosaka discussed the Fort Hare expulsions with the Under-Secretary for Education, Mr. F. de Villiers, in Pretoria.

Mr. de Villiers said that he knew the facts about the incident but the matter fell under the Department of the Minister of Education, Science and Arts.

Dr. Nkomo requested the Under-Secretary to suggest to the authorities in Cape Town that an inquiry be instituted.

Mr. de Villiers said that even though the matter did not fall under their department, they would try to put in a word.

But he did not commit his department to any specific decision.

The working committee of the A.N.C. Youth League has issued a statement demanding the re-admission of all students to Fort Hare, and a proper investigation.

Fort Hare Closes Down

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SCIENCE, MR. J. H. VILJOEN, IN A STATEMENT IN THE ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK ON THE CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOR NATIVES AT FORT HARE BY THE COLLEGE AUTHORITY, SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL, WHICH WAS AN AUTONOMOUS BODY AND IN WHICH THE CONTROL OF THE COLLEGE WAS VESTED, THAT AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS TAKEN:—

"There has developed unmistakable evidence of the existence within the student body of the college of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the caucus whose instructions are obeyed by students, often through fear of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, rather than the instructions of the constituted authorities of the college.

"The result has been that under the influence of the caucus the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the College authorities. This has resulted in the development of a situation within the College which is destructive of freedom of opinion.

ACTION "INTOLERABLE"

"Action within the student body has become intolerable. In consequence, the Students' Representative Council has found it necessary to resign. The boycott of the graduation ceremony carried out under instructions emanating from an unauthorised meeting is another example of the influence of this caucus upon students action, and was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and to bring discredit on the college.

"Further evidence has come to light of the intention to continue what has been described as "the struggle." In view of this whole situation, and after considering a report from the College Senate, the executive committee of the Council has decided unanimously that it is

impossible to continue the work of the college under present conditions.

"The executive committee has therefore decided to suspend all activities of the college for the present, and to consider the readmission of individual students in due course."

WHY STEPS WERE TAKEN

The Minister said this resolution of the college authority was taken in terms of the Higher Education Act of 1929.

The executive committee, Council were delegated under to whom the powers of the the scheme of government, resolved to take these steps to establish proper discipline and to exercise proper control.

"I can give the House the assurance that the college will resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps have been taken to restore order" the Minister said.

Professor Dent told The Daily News last week that it was the intention of the College authorities to reopen the College as soon as possible.

"This will have to be decided by the Governing Council, which has been summoned to meet so that the whole situation can be discussed in full," he said. "One complicating fact, in the reopening of the College is that the winter vacation is so nearly the middle of June."

Professor Dent said that as the students had been expelled they would all have to re-apply for admission. None had done so yet.

'Disappointing' attempt by Fort Hare council

"The belated attempt by the Fort Hare governing council to take all reasonable measures to discover the names of students responsible for the recent alleged subversion and intimidation at the college and to exclude them from re-admission when the college re-opens is disappointing as all such efforts should have been made before penalizing most of the students and causing widespread hardship to parents and students alike," said Mr. Paul Mosaka, a former Native representative councillor, in an interview with a representative of The Star today.

"The suggestion that students who wish to return to the college must fill in a form giving full confidential information about events of the past few weeks is unworthy of the governing council," Mr. Mosaka added.

14 MAY 1950

South Africa's Non-Whites' College To Reopen

ALICE (Cape Province), May 12: The governing council of Fort Hare—South Africa's only university college exclusively for non-whites said today that the college is to be reopened soon possibly on July one.

The college was closed last Tuesday week because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and made them defy college authorities.

The college principal, Professor C.P. Dent, said in a statement today that all expelled students who wish to return will be required to give "full information" on the events which led up to the closure.—R

ITHUNGA LIDUMELE EMASUMPENI.

Ukuvalwa Kwe-Koliji Lase-Fort Hare

NGOLWESITHATHU OLUDLULE KUSIHLWA SIFUNDE IMIBIKO ESETHUSILE YOKUVALWA KWEKHOLIJI ELIKHULU LABANTU LASE FORT HARE. ABALIPHETHE KUTHIWA BATHI BALIVALA NGOBA KUKHONA UM-SHOSHAPHANSI WOMOYA OBUSA ABAFUNDAYO OKUYIWONA BEWUTHOBELE NGAPHEZU KWABAKHULU BESIKOLE.

Bathi lomoya yiwona osewubangele ukuba abafundayo bahloniphe wona kunabaphethe isikole. Baduba nomkhosi omkhulu wokuthweswa kweminyezane kwalabo abathola izi-

qu. Kabazabaya kuwona abafundayo, ngakho bathela ikholiji nabaphathi balo ngamahloni nokudelwa.

Babona ukuthi isimo sesibi ngangoba bacindezeleka u-

kusivala isikole okwamanje. Kuyobuya kubonwe kamuva ngokuvulwa kwaso.

Abafundayo bonke bathunyelwa emakhaya ekuseni ngolwesithathu sekukhandene amaphoyisa ehlome izibhamu nezipeneti amanye ephethe lezi okuthiwa ngama Bren guns.

Kodwa kakusukanga dwe-shu. Abafundayo bayakuphika konke lokho bathi kawukho lowomshoshaphansi.

ILANGA

MAY 14, 1955

Extract from
Indian Express, Madras.

14 MAY 1955

**S. A. COLLEGE FOR NON-
WHITES TO RE-OPEN**

ALICE (Cape Province), May 12.

The Governing Council of Fort Hare—South Africa's only university college exclusively for non-Whites—said today that the college is to be reopened soon, possibly on July 1.

The college was closed last Tuesday week because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and made them defy college authorities.

Inyewe Yakwa Nokholeji eFort Hare

Konyembelekile phand'apha. Abafundi bamaphepha esiLungu bothuswe kakuvela kwama gama amakhulu ephapheni abika udaba lokuvulwa kwe Ziko ekuphela kwalo le Mfundo Ephakamileyo yabanTsendu uNokoleji eFort Hare. Bonke abafundi be Koleji le bagodusiwe, inani labo lilonke ngama 400 olutsha nomthinjana. Kucaca ukuba bagodusiwe nge gunya le Qumru lakwa Nokoleji ekuthiwa yiExecutive Committee. Kufike indimbane yama Qakamba ephuma kulo

lonke ele Mpumalanga, Bofolo Cradock, Qonce nase Rini, ekuthiwa ebeze ngokuza kuqinisekisa ukuba kungenziwa monakalo wanto ngaba fundi. Bathe ke bona bakuba bexelelwe ukuba kufuneka behambile bagoduke ngoko nangoko bawuthambela umyalelo babutha okwabo bayakukhwela ku lolwe eAlice. Angene nawo amaQakamba ku lolwe abakhapha okwesithuba esithile ukuqinisekisa ukuba bahambile nyani.

UNOBANGELA:

Unobangela ke ithi iExecutive yakwa Nokoleji: "Isiseko sakwa Nokoleji silungiselele ukuba bathi ukuba bayakhalaza abafundi balinikwe ithuba lokwenjenjalo nokuba okhalazayo uyedwa okanye, bakhalaza bebokke. Lithi izikhalazo ezinjalo zisoloko zithathelwa ingqalelo. Ke ngoku kwa Nokoleji apha kuvele iQumru (caucus) labafundi eilaula into emayenziwe ngaba fundi abathi abangathobelanga babe sengozini yokuphathwa ngezandla leli qumru. Isiqhamo salento siboniswa kukuvela kwamasisiko asecaleni anje ngo kwayo nezisongelo kude kuye ekuphatheni ngezandla ngenjongo yokuba kwenziwe intando yeli qumru ziziPhathamandla zakwa Nokoleji."

Eyona nto ebonakele ngamehlo njengesiqhamo seli qumru laba fundi, ngokutsho ke kwaba Phathi, lukwayo lendibano yothweswo lwabafundi abaphumeleleyo obelu ngolwe Sihlanu umhla 6 May, 1955, UDr. Alty, umPhathi we Dyunivesiti ka Rhodes eRini nguye obe ongamele lomsebenzi ethweswa abafundi. IFort Hare le ngoku idibene ne Rhodes, iDegree zase Fort Hare zeze Rhodes Dyunivesiti. UDr. Edgar Brookes wase Natal, obekade engummeli waba Ntsundu belo kwi Ndlu ye Ngwevu eKapa, nguye obe sisithethi esiyala aba fundi.

Abafundi kwelabo icala, ekubuzwe kubo ngamaphepha-ndaba, bayaliphika eli Qumru labafundi ekuthiwa lisebenza emfihlakalweni elichazwa ngama gama amaninzi ziziPhathamandla zakwa Nokoleji, ngokuthi yi "secret authority," "pressure group," okanye "caucus." Bathi bona uNokoleji uvalwe ngenxa yokuba basuke bakwaya indibano yo thweswo laba fundi besithi benziwe kukunganeliswa ngamalungiselelo okutya nasisigqibo sabaphathi sokuba abafundi baphume baphele kumzi weentombi eFort Hare ekuthiwa yi Women's Hostel.

UmPhathi wakwa Nokoleji u Profesa C. P. Dent uphendule ngelithi abafundi basuke badlalisela ngalo elo lungelo lokuhambela, kwabonakala ukuba sebegabadele. Kusuke kwabonakala ukuba wonke umntu selehlala phaya kulomzi wamantombazana into ke leyo engenaku nyanzezelwa nakuyiphina iDyunivesiti. Uthe umPhathi uNokoleji uvalwe ngegunya le Qumru lakwa Nokoleji elingadibanangalo naliphina iSebe lakwa Rukumente ngeso sigqibo.

Abafundi ababuzwe liphephandaba bathe abazi nto konke nge li qumru lifihlakeleyo laba fundi into ekuyiyo kukulahla intambo kwe Bunga laba fundi eku-

thiwa yi "Students' Representative Council" agenxa yokuba izicelo zabafundi ezihanjiswa lilo aziviwa ngabaphathi, loo nto yenze ukuba bangathenjwa ngabo bafundi ekuthiwa bamele bona.

Umphathi wakwa Nokoleji ukhwele kwinqanawa yomoya ngolwe Sihlanu ukuya kudibana neziPhathamandla ze Mfundo eKapa ngawo lomcimbi. Xa akhweleyo uthe xa ancokola nomnye umntu wathi uyamangaliswa yindlela ebengezwe ngayo lenkathazo yakwa Nokoleji ngamaphepha-ndaba kulo lonjini lelebuyile ke ngoku umPhathi wakwa Nokoleji eKapa waye ethembisa ukuba uzakukhupha intetho enencazelo epheleleyo ngeshlo esikokelele ekuvalweni komzi wase Fort Hare.

I College Senate ibilindeleke ukuba ibidibene ngomvulo wale veki ize ilandelele yi Governing Council.

IQoqo le Teachers' League of South Africa, eyi Ntlanganiso yee Titshala zabantu be Bala, iphumeze isigqibo sokuba bonke abafundi ngebebuyiselwa kungabikho bakhethelwa ngaphandle. Lombutho uthethela egameni laba fundi be Bala abase Fort Hare.

Umbutho womzi oyi Kongresi yaba Ntsundu uthe abafundi bagxothwe kungabangakho zi charges ezicacileyo, ke ngoko icela ukuba makunyulwe iQumru lokuphanda isizekabani sale nyewe.

Lomcimbi uwonke sowufikelele ezindlebeni ze Palamente apho umPhathiswa weMfundo uMn. Viljoen afunde isigqibo se Komiti yakwa Nokoleji waza wagqibela ngelithi: "Ndiyinqinisekisa iPalamente ukuba uNokoleji uyakuvulwa kwakhona kamsinyane kangangoko kunokwenzeka kwakuba kuthathwe amanyathelo okubuyisela uwan-

gco."

Singasemoyeni sobe sive ngavo le nyewe.

ADMINISTRATION OF FORT HARE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Fort Hare University College is administered by a Governing Council to which the Government nominates four representatives, namely the Secretary for Education, Arts and Science; the Secretary for Native Affairs; the Chief Native Commissioner of the Cape and the Chief Inspector of Native Education of the Transvaal or their alternatives. Other members represent Rhodes University, the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, the Basutoland Administration, Native Secondary Education, the College Senate, the Transkeian Territories General

Council, the Churches of Scotland and of the Province of S. Africa, the Methodist Church of S. Africa and donors of sums of money to the College.

The Senate of the College is composed of both European and non-European members of the teaching staff.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1955.

THE FORT HARE DEBACLE

In the Xhosa columns of this issue we have published the reports which have reached us of the recent happenings at Fort Hare which have led to the closing of the University College. The principal, Prof. C. P. Dent, has now discussed the affair with the Minister of Education in Cape Town who has given the assurance that the College will be re-opened as soon as possible.

The case of the Authorities of Fort Hare is that discipline had collapsed as the result of the rule over the students of a certain "caucus" or "pressure group" whose aim was to compel the College Authorities to comply with its will. The Principal has not stated whether this "caucus" had been known to the Authorities for some time and why its members had been tolerated within College bounds, but he has promised a fuller statement later which may deal with the points we have mentioned. The students, on their part appear to have taken advantage of the graduation occasion to bring their complaints before the general public. They must have known that the boycott of the graduation ceremony was an act of discourtesy such as could not fail to provoke the College Authorities even though it was no breach of College rules. But whether the closing down of a University College for any reason other than the outbreak of a plague has precedence we are unable to say, as much as we are unable, at this stage, to place the blame on either of those concerned—the authorities or the students. It would appear that the relations between the Fort Hare authorities and the students have been unhappy for at least some time and that fact has led to the present debacle.

14 MAY 1955

FORT HARE INQUIRY WELCOMED BY CHIEF OF RACE INSTITUTE

WE consider that the events at Fort Hare cannot be divorced from those taking place in the country at large," said Dr. Ellen Hellmann, president of the Institute of Race Relations in a statement yesterday. "Fort Hare draws its students from a wide constituency, and they cannot be immune to the feelings and attitudes expressed by non-Europeans, particularly in urban areas.

"We have been deeply disturbed by the situation at Fort Hare, which culminated in the sudden and unexpected closing of the college. We note with reassurance that the decision arrived at was reached by an executive committee composed of both Europeans and Africans, and that this decision was completely supported by all members of the staff European and African."

In the statement which announced the temporary closing of Fort Hare the college authorities referred to the existence among the student body of a "caucus," and its intention to continue the "struggle."

This would seem to imply an association by such students at Fort Hare with the broader issues of the general "struggle" of the non-European people.

DEEPER SIGNIFICANCE

"The immediate reasons advanced by the students for the boycott seem inadequate, and the events would appear to have a wider and deeper significance, and to be an indication of the state of frustration which exists among non-Europeans.

"We consider that the isolation of Fort Hare, both geographically and as a segregated college, has contributed to an exaggerated sense of grievance on the part of the students, and a possible and understandable lack of appreciation by the authorities of the extent and full implication of the ferment among younger African intellectuals.

It was to be regretted that a

section of the students apparently allowed themselves to be intimidated and found in this attitude a correspondence to a general attitude in South Africa in which people of moderate views too frequently found themselves faced by determined and fanatical intimidating groups.

CHANGES NECESSARY

"From the facts at our disposal we consider that changes appear to be necessary, both on the part of the authorities with regard to student administration, and on the part of the students with regard to a more mature and responsible recognition of the necessary restriction on unfettered student freedom.

"We therefore welcome the decision of the authorities to set up an independent commission to inquire into the conditions of life and work at the college.

"It is certain that parents, the majority of students and of thinking African opinion, will be only too glad to assist in order that the work of Fort Hare may proceed as a university, and not as a quasi political platform."

The high rate of subsidisation of Fort Hare, and the existence of many bursaries provided by mission and other bodies were noted with appreciation. It was to be hoped that such organisations would appreciate the context of the total situation, and not withdraw their support.

14 MAY 1955

VRAE AAN MINISTER OOR FORT HARE

„Regering Gaan Hom Nie Inmeng Nie’

(Van Ons Parlementêre Beriggewer)

DIE Regering gaan hom nie inmeng in die moeilikhede by Fort Hare nie. Die Universiteitskollege se owerheid het hom die versekering gegee dat die owerheid volkome in staat is om die moeilikhede te hanteer, het mnr. J. H. Viljoen, Minister van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap, gister in die Volksraad gesê.

Mn. Viljoen het tydens die debat oor sy begrotingspos nie die sluis gelyk oor die geheimsinnige omstandighede wat tot die onlangse sluiting van Fort Hare gelei het nie. Hy het gesê dat die inrigting binnekort heropen sal word.

Die saak is deur die leier van die Arbeidersparty, mnr. A. Hepple, geopper. Toe mnr. Hepple daarmee begin, het die Minister in 'n tussenwesele ver-

jammer dat mnr. Hepple die saak geopper het.

Die Kollegeraad het verstandig en oordeelkundig opgetree toe hy besluit het om die inrigting te sluit. Naturelle is ook lede van die Kollegeraad. Dié mense dra die belange van die naturel op die hart. Enige poging om stryd in verband met Fort Hare te ontken, sal die inrigting benadeel. Spr. steun die optrede van die Kollegeraad met

soek dat die spreker nie met die saak voortgaan nie. Mnr. Hepple het egter gevra dat die Minister sy invloed moet laat geld oor die aanstelling van die kommissie deur die inrigting se owerheid, wat die omstandighede aan die inrigting moet ondersoek.

„GEHEIMSINNIGHEID’

Mnr. Hepple het verwys na die „geheimsinnige gebeurtenis” by Fort Hare en gesê dat dit belangrik is dat die Volksraad die saak bespreek. Studente organiseer by geleentheid boikotte en betogings.

Spr. vra die Minister of hy geraadpleeg is in verband met die kommissie van ondersoek na die omstandighede by Fort Hare. Die bestuursraad van die inrigting het besluit om so 'n kommissie aan te stel.

Met die oog op die ontstellende gebeurtenisse en die geheimsinnigheid — spr. het gehoor dat die polisie met Stengewere by die inrigting opgedaag het — vra spr. 'n verklaring deur die Minister.

Mnr. V. G. F. Solomon (V.P., Fort Beaufort) het gesê hy is baie

die oog op wat gebeur het.

Mn. Viljoen het geantwoord dat hy reeds 'n omvattende verklaring oor Fort Hare in die Raad gedoen het. Die raad van die universiteitskollege het die aangeleentheid baie bekwaam gehanteer.

Die hoof van die inrigting het met spr. in aanraking gekom en gesê dat die Raad en die Senaat in staat is om die situasie te hanteer.

Spr. het gevolglik gemeen dat dit, met inagneming van die inrigting se outonomie, goed sal wees om nie in te meng nie, maar dit aan die owerheid oor te laat om die aangeleentheid as 'n huis-houdelike saak te behartig. Spr. is oortuig dat die Raad en die Senaat in staat sal wees om die moeilikheid op te los.

14 MAY 1955

FORT HARE EXPECTED REOPEN SOON

Matter for Council, Says Viljoen

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—The Minister of Education, Mr. Viljoen, said yesterday in reply to questions that the Fort Hare Native University College hoped soon to reopen. As an autonomous body, the Fort Hare Council could deal with the matter as it thought fit.

That was all the information at his disposal.

The Principal of Fort Hare had assured him that the Senate and Council were amply able to deal with the situation, and, not wishing to interfere with the autonomy of the University, he (the Minister thought it much better that the Senate and Council should deal with it as a domestic matter and that it should not be dealt with over the floor of the House.

The Minister said he had the greatest sympathy for the Council together with the college.

It was a domestic affair in which the Government should not interfere.

It was preferable that bodies entrusted with the powers given under the Act should deal with such matters without interference from outside.

Mr. A. Hepple (Lab., Roseterville) had asked the Minister if he would make a statement on the events that had taken place at Fort Hare.

A COMMISSION

The latest reports said that the Executive Council of the University had decided to appoint a commission to examine conditions of life and work at Fort Hare and to make recommendations for their improvement.

He asked the Minister whether he had been consulted in connection with the appointment of this Commission and whether he was making any recommendations regarding the personnel of the Commission.

Because of the great amount of mystery in which this affair had been shrouded, the Minister should have some say in the Commission. It should not be left to the University Executive Council alone.

He had heard reports that the police had arrived on the campus of Fort Hare armed with sten guns and that students were taken to the station by the police and that the police had a special coach attached to the train which took the students home.

This was the sort of thing which received world-wide publicity.

"ACTED WISELY"

Mr. V. G. F. Solomon (U.P., Fort Beaufort) said he was very sorry that Mr. Hepple had raised the question of Fort Hare.

The executive Committee of the College Council had acted very wisely and after mature consideration of the circumstances.

It should be remembered that on the Council there were

Chief Whip of the United Party supported him.

This would not be tolerated in the British House of Commons or in Canada, Australia or anywhere else. The Minister was keeping something back.

THE MINISTER: I did make a statement.

MR. BARLOW said that all Parliament knew was that the police arrived at Fort Hare and the students were put into a train and sent home.

WANT TO KNOW

He did not say the police acted wrongly but the Parliament should know what had happened. He protested on behalf of the powers and privileges of members of Parliament against this information being kept down. The people wanted to know what had happened.

All that was known was that a commission had been set up and the Minister who was responsible to Parliament refused point blank to say anything. Parliament was not functioning when this happened.

MR. H. G. LAWRENCE: There will be no Parliament very soon.

MR. BARLOW: I protest very strongly as a constitutionalist that this should happen.

The Minister said that Mr. Barlow suffered under delusion on the Fort Hare question. He (the Minister) had made a very comprehensive statement a few days ago when the occurrence took place.

MR. BARLOW: There was nothing in your statement. You promised a statement. You have not made it.

THE MINISTER: Evidently Mr. Barlow did not pay attention.

STATEMENT

The Minister then made the statement appearing at the beginning of this report.

MR. BARLOW then asked: Why did they come to see you if it is not a Government affair?

THE MINISTER: Well, surely, I am the responsible Minister.

MR. BARLOW: Yes, and you are responsible to us.

MR. H. G. LAWRENCE (U.P., Salt River): I hope you will maintain that attitude in regard to university autonomy.

Native members as well as Europeans and the Council had the interests of the Africans at heart.

Any attempt to stir up strife because of the action of the Council would do neither the college nor the students any good.

He supported the action of the College Council because he knew that it had acted in the best interests of the college and the students.

Mr. M. Viljoen (Nat., Germiston) said the closing for Fort Hare was used by the opponents of apartheid to argue that mixed universities were better than those where only one race was present.

Dr. Edgar Brookes, an outstanding Liberal, had made a speech at Fort Hare and incitements such as this was responsible for the bad position at mixed universities and showed what could give rise to other incidents such as Fort Hare.

Such apostles of equality were in great measure the products of mixed universities.

HAVE THEIR OWN

Non-Europeans should have their own university accommodation and if this meant small beginnings, universities like Potchefstroom had begun small.

The Natives should live his own life in his own university and should learn his own ways and to contribute to their maintenance.

Mr. W. Maree (Nat., Newcastle) said some Bantu newspapers had expressed the view that the Department of Native Affairs was behind the closing of Fort Hare. That was not true. The position was as stated by Mr. Solomon.

Mr. M. C. Botha (Nat., Roodepoort), said Mrs. Suzman (U.P., Houghton) had blamed the Government for unrest at universities. At Fort Hare, what had the Government done against the students except provide them with money? Professor Brookes had made inciting speeches there.

In Natal, at an American mission college for Natives the students burnt and destroyed their buildings. What had the Nationalist Government done to incite those people who had misused educational facilities they got from oversea?

In East London, where a Catholic church was burnt down and a nun was killed, had the Nationalist Government incited them? The Natives had lacerated the hands of their benefactor. Was this not proof that Westernizing the Natives was a misplaced effort?

Mr. A. G. Barlow (Cons., Hospital) said the question had been asked why had no statement been made to Parliament on Fort Hare? The Minister made no statement but the

18 MAY 1955

'Fort Hare: Toets En Uitdaging'

DIE onlangse gebeurtenisse by Fort Hare is sowel 'n uitdaging as 'n toets, meld die Kerkbode in 'n inleidingsartikel in sy jongste uitgawe, berig SAPA.

Wit Christene by Fort Hare het 'n besondere bydrae tot die opheffing van die natuur en die kollege dra veel by tot die opheffing van die natuur en die kollege. die onderwys gelewer. Nogtans moes die inrigting die afgelepe paar jaar sy goeie trou verdedig teenoor diegene wat dit wou dien.

Onregverdigde kritiek, sedisie, rebellie en morrende ontevredenheid het 'n chroniese spanning in die inrigting veroorsaak.

AGITATORS

Daar was agitators, sowel blank as nie-blank, wat alles kon afbreek sonder vrees dat hulle iets sou verloor. Hulle kon dit doen omdat hulle self niks opgebou het nie.

„Dit is hierdie kwaadaardige gees wat elke dag vorentoe beweeg en die belangrikste dienste aan die nie-blankes onmoontlik maak,” aldus die blad.

„Vir ons as blankes is dit 'n eersterangse uitdaging en die toets bevat groot gevare. Laat ons dit voortdurend in gedagte hou dat hierdie agitators slegs ten volle in die duister ken seëvier as ons swig voor die versoekings en ons helpende hand aan die nie-blankes te onttrek. Ons moet hierteen waak, want ons sou dan die kroon op die kwaad plaas wat teen ons gesmee word,” sé die Kerkbode.

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

16 MAY 1955

FORT HARE SURPRISE

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

"The incidents at Fort Hare came like a bolt out of the blue; we heard nothing about the trouble before it took place and we have heard nothing since the University College was closed down," said the Rev. S. M. Mokitima, principal of the Osbourne Native Institute, in an interview at the Healdtown centenary celebrations, near Fort Beaufort, which ended last night.

Basutoland News

17 MAY 1955

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FORT HARE COLLEGE CLOSING



In connection with the temporary closing of Fort Hare College for Natives in consequence of the undesirable influences of a secret authority sometimes referred to as the caucus, within the college, a special meeting of the governing council was called.

On this council are four Union Government representatives, delegates from three universities, the churches and the Basutoland Administration. The Basutoland delegate on the governing council of the Fort Hare University College is the Director of Education in Basutoland, Mr. D. H. Creed-Newton, M.B.E.

17 MAY 1955

The closing of Fort Hare

Sir,—“The Natal Witness recently published an article on the closing of the non-European University at Fort Hare.

It was suggested that the action taken was due to certain subversive elements which were interfering with the proper administration of the institution. At the same time it was pointed out that the closure was only of a temporary nature and that in due course applications for re-admission would be considered.

But surely either every student had been corrupted by this Communistic element, or only some of them have been affected. If that is the case, the question naturally arises as to why was it necessary to penalise the whole student body just to punish a few?

Obviously, both the ringleaders and their followers must have been known to the authorities, otherwise there would have been no mention of re-admitting anyone.

It is true that the graduation ceremony was boycotted by students, but my information is that the boycott was for reasons other than those which appeared in the Press. In point of fact, I may go so far as to state in my inquiries to ascertain exactly what took place at the University that I have interviewed, at different times, two students quite unknown to each other. These students were emphatic that the so-called “secret caucus” was nothing more than eye-wash.

They pointed out that early in the new year approaches were made to the principal asking for a general meeting. Notwithstanding the fact that the regulations provide that when more than 20 per cent. of the student body requisition a general meeting, such meeting shall be convened by the principal, the requisition was turned down and the meeting was not held.

Actually, nearly every student had signed the requisition, but, as already indicated, no action was taken by the authorities concerned. Meanwhile, every effort was made to appeal to higher authorities; needless to say, with abortive results.

At the same time, however, the students were informed that no meetings would be allowed within the premises, but they were at liberty to carry on whatever discussion they chose outside the University's boundaries.

It was as a result of such lack of co-operation and frustration that the students conducted one or two meetings outside the University to discuss the situation which had been created and which was developing unchecked by anyone. At no time was there a question of a “secret caucus,” much less threats of violence to anyone.

Under the circumstances, it is difficult to accept the suggestion of “subversive elements” and “dark decisions” being taken at secret caucus meetings. But it is still more beyond the bounds of credibility that the authorities concerned, having carefully considered all the circumstances and delivered their verdict, in the next breath should concede that their action had inflicted an unnecessary injustice on certain students, and that in point of fact applications for re-admission would be subjected to closer scrutiny with a view to minimising action which, on their own admission, should never have been taken.

In conclusion, one can only say it should have been quite a simple matter to dispose of the ringleaders and their followers without jeopardising the interests of loyal students.

P. A. JAMES.

17 MAY 1955

Criticism Of Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, Monday.

The efforts being made by the Fort Hare authorities to discover the names of the students responsible for the recent alleged subversion should have been made before penalising the majority of the students, said Mr. Paul Mosaka, a member of the former Natives' Representative Council, in an interview.

"The suggestion that students who wish to return to the college must fill in a form giving full confidential information about events of the past few weeks is unworthy of the Governing Council," Mr. Mosaka added.

17 MAY 1955

REGERING SAL NIE INMENG MET FORT HARE

(Van Ons Parlementêre Beriggewer)

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Die saak is deur die leier van die Arbeidersparty, mnr. A. Heppel, geopper. Toe mnr. Hepple daarmee begin, het die Minister in 'n tussenwerpsel versoek dat die spreker nie met die saak voortgaan nie. Mnr. Hepple het egter gevra dat die Minister sy invloed moet laat geld oor die aanstelling van die kommissie deur die inrigting se owerheid, wat die omstandighede aan die inrigting moet ondersoek.

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University of Fort Hare
Greater in Excellence

Fort Hare Closing Condemned



University of Fort Hare

T.L.S.A. DEMANDS IMMEDIATE RE-OPENING

"The Executive of the Teachers' League of South Africa, on behalf of the organisation, wishes to voice the strongest protest against the arbitrary closing of Fort Hare University College and, moreover, against the involving of the police force against the students," says a statement issued by the League on Saturday.

"The T.L.S.A. regards the explanation advanced for this drastic step as being not merely inadequate but also equivocal to a degree which suggests that the real reasons are to be found else where, possibly in some collusion between the College authorities and the Bantu Education Division of the Native Affairs Department.

"The T.L.S.A. demands the immediate re-opening of Fort Hare and the unconditional re-instatement of all the students without victimisation."

TORCH

FORT HARE STUDEN BLACKMAILED

Nat. Government's Trust In Dent And Company As "Bantuisers"

CAPE TOWN.—The victimisation of the entire student-body at Fort Hare University College continues. Continuing the police methods they have used from the beginning, the College authorities are now trying to turn students into common informers or stool pigeons. They are being promised re-admission in return for "full information about the events of the past few weeks", all such information being "confidential". As an encouragement to those open to this sort of blackmail, the Executive Council claims that it already has "information impossible to obtain on May 3, owing to the fears of students then in the college..." It probably has no more information than it could get out of the handful of boycott-breakers, plus what has been scavenged by certain Non-White members of the Senate. But willingness to help the Council to draw up a blacklist is being used as a sign that a student is susceptible to a process of "bantuisation".

CONDITIONAL RE-OPENING BY JULY 1st

After Dent had reported to Viljoen, Verwoerd and Co. on how he had carried out the first part of the operation, he declined to make any Press statement. According to *Die Burger*, however, he intimated that the "trouble" was internal and that there was no suggestion of outside (political) influence. This would, by implication, put the blame upon the utter incompetence of the College authorities. They may well be incompetent, but that is certainly not the whole explanation for the victimisation of an entire university and the witch-hunting which is now under way. It is probably only a part of the covering-up of the main political reason for the purging of the

College. The *Herrenvolk* newspapers have also been at pains to make it clear that there are Non-Whites on the Senate who were a party to the decisions. [It is well known that Dent's strongest supporter is the vice-Principal, Z. K. Matthews. According to the *Imvo*, Matthews was fellow-doorkeeper with Dent to see that none except graduands and their friends plus the boycott-breakers were present at the Graduation Ball.]

Pressure on Parents

The Executive Council has issued a letter to parents in which it enlists their support if they want their offspring to continue their studies. They are, in effect, being asked to

(Continued on page 8)

Blackmailing Students (continued)

use their influence to turn their sons and daughters into trap-boys. The opening on or before July 1 is made conditional upon the Council's getting information to compile its blacklist.

In order to soothe such parents as turn their wrath against the Senate and Council, the astonishing claim is made that the students won't miss much by the close-down, anyway: "If we receive that co-operation [from stool-pigeons—Ed.] and are able to open by July 1, students who have been guiltless and those whose obedience to the boycott instruction has been their only offence will have lost a week of instruction and the mid-year examination, which are not essential to their success"! And then follows the sinister promise: "To return to an atmosphere so much better suited to study will more than compensate for the time lost".

Full Confidence

In the House of Assembly, on Friday, Viljoen, Minister of Education, University of Fort Hare
Togelosen in Ekurhuleni said that it would be better if the Fort Hare affair were not "dealt with over the floor of the House". He said that "he had the greatest confidence in the disciplinary measures that the Council and Senate would take". (*C. Times*, 14.5.55.) The Government, which has interfered in the internal affairs of every University in the country, now suddenly claims that it would rather not interfere with the domestic affairs of Fort Hare! And this is despite the fact that it is alleged to be an institution strongly under "Liberal" influence. Obviously, they have confidence in Dent and Co. because they are doing a job of work in line with the Government's whole "Eiselen education" policy. There is no other reasonable explanation for this sudden coyness about interference in the internal affairs of a University, especially when it comes in the same week as Viljoen made it clear that there would soon be new measures to effect University *apartheid*.

The *Herrenvolk* Press has observed a total black-out on the storm of protest which the Fort Hare scandal has aroused from Non-Whites of all political opinions throughout the Union.

THE
Fort Hare
Incident.

A NATIVE'S OPINION.

Commenting on the closing of Fort Hare University College, the Bantu correspondent of the Mercury writes:—

The news of the closing of Fort Hare came as a great shock to many. It is tantamount to a tragedy. Signs had not been wanting that matters, radically dangerous to the College were in existence and that discipline was being undermined. The fact that Fort Hare had a committee or meetings which discussed and passed resolutions on political matters was to be deprecated. Recently, when the Principal, Prof. C. P. Dent, opened a meeting of the Ciskei Bunga, in his address he spoke approvingly of the reclamation of the Native Reserves, he received a letter from this body requesting him to withdraw the statement—as reclamation and a limitation of stock was against the best interests of the Bantu, they said.

The statement made in the House of Assembly by the Minister of Education, Mr. J. H. Viljoen, that Fort Hare would soon be re opened, was most welcome.

On another subject the same correspondent writes:—

Dr. D. D. T. Jabavu, who is chairman of the Ciskei meeting of chiefs and people, and his two secretaries, N. B. Zondeki and C. A. W. Sizila, are doing the Native people a great injustice in not summoning meetings at a time when there are so many things awaiting their lead. Former leaders in the Cape—J. Tengo-Jabavu, Dr. Rubusana, M. Pelem, Ben Mezwi and others, did not allow the A.N.C. to dominate in these parts—as their policy was aggressive.

19 MAY 1955

Fort Hare Events A "Challenge"

Commenting on recent events at Fort Hare Native College, Die Kerkbode, organ of the Dutch Reformed Church, says in an editorial that they are a challenge and a test.

At Fort Hare, White Christians had done much for the uplift of the Natives. Fort Hare had made an exceptional contribution in education.

Despite this, it had in recent years to defend its good faith against those it wanted to serve.

Unfair criticism, sedition, rebellions and ~~rumblings~~ dissatisfaction had created chronic tension around the institution.

WITHOUT FEAR

There were agitators, White and non-White, who could turn everything upside down without fear of loss because they had never built anything up themselves.

"It is this malevolent spirit which moves forward every day and eventually makes the most important services to the non-Whites impossible.

"For us Whites this is a first-rank challenge and test that contains great dangers," the journal says.

"Let us continually keep in mind that these agitators can only succeed fully in their dark game if we succumb to the temptation to withdraw our helping hand from the Non-European. Against this we must guard, especially as we would then be placing the crown on the evil which is being forged against us."

18. Mai 1955

Geheimbünde und kolonialpolitischer Kurs in Afrika

Die Mau-Mau-Bewegung ist bekanntlich ein Geheimbund; er ist nicht der erste und einzige in Afrika und wird es auch kaum bleiben. Es wird als ein Glück bezeichnet, daß der Mau-Mau-Terror sich auf die relativ friedliche Agrargruppe der Kikuyu beschränkte und nicht auf die kriegerischen Nachbarstämme übergriff. Diese Stammes- oder Landschaftsexklusivität war auch fast all den früheren afrikanischen Geheimbewegungen eigen, die hier nicht alle aufgezählt werden können. Kundige Beurteiler bezeichnen einen «panafrikanischen Nationalismus», wie ihn ängstliche Europäer befürchtet haben, als vorerhand unwahrscheinlich.

Gerüchte aus den afrikanischen Urwäldern haben jedoch immer wieder von gefährlichen nächtlichen Zusammenkünften und antieuropäischen Bündnissen wie etwa den unheimlichen «Leopardenmenschen» berichtet und bei Landeskundigen Befürchtungen hervorgerufen. Solche Konventikel waren aber nicht nationalistisch oder antieuropäisch, sondern eher magisch-religiös oder nüchtern soziologisch orientiert. Geheimkulte wie Wudu oder Dschudschu sind typisch afrikanisch und erwachsen meist aus den Umständen des Gemeinschaftslebens.

Einen gesamtafrikanischen Zusammenschluß haben sie nie erstrebt, wie einige Beispiele illustrieren. Der Nabingi-Kult, welcher den belgischen Kongo beunruhigt hat, konzentrierte sich auf geheiligte weiße Schafe (vermutlich verknüpft mit dem Ziegenopfer der Fetischisten) und diente sicher rein afrikanischen Zwecken, die Viehzüchtern wertvoll erschienen. Als er — ausnahmsweise! — über die engeren Stammesgrenzen hinausdrang, kam er bald zum Erlöschen. Zweckbedingt war auch der Utschapi-Geheimkult in Nyassaland und Nordrhodesien. Er benutzte Flaschenamulette gegen Zauberer und hatte offenbar das Ziel, Afrika von einem eingewurzelt Fluch zu befreien, der aus Albert Schweitzers Berichten bekannt ist: der Tyrannei des Zaubereiuwesens. Dieser Kult hat mehrere afrikanische Sprachgebiete erfaßt und gezeigt, daß gemeinsame Zwecke auch über Stammesgrenzen hinweg eine afrikanische Zusammenarbeit fördern können. Dasselbe gilt vom nordrhodesischen Kult des Mwana-Leza, d. h. «Kind Gottes». Es war ein plumper, aber bemerkenswerter Versuch, christliche Ideen mit dem einheimischen Zauberdoktor- und Fetischwesen zu verschmelzen und Schädigungen durch Zauberei zu begegnen, ähnlich wie der Bao-Dai-Kult in Viet-Nam.

Tänze und Musik wurden von anderen Geheimorganisationen gepflegt, so der ostafrikanischen Malimpenga- oder Mampenga-Bewegung. Sie kam nach dem Ersten Weltkriege auf, als die Einheimischen mit der Blasmusik englischer Kolonialtruppen bekannt wurden. Die Malimpenga versuchten eine Imitation der europäischen Blasinstrumente mit geschickt hergestellten Kürbischachmungen, die afrikanische Musik in europäischem Rhythmus produzierten und die Tänze begleiteten. Bei solchen Bündnissen handelt es sich um lokale oder regionale Erscheinungen bzw. um das Bestreben, europäische «Magie» nachzuahmen.

Ihr Hintergrund bildet jedoch keine gesamtafrikanische Negerbewegung, für welche die Voraussetzungen und vor allem das Zentrum in Afrika fehlt. Afrika zählt hundertfünfzig Bantu- und zahlreiche andere Stämme und ist ethnisch zersplittert. Das Herz des Gemeinschaftslebens ist überall der Dorf- oder Dorfredeplatz, wo die «Palaver» stattfinden. Was dort besprochen und vereinbart ist, wird von den Negern als Gesetz befolgt. Was aber nicht auf dem Dorfredeplatz beschlossen, sondern von einer Kolonialverwaltung mehr oder minder aufoktroiert wird, ruft leicht Mißverständnisse und Widerwillen hervor. Aus kundigen Missionskreisen wird in «World Dominion» den Herren europäischen Distriktsbeamten empfohlen, dieses ABC der Afrikakunde zu beachten. Der Kontinent bestehe aus lauter kleinen sozialistischen Republiken ohne gemeinsame Mitglieder. Nur existiere noch kein «Zentralsowjet». Die stammesunabhängige Missionsgründung besteht das College für eingeborene Studierende in Fort Hare (Kap-Provinz), dessen künftige Auswirkung noch nicht sicher abzuschätzen ist — aus dem aber ein künftiger zentraler «Redeplatz» erwachsen kann; denn Verwaltung und Studierende des Instituts befolgen den Grundsatz, «miteinander zu reden». Eine Kette ähnlicher Schultreffpunkte ist im Entstehen begriffen, wenn die Auswahl verantwortungsbewußter Lehrkräfte nach obigem Prinzip auch schwer ist.

Außer den Schulungszentren lenkt unsere Quelle die Aufmerksamkeit auf andere Treffpunkte hin, wo ein einhelliges gesamtafrikanisch-europäisches Gespräch zu stimulieren sei. Es sind die großen Industriesiedlungen in Kimberley, dem Rand- und Katangagebiet, im nordrhodesischen Kupfererzrevier, bei den Lupa-Goldfeldern in Tanganyika und in Kakamega (Kenya). Hier, wo vielstämmige Scharen von Afrikanern zusammenströmen, seien gemeinschaftsbildende Ansatzpunkte gegeben. Welche Themen gemeinsam besprochen werden sollten, und ob Verwaltung und Afrikaner verständnisvoll «miteinander reden» wollen, wie in Fort Hare, wo schwarze und weiße Gesprächspartner sich zusammenfinden, hänge von den Aktionären und Direktionen der verantwortlichen Industrie ab. Denn nach «World Dominion» beruht die ganze altafrikanische Redeplatztradition seit Generationen auf gesundem Menschenverstand und geduldiger Diskussionsbereitschaft. Es leuchtet daher ein, wenn jenes Urteil aus Missionskreisen zu dem Schluß kommt:

«Es ist nicht schwer, heute ein Bild von den Untertönen im afrikanischen Gespräch zu gewinnen, wenn wir nur an diesem Gespräch teilnehmen. Der Afrikaner beginnt, für sich selbst zu reden und beweist darin viel gesunden Menschenverstand und Klugheit, worauf wir bauen können — falls wir ihm auf dem Redeplatz mit Klugheit und gesundem Menschenverstand begegnen.» Angesichts des Zerfalls des Kolonialismus ist eine solche Stimme sicher hörensenswert, wenn sie beim selbstbewußten Europäer Gehör findet. «Die Konsuln mögen zusehen, daß das Gemeinwohl keinen Schaden erleide», gilt heute für Kolonialmächte ganz besonders.

Bantu Opinion On

Fort Hare

THE 'Bantu World' commenting on the closing down of Fort Hare University College, says that all look forward with great anxiety to learn the exact cause of the trouble at a "college that has done so much for us" for the past forty years.

The paper deplores the closing down even for a short time "However genuine the reasons for showing dissatisfaction, pa-

rents are shocked to see their children come home in the middle of a term. Sending them back to Fort Hare will mean additional expense to them. They are always happy when their children's career begins, continues and ends without unpleasant interruptions."

The paper suggests parents should take the initiative to find out for themselves just how things go on at Fort Hare, and that parents' associations might ask for leave to conduct their own private inquiry with a view to giving more direct assistance to the College authorities in their by no means easy task of imparting academic information to and moulding the character of future African leaders.

Dr. J. M. Nhlapo at the end of an article on the school boycott emphasises the importance of the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry, and says one of Fort Hare's most outstanding graduates has asked to be associated with such a need.

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

INYEWE YAKWA NOKOLEJI E FORT HARE

(Seyiqalile)

Kwelanga phambili lomhla we 14 besithe singasemoyeni sobe sive ngayo le nyewe. Ngo-ko umPhathi uProf. Dent wayethembise ngokuthi kuyakube kuvakale ngawo lomcimbi kwi-veki elandelayo. Into evekeleyo ke nebhengeziweyo kumaphepha-ndaba sisigqibo se Qumru Elilaulayo lase Fort Hare esasilixelile nalo kwela ngaphambili ukuba lingoo banina. Lithe eliqumru liyavumelana nesenzo se Komiti Elaulayo eyayigqibe ukuba avalwe uNokoleji. Lithe ke linalo igunya lokuvumela nelokwalela abafundi ukuba ba-buyele njengokuba kugqitywe ukuba bonke bazakucela indawo esikolweni eso ngokutsha. Lithi phambi kokuvulwa kuka Nokoleji kuzakwenziwa imizamo yokuwafumana amagama abafundi ekuthiwa ngabona baphembelele ukudaleka kwe qumru laba fundi elilaula abafundi ngokuchasene nenkqubo yakwa Nokoleji, aba kuthiwa boyikisa abanye babanyanzelele ekubeni badele imithetho yeSikolo. Lithi iQumru Labalauli selinexhelo elizifumeneyo kwa ngoku. Lithi kuyakufuneka aba fundi abanqwanela ukuphinde-la eSikolweni baxele konke abakwaziyo ngezinto ezenzekayo kwisithuba seeveki zangaphambili. Lithi liyaqonda ukuba kusafuneka ukuba abafundi abaxelileyo bakhuselwe ke ngoko intetho yabo iyakufihlwa. Lithi ukuba abafundi bancedisene nalo liyathemba ukuba uNokoleji uyakuvulwa kwakhona ngomhla wo 1 July, 1955.

Kukho ikomiti ezakonyulwa yamadoda amabini nokuba mathathu eyakuphanda ngentlale nangomsebenzi wakwa Nokoleji ize yenze iziyalezo zayo ngen- to emayenziwe ukuhlaziya imeko. Kuthiwa ke amalungu ale Komiti ayakuba ngabantu abazimeleyo abangezizo iititshala okanye amalungu eQumru labalauli. (Imbono zomHleli ngalomcimbi zibonakala kwimihlathi yomHleli kweli lanamhlanje.—Umhleli).

UMTHUNYWA

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1955.

AN UNFAIR STIPULATION

The latest development concerning the recent Fort Hare affair is the decision of the Governing Council to re-open the College on the 1st July, on condition that the students will co-operate and furnish "full information about the events of the past few weeks" with the assurance that "all information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with readmissions." We cannot quarrel with the requirement that full information be furnished by the students regarding recent events at Fort Hare but we are not convinced that it was at all necessary to close down the College just in order to obtain this information which we believe could have been obtained while the students were still in residence and the dissident elements dealt with on the spot. The College, we believe, is intended to train men and women who are going to hold responsible positions as future leaders of the community and who should be able to take full responsibility for their convictions and actions. We regard the stipulation that those who offer to give information about other students should do so in privacy as definitely unfair unless it is assumed that the majority of the students fall within the definition of the alleged "pressure group" in which case the continued existence of the College would be unjustified. There is nothing to hinder the wily informer who wishes to get into the good books of the authorities from making untrue or exaggerated allegations against other students when he is himself in no better position. We believe that any information conveyed should be properly vouched for under the signature of the informer. If that is not done it appears to us that a premium is being placed on moral cowardice for so-called College men and women whose status will thus degenerate to that of

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Both wrong at Fort Hare

Sir, — It would be a pity if the advice given by Mr. D. A. Brutus in the Evening Post recently did not get to all Fort Hare students, present and future, namely, that they should remember that to us non-Europeans they are far too important to get themselves expelled for any excuse.

It is all very well talking about matters of principle, with all the smart university catch-phrases, but those students who will now never be re-admitted to Fort Hare are a tragic loss to us today.

They should remember that while they are at Fort Hare for only four years at the longest, quite a number of the staff have been there for 30 years. They cannot be reasonably expected to acquiesce to the ever-changing fancy and mood of passing generations of students.

But what of the Governing Council of Fort Hare? The entire education world must be shocked that the principal of a university college and his colleagues could issue such a statement about the conditions for the re-admission of students. It is an insult to educationists the world over. It shows clearly the littleness of the administration of Fort Hare.

The conditions should convince even a blind bat that all is not well with this mass expulsion.

EX-FORTHAREAN.

Port Elizabeth.

BANTU STUDENTS' DISCONTENT

Background To Troubles At Fort Hare College

By A Special Correspondent

THE groping and the searching that are a perverse part of contact between the African and the European mind in Africa have been brought dismally home by disputes over the past few weeks in the field of education in South Africa.

Early this month the public were suddenly informed that all of some 360 students at the University College of Fort Hare for non-Europeans in the Eastern Province were being sent home and the college was to be closed temporarily (a subsequent announcement said that it might be reopened by July).

Some 30 students have been expelled from a missionary technical college for Africans in southern Natal for staging an "uprising"; and on parts of the Witwatersrand in the Transvaal there has been a running engagement between African parents and the Government over the inception of the new system which installs the Government rather than various Churches as the foster-father and overseer of primary Bantu education.

THE features common to all these separate events is that no one has been able or willing to say exactly what has happened.

Those who try to pick out facts are left with a feeling of trying to play the piano with gloves on. They cannot get their hands cleanly to any keys.

Allegations of subversion, intimidation, or victimisation fly to and fro, and it is hard to make out whether African protests or boycotts are spontaneous or are cultivated by threats of violence from their own people.

Very probably the Africans themselves could not say, as they do not know which of a babble of voices to listen to.

EVENTS at Fort Hare College may not have been as tragic as some imagine, but there is every sign that the patience of the staff there, whose members are both European and African, was tried too far.

The executive committee of the governing council declared that a secret, unauthorised, and even menacing student authority or "caucus" had taken root, destructive both of discipline and freedom of opinion among the students.

As a consequence the Students' Representative Council, the students' official mouth-piece, decided that it might as well resign; and, states the committee, "there was further evidence" of the intention to "continue the struggle."

The culminating incident which decided the governing authorities to close the college and consider the re-admission of each student individually was a boycott by the students of the graduation ceremony at the end of April.

THE boycott was a gesture, a slap in the face for the upholders of cap and gown at the one place in South Africa where Africans, Indians, and Coloured people study alone — a significant point.

It could not be ignored inside the college and should not have passed unnoticed

outside, even though Fort Hare does lie among distant hills and is not placed in one of the large centres of the Union.

The march of events outside the college, and beyond the control of the staff, has steadily built up an atmosphere not quite like the trustful relationships of old. Professor C. P. Dent, the Principal, who first joined the staff in 1922, would probably be the first to agree, sorrowfully, that this is so.

NOT that the students at Fort Hare agree with the description given by the governing council. "There was no such thing as a caucus," said one African student.

The root of the trouble, he went on, was that the students did not have enough freedom and opportunity to express their views to the staff. They were treated almost as if they were at school.

The Students' Representative Council resigned because it felt it could not voice the views of those whom it represented. At the end the male students were prohibited from going to the women's common room as they wished, and when a request was made for a mass meeting to protest about this and other grievances, permission was refused.

So far from there having been intimidation among the students, he added, there had been victimisation by the staff in dealing with the students. Names went on a black list "in the familiar way."

THIS last remark, irrespective of whether it is true or an exaggeration, was significant.

It illustrated that this is no simple dispute arising fortuitously at one university but is a voicing of the "anti-White" state of mind of the educated African, an overflow from the political beaker in the Union as a whole.

The educated African believes that the dice will be loaded against him after he leaves university, and he reacts accordingly while still at university.

He may show no interest in qualifying in sciences, such as agriculture and forestry, of which his own people stand in great need; but he still believes that opportunity is closed to him.

FORT HARE college is segregated in two ways.

First, in conformity with academic apartheid, the students are all non-Europeans; and secondly, their college happens to be removed from any big town where the ordinary bustle of affairs might take their minds off their grievances.

The words of a writer in The Natal Daily News shed a significant light.

"It is perhaps unfortunate that Fort Hare grew up where it did. Although this valley, with its horizon stretching to the Amatola Mountains, is a beautiful one, the dead hand of the past lies too heavily upon it.

"This burden is not lightened by the austerity of missionary tradition, the isolation from the rich and varied culture of a city, the overpopulation and hopelessness of the surrounding Ciskei, or the severity of climate.

"The tensions and conflicts that disturb African education everywhere are here magnified beyond normal proportions."

The Fort Hare Incident.

DISCUSSION DEVELOPES IN PARLIAMENT

The closing down of the University College of Fort Hare was raised again on the Education Vote in the Assembly last week by Mr. Hepple, the member for Rossettenville, against the express wish of the Minister (Mr. J. H. Viljoen). Here are the essential points in the discussion which followed.

The Chairman: Order! The matter cannot be discussed as it is sub judice.

Mr. Hepple: No, Mr. Chairman, it is not sub judice at all.

Mr. Barlow: How can it be sub judice?

Mr. Hepple: May I briefly state what the position is? On the 5th of this month we had a startling Press report that the Police had taken over Fort Hare University because there was supposed to be a secret society there and a secret caucus operating, and that the principal had felt, in the interests of good order and control of the University that he should close down the University. It was closed down and the students were sent home. The principal of the University flew to Cape Town and had discussions with the Minister of Education, and then returned to the University. The Executive Council of the University then met and discussed the question of sending a letter to the parents of all the students explaining to them the circumstances that led to the closing of the University and stating what they required of the parents in order that the University should be opened again.

The Minister was given permission to make a statement in this House in which he said that the University would resume its activities at the earliest possible date after the necessary steps had been taken to restore order. As far as the public generally knew and, from information I have, as far as the students knew, there was order at the University; there was no such thing as disorder. At Fort Hare University, like universities in every part of the world, the students occasionally organised boycotts and protests and demonstrations, and apparently they had boycotted a graduation ceremony. However, I do not want to go into all the details. I want to come to the latest position, and that is what I want to take up with the Minister. The latest report which appeared in the Cape Argus last night was to the effect that the Executive Council of Fort Hare University met and took certain decisions: firstly, to confirm the actions of the Executive Committee which suspended all activities of the College; secondly, to approve of the letter to be sent to the parents; and, thirdly—and this is the important one that I want to discuss with the Minister—to appoint a two- or three-man commission to go into the conditions of work and life at the College and to make any recommendations for their improvement. The members of this commission will not be members of the College or the College Council. I want to ask the

side of the Government because of the fact that this sort of thing gets world wide publicity, especially as a non-European University is concerned. It is in the interests of South Africa as well as in the interests of students that the greatest amount of publicity should be given to it and that the best possible men should serve on the commission proposed by the Executive Council of Fort Hare. I do not want the Minister to go into details, but I hope that he will make some statement in this connection to this Committee this afternoon.

Mr. V. G. Fenner Solomon: I am very sorry indeed that the hon. member for Rossettenville (Mr. Hepple) raised the question of the closing of Fort Hare and that he did not accede to the request of the Minister not to deal with that subject. I myself intend to respect the Minister's wishes, but I do feel that I am justified in pointing out, even at this stage—and I feel sure that the Minister will not disagree with what I have to say.....

Mr. Barlow: Why should it be kept quiet?

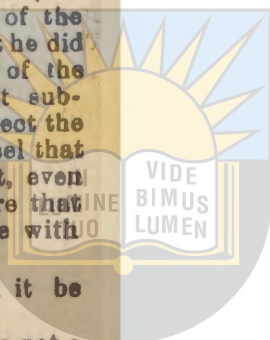
Mr. Fenner Solomon: It is not a question of keeping it quiet, why do you not keep quiet for a change. This is a matter in which the Executive Committee of the College Council acted very wisely, I think; they acted judiciously and after mature consideration in view of all the circumstances which had arisen. On that Council there are Native members as well, and we know perfectly well that as far as Fort Hare is concerned the Executive and the University Council have the interests of the Africans at heart. If ever anybody had those interests at heart, then these are the men. I am satisfied, and I want to assure this Committee that any attempt which is now being made to stir up strife because of the actions of that Council, will do the College no good at all. I feel that I am therefore justified in rising for these few seconds to support very strongly the action of the College Council in view of what has taken place, and in view of the fact that I know that they act in the best interests, not only of the Council themselves but of the students whose interests they attempt to serve.

Mr. Barlow: A question has been asked in this House by the Leader of the Labour Party why it is that no statement has been made in Parliament about Fort Hare. The Minister refused to give us a statement. The Chief Whip of the United Party is evidently supporting the Minister. That cuts right across the powers and privileges of Parliament. If anyone should know what is going on, it is Parliament. This sort of thing would not have been tolerated in the British House of Commons or in Canada or anywhere else.

The Minister of Education, Arts and Science: I did make a statement.

Mr. Barlow: Why did they come to see you if it is not a Government affair?

The Minister: Surely I am the responsible Minister. I am grateful



University of Fort Hare
in Excellence

Minister whether he has been consulted in connection with the appointment of this commission, and whether he is making any recommendations as to the personnel of this commission. I do not think that it should be left to the Executive Council of the University alone to decide who is to be on the commission to look into this matter. I want to say that not only this Parliament and not only those affected at the University are interested in this, but I think that everyone who is interested in education would like to know what is happening there and what are the reasons that have led up to this state of affairs. I think that because of the great publicity that has been given this matter, and also because of the fact that the Police had to take control of the University—and I have reports that the Police arrived on the campus with Sten guns and the students were led to the station by the Police and the assistance of the Railway Police was used; and the Police actually had a special coach on the train on which to take these students home—because of all that we should have some clarity on the matter. I think it has assumed national importance. It has caused a great deal of worry on the

to the hon. member for Fort Beaufort (Mr. V. G. Fenner-Solomon), who agrees with me that the University College of Fort Hare should be placed in the position where it can solve its own domestic difficulties. I am convinced that the Council and the Senate are fully able to solve the difficulty.

Extract from
HINDU, Madras.

26 MAY 1955

FORT HARE UNIVERSITY



1964. CAPETOWN, May 25.

Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans at Alice in the eastern Cape Province—South Africa's only full non-European University—hopes to reopen on July 1. But it will screen all its students.

The University was closed abruptly a few weeks ago by the college authorities who alleged that a secret "caucus" of students was imposing its will on the University by threats and intimidation and that the position was becoming intolerable.—PTI.

27 JUN 1955

Inquiry into Fort Hare

Daily News Correspondent

ALICE, Monday. — A commission of inquiry has been established by the Fort Hare Non-European College at Alice to inquire into "the life and work" at the college, from which the entire student body of 350 youths were expelled last month.

The college will re-open on Friday and normal classes will be resumed on July 4, it was officially announced to-day.

Students denied readmission will be given the right of appeal and a final decision will then be made by the College's Governing Council.

The commission will be under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duminy, of Pretoria. Other members of the commission have not yet been appointed.

READMISSIONS

In a statement announcing the establishment of the commission, Professor C. P. Dent, the principal, said all the applications by students for readmission had been considered by the Executive Committee of the Senate, and the Council had authorised the readmission of all students recommended by the committee.

"Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate admission will be notified of the charges against them and given the opportunity to answer them after which their cases will be reported to the Council for final decision," he said.

"A commission is being appointed to investigate the conditions of life and work in the college, and to make recommendations for their improvement."

Professor Dent said the Council and Senate of the College regretted "the circumstances which made necessary the temporary suspension of the activities of the College."

"We trust that students will return in the right spirit and make proper use of the opportunities provided for them, in which they will receive all the assistance we can give."

The statement was sent to the parents of all students.

Extract from
SOUTH AFRICA, London.

28 MAY 1956

DEEPER MEANING TO FORT HARE? Institute of Race Relations Thinks So

"We consider that the events at Fort Hare cannot be divorced from those taking place in the country at large," said Dr. Ellen Hellmann, president of the Institute of Race Relations in a statement issued last week. "Fort Hare draws its students from a wide constituency, and they cannot be immune to the feelings and attitudes expressed by non-Europeans, particularly in urban areas."

In the statement which announced the temporary closing of Fort Hare the college authorities referred to the existence among the student body of a "caucus," and its intention to continue the "struggle."

This would seem to imply an association by such students at Fort Hare with the broader issues of the general "struggle" of the non-European people.

"The immediate reasons advanced by the students for the boycott seem inadequate, and the events would appear to have a wider and deeper significance, and to be an indication of the state of frustration which exists among non-Europeans.

"We consider that the isolation of Fort Hare, both geographically and as a segregated college, has contributed to an exaggerated sense of grievance on the part of the students, and a possible and understandable lack of appreciation by the authorities of the extent and full implication of the ferment among younger African intellectuals."

28 JUN 1955

Studente Mag Terug na Fort Hare

ALICE. — Die hoof van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare vir nie-blankes het 'n brief aan die ouers van die studente gestuur waarin hulle meegedeel word dat alle aansoeke om hertoelating deur die uitvoerende komitee van die senaat van die kollege oorweeg sal word en dat die hertoelating van al die studente wat deur die komitee aanbeveel is, toegelaat sal word.

Dié studente wat nie vir onmiddellike hertoelating aanbeveel word nie, sal van die aanklagte teen hulle in kennis gestel word en aan hulle sal 'n geleentheid gegee word om hulself te verdedig. Die universiteitsraad sal dan finaal oor die saak besluit.

'n Kommissie onder die voorsitterskap van prof. J. P. Duning sal aangestel word om die lewensomstandighede en die werk in die kollege te ondersoek en om aanbevelinge ter verbetering daarvan te doen.—(Sapa.)

28 MAY 1955

Students receive Fort Hare circular

STUDENTS of Fort Hare University College and their parents this week received separate circulars from the principal, Professor C. P. Dent. The circular to students, dated May 24, is marked "confidential."

The circular to parents, dated May 25, says before the College is re-opened the intention is to discover the names of students who have been responsible for pressure groups within the College, for intimidation and for resistance of proper authority.

These students will not be re-admitted.

Information

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3 (the day before the closing), owing to the fears of students then in the College," the circular to parents says.

"We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks."

The confidential circular to students asks for full information about "boycotts and other acts calculated to undermine discipline in the College during 1955".

'Strictly confidential'

It asks students to divulge the names of those "who have threatened or abused other students, who were not in agreement with decisions taken at student meetings, as being 'sell-outs.'"

The circular to students adds: "A considerable amount of information . . . is already available. It is hoped that your full co-operation and confidence . . . will make it possible for the College to resume activities on July 1, under conditions which will enable the College to function properly.

The principal assures students that the information they supply will be treated as "strictly confidential."

28 JUN 1955

RE-ADMISSION OF STUDENTS AT FORT HARE

THE principal of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans has sent a letter to parents of students, saying that all applications for re-admission have been considered by the Executive Committee of the University Senate, and that the re-admission of all students recommended by the committee has been authorised, states Sapa.

Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate re-admission will be notified of the charges against them. They will be given the opportunity of answering the charges. Their cases will then be reported to the University Council for final decision, the letter said.

The College was closed down on May 4 because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy the properly constituted authorities.

Party Representative

28 JUN 1955

Queenstown

FORT HARE TO BE RE-OPENED



ALICE, Tuesday.

Nearly all the students who were expelled from Fort Hare University College when it was closed by the Executive Committee of the College Council on May 4 will be re-admitted when the new term opens in July. Classes begin on July 4.

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Those students whose re-admission has not been granted are to be notified of the 'charges' against them and they will be given the opportunity to answer them. A commission is being appointed under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duminy to investigate conditions at the University.—Sapa.

28 JUN 1955

College may not take 2 back

Two Fort Hare University College students from Port Elizabeth are known to have received letters from the college telling them their applications for readmission were "thoroughly unsatisfactory."

Most of the students from Port Elizabeth received letters that they were to be admitted to the college.

Earlier, students were sent circulars asking for full information about boycotts and other acts calculated to undermine discipline in the college. This information was to be treated in confidence.

The college reopens on Friday, July 1. It was closed on May 4 because of the alleged existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy the properly constituted authorities.

No concession forms

The two students whose applications were described as unsatisfactory, received no concession forms to return to college.

One letter said: "Your letter of ... June, is thoroughly unsatisfactory. As a student of Iona House you have been specifically warned of the danger to your career involved in the type of action taken by the students in that hostel.

"Yet in spite of this warning you joined in similar action taken by the students against the college.

"What have you to say to this charge?"

The student denies any charges against him and has written saying so.

Those who can return to college received concession forms and a circular from the principal, Professor C. P. Dent, saying:

"You are being admitted to the college, but if you are to return in the right spirit you should recognise the seriousness of the action taken by you in taking part in the disturbances organised by the students.

'Discredit to college'

"These disturbances were deliberately designed to bring discredit to the college and to embarrass the Senate and the principal.

"It was a direct violation of the pledge given and now repeated on your form of application for admission, which is the basis of your contract with the college.

"If it should become apparent that you were among those more deeply involved, the right is reserved to refer your case for further consideration by the Discipline Committee.

"We trust that the college will reopen in a new spirit and that we will be able to complete a successful year of work."

29 JUN 1955

Fort Hare lifts ban on some

Alice, Monday.

THE principal of Fort Hare University College for Non-Europeans has sent a letter to parents of students saying that all applications for re-admission have been considered by the executive committee of the University Senate, and that the re-admission of all students recommended by the committee has been authorised.

Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate re-admission will be notified of the charges against them.

They will be given the opportunity of answering the charges. Their cases will then be reported to the University Council for final decision, the letter said.

A commission would be appointed under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duming to investigate the living conditions and work in the college and to make recommendations for their improvement if necessary.

The college was closed down on May 4 by the Governing Council's Executive Committee because of the alleged existence of secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy the properly constituted authorities.—Sapa.

1 JUN 1955

Inquiry sought at Fort Hare

The Argus Correspondent

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

JOHANNESBURG, Wednesday.
— Students' representatives of the University College of Fort Hare have called on the authorities to institute a commission of inquiry on which students are represented, to investigate the students' grievances, according to a statement from the Non-European Students' Representative Council.

They ask also that all students be readmitted to Fort Hare without renewal of application.

And the people ask: "Why was Fort Hare closed down?"

YES, now as some kind of false climax in this drama of Bantu Education, comes the closing down of Fort Hare, the first Non-European University College in the Union.

The drastic decision to close down the College came just after the students had decided to stay away from the College's Graduation Ceremony in protest against the food and a new regulation that men students should only visit women students at a certain time and only "on business." Many students considered that preparation for marriage was serious business.

DRAMA

But there is a background drama to this story. For a long time now the principal of Fort Hare has always felt that there was a "pressure group" among the students intimidating student opinion.

In 1949 the students decided to boycott the cinema in the nearby town of Alice because of alleged unfair treatment. This boycott went on successfully though the Principal felt that some students really preferred to attend the shows; they only feared being beaten up by a group of students.

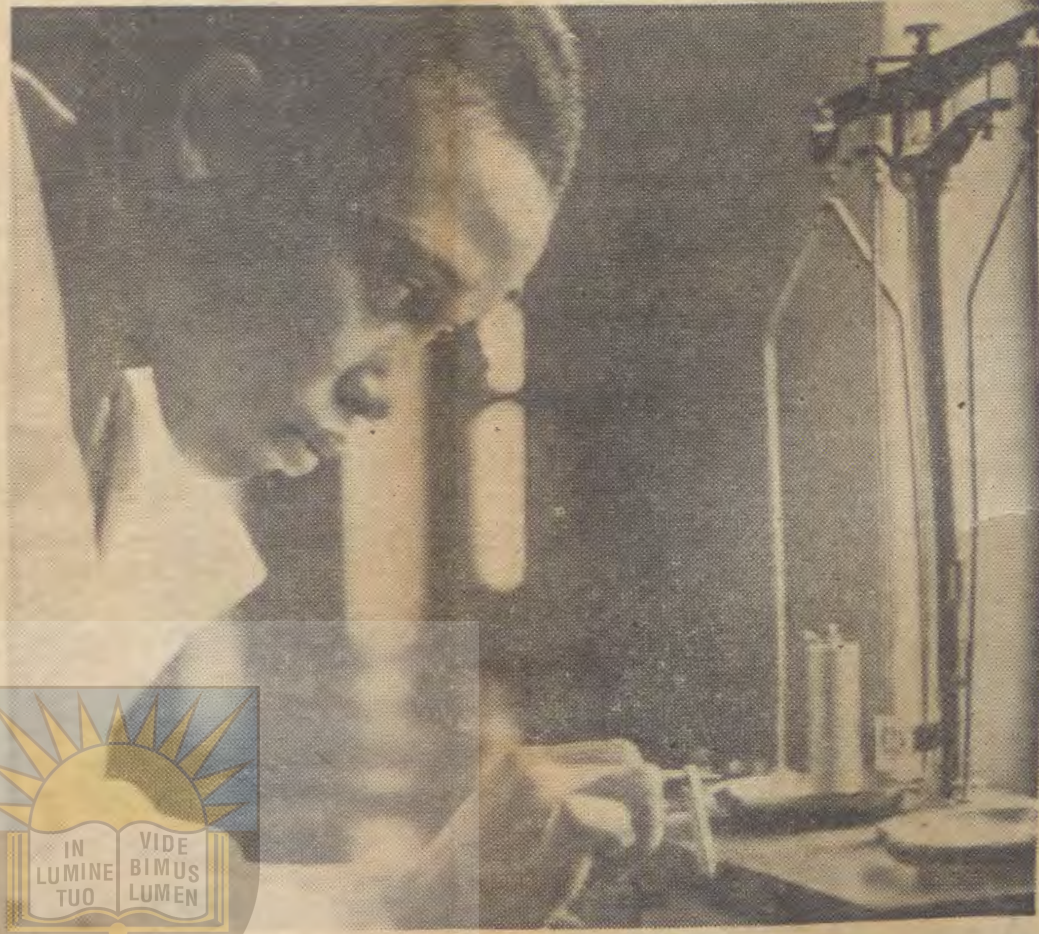
On a certain night, however, the film version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" was due to appear at the bioscope. This film evoked considerable interest among the students, and many indicated that "boycott or no boycott," they intended to go to see the film. But rumours quickly spread that those who meant to go would be "lynched."

STONE ATTACK

After the film show, as the students were going over the bridge they were suddenly attacked by unknown persons. Men and women students were pelted with stones, and they fled in panic. "We could not see our attackers," says one of DRUM's informants. "For one thing it was dark; for another we bolted in all directions. By a roundabout route I got back to our hostel.

"No. I can't say we were definitely attacked by students. Often before, students have been attacked by boys from Ntselamanzi, the location about a mile outside Alice.

On another occasion in 1950, the Governor-General, Mr. Brand van Zyl, decided to visit Fort Hare. On the night before, the Principal announced the fact that every student was expected to attend. After



A month ago we published the story of the youngest Fort Hare student, 14-year-old Patricia Jobodwana (above). Now she is at home again already.



University of Fort Hare Together in Excellence



A last look at Fort Hare. Will this student be allowed to return?

supper on the same night, the men students met in front of the Dining Hall to "lament the death of a Natives' Representative in the Union Senate, and to keep a minute's silence."

But during the meeting somebody yelled, "Why worry about our representative; what about the man who has recently made such derogatory statements about Africans in London!"

There was an uproar, and various voices shouted that they would not attend the Governor-General's visit.

Only a handful of students attended the following day, and the day after a number of students were fined £1 each by the Discipline Committee for not attending.

This year students raised the perennial Fort Hare complaint that the food was not good enough. This issue charged the atmosphere, until came the regulation about visiting women students. Graduation Day was forthcoming and some students planned to boycott it.

BOYCOTT

The night before graduation they secretly met at Sandile's Kop—a hill with an imposing tower erected to the memory of Dr. Stewart, a great Lovedale missionary, outside the grounds. There, in the dead of night, they decided to boycott the Graduation Ceremony.

On the Friday, Graduation Day, only a few undergraduates attended. The principal decided that they would not have a Graduation Ball in consequence, but the graduates went to plead with him, at least to allow them to have their dance.

The principal asked them to undertake that no undergraduates would be allowed to

attend it, but they could not promise that. However, he allowed the graduates to have their dance, and paraded himself outside the hall to make sure that no undergraduates attended.

The next Tuesday night students noticed a large contingent of police around the premises, apparently guarding the College. There was a hushed silence over the whole College, and every student moved in an atmosphere of gnawing anxiety.

POLICE ESCORT

The following morning the students assembled as usual in the Christian Union Hall. After the morning service the principal said that it was not for him to make an announcement, but he advised every student to visit the Notice Board.

On the board the students found instructions that all students had to return to their hostels, pack up all their belongings and leave for home in four hours. Further details of times at which trains were available were furnished.

The police escorted the students to the station and all the way to their home towns.

Meanwhile the principal has made a report to the Minister of Education, and a question has been asked in Parliament regarding the closing down of the College.

But the country waited in breathless anxiety. The impression had definitely been given that there was a dangerous, secret body at work in Fort Hare. Parents were worried, students trembling in fear, and some organisations were clamouring for a public inquiry and the re-opening of Fort Hare. And the public was asking: "Are the gates closing for ever on Education for Africans?"

1.111 1955

Fort Hare lessons seen

MANCHESTER. — Referring to the re-opening of the Fort Hare University College today, the Manchester Guardian expresses the hope that "some lessons have been learned, and not at all on one side."

"Some thoughtful comments are made by Dr. Ellen Hellman, president of the South African Institute of Race Relations, in the June issue of Race Relations News.

"The trouble, she thinks, springs from the general racial situation.

"Resentment against the trend of developments in South Africa has tended to turn into resentment against authority as such."

"When higher education is run on apartheid lines, racial friction between students and the authorities is, as the Americans say, 'built in.'

"In view of the growing racial tension in the Union, it was almost to be expected that the natural fellow-feeling of the students, severed as they are from all contact with the European students, should have hardened into a subterranean organisation of some kind.

A seed-bed

"It is perhaps significant that this trouble should have broken out in the only fully-segregated institution of the lot and indeed it is hardly conceivable that it should have occurred in the 'open' universities.

"If the Nationalist zealots get their way, and succeed in concentrating non-European higher education in self-contained institutions in spite of the difficulties outlined by the Holloway Commission, will they not be preparing a seed-bed for a whole crop of such trouble?"—(Sapa-Reuter.)

Hoër Onderwys vir Naturelle

TERWYL verteenwoordigers van die naturellestudente aan Fort Hare aandrings op 'n ondersoek na toestande in die kollege, meen ons dat die owerheid gerus aan hul versoek kan probeer voldoen. So 'n ondersoek moet vanselfsprekend 'n breër terrein bestryk as die „griewe" wat die naturelle ondersoek wil hê.

Oor 'n lang tydperk reeds vind daar periodieke uitbarstings plaas in inrigtings vir gevorderde naturelle-onderwys, en baie dikwels gaan dit met geweldpleging gepaard. Die jongste gebeurtenisse in Fort Hare het tot die baie drastiese stap van tydelike sluiting van die hele inrigting geleid. Op die oog lyk die reaksie van die kollege-owerheid buite verhouding tot wat oor die aanleiding bekend gemaak is, naamlik die ontstaan van 'n nie-amptelike organisasie onder die studente wat onder meer vir die boikot van 'n gradeplegtigheid verantwoordelik was. Geen oomblik wil ons te kenne gee dat die kollege-owerheid hom te buite gegaan het nie. Wel wil ons te kenne gee dat die owerheid meer weet en meer vermoed as wat hy aan die publiek bekend gemaak het. Of die plan van die owerheid is om later meer lig op die saak te gooi, weet ons nie. Maar alles in ag genome, glo ons dat daar 'n goeie saak vir 'n

ondersoek deur 'n buitestaande kommissie is, voor wie almal getuigenis kan aflê.

Dit het reeds heeltemal duidelik geword dat die hoër naturelleonderwys vraagstukke oplewer wat in die hoër onderwys vir blankes nie aanwesig is nie. Dit is ook ten oorfloede duidelik dat hierdie vraagstukke dikwels tot ontstellende gevolge lei. Juis omdat ons 'n tydperk ingaan waarin verwag moet word dat hoër opleiding vir naturelle aansienlik sal uitgebrei is, die tyd geleë om deurtastend na te gaan in watter mate bestaande inrigtings (die ondersoek hoef nie tot Fort Hare beperk te wees nie) en bestaande opvattinge voldoen aan die eise van hoër naturelleonderwys.

Ons bedoel hierdie aanmerkinge in geen opsig as kleinerend nie. Ons naturellebevolking, en bowenal natuurlik diegene wat hoër onderwys ontvang, verkeer in 'n oorgangstydperk wat uiteraard ontwrigtend op die gemeenskap sowel as die individu moet inwerk. Hoe meer lig gewerp kan word op die netelige taak van die onderwys in sulke omstandighede, des te beter vir alle betrokkenes. Daarsonder loop ons gevaar dat die hoër onderwys, wat bedoel is om vir die natuur 'n seën te wees, vir te veel van hulle 'n hinder in plaas van 'n hulp in die lewe word.

[2 JUL 1955

FORT HARE IS A LESSON TO BOTH SIDES

. . . U.K. PAPER

MANCHESTER, Friday.

REFERRING TO THE re-opening of the Fort Hare University College, which is expected to take place today, the "Manchester Guardian" expresses the hope that "some lessons have been learned, and not at all on one side."

Some thoughtful comments are made by Dr Ellen Hellman, President of the South African Institute of Race Relations, in the June issue of "Race Relations News."

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

"The trouble, she thinks, is at bottom not local to the college; it springs from the general racial situation.

"'The Resentment', she says, 'against the trend of developments in South Africa has tended to turn into resentment against authority as such.'

"When higher education is run on apartheid lines, racial friction between students and the authorities is as the Americans say, 'built in,'" says the "Manchester Guardian". In view of the growing racial tension in the Union, it was almost to be expected that the natural fellow-feeling of the students, severed as they are from all contact with the European students, should have hardened into a subterranean organisation of some kind.

"It is perhaps significant that this trouble should have broken out in the only fully-segregated institution of the lot and indeed it is hardly conceivable that it should have occurred in the "open" universities.

"If the Nationalist zealots get their way, and succeed in concentrating non-European higher education in self-contained institutions in spite of the difficulties outlined by the Holloway Commission, will they not be preparing a seed-bed for a whole crop of such trouble?"—Sapa-Reuter.

2 JUN 1955

FORT HARE INQUIRY URGED

University of Fort Hare

Johannesburg. Wednesday. —Representatives of students of the University College of Fort Hare have called upon the authorities to establish a commission of inquiry, with students represented, to investigate the students' grievances, says a statement from the non-European Students' Representative Council.

They ask also that all students be readmitted to Fort Hare without renewal of application.—Sapa.

CAPE TIMES

1 2 JUL 1955

FORT HARE REOPENS

Cape Times Correspondent

EAST LONDON.—Fort Hare University College at Alice reopened on schedule yesterday after being closed down for some weeks on the order of the College authorities, and students were returning to the institution.

The Registrar said studies would be resumed on Monday. It was customary, he said, for the College to open on the Friday before a term began and to begin academic activities on the following Monday.

“All is quite normal here and the indications are that the majority of the students will be back by Monday,” he said.

2 JUL 1955

Fort Hare College Reopened on Schedule

Fort Hare University College, at Alice, reopened on schedule yesterday, after being closed down for some weeks on the order of the College authorities and students were returning to the institution in the normal fashion.

The Registrar told the Daily Dispatch in a telephonic interview that studies would be resumed on Monday. It was customary, he said, for the college to open on the Friday before a term began and to begin academic activities on the following Monday.

"All is quite normal here and the indications are that the majority of the students will be back by Monday," he said.

The names of the members of the Commission appointed to inquire into the work and life at Fort Hare University College were released today. They are Professor J. P. Duminy (chairman), Professor M. C. Botha and Dr. Edgar Brookes. The Commission will begin work at the College on July 11.

Professor Duminy is principal of the Pretoria Technical College.

L 2 JUL 1955

Students return to Fort Hare

THE first students at Fort Hare University College, Alice, since the college was closed on May 4, arrived there yesterday from all parts of the Union. The bulk are due to arrive over the weekend. The college opens officially on Monday.

The Principal, Professor C. P. Dent, told the Herald yesterday that it was not possible at this stage to say exactly how many had been enrolled and how many had been refused readmission.

"Secret society"

The college was closed as it was alleged that a students' "secret society" was hostile towards the university authorities.

Students left Alice while police stood by in case of incidents. They were told they would have to re-apply for entry to continue their studies. The Herald's East London correspondent reports that the university reopened on schedule.

After being closed down, the college authorities and students were returning to the institution in the normal fashion.

The Registrar said studies would be resumed on Monday.

It was customary, he said, for the college to open on the Friday before a term began and to begin academic activities on the following Monday.

Fort Hare students re-apply

From Our Correspondent

DURBAN, Friday. — Depending on the co-operation of the students who wish to return, it is hoped to reopen the University College of Fort Hare on July 1.

The students have been asked to supply full information about the events which led to the expulsion of the entire student body of 310 men and 20 women a month ago.

The first applications for re-admission in response to circulars and enrolment forms sent to students and their parents last week have been received by the college.

The circular makes it clear that the college can only be opened on July 1 under conditions which will enable it to function properly.

Those students who are held responsible for pressure groups within the college, for intimidation and for resistance to proper authority will not be readmitted.

A special committee will carefully deal with all the applications.

3 JUN 1955

Day set for opening of Fort Hare

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN, Friday. — College authorities hope to reopen the University College of Fort Hare on July 1.

The opening will depend, however, on the co-operation of students in giving information about the events which led to the expulsion a month ago of the entire student body of 310 men and 20 women.

The first applications for re-admission in response to circulars and enrolment forms sent to students and their parents last week have been received by the college.

The circular makes it clear the college could be opened only under conditions which would enable it to function properly.

PRESSURE GROUPS

Those students who are held responsible for pressure groups within the college for intimidation and for resistance to proper authority will not be readmitted.

Students have now been asked to give information confidentially about boycotts and other acts calculated to undermine discipline during 1955.

The two- or three-man commission to be appointed to look into conditions of life and work at the college is not expected to be appointed until after the college reopens.

3 JUN 1955

THE NATAL DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY,

FORT HARE REOPENING IS POSSIBLE ON JULY 1

Daily News Reporter

ALICE, Friday.

DEPENDING on the co-operation of the students who wish to return, in the form of full information about the events which led to the expulsion of the entire student body of 310 men and 20 women a month ago, it is hoped to re-open the University College of Fort Hare on July 1.

The first application for readmission in response to circulars and enrolment forms sent to students and their parents last week have been received by the College.

The circular makes it clear that the College could only be opened on July 1 "under conditions which will enable it to function properly." Those students who are held responsible for pressure groups within the College, for intimidation and for resistance to proper authority, will not be re-admitted. Students have now been asked to give information, confidentially, about "boycotts and other acts calculated to undermine discipline during 1955."

MUCH INFORMATION

The circular says the authorities already have much information which it would have been unjust to get before the day of the closing because of the fears of the students then in College. A special committee will carefully deal with all the applications for re-admission.

I was to-day taken over the College by Sir Fulque Agnew, the Registrar. The College lecture rooms and laboratories had to be unlocked. The hostels have been empty since May 4, and at this time of the year students would have been studying hard for their mid-term examinations. Now these examinations for those re-admitted will have to be waived.

COMMISSION

The two- or three-man commission to be appointed to look into conditions of life and work at the College is not expected to be appointed until after the College reopens.

The University education at Fort Hare costs students £75 a year. Of this sum £35 goes to tuition, £10 to the hostel, £5 for examinations and only £25 towards the dining room.

It seems clear that if the students want a more varied menu—and this in the past has been one of the grievances—the dining

JUL 1955

FAREWELL TO
FRIENDS

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

These Fort Hare University students shout hurried last-minute farewells to friends and relatives before the East London-bound train, which carried them back to Fort Hare to continue their studies, steamed out of the Port Elizabeth railway station last night.

All the 15 Port Elizabeth students who were dismissed with the rest of the students early in May, were on the train.

Fort Hare readmits all City students

A FORT HARE University College student last night evaded questions about the possibility of future trouble at the university, saying he thought that if the college authorities co-operated with the students and agreed to discuss problems which might arise, relations would run smoothly in the future. He declined to comment further.

He said that dissension had arisen originally when the college authorities refused to discuss certain privileges that had been withdrawn from the students.

He was one of the 15 Port Elizabeth students who were returning to Fort Hare last night.

All the Port Elizabeth students have been readmitted, although two of them are known to have received letters from the college telling them that their applications for readmission were, "thoroughly unsatisfactory."

A young woman student said that the feeling among the 15 Port

Elizabeth members of the college was that they were very sorry about the trouble and that they were very pleased to be returning to Fort Hare to continue their studies. She did not think there would be any further incidents.

The college was closed on May 4, because of the alleged existence of a secret student body which intimidated students, and was reopened on Friday, July 1.

The university has been closed for 58 days since the decision by the authorities to dismiss the 364 students.

During the period the university was closed, circulars were sent to parents stating that it was the authorities' intention to discover the names of students who had been responsible for intimidation and for resistance of proper authority.

These students would not be re-admitted. After they applied for readmission most of the Port Elizabeth students were notified that they had been accepted.

THE CAPE ARGUS

4 JUL 1955

150 Fort Hare students back



The Argus **Correspondent**
University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ALICE, Monday. — Only about 150 of the 320 students who were expelled from Fort Hare University College two months ago were present when classes were resumed to-day.

Most of the absentees were unable to obtain train bookings and will arrive at the college within the next few days.

A small number of others, however, are known to have been refused readmission.

THE QUESTION: HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL BE RE-ADMITTED TO . . .



This is the University College of Fort Hare. The question now is how many of the 360 students who were sent home when the college was closed down temporarily will be readmitted?

FORT HARE

Natal S.R.C. Protests

A REQUEST to the Fort Hare authorities to re-admit all students without their having to make fresh applications is made in a statement issued by the Non-European Students' Representative Council at the University of Natal.

The statement says: "We, the Non-European Students' Representative Council, University of Natal, strongly protest against the action of the Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare in the closing down of the college, thus instituting another serious inroad into the meagre and already crumbling education of the vast majority of the South African population.

"After interviewing no fewer than 40 'present' and 50 past students of Fort Hare, we have gathered the following salient facts which throw light on the incident:

Food Boycott

"1. The long-existing dissatisfaction among the students on the question of diet culminated in a successful boycott of the dining-hall in 1954 during the principal's absence.

"This was peacefully settled by the authorities, and a better diet was instituted. Upon the return of the Principal the quality of the food again deteriorated.

"On several occasions after this the students made legitimate requests for a better diet. These were ignored.

"2. For reasons not known by the students, police have consistently intruded into the college premises.

"3. As a result of these and other numerous complaints, the students, through the S.R.C., requested a general meeting. The Principal refused the holding of any meeting on the college premises.

"The students, as a body, then met outside the college ground. At this meeting the students decided, among other things, that all students other than graduands (those who have passed their examinations but have not yet been capped) and members of the S.R.C. should absent themselves from the graduation ceremony. This, the students hoped, would draw the attention of the authorities to their grievances.

"4. In view of these facts, it is surprising that:

"(a) The resignation of the S.R.C. should have been interpreted as having been due to the student body superseding the S.R.C.

"(b) The Principal should have conceived of the existence of the pressure group or the so-called 'caucus,' of which none of the students interviewed had any knowledge.

"Carcass"

"We gather, however, that a goat, which had been consumed at Sandile's Kop by students of one house, who were celebrating a sporting victory, was frequently referred to as the 'carcass.' The students believe that the word 'caucus' as used in the principal's statement probably originated from this incident.

"To the best of our knowledge no university has ever been closed in the face of even far greater problems of student-authority relationships. Is it not possible that pressure was brought to bear upon the university authorities from other quarters?"

"As a result of this pressure the students are now being made secret informants on one another.

"In the best interests of the education of the non-European, and the good name of the University College of Fort Hare, we call upon the college authorities:

"(a) To re-admit all the students without renewal of application.

"(b) To institute a commission of inquiry, on which students will be represented, to investigate the students' grievances.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

WHAT MR. DENT DEMANDS FROM THE STUDENTS

IN a circular to all students, Professor C. P. Dent, Principal of Fort Hare, says it is hoped that the college may be reopened on July 1.

All students who wish to return to Fort Hare — they were sent home on Wednesday, May 4 — must apply for readmission.

"In addition," the circular continues, "you are required to send a letter with your application form giving as much information as you can about boycotts and other acts calculated to undermine discipline in the college during 1955. In particular you are asked to state:

"(a) Whether you attended the graduation ceremony on April 29, 1955;

"(b) If not, why you did not attend;

"(c) If you did attend, whether you were given permission to attend and by whom;

"(d) What you know about unauthorised meetings of students held inside or outside the college grounds, how they were convened and conducted and how were decisions reached. This information should include the meetings held on Thursday afternoon, April 28, 1955, and on the night of Friday, April 29, graduation day, on the side of Sandile's Kop;

"(e) If the conduct of hostel and other authorised meetings has been in accordance with the normal rules of procedure, and if a fair hearing has been given to all those who wished to participate in the discussion;

"(f) Any names of students who have threatened or abused other students who were not in agreement with decisions taken at student meetings as being 'sell-outs' or similar terms.

What Parents Were Told

IN a letter to parents of students, the Principal of Fort Hare, Professor C. P. Dent, says that the Governing Council has the right to refuse admission for re-registration to any student if it considers that it is in the interests of the college.

"It is its intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures, to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the college and for the intimidation and resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse re-admission to them," the letter continues.

"It is still unfortunately necessary to protect students. As all information will be treated as strictly confidential by the committee appointed to deal with re-admissions and will be carefully considered by that committee.

"If we receive the co-operation and are able to open by July 1, students who have been guiltless and those whose obedience to the boycott instruction has been their only offence will have lost one week of instruction and the mid-year examinations, which are not essential to their success, and should return to an atmosphere so much better suited to study as to more than compensate for the time lost.

5 JUL 1955

The reopening of Fort Hare

IT is good to know that Fort Hare University College has reopened and that the great majority of students have been readmitted. For if there is one thing that will in the long run redound to the benefit of the non-European people, and indeed to the vexed South African problem of race relations, it is education, and more particularly the higher education which Fort Hare provides. It may be that the racial segregation in which that institution's students live and work leads to a certain frustration and, generally, to states of mind to which non-European students at the Witwatersrand and Cape Town Universities are less exposed.

At the same time they should remember that their degree courses at Fort Hare are no whit inferior to those provided at other universities, and that they are being afforded the same opportunities to develop their minds, to expand their intellectual horizon, and later to take their place among the leaders of their people. In this connection we hope that we shall not be accused of lack of sympathy with their natural aspirations if we advise them—as indeed we do advise students of all races—to put first things first. Let them first qualify for the serious business of life, which is to earn a living for themselves and to be of service to their community. When once they have achieved this end, then, and only then, should they cast their eyes on whatever political goal may be in their minds.

5 JUL 1955

Expelled Men Go Back

(The Friend Correspondence)

DURBAN, Monday.

ONLY about 150 of the 320 students who were expelled in a mass expulsion from Fort Hare University College two months ago, were present when classes were resumed today.

Most of the absentees were unable to obtain train bookings, and will arrive at the college within the next few days. A small number of others, however, are known to have been refused readmission.

The 150 students in residence arrived on the campus during the week-end and settled down quietly in the dormitories. The resumption of classes today were reported to have been "quiet and normal".

The entire student body was expelled from the College in May after boycotts and other incidents had been staged by some of the students, allegedly under the influence of a seditious organisation known as "The Caucus".



5 JUL 1955

RESIGNATION OF FORT HARE PRINCIPAL SOUGHT

'Militaristic attitude deplored'

(From Our Correspondent)

EAST LONDON, Monday.

A RESOLUTION calling upon the governing council of Fort Hare University College to obtain the resignation of the Principal, Professor C. P. Dent, was passed at a conference of the Cape African Teachers' Association held in Queens-town recently. The reasons given in the resolution were that Professor Dent sought to impose on university men and women military discipline and demanded unquestioning obedience to authority rather than calling for self-discipline.

The resolution said that Professor Dent had no faith in the non-European students' ability to assume responsibility in and to uphold the moral and intellectual standards of a university college.

The resolution condemned the action of the Fort Hare authorities in closing the college as being "precipitate and unwarranted," and the sending of the students home under police escorts as "most reprehensible and outrageous."

'Smokescreen'

The conference agreed that the alleged existence of a secret pressure group or "caucus" before which both staff and students were helpless was nothing more than a "smokescreen" and the immediate and unconditional re-admission of all students dismissed from Fort Hare since the suspension of the activities of the college was demanded.

The conference will exhort all non-European people to take an active interest in and keep a watchful eye on the administration of Fort Hare and to protect the rights of the students.

Die Westerke Stew

6 JUL 1955

Potchefstroom

Universiteit Vir Nie-Blankes Sal Heropen

'n Tyd gelede is **sensasie** verwek toe die owerheid van die Fort Hare-Universiteit vir nie-blankes gesluit is omdat opstandiges onder die studente die voortsetting daarvan deur daardie liggaam gedwarsboom het. Nou het die hoof die brief aan die ouers gestuur waarin hulle meegedeel word dat alle aansoeke om hertoelating deur die uitvoerende komitee van die senaat van die kollege oorweeg sal word en dat die hertoelating van al die studente wat deur die komitee aanbeveel is, toegelaat sal word.

Dié studente wat nie vir onmiddellike hertoelating aanbeveel word nie, sal van die aanklagte teen hulle in kennis gestel word en aan hulle sal 'n geleentheid gegee word om hulself te verdedig.

Letters to the Editor

RE-ADMISSION OF FORT HARE STUDENTS

SIR,—Some weeks ago the Fort Hare University College was closed down, its students were required to leave and to apply for re-admission. The authorities must have believed the situation to be grave, for no principal would have faced willingly the blaze of publicity that must accompany such a drastic action and, above all, I believe no principal would wish to call in the police to carry out his lawful orders unless he saw no other possible course to take.

The fact is that the principal of Fort Hare has a problem to deal with, which is more difficult than that facing any other principal in the country, and which is not of his own making. It is the problem of race relations itself, and he has sometimes to deal with students who, whatever he does for them, will resent him as a representative of White authority. If the principal were an African, the difficulties would be somewhat eased, but the essential problem would remain.

Unpleasant task

If under such circumstances authority is flouted, and it certainly seems to have been, drastic action is called for. University of Fort Hare
Toughest in Excellence
bittered and persistent trouble-maker cannot be persuaded to change his ways, he should be sent away, for the sake of the whole college. It is an unpleasant thing to do, but a principal has many more things to consider than the future of any individual student, important though that may be.

But now unfortunately matters have taken another unhappy turn. Students applying for re-admission have been asked to provide information about those responsible for these events. Six questions are asked, and at least two of these call for the names of trouble-makers.

Consider the effect of these questions. Some students have been placed in impossible situations. Some have been compelled to profess ignorance about events of which they are not ignorant. Some who have themselves been involved have been put to the bitter necessity of naming others. Every student at the college has been put into the position of having to become an informer, which is held by all decent people to be a dishonourable occupation.

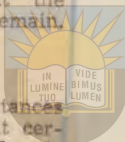
Another solution

It is not too late to try another solution of these difficulties: it is certainly not fool-proof, but it is not open to these grave objections. If there are known irreconcilables in whom resentment and grievance have overcome all other emotions, and with whom the authorities feel that no compact is possible, then the authorities must deal sternly with them. All other students could be invited to return on condition that they are prepared to respect the reasonable obligations of those in authority, with the past forgotten, and "no questions asked." A new start could be made, with all concerned humbly aware of the difficulties facing an institution like Fort Hare in a country like South

I plead with the authorities to try this plan, no matter what defects the worldly-wise may find in it. Thousands of South Africans of all races would welcome such a decision.

In the meantime one can only advise students to assure the authorities that they are anxious to co-operate in making a fresh start, but that the authorities can well understand their difficulties in providing the requested information.

ALAN PATON.



I hope it is not too late to do this now, and to withdraw the demand for secret information, which I believe will destroy any chance to achieve an honest and open atmosphere. It certainly will destroy some of the ideals that inspired the beginnings of Fort Hare.

Plea to authorities

Of course it may be the case that the authorities simply do not know who the irreconcilables are, and feel compelled to use these methods in order to find out. Even if that were so, it would still be better to drop the whole business and to readmit all who are prepared to respect the obligations of those in authority.

9 JUN 1955

RACE INSTITUTE CHIEF BLAMES APARTHEID LAWS FOR FORT HARE TROUBLE

THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE CLOSING of Fort Hare are surface manifestations of the underlying forces at work among the Non-European population at large, and particularly among the more educated and articulate elements, states Dr. Ellen Hellmann, President of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations in the latest issue of Race Relations News.

Attention had repeatedly been called to the danger that repudiation of laws regarded as discriminatory could easily spill over into repudiation of the rule of law itself, particularly among the youth.

As far back as 1946 the Institute had drawn attention to "serious symptoms of mounting discontent" among Africans, to "a growing sense of frustration."

"We feel bound to issue a warning," a public statement had said, "that if this situation in the field of race relations is allowed to deteriorate further it will before long reach a stage in more

Nothing that had happened since 1946 had served to stem this deterioration. On the contrary, legislative measures and administrative practices had accelerated it.

"In my opinion, this is the crux of the trouble at Fort Hare. Resentment against the trend of developments in South Africa has tended to turn into resentment against authority as such.

"Fort Hare is soon to re-open. One knows it will re-open on a note of renewed endeavour. One hopes that the students will observe the discipline which is essential to the administration of a university and which is in no way a function of colour."

9 JUN 1955

Fort Hare May Re-open July 1

Students Re-apply for Admission



Depending on the co-operation of the students who wish to return, it is hoped to re-open the University College of Fort Hare on July 1.

The students have been asked to supply full information about the events which led to the expulsion of the entire student body of 310 men and 20 women a month ago.

The first applications for re-admission in response to circulars and enrolment forms sent to students and their parents last week have been received by the college.

The circular makes it clear that the college can only be opened on July 1 under conditions which will enable it to function properly.

Those students who are held responsible for pressure groups within the college, for intimidation and for resistance to proper authority will not be readmitted.

A special committee will carefully deal with all the applications.

10 JUN 1955

Resolutions by students on Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare

Together in Excellence

A meeting of more than 200 students of the University of Cape Town adopted a resolution yesterday viewing with grave concern the closing of Fort Hare.

The meeting was called by the Students' Representative Council but as it failed to raise the quorum of 300 it was turned into an unofficial meeting.

The voting was 99 to 59.

The resolution also condemned the action of the authorities in using police to help carry out the closure and called for a commission of inquiry into students' grievances.

11 JUN 1955

Fort Hare Students Keen to Return

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH, Friday. — Most of the students of Fort Hare non-European University College, which was closed on May 3 by the college authorities, are anxious to return to their studies, and application forms for re-admission are awaiting the attention of the governing council.

The applications will be dealt with next week, when the principal of the college, Professor C. P. Dent, returns from leave. The authorities have decided on July 1 as the reopening date.

The college was closed because of the alleged existence of a secret group among the students which was trying to undermine the authority of the administration.

The students were told that they could re-apply for admission, but that all applications would be carefully screened.

THE STAR

11 JUN 1955

Non-segregation at Natal University

From Our Correspondent

DURBAN, Saturday.—The convocation at the University of Natal today voted that the principal had the authority to allow non-segregated classes for post-graduate students.

It instructed its sub-committee (to be appointed) to approach the principal with the request that he exercise his authority and implement the principle of non-segregation in such classes.

Mr. Alan Paton in his presidential address said the decision to close Fort Hare was "momentous." He believed that the "rebellion" at Fort Hare was a cry against rejection.

Extract from
SOUTH AFRICA, London.

77 JUN 1955

FORT HARE REOPENING JULY 1? Commission Will Inquire into College Life

The governing council of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans is to notify parents of students that the college will be re-opened as soon as possible and that this might be done by July 1, says a statement by Professor C. P. Dent, principal of the college.

The college was closed last month by the council's executive committee because of the existence of a secret "caucus" which intimidated students and caused them to defy properly constituted authority.

Professor Dent's statement says: "Governing council has the right to refuse admission for registration or re-registration to any student if it considers such action in the interests of the college. It is its intention, before opening, to adopt all reasonable measures to discover the names of those students who have been responsible for the development of pressure groups within the college, and for the intimidation and resistance to proper authority which have led to the present situation, and to refuse readmission to them.

"We have already a considerable amount of information which it would have been impossible to get on Tuesday, May 3, owing to fears of students then in the college. We will require the co-operation of students who wish to return in the form of full information about the events of the past few weeks."

The council also decided to appoint a two or three-man commission to look into the conditions of life and work at the college, and to make any recommendations for improvements. The members of the commission will not be members of the college or the college council, the statement said.

11 JUN 1955

Students Anxious to Return to Fort Hare

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PORT ELIZABETH, Friday.

Most of the students of Fort Hare non-European University College, closed on May 3 by the College authorities, are anxious to return to their studies as soon as possible and piles of application forms for re-admission are awaiting attention of the Governing Council. These applications can be dealt with only next week when the Principal of the College, Professor C. P. Dent, returns from leave. He is due back on Monday.

The College authorities have set July 1 as the re-opening date and they expect to be able to keep to this date. The College was closed on May 3, by the College's Executive Committee because of alleged secret influences within the student body which were undermining the authority of the College administration.

Following the sudden closing of the institution without notice the 360 students returned to their homes. They were later told that they could reapply for admission but that all applications would be carefully screened.

ards the A

11 JUN 1955

Fort Hare: most will re-apply

SIR FULQUE AGNEW, registrar of Fort Hare University College, said today there was every reason to anticipate that the greater majority of students sent home would apply for re-admission.

Applications for re-admission were coming in "as fast as can be expected."

It was still hoped the college would re-open on July 1.

If it did not, it would be because of administrative reasons.

Sir Fulque said he could not say if students and parents had replied to a confidential circular.

These circulars asked students and parents to give the names of students responsible for pressure groups within the college.

Sunday Times

12 JUN 1955

FORT HARE QUIZ ON STUDENTS IS "INQUISITION"

"SUNDAY TIMES" CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN, Saturday.

Mr. Alan Paton, author of the book, "Cry The Beloved Country" and a former principal of Diepkloof Native reformatory, has protested against the method being used to "screen" Fort Hare students when the non-European University College, which was closed down on May 4 for disciplinary reasons, re-opens on July 1.

The principal, Professor G. P. Botha, others could be invited to return to the college on their guarantee to respect the authority of the past to be forgotten and no questions asked. Dent, has now circularised the students and their parents, stating that they will have to apply for re-admission.

Such applications will have to furnish certain information — set out in six questions — about the student gatherings on April 25 and April 29, which led to the closing of the college.

"INQUISITION"

Though the principal gives parents and students a guarantee to treat such information as "strictly confidential," Mr. Paton contends that the circular and the terms of application for re-admission virtually amount to an inquisition, asking students to become informers on their fellows.

Mr. Paton agrees that if the college authorities have been flouted, drastic action will be called for, but he deplors the idea of asking the students to give the information requested in the questionnaire.

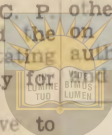
Some students have been placed in impossible situations; some have been compelled to profess ignorance about events of which they are not ignorant.

Some, who have themselves been involved, have been put to the bitter necessity of naming others.

Every student at the college has been put into the position of having to become an informer.

Mr. Paton says that it is not too late to try another solution.

The irreconcilables, if known, must be dealt with sternly, but all



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

13 JUN 1955

Paton "sorry" for principal of Fort Hare

Durban, Sunday.

MR. ALAN PATON said in his presidential address to the annual meeting of the Convocation of the University of Natal yesterday that the Principal of the University already had the authority to allow non-segregated classes for post-graduate students.

He said that the Convocation had previously voted that the Principal had the authority to allow non-segregated classes for post graduate students, and this policy had been adopted.

Mr. Paton said the decision to close Fort Hare was "momentous." There was no doubt that the news had travelled all over the world. He had even seen a cutting from a Chinese newspaper in which it was reported.

He said he believed that the "rebellion" at Fort Hare was a cry against rejection, and he sympathised deeply with the Principal.

"There are very tragic elements in the whole of the Fort Hare situation," he said.

Mr. Paton said that at present only about four per cent. of university students in the Union were non-European.—Sapa.

13 JUN 1955

Inquiry at Fort Hare: evidence invited

From Our Correspondent

ALICE, Wednesday. — The commission appointed to investigate conditions of life and work at Fort Hare and to make recommendations for their improvement has invited members of the public to give evidence.

The commission says that those who wish to give evidence in person should inform the secretary of their desire to do so as soon as possible.

Those who intend to give evidence in writing are asked to ensure that their memoranda reach the secretary of the commission, P.O. Fort Hare, not later than Wednesday, July 20.

13 JUN 1955

Paton On Closing of Fort Hare



DURBAN, Sunday.

Mr. Alan Paton said in his presidential address to the annual meeting of the convocation of the University of Natal yesterday that the decisions to close Fort Hare was "momentous." There was no doubt that the news had travelled all over the world, he said, and he had even seen a cutting from a Chinese newspaper in which it was reported.

He said he believed the "rebellion" at Fort Hare was a cry against rejection and he sympathised deeply with the principal.

"There are very tragic elements in the whole of the Fort Hare situation," he said.—S.A. Press Association.

18 JUN 1955

Seats of Learning

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORT HARE

By Magebula

We shall begin with the smallest of the South African university institutions, the only university college in the Union which has not yet attained full university status. Fort Hare, notwithstanding its junior status, is undoubtedly one of the most important institutions in South Africa, for good or bad. It has been in the news lately because, as the result of a series of "incidents," it has been temporarily closed by the college authorities. Reopening as it does on July 1, it faces afresh the difficulties and opportunities of an African University College in the multi-racial society of South Africa.

Wherever nationalist movements are strong, whether in Egypt, India or South Africa, students tend to take an undue and perhaps unhealthy interest in politics. The history of nineteenth-century liberalism in Europe brings to mind many such instances of student enthusiasm in the political field. In South Africa itself it would be difficult to suggest that Stellenbosch or Pretoria have not experienced in past years something of the growing pains which are afflicting Fort Hare at the present time. For the political interest which counts with Fort Hare is African nationalism rather than Communism. In a country where Africans are deprived of many normal political rights, it is not surprising that nationalism and liberal aspirations should be mixed and that sometimes non-racial liberalism should be submerged in anti-white resentment.

These are some of the difficulties of Fort Hare, but surely any impartial study of the college should consider its achievements also. Founded in 1912, with a very small number of students, it at first devoted quite a considerable part of its attention to pre-matriculation work. Since, two decades ago, this was dropped, it has gone from strength to strength, so far as the number of students and of staff, buildings, laboratories and library are concerned. Its first principal, Dr. Alexander Kerr, and its first vice-principal, Professor D. D. T. Jabavu, are known all over the Union among black and white alike. Professor Jabavu's inimitable personality and rich human gifts made the early years of the college happy ones. What there is of goodwill in Fort Hare is partly at any rate due to his tradition. Dr. Kerr, also a very human personality, had the gift of the Scot for insisting on thoroughness. He built the college on sound foundations of hard work and good standards, resisting the temptation to fritter away time and money on showy experiments before

he had established the main faculties well and truly. The present principal, Professor C. P. Dent, has served the college with loyalty and affection for thirty-three years. The staff to-day is partly African and partly European. In general it may be said that where a good African is to be found he gets the job. When he gets it his conditions of employment, such as remuneration and housing, are the same as those of the European. The tendency of the college is to appoint on merit, irrespective of race. On the African staff are such well-known personalities as Professor Z. K. Matthews (Social Anthropology) and Mr. Selby Ngcobo (Economics).

Of recent years the number of science students has increased until it almost equals those in the faculty of Arts. The B.Sc. (Hygiene) degree, an experiment which might have succeeded, but did not, has left the college well equipped with laboratories. Its small but good library is assiduously used. It seems to many of us that the time has come for an expansion beyond the two major faculties and for more post-graduate work. Success achieved in post-graduate work would redound to the credit not only of the college, but to the African people generally. In addition to the women's hostel, which is under the direct control of the institutions, there are three hostels for men: Iona Hall, under the control of the Presbyterian Church; Wesley Hall, under the control of the Methodist Church; Beda Hall, under the control of the Anglican Church. These hostels are at present autonomous. Each has its own tradition and they vary considerably.

The affiliation of the college to Rhodes University seems to be proving a useful traditional measure until its status is such as to merit an independent charter. Fort Hare students receive the degrees of Rhodes University, which remains in reasonably close contact with the junior institution.

At the moment it is very difficult to assess the situation at Fort Hare, or to prophesy its future. As a separate institution it receives the blessing of the supporters of apartheid. As an African institution it arouses the interest and sympathy of all friends of the African. The difficulties lie deep in the life of South Africa itself, and in the lives of the individual students who are able to make or mar an institution of this kind. Its many friends wish it well during these years of strain and stress.

7 9 MAY 1955

CLOSURE OF FORT HARE

By **CYRIL DUNN**

JOHANNESBURG—If Balliol [famous Oxford University college] had been closed without warning by armed police from Oxford, and the nearby towns of Reading and Didcot, and all the students abruptly sent down, the stunning effect could not have been greater in England than the news on May 4 from Fort Hare has been for all educated Africans here.

Fort Hare, the university college for Africans near the town called Alice in the eastern province of the Cape, has been forcibly shut down. Under an escort of armed police from all the neighbouring townships, the entire student body of four hundred, most of them Africans but some Indians, have been put aboard special trains and packed off home.

The decision is that of the executive committee of the college council, according to a statement issued by Professor C. P. Dent, the principal. The reason given is that "a secret authority" exists within the student body. Instructions issued by this underground caucus, backed up by threats of physical violence and other forms of intimidation, have been obeyed by the students rather than instructions issued by the constituted authorities of the college.

"The result has been that the students have resorted to irregular methods such as boycotts, threats and even violence with a view to the acceptance of their will by the college authorities," says Professor Dent. A situation has developed within the college, the Professor adds, which is destructive of freedom of opinion and action, and has become intolerable.

A recent graduation ceremony was boycotted on instructions from this "secret authority," the statement goes on. The boycott was deliberately designed to embarrass the college authorities and bring discredit on the college.

All activities of the college have been suspended "for the present." The re-admission of individual students will be considered in due course.

Fort Hare was opened in 1916 and so is, by African standards, venerable. It occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of all educated Africans in the Union, if only because it is where most of them took their degrees. It goes in mainly for arts degrees and for teacher training.

It stands within a mile or two of Lovedale, the historic educational centre founded by the Church of Scotland in 1841.

The first reaction of a leading White

educationalist here to the news was to describe it as "a staggering confession of failure, without precedent in the history of South African education."

"It is true that Fort Hare has been breeding Black nationalists for some time," he said, "but so have lots of other places in South Africa. For ten years past it has been known that the student body there has been in an aggressive frame of mind towards Whites and towards the Government, both of the college and of the country. Some students have adopted a Black African nationalism in its least attractive form. When Liberal Party speakers went there not long ago they found the students unwilling even to listen to them. But to close the place down because the authorities cannot cope with some extremism in the student body shows a bankruptcy of ideas on human relations."

The boycott, as applied by the student body, is a traditional form of African protest. It was applied when the Governor-General, Dr. Ernest Jansen, visited Alice and the students were required to line the route and cheer.

A former student at Fort Hare said the so-called "secret authority" existed in the college when he was there and was well-known. He thinks that to-day it represents the outlook of the African National Congress Youth League, influenced a little by a Trotskyist organisation called the Sons of Young Africa.

The unanswered question at the moment is, of course, how far the Nationalist Government is concerned in this drastic action. It has come hard on the heels of the ruthless Government decision to expel nearly 4,000 Transvaal African children for boycotting the new system of Bantu education, and dismiss 120 African teachers. The Government's determination to crush all resistance to the new form of education is apparent, and they are at least unlikely to deplore the evident intention to weed all "unsuitable" students out of Fort Hare. The presence of armed police and the laying on of special trains to take the students home, does not suggest that the college authorities acted alone.—OFNS-COPYRIGHT.

21 JUN 1955

FORT HARE SEEKING NAMES

Students' Negative Replies to Questions

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PORT ELIZABETH, Monday.

Names of fellow-students involved in incidents which led to the shut-down on May 4 of Fort Hare University College, near Alice, are being sought by the College authorities from the 370 suspended graduates who have applied for readmission. This was stated in Port Elizabeth tonight by two students who are waiting to hear whether they are to be expelled or not.

The two students supported an African National Congress allegation that the College authorities are attempting to turn all students into informers. The ANC has demanded the absolute unconditional readmittance of all suspended students.

Questions on an application for readmission to the College which is due to reopen on July 1 include the following:

"You are asked to state (a) whether you attended the graduation ceremony on April 29;

(b), If not why you did not attend;

(c) If you did attend whether you were given permission to attend and by whom;

(d), What you know about unauthorised meetings of students inside or outside the College grounds.

(e) If the conduct of hostel and other authorised meetings has been in accordance with the normal procedure and rules and if a fair hearing has been given to all those who wished to participate.

(f) Any names of students who have threatened or abused other students who were not in agreement with decisions taken at student meetings as being "sell outs" or similar terms.

One of the students interviewed here today said, "As far as we could find out none of the students gave any information in answers to the questions. We are scared that they (the College authorities) might turn the information to their advantage."

The student said he was one of five in Port Elizabeth who had received letters "asking for more information."

"From one student," he said, "they wanted to know more about hostel meetings, what was said and who spoke. From a woman they wanted to know about hostel meetings in other places. As far as the boycott of the graduation ceremony is concerned, they have nothing against five students they have already tackled in Port Elizabeth. They are tackling them in the hope that the weaker ones will break down and disclose names."

The student who was interviewed said, if he were not re-admitted to the college he was prepared to go to court.

PRINCIPAL'S STATEMENT

Professor C. P. Dent, principal of Fort Hare University College,

said in a telephone interview today, "We have been authorised to admit those about whom we are quite satisfied. But I am not free to make statements about this matter without the consent of the College Council."

Of the 370 students, Professor Dent said, "A large number have already been re-admitted. We have not re-admitted all students. There are decisions still to be taken on the matter."

Asked whether those who have not yet been re-admitted must regard themselves as expelled, he said, "Not necessarily. Some are still under consideration. Application forms for re-admission have been sent to all students as far as I know and we hope to re-open on July 1. The hostels are opening on the Friday and the classes are beginning on the Monday."

Of liaison arrangements between students and the College authorities Professor Dent said he took it they would remain as before. "I do not think there is any place where channels of communication are more open than here."

THE CAPE ARGUS

21 JUN 1955



Fort Hare students

The Argus Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH, Tuesday.—
A resolution asking for the unconditional readmittance of all students suspended from Fort Hare was passed at the provincial conference of the African National Congress (Cape) at Korsten.

22 JUN 1955

Fort Hare Expected to Reopen on July 1

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PORT ELIZABETH, Tuesday. — The names of fellow students who were involved in incidents which led to the closing on May 4 of the Fort Hare University College are being sought by the college authorities from the 370 suspended graduates who have applied for re-admission.

This was stated in Port Elizabeth last night by two students who are waiting to hear whether they are to be expelled or not.

Questions on an application form for re-admission to the

college, which is due to reopen on July 1, include the following:

ATTENDANCE QUERY

You are asked to state: (A) Whether you attended the graduation ceremony on April 29; (B) if not, why you did not attend; (C) If you did attend, whether you were given permission to attend and by whom; (D) What you know about unauthorised meetings of students inside or outside the college grounds; (E) If the conduct of hostel and other authorised meetings has been in accordance with the normal procedure and rules, and if a fair hearing has been given to all those who wished to participate;

(F) Any names of students who have threatened or abused other students who were not in agreement with decisions taken at student meetings.

'IF SATISFIED'

Professor C. P. Dent, the principal of Fort Hare University College, said in a telephone interview this week: "We have been authorised to admit those about whom we are quite satisfied.

"But I am not free to make statements about this matter without the consent of the college council. Of the 370 students a large number have already been re-admitted.

"We have not re-admitted all students, for there are decisions still to be taken on the matter."

Asked whether those who have not yet been re-admitted must regard themselves as expelled, Professor Dent said: "Not necessarily. Some are still under consideration.

"Application forms for re-admission have been sent to all students, as far as I know, and we hope to reopen on July 1."

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

CAPE TIMES

22 JUN 1955

READMISSIONS TO FORT HARE

Cape Times Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH.—Names of fellow students involved in incidents which led to the closing on May 4 of Fort Hare University College are being sought by the College authorities from the 370 suspended under-graduates who have applied for re-admission.

This was stated here by two students who are waiting to hear whether they are to be expelled.

The two supported an African National Congress allegation that the College authorities are attempting to turn all students into informers.

Alan Paton - And A New Start At Fort Hare

CHRISTIAN RECORDER, JUNE 24, 1955

"EVERY STUDENT HAS BEEN PUT INTO POSITION OF HAVING TO BECOME AN INFORMER"

MR. Alan Paton, the author of "Cry the Beloved Country" has written to the Natal Daily News asking the authorities of Fort Hare University College to re-consider their attitude to the re-admission of students, and questioning whether they were right in asking students who applied for re-admission to provide information about those responsible for the events which led to the temporary closing down of the College.

"Six questions are asked," he says, "and at least two of these call for the names of trouble-makers".

This is his letter:—

"Some weeks ago the Fort Hare University College was closed down, its students were required to leave and to apply for re-admission. The authorities must have believed the situation to be grave, for no principal would have faced willingly the blaze of publicity that must accompany such a drastic action and, above all, I believe no principal would wish to call in the police to carry out his lawful orders unless he saw no other possible course to take.

The fact is that the principal of Fort Hare has a problem to deal with, which is more difficult than that facing any other principal in the country, and which is not of his own making. It is the problem of race relations itself, and he has sometimes to deal with students who, whatever he does for them, will resent him as a representative of White authority. If the principal were an African, the dif-

ficulties would be somewhat eased, but the essential problem would remain.

UNPLEASANT TASK

"If under such circumstances authority is flouted, and it certainly seems to have been, drastic action is called for. If an embittered and persistent trouble-maker cannot be persuaded to change his ways, he should be sent away, for the sake of the whole college. It is

compelled to profess ignorance about events of which they are not ignorant. Some who have themselves been involved have been put to the bitter necessity of naming others. Every student at the college has been put into the position of having to become an informer, which is held by all decent people to be a dishonourable occupation.

ANOTHER SOLUTION

"It is not too late to try another solution of these difficulties; it is certainly not fool-proof, but it is not open to these grave objections. If there are known irreconcilables in whom resentment and grievance have overcome all other emotions, and with whom the authorities feel that no compact is possible, then the authorities must deal sternly with them. All other students could be invited to return on condition that they are prepared to respect the reasonable obligations of those in authority, with the past forgotten and "no questions asked." A new start could be made, with all concerned humbly aware of the difficulties facing an institution like Fort Hare in a country like South Africa:

"I hope it is not too late to do this now, and to withdraw the demand for secret information, which I believe will destroy any chance to achieve an honest and open atmosphere. It certainly will destroy some of the ideals that inspired the beginnings of Fort Hare.

PLEA TO AUTHORITIES

"Of course it may be the case that the authorities simply do not know who the irreconcilables are, and feel compelled to use these methods in order to find out. Even if that were so, it would still be better to drop the whole business and to readmit all who are prepared to respect the obligations of those in authority.

"I plead with the authorities to try this plan, no matter what defects the worldly-wise may find in it. Thousands of South Africans of all races would welcome such a decision.

"In the meantime one can only advise students to assure the authorities that they are anxious to co-operate in making a fresh start, but that the authorities can well understand their difficulties in providing the requested information."

THE QUESTIONS

According to the Bantu World the following were the questions the students were asked by the Principal Professor J. B. M. Dent:

(a) Whether you attended the Graduation Ceremony;

(b) If not, why you did not attend;

(c) If you did attend whether you were given permission to attend;

(d) What you know about unauthorised meetings of students;

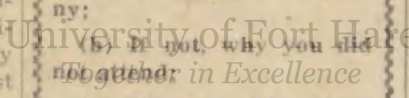
(e) If the conduct of hostel and other authorised meetings has been in accordance with the normal rules of procedure, and if a fair hearing has been given to all;

(f) Names of students who have threatened or abused other students who were not in agreement with decisions taken at students meetings as being 'sell-outs' or similar terms.

an unpleasant thing to do, but a principal has many more things to consider than the future of any individual student, important though that may be.

"But now unfortunately matters have taken another unhappy turn. Students applying for readmission have been asked to provide information about events. Six questions are asked, and at least two of these call for the names of trouble-makers.

"Consider the effect of these questions. Some students have been placed in impossible situations. Some have been com-



Prof. MATTHEWS REFUTES CAPE TIMES 'INTERVIEW'

IN a letter to 'New Age,' Professor Z. K. Matthews, vice-principal of Fort Hare, has repudiated a lengthy article published by the 'Cape Times,' purporting to be an interview with him.

The article, which was illustrated by a picture of the Professor, went into considerable detail of the reporter's conversation with him, and quoted the Professor—in direct speech—as having said that the Fort Hare expulsions arose out of lack of discipline on the part of the students because "perhaps we gave them too much too quickly." The reporter signed herself Dorothy Mason.

The editor of 'New Age' sent Professor Matthews a cutting of the article, drawing his attention to it and saying: "I am sure that you have been grossly misrepresented as it is difficult to credit that you would explain the expulsions in the words—'We have given them too much—too quickly.'"

"'New Age' therefore has pleasure in inviting you to make the position clear in our next issue."

The reply from Professor Matthews speaks for itself:

"Thank you for your letter of July 1, in which you draw my attention to the article in the 'Cape Times' written by one Dorothy Mason,

"I was not surprised to find that this article, far from being an attempt to deal seriously with a very serious matter, was one in which the writer drew rather heavily on her imagination. Having been told by me that I was not prepared to make a statement on the Fort Hare question in view of the appointment of a Commission before which I hoped to appear to give evidence, she proceeded to indulge in a general conversation on the problems of youth in the modern world. She now attributes to me things which I could not possibly have said.

The slogan "too much—too

quickly" which goes like a refrain through her article could only come from someone who knows little about African Education. I should say without fear of any contradiction that "too little—too late and too slowly" would more accurately sum up the situation.

"Since the closing down of Fort Hare we have been plagued with reporters, writers and others who, being determined to say something about the situation, have not hesitated to attribute to those on whom they imposed their so-called interviews utterances which are mere figments of their own imagination. Fortunately for them we have a job of work to do and cannot spend our time correcting the erroneous impressions which their literary effusions are creating.—Thanking you, Yours sincerely, Z. K. Matthews."

COLLEGE THAT WAS CLOSED

Professor Matthews, of Fort Hare, on 'Revolt of Youth'

THE African University at Fort Hare, which was closed in dramatic circumstances some time ago because of unrest among the students, will be reopened on Friday. Within the past three weeks all students have been circularized asking them to apply for readmission. Parents and guardians also received circulars explaining why the University was closed.

On a recent visit to Alice I was informed by the Registrar that applications for readmission were coming in at the rate of more than 30 a day.

I called on Professor Z. K. Matthews, Vice-Principal of the College and an African. As I walked up the avenue of trees to his house, a surge of memories overtook me. It was here that, for many years when I was a child, Miss Mary Stewart, a niece of Dr. James Stewart, who founded Lovedale, taught me music. There had always been a genteel shabbiness about the old house.

To-day, however, it has been enlarged and modernized, and Mrs. Matthews, who answered my knock, showed me into a pleasantly furnished lounge that could have belonged to any good middle-class family anywhere in the western world; and, like any western housewife, Mrs. Matthews obviously spends her leisure hours listening to the wireless while she knits for her family.

A Contradiction

While waiting for Professor Matthews I looked through the bookshelves, curious to see what this African, who has achieved higher academic honours than any other African so far, reads. It did not surprise me that most of the books dealt with the racial and colour problems of the world in general, and of Africa in particular.

Professor Matthews is a tall man, heavily built. He conveys the impression of immense physical power and strength. It was easy to imagine him, not in the European dress he wore, but in the full regalia of a great and powerful African chief. Yet in strange contradiction to this impression of physical strength, he has small and delicately shaped hands.

He told me that no one is, at the moment, allowed to make any statement about the trouble which closed the University. "Even Professor Dent's statement to the Governing Council was sent back, to be presented when the commission of inquiry which the Council is to appoint meets. Now we are all anxiously awaiting the appointment of that commission.

(The commission of inquiry has since been established, with Prof. J. P. Duminy, of Pretoria, as chairman.)

Prone to Insurrection

"Actually, though, I think that the African students have behaved themselves remarkably well so far. After all, university



Prof. Z. K. Matthews.

students all over the world are prone to insurrection. Look at Egypt. There they burn down their universities. Really, my people have not behaved badly so far."

The talk drifted to a subject dear to all educationists and parents—the revolt of modern youth against authority. But although the talk was general, so great is Professor Matthews's

By

Dorothy Mason

preoccupation with the trouble at Fort Hare that it was obvious he was speaking all the time of his own students.

"Perhaps we have given them too much — too quickly. I was a student at Fort Hare in its early days, and when I tell these students the conditions under which we lived and studied they won't believe me. No bathrooms—we went to the river to bath. No hostels—we slept in tents. But to-day they say that if they had to work in such conditions, they would simply pack up and go home. Yes, perhaps we have given them too much—too quickly . . ."

By this time I had the impression that Professor Matthews had forgotten I was there and was simply thinking aloud, trying, as he has obviously done for weeks, to find the true source of the trouble.

"Modern youth has much education and no wisdom. It achieves great heights but has no depth. If I were to bury your

walking stick to a depth of two inches, it would be easily knocked over, but if I planted it deep it would require great effort to pull it out.

"That is how young people of to-day are. Easily knocked over because the roots of their learning are too shallow. They are like sheep following a leader, only they don't even know if they really have a leader, or who he is. If you ask them why they did something they tell you 'it was decided'. Who decided it? 'The majority . . . the house . . .' and so it goes on. Never think for themselves — easily knocked over."

He made violent gestures with his delicate hands to illustrate his point.

"The trouble at Fort Hare was brewing for a long time, but what was sudden and unexpected and something of a shock to the students was the decision to close the college. But the line must be drawn somewhere. Yes, perhaps we gave too much — too quickly . . ."

Rarely Come Back

The Governing Council of Fort Hare has a very wide representation and includes the Principals of Rhodes and Witwatersrand Universities, the Chief Magistrate of the Transkei, the Chief Native Commissioner of the Eastern Cape and the Churches which built the beautiful hostels and halls. The University enjoys the same Government subsidies and privileges that all universities in South Africa do.

A few years ago the Government placed a ban on all students from African territories other than South Africa and the Rhodesias, and from 1958 a ban will be placed on Rhodesian students also.

African students of outstanding academic abilities who win oversea fellowships rarely come back to South Africa. One student recently was granted a life fellowship at Cambridge, though such distinctions are rare. The abilities of the African run mostly to science, and so far there have been no arts students.

I thought there was a slight feeling of depression about the beautiful and great buildings brooding on the hillside, but perhaps that was simply because the students were not there to give them life. But those walls reared themselves so eagerly, in response to the eager request of a primitive people for learning, that perhaps they do, after all, feel as worried as Professor Matthews about the future.

28 JUN 1955

Readmission To Fort Hare

ALICE (Cape), Monday.—The Principal of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans has sent a letter to parents of students saying that all applications for readmission have been considered by the executive committee of the University Senate and that the readmission of all students recommended by the committee has been authorised.

Those students whom the Senate executive does not recommend for immediate readmission will be notified of the charges against them.

They will be given the opportunity of answering the charges. Their cases will then be reported to the University Council for final decision.

A commission will be appointed under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duming to investigate the living conditions and work in the college and to make recommendations for their improvement if necessary.—(Sapa-Reuter).

DIE. VADERLAND ★ Dinsdag, 28

FORT HARE HEROPEN

AANSOEKE om hertoelating tot die Universiteitskollege vir nie-blankes, Fort Hare, is al oorweeg en studente wat deur die uitvoerende komitee aanbeveel is, sal weer klasse kan bywoon. Studente wat aansoek gedoen het om hertoelating mal oorweeg en studente wat deur die uitvoerende komitee aanbeveel word nie, sal van die klagtes teen hulle in kennis gestel word.

Briewe waarin genoemde besonderhede vervat is, is deur die prinsipaal van die kollege aan die ouers van al die studente gestuur.

Ouers van studente wie se aansoeke om hertoelating nie aanbeveel word nie, word meege-deel dat die studente die geleentheid sal kry om op die klagtes teen hulle te antwoord. Hulle gevalle sal dan vir finale oorwegings aan die universiteitesraad voorgelê word.

Daar sal ook 'n kommissie onder die voorsitterskap van prof. J. P. Duning aangestel word om lewenstoestande en die werk in die kollege te ondersoek. Van die kommissie word verwag om aanbevelings vir verbeterings te doen as dit nodig is, berig SAPA.

Die kollege is op 4 Mei deur die beheerraad se uitvoerende komitee gesluit weens die beweerdte bestaan van 'n „geheime koukus” wat studente sou ge-intimideer het en sou veroorsaak het dat hulle die gewone reëls van die kollege verbreek.

28 JUN 1935

FORT HARE LETTER TO PARENTS

Majority of Students to be Readmitted

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Nearly all the students who were expelled from Fort Hare University College when it was closed by the Executive Committee of the College Council on May 4 will be readmitted when the new term opens in July. Classes begin on July 4. Those students whose readmission has not been granted are to be notified of the "charges" against them and they will be given the opportunity to answer them. A commission is being appointed under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duminy to investigate conditions at the University.

ALICE, Monday.

A letter has been sent to each parent by the principal, Professor C. P. Dent, informing them of the situation and reassuring them of the Council's "interest in the welfare of our students."

The letter says, "All applications have been considered by the Executive Committee of the Senate and the Council has authorised the re-admission of all students recommended by their committee. Those students whom the Senate's executive committee does not recommend for immediate admission will be notified of the charges against them and they will be given the opportunity to answer them, after which their cases will be referred to the Council for final decisions.

"A commission is being appointed under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duminy to investigate the conditions of life and work in the College and to make recommendations for their improvement. As soon as the membership of the commission is finally settled it will be announced in the Press.

"The Council and Senate of

the College regret the circumstances which made necessary the temporary suspension of the activities of the College. On behalf of these bodies, I assure you of our interest in the welfare of our students and of our desire that the College should fulfil the purposes for which it has been established by providing sound instruction under conditions in which freedoms and disciplines are so balanced as to provide an atmosphere in which academic work is possible.

"We trust that students will return in a right spirit and make proper use of the opportunity provided for them in which they will receive all the assistance we can give."

28 JUN 1955

Fort Hare-Studente weer Toegelaat

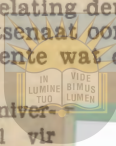
ALICE.

DIE hoof van die natuurellekollege Fort Hare het 'n brief aan ouers van studente gestuur, wat lui dat alle aansoeke om hertoelating deur die uitvoerende komitee van die Universiteitsenaat oorweeg is, en dat die hertoelating van alle studente wat deur dié komitee aanbeveel is, gemagtig is.

Die studente wat die Universiteitsenaat nie aanbeveel vir onmiddellike hertoelating nie, sal in kennis gestel word van die klagtes teen hulle. Hulle sal die geleentheid kry om op die klagtes te antwoord. Hul gevalle sal dan na die Universiteitsenaat vir 'n finale beslissing verwys word, lui die brief.

'n Kommissie onder voorsitterskap van prof. J. P. Duning sal aangestel word om die woon-toestande en werk in die kollege te ondersoek en om, indien nodig, aanbevelinge te doen vir die verbetering daarvan.

Die kollege is op 4 Mei deur die uitvoerende komitee van die kollegeraad gesluit weens die beweerde „geheime koukus” wat studente geïntimideer en hulle die universiteitsowerheid laat veronagsaam het.—(Sapa.)



BY AWAYO CHRON

28 JUN 1955

“Fort Hare Students Can Answer Charges”

ALICE, (Cape), Monday. — The principal of Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans has informed parents of students that all applications for readmission had been considered by the executive committee of the university senate, and that the re-admission of all students recommended by the committee had been authorised.

Those students whom the senate executive did not recommend for immediate re-admission would be notified of the charges against them. They would be given the opportunity of answering the charges. Their cases would then be reported to the university council for a final decision.

LIVING CONDITIONS

A commission would be appointed under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duming to investigate the living conditions and work in the college, and to make recommendations for improvements if necessary.

The college was closed down on May 4 by the governing council's executive committee because of the alleged existence of a secret “caucus” which intimidated students and caused them to defy the properly constituted authorities.—SAPA.

28 JUN 1955

Fort Hare plans readmission

ALICE (Cape), Monday.—(Sapa.)

THE Principal of Fort Hare University College for non - Europeans has sent a letter to parents of students saying that all applications for readmission have been considered by the Executive Committee of the University Senate, and that the readmission of all students recommended by the committee has been authorised.

Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate readmission will be notified of the charges against them.

They will be given the opportunity of answering the charges.

Their cases will then be reported to the University Council for final decision, the letter said.

Commission

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28 JUN 1955

Inquiry into Life at Fort Hare

From Our Correspondent

Alice, Monday.

A COMMISSION of inquiry had been established by the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice, to inquire into "the life and work" at the college, from which the entire student body of 350 youths was expelled last month.

The college will reopen on Friday, and normal classes will be resumed on July 4.

In a statement announcing the establishment of the commission, Prof. C. P. Dent, the principal, said that all the applications by students for readmission had been considered by the Executive Committee of the Senate, and the College Council had authorised the readmission of all students recommended by the committee.

"Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate admission will be notified of the charges against them and be given an opportunity to answer them, after which their cases will be reported to the Council for final decision," he said.

Fort Hare *inquiry*



Prof. J. P. Duminy, principal of the Pretoria Technical College, who has been appointed chairman of a commission of inquiry into "the life and work" at the Fort Hare non-European College at Alice. The entire student body was expelled last month following a dispute between students and the authorities. The college will re-open on Friday and classes will be resumed on Monday next week. Students denied re-admission will have the right of appeal. The final decision will be made by the governing council of the college.

28 JUN 1955

Readmission of Fort Hare students now authorized

Those banned to be heard



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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**FORT HARE COLLEGE
UNCERTAINTIES****REOPENING THIS WEEK**

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN, JUNE 29

The date—July 1—set down for the reopening of the University College of Fort Hare for non-Europeans in South Africa is imminent, but the haze of doubt and speculation which lingers round this institution has not been lifted.

The public has not been told what exactly went on among the African students this year until the governing authorities at the College were provoked into sending all the students home in May, so that nobody outside the College at all events can say whether the trouble is over.

The governing council has in a sense admitted that it did not know all that went on, for it demanded of the students that in applying for readmission they should first answer six questions. These questions were on unauthorized meetings which took place among the students, and on boycotts and pressure groups which were no part of any normal college life.

AUTHOR'S PROTEST

In the minds of Mr. Alan Paton, the South African author, and others who form a liberal minority among South African Europeans, this amounted to a form of inquisition, of compelling students to inform on their fellows. Mr. Paton therefore protested, saying that it was right to shut out any known "irreconcilables" among the students, but that after the others had been asked for an undertaking to respect authority by-gones should be by-gones.

The authorities did not heed this protest, probably because they did not know who the "irreconcilables" were. Also, without doubt, relations, or more correctly the absence of relations, between staff and students had this year reached a point where a drastic new beginning was necessary. The pity is that there must now be a beginning amid many suspicions.

Fort Hare stands alone in a valley in the Eastern Province some 60 miles from Grahamstown, where Rhodes University is situated. For years the students at the South African Native College, as it was first known after its foundation, took the examinations of the University of South Africa, which has now become little more than an organization for correspondence courses. But in 1951 Fort Hare became directly affiliated to Rhodes University.

This gave the College a more distinctive identity, but the European students at Rhodes soon found that the spirit at Fort Hare was by no means one of grateful association. It was rather one of spiky independence.

Some members of the English-speaking academic world in South Africa believe that if the white and non-white students thus associated with Rhodes had been able to mix in the same lecture rooms, this would not have happened.

CAUCUS AND CARCASS

Others, looking deeper, do not think there is any easy cure for the sullen attitude of mind into which some of the Africans who are being educated have fallen—at Fort Hare mainly, but not only there. It is a hostility which has isolated African members of the staff at Fort Hare just as much as the European, and has been shared to some extent, too, by the few Indians and Coloureds who also study there.

When non-European students in Durban put out a statement, as they have, in sympathy with their fellows at Fort Hare, saying that the allegation that there was a sinister caucus at work among the students arose simply from one House having celebrated a sports victory over the carcass of a goat—and was thus no more than a confusion of two words—caucus and carcass—when this can be said, perhaps in insolence, and perhaps in jest, then something is a little wrong. It hints at resentment shrouded in some dark African shadow.

Against all this background the new term at Fort Hare is an undertaking of much seriousness.

Fort Hare Re-opens

Principal's Address To Students

The University College of Fort Hare will re-open to-morrow (Friday) and resume its activities on Monday.

Announcing this, the Council of the College has authorised the Principal (Prof. C. P. Dent) to send the following letter to the parents of students :—

The College is re-opening on Friday, 1st July, and classes will start on Monday, the 4th. All applications have been considered by the Executive Committee of the Senate and the Council has authorised the re-admission of all students recommended by this Committee. Those students whom the Senate Executive does not recommend for immediate admission will be notified of the charges against them and given the opportunity to answer them after which their cases will be reported to the Council for final decision. A commission is being appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy to investigate the conditions of life and work in the College and to make recommendations for their improvement. As soon as the membership of this Commission is finally settled it will be announced in the Press. The Council and Senate of the College regret the circumstances which made necessary the temporary suspension of the activities of the College. On behalf of those bodies I assure you of our interest in the welfare of our students and of our desire that the College should fulfil the purpose for which it was established by providing sound instruction under conditions in which freedoms and disciplines are so balanced as to provide an atmosphere in which academic work is possible. We trust that students will return in a right spirit and make proper use of the opportunities provided for them in which they will receive all the assistance we can give.

7 - JUL 1955

Fort Hare

Abstract

Fort Hare, the university college for non-Europeans in South Africa, which was closed in May on disciplinary grounds, is expected to reopen to-day. One hopes that some lessons have been learned, and not all on one side. Some thoughtful comments are made by Dr Ellen Hellman, president of the South African Institute of Race Relations, in the June issue of "Race Relations News." The trouble, she thinks, is at bottom not local to the college: it springs from the general racial situation. "Resentment against the trend of developments in South Africa has tended to turn into resentment against authority as such." When higher education is run on "apartheid" lines racial friction between students and authorities is, as the Americans say, "built in." In view of the growing racial tension in the Union, it was almost to be expected that the natural fellow-feeling of the students, severed as they are from all contact with European students, should have hardened into a subterranean organisation of some kind. Moreover, the situation at Fort Hare is so far unique. There are about a thousand non-European university students in the Union. Not quite four hundred are at Fort Hare; more than two hundred attend segregated classes at the University of Natal; the "open" universities of Capetown and the Witwatersrand take about two hundred each. It is perhaps significant that this trouble should have broken out in the only fully segregated institution of the lot; and indeed it is hardly conceivable that it should have occurred in the "open" universities. Indeed, as Dr Hellman points out, "Fort Hare disaffiliated from the National Union of South African Students while non-European students at the universities of Capetown and the Witwatersrand co-operated actively with the N.U.S.A.S." If Nationalist zealots get their way and succeed in concentrating non-European higher education in self-contained institutions, in spite of the difficulties outlined by the Holloway Commission, will they not be preparing a seedbed for a whole crop of such troubles?

Extract from
SOUTH AFRICA, London.

16 JUL 1955

FORT HARE INVESTIGATION

Students Now Back to Work

Fort Hare University College reopened after being closed down for some weeks on the order of the college authorities. Students have returned to the institution in the normal fashion.

The members of the commission appointed to inquire into the work and life at Fort Hare are Prof. J. P. Duminy (chairman), Prof. M. C. Botha, and Dr. Edgar Brookes. Professor Duminy is principal of the Pretoria Technical College.

A resolution calling on the governing council to secure the resignation of the principal, Prof. C. P. Dent, was passed at a conference of the Cape African Teachers' Association.

The reasons given in the resolution were that Professor Dent sought to impose military discipline on the university men and women, and demanded unquestioning obedience to authority rather than calling for self-discipline.

The resolution condemned the action of the Fort Hare authorities in closing the college as being "precipitate and unwarranted," and the sending of the students home under police escort as "most reprehensible and outrageous."

27 JUL 1955

REPORT ON FORT HARE SOON

(From Our Correspondent)

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.

THE commission appointed to inquire into the work and life at Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans at Alice has finished its work, and will report to the College Council on its findings soon.

Members of the commission were Professor J. P. Duminy, principal of the Pretoria Technical College (chairman), Dr. Edgar Brookes and Professor M. C. Botha, of Cape Town.

Professor Botha, who returned to Cape Town today from Fort Hare, declined to comment on the outcome of the inquiry, which lasted two weeks. He said a report on the commission's findings would be made to the College Council in the next fortnight.

The inquiry arose from the recent unrest at Fort Hare. In May, the college was closed because of the alleged existence of a caucus, or secret authority in the student body.

The college was reopened on July 1, after being closed for several weeks.

26 JUL 1955

S. Africa University Readmits Dismissed Students

CAPETOWN, July 24:

The authorities of the Fort Hare University College, the only non-European university in South Africa, have commenced re-admitting students whom they had dismissed a few months ago for organising a boycott of the graduation ceremony.

The college authorities had also alleged that a sect or 'caucus' of students was terrorising the college, while the students complained that they were being ruled with 'iron discipline' and were not allowed the freedom students in other universities enjoyed.

All the students being readmitted have been screened. They were asked whether they belonged to the 'caucus' or whether they knew anything about it. A number of students have been refused readmission. The university has thus been purged of what the authorities regard as 'undesirable students'.

A conference of the Cape African Teachers' Conference, meanwhile has asked for the dismissal of the European principal of Fort Hare College, Mr C.P. Dent, on the grounds that he sought to impose military discipline on the men and women students.

The conference condemned the actions of the Fort Hare authorities in closing the college as being 'precipitate and unwarranted', and the sending of the students home under police escort as 'most reprehensible and outrageous'.

The conference said that the alleged existence of a 'caucus' was nothing more than a smokescreen. The conference asked all non-European people to take an active interest in and keep a watchful eye on the administration of Fort Hare.

30 JUL 1955

Students act against Fort Hare ruling



University of Fort Hare

AN East London firm of lawyers has been briefed to take legal action on behalf of the 12 African students who have been dismissed from the University College of Fort Hare.

Announcing this, Mr. Z. K. Mzimba, general secretary of the Cape African Teachers' Association, said a fund had been formed to finance the proceedings.

The dismissal of the students followed "disturbances" at the University College.

CAPE TIMES

5 AUG 1955

FORT HARE STUDENTS



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

The Executive Committee of the Cape African Teachers' Association meeting in East London has decided to take up the case of the 12 students who were refused readmission to Fort Hare when it reopened after being temporarily closed for disciplinary reasons.

The Committee has briefed a firm of attorneys in East London to represent the students, and is appealing for funds.

31 AUG 1955

PRINCIPAL OF FORT HARE

Alice (Cape Province),
Tuesday.

The governing council of the University College of Fort Hare to-day received a request from the principal of the college, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health." His resignation was accepted.

The council said it hoped that Professor Dent would continue in office until the end of the year if his health permitted. It appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college.—Sapa.

Brocott's Daily

31 AUG 1955

Prof. Dent resigns at Fort Hare



ALICE, Wednesday.

The governing council of the University College at Fort Hare yesterday received a request from the principal of the college, Professor C. P. Dent that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health". Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.

The council said it hoped Prof. Dent would continue in office until the end of the year if his health permitted. It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college.—Sapa.

LONDON DAILY DISPATCH



Prof. C. P. Dent



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Fort Hare Principal To Retire

ALICE. — The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare yesterday received a request from the Principal of the College, Prof. C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health".

Prof. Dent's resignation was accepted.

The Council said it hoped that Prof. Dent will continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted.

It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college — (Sapa.)

31 AUG 1955

Principal of Fort Hare to Retire

ALICE, Tuesday.

THE Governing Council of the University of Fort Hare today received a request from the principal of the College, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Prof Dent's resignation was accepted.

The Council said it hoped that Prof Dent will continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted.

It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the College.—Sapa.

31 AUG 1955

KOLLEGEHOOF WIL AFTREE

ALICE. — Die beheerraad van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare het gister 'n versoek van die hoof van die kollege, prof. C. P. Dent, ontvang dat hy „op grond van gesondheidsredes” toegelaat moet word om af te tree.

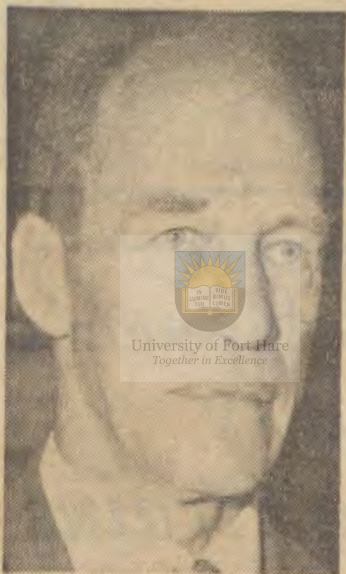
Prof. Dent se bedanking is aangeneem.

Die raad het gesê hy hoop prof. Dent sal aanbly tot die end van die jaar, indien sy gesondheid dit toelaat. Die raad het sy dienste gewaardeer en is jammer dat hy nie in staat is om sy werk vir die kollege voort te sit nie.—

(Sapa.)

31 AUG 1955

Professor Dent Resigns



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare yesterday received a request from the principal of the college, Prof. C. P. Dent (picture above), that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill-health." Prof. Dent's resignation was accepted. The Council said it hoped he would continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted. It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college.

Extract from

THE TIMES

LONDON

Date



AUG 1955

PRINCIPAL OF FORT HARE RESIGNS

A664

ALICE, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, Aug. 30.
—The governing council of the University College of Fort Hare has accepted the resignation because of ill-health of the Principal, Professor C. P. Dent. The governing council met to-day to consider evidence to be given to a government commission which is inquiring into the expulsions of all students last May.—*Reuter.*

31 AUG 1955

Fort Hare Principal to retire

University of Fort Hare

ALICE, Tuesday.

THE Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare today received a request from the Principal of the College, Prof. C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill-health."

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.

The council said it hoped that Prof. Dent would continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted.—(Sapa).

31 AUG 1955

Principal of Fort Hare resigns



University of Fort Hare
Together in Challenge

ALICE, Tuesday.—The governing council of the University College of Fort Hare today received a request from the principal of the college, Prof. C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.—Sapa.

THE NATAL MERCURY

31 AUG 1955

RESIGNATION OF FORT HARE CHIEF

ALICE, Tuesday.

The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare today received a request from the Principal of the College, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted. The Council said it hoped that Professor Dent will continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted.

It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the College.—(S.A.P.A.)

31 AUG 1955

KOLLEGE-REKTOR TREE AF

ALICE — 'n Versoek van prof. C. P. Dent, rektor van die Fort Hare-universiteitskollege, dat hy toegelaat word om af te tree „weens swak gesondheid”, is gister deur die hebeerraad van die Universiteitskollege aanvaar.

Die raad het die hoop uitgespreek dat prof. Dent nog met sy dienste tot die einde van die jaar sal kan voortgaan as sy gesondheid dit toelaat. Sy dienste word op prys gestel en dit spyt die raad dat hy nie in staat is om sy werk vir die kollege voort te sit nie, het die raad gesê.

— (Sapa)

31 AUG 1955

PROF. DENT RESIGNS

University of Fort Hare

ALICE. — The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare yesterday received a request from the principal of the college, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health." Professor Dent's resignation was accepted. The council said it hoped that Professor Dent will continue in office till the end of the year, if his health permitted.

THE CAPE ARGUS

31 AUG 1955

Fort Hare head retiring



UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE
Together in Excellence

ALICE, Wednesday. — The governing council of the University College of Fort Hare received a request yesterday from the principal of the college (Prof. C. P. Dent) that he be permitted to retire 'on the ground of ill-health.'

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.—Sapa.

31 AUG 1955

PROF. DENT BEDANK

ALICE. — Die bestuursraad van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare het gister 'n versoek van die prinsipaal, prof. C. P. Dent, ontvang dat hy toegelaat word om weens gesondheidsredes af te tree.

Prof. Dent se bedanking is aanvaar en die raad het die hoop uitgespreek dat hy, indien sy gesondheidstoestand dit toelaat, tot die einde van die jaar sal aanbly. — (SAPA).

31 AUG 1955

PRINCIPAL OF FORT HARE RESIGNS

ALICE, Tuesday.—The Governing council of the University College of Fort Hare to-day received a request from the principal of the college, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.

The council said it hoped that Professor Dent would continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted this.

It said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college.—SAPA.

31 AUG 1955

Head of Fort Hare resigns



ALICE, Wednesday. — The governing council of the University College of Fort Hare yesterday received a request from the principal of the college, Prof. C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Professor Dent's resignation was accepted.

The council said it hoped that Professor Dent will continue in office until the end of the year, if his health allows it.

The council said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college.—Sapa.

5 JUL 1955

Natives Want Resignation of Fort Hare Principal

From Our Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON, Monday. —

A resolution calling on the governing council of Fort Hare University College to secure the resignation of the principal, Professor C. P. Dent, was passed at a conference of the Cape African Teachers' Association in Queenstown recently.

The reasons given in the resolution were that Professor Dent sought to impose military discipline on the university men and women, and demanded unquestioning obedience to authority rather than calling for self-discipline.

The resolution condemned the action of the Fort Hare authorities in closing the college as being "precipitate and unwarranted," and the sending of the students home under police escort as "most reprehensible and outrageous."

The conference agreed that the alleged existence of a secret pressur group or "caucus," before which both staff and students were helpless, was nothing more than a "smokescreen."

The conference will exhort all non-European people to take an active interest in and watchful eye on the administration of Fort Hare, and to protect the rights of students.—SAPA.

THE STAR

5 JUL 1955

150 students of of 320 at Fort Hare reopened

From Our Correspondent

FORT HARE, Tuesday. — Only about 150 of the 320 students who were expelled from Fort Hare University College for non-Europeans two months ago were present when classes were resumed yesterday.

Most of the absentees were unable to obtain train bookings and will arrive within the next few days. A small number of others, however, are known to have been refused readmission.

The 150 students in residence arrived during the week-end and settled down quietly in the dormitories. The resumption of classes today was reported to have been "normal."

L 1 SEP 1955

found to be 'not merely unplea

THE REPORT URG

**Officials' attitude
also criticised**

S.A. Press Association — JOHANNESBURG

THE REPORT of the Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare University College criticises the attitude of students but says there were also faults by the College authorities.

The report, issued today, refers to politics at the College, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

The report makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare. It suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general (says the report) it aims at the elimination of the relics of the "missionary high school past" surviving at Fort Hare, and transforming the college into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains, who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

The inquiry "Togetherness in Excellence" under the chairmanship of Prof.

bers.

**Has outgrown
the system**

The Commission was appointed by the Governing Council of the College after the closing of the College last May.

The Commission says that all members of the staff at Fort Hare were most co-operative in giving their views and items of details which they thought might be of interest to the Commission.

"The attitude of the staff at the assembly was such that we felt they did not give us reason to hope that we would receive any co-operation from them.

"But we were extremely gratified when in the end this initial atmosphere of suspicion was dispelled gradually by a truly co-operative attitude."

The report says: "Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the college has outgrown the system so admirably suited to earlier years and unsuited to the present day."

The report says the closing of the college in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally.

"We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

**Compared with
Rhodesia**

It says the participation of non-Europeans in the life of the universities of Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal, while most valuable and better in principle than the building up of a "segregated" institution, has somehow not the same symbolic value.

"Old students, who occupy a very distinguished place in non-European society and do much to mould its opinion, are peculiarly sensitive to anything which makes Fort Hare appear less in status than a true university should.

"Recent events, whether justified or not, have deeply wounded this sensitivity."

As an example of this, the report says: "It is not enough to say (what is perfectly true) that the hostels at Fort Hare are superior to those in the missionary high schools.

"African opinion wants to be assured that they will be brought up as rapidly as possible to the status of the Rhodes (University) residences."

Another comparison which will have to be faced in the near future, says the report, concerns the accommodation and food to be provided for African students of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Fort Hare reforms urged

Continued from Page 1.

The report continues: "We were shocked on arriving at the college to realise how bad the atmosphere really was; and though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future, we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students.

"In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some time. A subversive element has been present for years, but up to recently it has been manageable.

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion — suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another. (The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control.)

"The attitude towards the white man, though harmful to the students themselves, is understandable in South African conditions, and is part of the obstruction with the struggle for liberation and with politics generally.

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focused recently on the principal and on the college authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student body

The Commission suggests that the constitution of the S.R.C. at Fort Hare should be brought as closely into conformity as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions.

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence.

But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognised only subject to certain conditions.

"In the first place, those who demand it for themselves must concede it to others, and this they are not very ready to do."

Students taking an unpopular line at student meetings tend to be shouted down or, if they are given a hearing at the time, persecuted afterwards as "sell-outs", says the report.

It adds that "sell-out" is the most devastating term in the present-day vocabulary of Fort Hare.

Immorality

● "Those who claim freedom of speech should learn not to obtrude political and racial speeches into every kind of discussion."

One "rather depressed student" told the commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drink."

The commission members report that they feel there is a disquieting amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

"The very strong wave of anti-Christian feeling which we were sad to encounter at the college is an evil which must be recognised, and against which quiet and effective remedies must be devised. But it is pre-eminently not a subject for official cognisance or disciplinary action."

The report says the Commission was sad to feel how great a concentration there was among students on grievances, and how rare were expressions of gratitude or appreciation.

On the educational side, says the report, the picture is brighter.

Relations in the classroom are, according to both staff and student evidence, happy and friendly and in general the students work well.

"We notice, however, a very strong tendency on the part of the students to place the emphasis on examinations and degrees, and

The report comments on a "distressing lack of contact" between students and staff outside the class-room, and says that both students and staff would welcome channels whereby contacts between them could be renewed and broadened and sustained.

The Commission says it feels that some of the regulations concerning hostel visiting hours are harsh, and that the refusal of a student request to hold a mass meeting to discuss one particular regulation was an error of judgment.

Discussing political and racial factors at the college, the Commission says probably the majority of the students are not active members of any political organisation.

"We feel convinced that there are students who come to Fort Hare already inculcated with ideas and techniques which they have learned outside, and which they feel they must apply at the college.

"They are in touch with the leaders of their organisations outside the campus, and are influenced by them.

"We find it hard to believe that responsible men could countenance actions and attitudes so foreign to the true university ideal and so calculated to lead Fort Hare to disaster.

"It may be that the unique position of the institution in the Union and the great national and international interest in it has led these leaders into the unhappy policy of using it as the spear-head of a national political struggle.

"We wonder if it might not be possible for informal discussions to take place between the heads of these organisations and representatives of the college who might be personae gratiae to them.

"One could not ask the organisations not to stand for their principles, but they could be asked to direct their members at Fort Hare not to confuse the political struggle outside the college with feigning to discipline and constituted authority inside."

Against isolation

The report adds: "If political agitation cannot be eliminated from Fort Hare, can the College continue to exist? . . . Fort Hare must go on, and it cannot in the

what these will bring in the way of material advancement, to the exclusion of the social and cultural side of education.

'Spirit of evil'

"It may seem as if we have dealt at undue length and with unseemly frankness on the faults of the students; but we feel that the present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme.

"It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible — a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative, like the evil possessions recorded in the New Testament.

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform.

"The fact that the present generation of Fort Hare students tend to have a bad reputation outside, even among the African people, must make one think very seriously indeed about the grave situation at the college."

It would be difficult, says the report, to eliminate discussions about politics and race relations from a university.

"The students (at Fort Hare) are bound to be affected by political developments and racial tensions in the Union; by the results of the adoption of different approaches to political and racial problems just across our borders; and not least by the changes that have taken place in these same fields further away, as, for example, in Nigeria, India and the East Indies."

Dangerous

"We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baasskap.

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the college, but is none the less harmful and dangerous.

"Booing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and indeed should not be tolerated.

"Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice-boards."

The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action are also to be deprecated.

"Much of this sort of thing may be explained, though not excused, by the failure at times of the college authorities to recognise legitimate requests or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable, and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another.

The Commission feels the students have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance "is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

one approach to the authority of the authority as authority.

of material advancement, to the exclusion of the social and cultural side of education.

"New wave of the present century, university institutions and institutions on the side of the students, any inquisition into the beliefs of the students, and effective action to all disrespect, insubordination, attacks on the legitimate authorities of the College. In certain circumstances gross or repeated intimidation should be dealt with as an offence.

"But the deepest remedy must be sought in the 'expulsive power of new affections'—in the development of academic life, cultural instincts, sport, personal friendships and all else that goes to make up the fabric of a true university, in the life of which politics (of whatever brand) should be healthy cells in the body academic, not a malignant growth, threatening the health and the very life of everything else in that body."

The report suggests that well-disposed musicians and dramatic companies from nearby centres might pay Fort Hare occasional visits.

"And by the same token the college could arrange for its concerts, choirs and plays to visit other centres."

"The students (at Fort Hare) are bound to be affected by political developments and racial tensions in the Union; by the results of the adoption of different approaches to political and racial problems just across our borders; and not least by the changes that have taken place in these same fields further away, as, for example, in Nigeria, India and the East Indies."

"We notice, however, a very strong tendency on the part of the students to place the emphasis on examinations and degrees, and

Fort Hare report

Disquieting amount of immorality and drinking

(Continued from Page One)

amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another (the last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control).

"The attitude towards the White man, though harmful to the students themselves, is understandable in South African conditions, and is part of the obsession with the struggle for liberation and with politics generally.

CONFUSION

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focused recently on the principal and on the college authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student boys are opposed to all authority as authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baas-kap.

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the college, but is none the less harmful and dangerous.

"Booing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and indeed should not be tolerated. Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice boards.

"The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action are also to be deprecated.

ERRORS OF JUDGMENT

"Much of this sort of thing may be explained, though not excused, by the failure at times of the college authorities to recognize legitimate requests or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable; and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another—a circular which on ethical grounds we cannot approve—yet the student attitude is none the less inherently bad, and makes happy university life impossible."

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle.

"We urge that those in authority should not lightly turn down students' requests as unreasonable, and that the habitual attitude to student requests should be 'why not?' rather than 'why?'"

INTIMIDATION

The commission suggests that the constitution of the S.R.C. at Fort Hare should be brought as closely into conformity as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions in the Union. "The possibility of voting by ballot at S.R.C. and mass meetings might also be entertained as a means of avoiding intimidation of students by one another."

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognized only subject to certain conditions.

"In the first place, those who demand it for themselves must concede it to others, and this they are not very ready to do. There is much intolerance among students, and unfortunately a considerable lack of moral courage on the part of the students generally."

Those who claim freedom of speech should learn not to obtrude political and racial speeches into every kind of discussion, and that college authorities have the right to expect students to take advice and to exercise due discretion in speech and writing when the expression of their thoughts may bring the college into disrepute locally or nationally.

One "rather depressed student" told the commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drink."

that they feel there is a disquieting amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

"We do not think this is wisely dealt with by what appear to us to be unreasonable and impracticable rules about contact between men and women which hinder the well-behaved and are easily evaded by the real criminals, or by expelling students merely for having tasted liquor; but on the other hand we do not feel that the existence of these great scourges should be a matter for equanimity."

On the educational side, says the report, the picture is brighter. Relations in the classroom are, according to both staff and student evidence, happy and friendly and in general the students work well.

SPIRIT OF EVIL

"We feel that the present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme. It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible—a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative, like the evil possessions recorded in the New Testament.

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform."

PROPOSALS

Drastic measures are certainly needed to ensure the college's safe and happy continuance, and among these are changes of personnel and methods.

The commission suggests that the students might need guidance and a strong new lead from the staff in the matter of establishing clubs and societies of a sporting, cultural and social nature.

"All the usual Leftist ideas of religion being the opiate of the masses are found, combined with African rationalist views of the missionary as the agent of the conqueror, and traces of the crude rationalism popular 50 years ago and now to a large extent discredited in intellectual circles."

As a remedy for anti-Christian feeling, the commission suggests, first of all, the complete elimination of the element of compulsion from religious services.

"In the second place we urge that as far as possible the association between the teaching and preaching of religion and responsibility for discipline among the students be broken.

BEST MEN NEEDED

"When new wardens (or, as we suggest, chaplains), come to be appointed, we hope—and we say this without any reflection on past appointments—that the churches will give Fort Hare of their very best. Nobody can be too good a man to spare for this work which may make or mar the future of the Christian faith among the African people."

The spirit in the hostels, generally "not happy," is attributed by the commission to three main factors: personalities, accommodation and the system itself under which the hostels are administered. There was distressing evidence of overcrowding. Immediate attention should be given to the provision of reasonably presentable furniture in the bedrooms and common rooms.

Extract from

The Birmingham Post

SEP 1955

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(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Life at Coloured People's College



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

A commission of enquiry set up to investigate conditions at Fort Hare, South Africa's only university college for non-whites, reported yesterday that the students had some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

It referred to a lack of Christian spirit, to drinking and immorality. "Relations in the classroom are according to both staff and student evidence happy and friendly, and in general the students work well."

The commission made a detailed survey of the conditions which led to the closing of the college on May 4 last and the suspension of 330 out of a total of 367 students for an indefinite period. All students except the ringleaders have since been readmitted. The report recommended the transformation of the college into a modern university institution.

THE NATAL WITNESS

— 1 SEP 1955

PRINCIPAL OF FORT HARE TO RETIRE

Alice, Tuesday.—The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare today received a request from the Principal of the College, Prof. C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health."

Prof. Dent's resignation was accepted.

The Council said it hoped that Prof. Dent would continue in office until the end of the year, if his health permitted.

It said it appreciated his services, and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the College.—Sapa.

SCATHING CRITICISM IN FORT HARE REPORT

Students and authorities blamed by commission

MANY CHANGES which might lead to better conditions are suggested in the report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the college was temporarily closed on May 11.

In general, says the report, the aim is the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

The commission was under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy with Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as members.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

In addition to criticizing the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities.

OUTGROWN SYSTEM

"Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the college has outgrown the system so admirably suited to earlier years, so unsuited to the present day.

"Perhaps, too, the financial stringency of earlier years and the traditions of several generations of missionaries, accustomed to make bricks without straw, has had its effects on parts of the material side of the college's life, as the traditional compulsory church services of missionary high schools have influenced religious practices in what is now a modern and growing university institution.

"We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

The participation of non-Europeans in the life of the universities of Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal, while most valuable and better in principle than the building up of a "segregated" institution, has somehow not the same symbolic value.

FAULTS AND ERRORS

"We were shocked on arriving at the college to realize how bad the atmosphere really was; and though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students. In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be

(Continued on Page Three.)



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

FORT HARE REPORT

Politics and drinking are attacked

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

THE report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the college was closed temporarily on May 11, has been issued by order of the governing council of the college.

The commission was under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy and had Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members. The report makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to the troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which may lead to better conditions.

In general, says the report, it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

MEN'S HOSTELS

'Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline,' says the commission.

In addition to criticizing the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities. It refers to politics at the college, to a lack of Christian spirit and to drinking and immorality.

On May 4 the executive of the Governing Council of the college was informed that the College Senate had decided that 330 students, of a total of 367, should be suspended from the college for an indefinite period.

CALMER ATMOSPHERE

In view of this, and of a review of the situation by the principal, the executive decided to suspend the activities of the college so that the position could be examined in a calmer atmosphere.

On May 11 the Governing Council confirmed the action of the executive and decided to appoint a commission of inquiry into the life and work of the college.

'The attitude of the students did not give us reason to hope that we would receive any co-operation from them, but we were extremely gratified when in the end this initial atmosphere of suspicion was dispelled gradually by a truly co-operative attitude.'

Fort Hare was opened in 1916 with an enrolment of 20 students and with 'a kindly paternalism,

(Continued on page 2, column 3)

STUDENTS' HABITS ARE CRITICIZED

(Continued from page 1)

a concentration of powers in the hands of the principal, an interpretation of discipline on high school rather than university lines.

UNSUITED

'Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the college has outgrown the system so admirably suited to those earlier years, so unsuited to the present day.

'Perhaps, too, the financial stringency of earlier years and the traditions of several generations of missionaries, accustomed to make bricks without straw, have had their effects on parts of the material side of the college life, as the traditional compulsory church services of missionary high schools have influenced religious practices in what is now a modern and growing university institution.'

STRONG REACTIONS

The closing of the college in May produced strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally.

'We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated.'

The participation of non-Europeans in the life of the university at Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal, while most valuable and better in principle than the building up of a 'segregated' institution, has somehow not the same symbolic value, the report says.

'Old students, who occupy a distinguished place in non-European society and do much to mould its opinion, are peculiarly sensitive to anything which makes Fort Hare appear less in status than a true university should. Recent events, whether justified or not, have deeply wounded this sensitivity.'

RAISED STATUS

As an example of this, the report says, 'it is not enough to say (as is perfectly true) that the hostels at Fort Hare are superior to those in the missionary high schools. African opinion wants to be assured that they will be brought up as rapidly as possible to the status of the Rhodes (University) residence.'

The report continues: 'We were shocked on arriving at the college to realize how bad the atmosphere really was; and, though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future, we should not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students.'

'In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.'

SUBVERSIVE ELEMENT

'We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years, but up to recently it has been manageable.'

'A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one

another. (The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control.)

'Mistrust and disrespect have been focused recently on the principal and on the college authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student body are opposed to all authority as authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baaskap.

DISCIPLINE

'Neither Fort Hare nor any other university can exist without discipline, but it may be desirable to modernize the rules of the college, provided that such as are still necessary in present-day conditions must be enforced.'

'Booing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises which the principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and, indeed, should not be tolerated.'

'Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice-boards.'

BOYCOTTS

'The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action is also to be deprecated.'

'Much of this sort of thing may be explained, though not excused, by the failure at times of the college authorities to recognize legitimate requests, or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable; and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another—a circular which on ethical grounds we cannot approve. Yet the student attitude is nonetheless inherently bad, and makes happy university life impossible.'

The report says the commission feels that the students at Fort Hare have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students' Representative Council and the College Senate is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle.'

STUDENTS' REQUESTS

All students' representative councils must at times be prepared to take 'No' as an answer to their requests, but 'at the same time we would urge that those in authority should not lightly turn down students' requests as unreasonably, and that the habitual attitude to students' requests should be 'Why not?' rather than 'Why?'

The commission suggests the constitution of the S.R.C. Fort Hare should be brought closely into conformity as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions. The possibility of voting by ballot at S.R.C. and mass meetings might also be entertained as a means of avoiding intimidation of students by one another.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognized only subject to certain conditions.



University of Fort Hare
Together in excellence

COMMISSION CRITICISES FORT HARE STUDENTS

D SENSE OF FORT HARE

Also faults and errors by College authorities

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

THE report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare Native University College, published to-day, refers to politics at the College, to a lack of the Christian spirit and to drinking and immorality among other matters.

The report says that the students have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The report says that one rather depressed student told the commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drink." The commission felt there was a disquieting amount of immorality and drinking at the college.

The report also criticises the College authorities. There had been faults and errors on their part. Much of the lack of discipline could be explained, though not excused, by the failure at times of the College authorities to recognise legitimate requests from the students or by their slowness in implementing requests which were legitimate.

In its concluding stages, the report says: "It may seem as if we have dealt at undue length and with unseemly frankness on the faults of the students; but we feel that the present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme."

"It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible—a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative, like the evil possessions recorded in the New Testament."

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform."

"The fact that the present generation of Fort Hare students tends to have a bad reputation outside, even among the African people themselves, must make one think very seriously indeed about the grave situation at the College."

COLLEGE CLOSING

The commission was appointed after the College Senate had decided in May that 330 students of the College, of a total of 367, should be suspended from the College for an indefinite period, and after the activities of the College had been suspended, so that the position "could be examined in a calmer atmosphere."

The commission was under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Durney and had Professor M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members.

'PATERNALISM'

The report says Fort Hare was opened in 1916 with an enrolment of 20 students and with "a kindly paternalism, a concentration of powers in the hands of the principal, and interpretation of discipline on high school rather than university lines."

"Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the College has outgrown the system so admirably suited to those earlier years, so unsuited to the present day."

The report says the closing of the College in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally. "We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

It says the participation of non-Europeans in the life of the Universities of Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal, while most valuable and better in principle than the building up of a segre-

gated institution, has somehow not the same symbolic value.

DEEPLY WOUNDED

"Old students, who occupy a very distinguished place in non-European society and do much to mould its opinion, are peculiarly sensitive to anything which makes Fort Hare appear less in stature than a true university should. Recent events, whether justified or not, have deeply wounded this sensitivity."

As an example of this, the report says: "It is not enough to say (what is perfectly true) that the hostels at Fort Hare are superior to those in the missionary high schools. African opinion wants to be assured that they will be brought up as rapidly as possible to the status of Rhodes University residences."

Another comparison which will have to be faced in the near future, says the report, concerns the accommodation and food to be provided for African students of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The report continues: "We were shocked on arriving at the college to realise how bad the atmosphere really was, and though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future, we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students."

"In our opinion, there have been faults and errors on the part of the College authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained."

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years, but up to recently it has been manageable."

"A noticeable feature of student life at the College was the lack of discipline in the Assembly, at which

the safe and happy continuance of the College. Among these changes of personnel and methods and new ways of life more compatible with the status of a university institution.

The Commission recommended that the men's hostels should be transferred to the College and placed under College wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline.

The Commission says it is beyond question that the wardens have too much to do. "It would be a good thing for the churches themselves and their work if the duties of the hostels could be divided so that their material features affecting management and discipline could fall to the lot of wardens appointed by the Council from among the lay members of its teaching staff, and their spiritual aspects be the function of chaplains appointed by the churches."

THE PRINCIPAL

One of the features of the administration of the college that struck them most forcibly was the fact that the principal took a colossal amount of the work and the responsibility on his own shoulders.

"This could be attributed in a measure to the paternalism inherent in the traditions of the College, but also very largely to the genuine desire on the part of the principal to be of the greatest possible assistance to the students, and to use to his colleagues."

"But the result of it is that he is far too accessible to the students, and is being overwhelmed by matters of detail (some of them amounting to the merest trivialities) that should never be allowed to engage his attention at all."

It was not right that the principal should be in the front line of action, with no screens to absorb the blows that should and could be met and disposed of at other

Daily Representative

11 SEP 1955

Queenstown

Fort Hare Inquiry Commission Issues Report

Students And College Authorities Criticised



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

The report of the Commission of Enquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the college was temporarily closed on May 11, has been issued by order of the Governing Council of the College.

The report of the commission, which was under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Dumfry, and had Professor C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as other members, makes a detailed survey of the conditions leading to the troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general, says the report, it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school of the past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the States State Department under the

College wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains, who will be asked to administer discipline", says the commission.

In addition to criticising the attitude of the students, the report says that there were also faults on behalf of the College authorities. It refers to the politics at the College, to the lack of Christian spirit, to the good relations in the classrooms, and to the drinking and immorality among other matters.

The Commission says all members of the staff at Fort Hare were most co-operative in giving their views, and the items of detail which they thought might be of interest to the Commission.

"The attitude of the students at the Assembly, at which we met them, did not give us reason to hope that we would receive any co-operation from them, but we were extremely gratified when, in the end, this initial atmosphere of suspicion was dispelled gradually by a truly co-operative attitude."

—Sapa.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1955

CAPE  TIMES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1955

Fort Hare

ALTHOUGH there is some uncomfortable reading in the report of the three-man commission which investigated recent troubles in the Fort Hare Native College, there is no need to take too tragic a view of the situation. The report itself is permeated with a robust faith that, with reorganization and goodwill, better relations will be established between staff and students and, with that, better student behaviour. The bad behaviour reported by the commission divides naturally into two aspects: the political aspect, which is a direct expression of the Bantu nationalist feelings of the students; and the moral aspect, which is not specifically Bantu.

The political truculence that has led to non-co-operation with the staff and to intimidation of the more moderate elements among the students is a most deplorable thing, because the sort of behaviour which arises from it destroys that spirit of give and take and free exchange of opinion within the student body which is one of the most valuable parts of university life. In an ordinary university there are always many students with a fiery enthusiasm for a variety of causes; but there is also a rough-and-ready tolerance which allows even a crank to express himself—although it can be drastic with bores and nuisances. If the intolerance of dissident opinion in Fort Hare goes on all the students, including those who shout down dissidents, will be losing something of incalculable value. But, apart from the influence of Native political organizations outside the college, it may well be that this intolerance is fostered partly by the rather grandmotherly disciplinary rules to which the students have been subjected, as well as by the lack of facilities for physical recreation. If these defects are remedied in the enlightened reorganization scheme recommended by the commission it should not be over-optimistic to expect improvement in time.

At the same time the country must recognize that the nature of Fort Hare as an exclusively non-European and mainly Bantu institution will inevitably result in a higher degree of militant political demonstration there than is usual in other universities. As the commission observes, general disciplinary actions by the college authorities are taken by the students not as simple disciplinary actions but as expressions of *baasskap*. It is a natural development in a segregated institution, especially as long as the majority of the staff are Europeans. It is, incidentally, one piece of evidence discrediting the Nationalist argument that segregation naturally leads to greater contentment and better race relations.

The disclosures of anti-Christian behaviour, excessive drinking and immorality are serious; but here again they should not be taken too tragically. Few who have gone through any university have failed to observe examples of these failings among some White students. What matters is how the problem is to be met; and the reorganization, with the provision of better common-room and recreation facilities, should help towards more innocent ways of letting off adolescent and post-adolescent steam. Hope that this may be so is based on

first, the experience of the commission itself. When it started its investigations it despaired of ever being able to establish mutual confidence with the students; but before it left there had been a marked change for the better. The second reason for hope is that relations between staff and students in the classrooms have on the whole been good. This fact strongly supports the commission's suggestion that the present hostel and general disciplinary systems are faulty rather than that the students are wholly and inherently to blame. There must, of course, as in all colleges, be some troublesome individuals who should (as in all other colleges) be expelled if they refuse to behave. But the system should be such that trouble-makers shall usually be an insignificant minority.

'Spirit of evil at college could destroy it'

FORT HARE INQUIRY FAULTS STUDENTS AND AUTHORITIES

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.—(Sapa).

THE Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the College was temporarily closed on May 11, has been issued by order of the Governing Council of the College. The report of the Commission, which was under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy and had Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members, makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions. In general (says the report) it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the College's transformation into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the College and be placed under College wardens, the Churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the Commission.

In addition to criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the College authorities: It refers to politics at the College, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

Co-operative

The Commission says that all members of the staff at Fort Hare were most co-operative towards the Commission.

"The attitude of the students at the assembly at which we met them did not give us reason to hope that we would receive any co-operation from them, but we were extremely gratified when in the end this initial atmosphere of suspicion was dispelled gradually by a truly co-operative attitude."

The report says the closing of the College in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally. "We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

The report continues: "We were shocked on arriving at the College to realise how bad the atmosphere really was." But the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future.

Subversive

"There have been faults and errors on the part of the College authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years but up to recently it has been manageable.

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the College authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another. (The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control).

Obsession

"The attitude towards the White man, though harmful to the students themselves, is understandable in South African conditions, and is part of the obsession with the struggle for liberation and with politics generally.

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focused recently on the Principal and on the College authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student

body are opposed to all authority, as authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baasskap.

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the College, but it is none the less harmful and dangerous. It may be desirable to modernise the rules of the College.

Intolerable

"Booing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the Principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and indeed should not be tolerated. Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice-boards.

"The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action is also to be deprecated.

"Much of this sort of thing may be explained though not excused by the failure at times of the College authorities to recognise legitimate requests or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable; and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another—a circular which on ethical grounds we cannot approve. We do not think the student attitude is none the less inherently bad."

Misconceptions

The report says the Commission feels the students at Fort Hare have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students' Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the College must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

The conduct of student affairs should be modernised, says the commission.

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But says the report, "those who demand it for themselves must concede it to others, and this they are not very ready to do."

Persecuted

Students taking an unpopular line at student meetings tend to be shouted down or persecuted afterwards as "sell-outs," says the report. It adds that "sell-out" is the most devastating term in the present-day vocabulary at Fort Hare.

"There is much intolerance among students and unfortunately a considerable lack of moral courage on the part of the students generally."

One "rather depressed student" told the Commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drinking." The Commission members report that they feel there is a disgusting amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

"We do not think this is wisely dealt with by what appear to us to be unreasonable and impracticable rules about contact between men and women which hinder the well-behaved and are easily evaded by the real criminals, or by expelling students merely for having tasted liquor.

"The very strong wave of anti-Christian feeling which we were sad to encounter at the College, is an evil which must be recognised and against which quiet and effective remedies must be devised."

The report says the Commission was sad to feel how great a concentration there was among students on grievances and how rare were expressions of gratitude or appreciation.

Encouragement

"There is a real need for encouraging student self-help and student initiative. Too often students fail to take responsibility, while complaining that it is not their own affairs."

On the educational side, says the report, the picture is brighter. Relations in the classroom are, according to both staff and student evidence, happy and friendly, and in general the students work well.

The present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme. It struck us at once as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible—a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative, like the New Testament.

Reform

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform.

The fact that the present generation of Fort Hare students tends to have a bad reputation outside, even among the African people themselves, must make one think very seriously indeed about the grave situation at the College."

The report comments on a "distressing lack of contact" between students and staff outside the classroom.

The Commission says it feels that some of the regulations concerning hostel visiting hours are harsh and that the refusal of a student to discuss one particular regulation was an error of judgment.

Politically divided

Discussing political and racial factors at the College, the Commission says probably the majority of the students are not active members of any political organisation.

"Those who do belong as members to political groups are divided in their allegiance. Some belong to the youth movement of the African National Congress, some to the S.O.Y.A. (Sons of Young Africa), the junior branch of the All-African Convention."

"There is reason to believe that S.O.Y.A. has the upper hand at the moment and has exercised considerable influence on the student body. In so far as there is any inner circle stimulating students to an attitude of resistance to authority, it is almost certainly to be sought in these political groupings."

Inculcated

"We feel convinced that there are students who come to Fort Hare already inculcated with ideas and techniques which they have learned outside and which they feel they must apply at the College. They are in touch with the leaders of their organisations outside the campus and are influenced by them."

These leaders, said the report, might be using Fort Hare "as the spearhead of a national political struggle."

"If political agitation cannot be eliminated from Fort Hare, can the College continue to exist? We have not evaded this issue. Fort Hare must go on and it cannot in the nature of the case be exempt from all political troubles."

"Drastic measures are certainly needed to ensure its safe and happy

continuance and among these are changes of personnel and methods. New ways of life more compatible with the status of a university institution are called for on the side of the authorities.

"With these must be associated not any inquisition into the political beliefs of the students, but prompt and effective action to deal with all disrespect, insubordination, and attacks on the legitimate authorities of the College. In certain circumstances gross or repeated intimidation should be dealt with as an offence.

"But the deepest remedy must be sought in the development of academic life, cultural instincts, sport, personal friendships and all else that goes to make up the fabric of a true university, in the life of which politics (of whatever brand) should be healthy cells in the body academic."

Rejection

The Commission rejects a suggestion that Fort Hare might be closed and the students distributed among the universities that admit non-Europeans.

The Commission suggests that the students might need guidance and a strong new lead from the staff in the matter of establishing clubs and societies of a sporting, cultural and social nature.

"As to the present state of religion in the College, there is much indifference and a good deal of active hostility towards Christianity among the students. Leftist and nationalist propaganda has been spread among the students, combined with African nationalist views of the missionary, as the agent of the conqueror.

Remedies

As a remedy for anti-Christian feeling, the Commission suggests, first of all, the complete elimination of the element of compulsion from religious services. Devotional exercises at assembly had become for many students, a "rockery."

The Commission adds: "In the second place we urge that as far as possible the association between the teaching and preaching of religion and responsibility for discipline among the students be broken."

"As things stand now the lay staff are associated in the student minds with the comparatively early and happy relationships of the classrooms, while the official representatives of Christianity are held responsible for every bit of tension or difficulty at the hostels. Secular authorities are credited with the well-appointed lecture rooms and laboratories, and the church is debited with all the deficiencies of the hostel common rooms.

"No more skillful way could have been devised of fanning anti-religious prejudices.

Marshal forces

The Commission also recommends that "the forces of Christianity should be marshalled for a new advance on all parts of the front."

"What Fort Hare should aim at, instead of compelling unwilling students to attend religious services, is to put heart and courage into the Christian students so that they may play the man and put up such a fight for their faith as to put the propagandists for unbelief on the defensive... if the forces of Christianity are alive and valiant."

The theological students will not feel so much a class alone as they do today. The pressure of contempt, ridicule and ostracism frequently brought to bear on these students is a severe test of their faith, and it is not right that other Christians should fall to stand by them."

The report emphasises that it is not in the class-rooms or laboratories, but in the hostels, the dining hall and the administration of discipline that the chief difficulties of the College are to be found.

The spirit in the hostels, generally "not happy," is attributed by the Commission to three main factors: personal

(Continued on next page)

FORT HARE REPORT DETAILS

(Continued from preceding page)

ties, accommodation and the system itself under which the hostels are administered.

While many students were accommodated in single rooms, there was other distressing evidence of overcrowding, with cupboard space for personal belongings almost non-existent. Such defects should be remedied without delay.

Immediate attention should be given to the provision of reasonably presentable furniture in the bedrooms and common rooms. "The men's common room struck us as being singularly bleak and unattractive."

Little hard

The report continues: "With regard to the bedrooms, it appeared to us to be a little hard that students were in many cases not provided with mattresses. Perhaps the provision of mattresses could be arranged on the basis of a yearly fee for hire so that their cost could be defrayed over a period of years.

"The importance of the hostels is so great that we feel the needs must be fairly faced; and if the churches cannot meet them, the College must."

Even though it seems to be generally felt that the students are not willing to undertake responsi-

bilities, it might well be worthwhile to provide them with a chance to maintain simple disciplines in the hostels as a training ground for greater responsibilities in wider fields, says the report.

Treatment

If the students were supplied with copies of the rules at residences of other university institutions they might realise that they were not being treated differently from students elsewhere.

There were many student complaints, says the Commission about the food in the dining-room—chiefly about the monotony of the meals and the standard of the cooking. During the week the Commission was at the College "the quality seemed to be good and the cooking quite satisfactory."

If more meat days are allowed, together with a regular supply of fruit and a genuine variety of vegetables, "the students will simply have to face an increase in fees."

The improvements suggested "are very desirable not only because deficiencies (major or minor) in dining halls are notorious grounds for complaint, but also because students' health—both temperamental and physical—will be improved thereby."

The Commission suggests that students would be more readily

satisfied with the food if, under a system of rotation, staff members had meals with senior students in the dining hall, eating the same food.

An adequate common room, with proper facilities, should be built on the campus to replace the present inadequate meeting place. It has to have a cafeteria and the hours in which it remained open should be "generous."

"We feel that a sanatorium of say 12 beds is an urgent necessity."

Principal defended

"One of the features of the administration of the College that struck us most forcibly is the fact that the Principal takes a colossal amount of the work and responsibility on his own shoulders. . . . He is far too accessible to the students."

Suggestions

The Commission says: "Our suggestions include new appointments ranging from those of permanent deans to those of capable general maintenance staff."

The Commission says the practice of making small personal loans to students appears to be generous in principle, however genuine and generous the motive. The regulations concerning the payment of fees should be applied far more strictly.

The Commission says it was impressed by the qualifications and efficiency of the administrative staff at Fort Hare. The College is better served in this respect than any educational institution of comparable size that we know."

The report suggests that the Principal, to ease the burden on himself, should delegate certain of his tasks and powers.

Unduly occupied

Referring to discipline the report says: "The Principal is unduly occupied with all kinds of disciplinary cases and that the time of the Senate is too much occupied in acting as a court of appeal or review.

"Discipline at Fort Hare is somewhat unpredictable, sometimes an element of leniency or even softness comes in, then unexpectedly the authorities clamp down with almost too much severity.

"Too much use is made of student tale-bearers. They should be discouraged, especially if they are reporting on fellow-students' political or other speeches."

Overhaul system

The Commission advises in detail an overhaul of the disciplinary system at Fort Hare and lists steps which, it says, would greatly reduce the number of disciplinary cases.

The report says the Commission was informed in confidence of the intention of the Fort Hare Principal to resign because of ill-health.

"The Commission wishes to place on record its conviction that Fort

Hare will have to go a long way to find a principal of greater integrity or deeper care for the students than Prof. Dent. He has never spared himself and those who know him well cherish for him, as we ourselves do, sentiments of deep affection and admiration.

New era

"Any new principal will, if the Council approves the main tenor of this report, begin a new era in the life of Fort Hare. He will not be accessible to the students as Prof. Dent has been and will delegate most of the day-by-day administrative and routine duties; for the College can no longer be conducted successfully on the paternal basis so natural in its earlier years."

It deprecates the "highly undesirable and dangerous" practice of making loans to members of the staff.

On the purely educational aspects of the College's life, says the Commission, the policy at Fort Hare should be to seize every opportunity of fostering cultural life at the expense of concentration on examinations.

Friendships

"It is important that Fort Hare should be lined up in every possible way with other university institutions and that as many friendships as possible should be formed with leaders of thought outside the College," says the report.

"In particular, we would plead that Fort Hare do everything in its power to encourage co-operation with Rhodes University."

The Commission says the institution of a law chair is long overdue and the time is ripe for the introduction of commerce.

The Commission suggests that the best way of giving music—an African gift—its proper place in the College would be to establish a chair of music and to teach music as a major subject for the B.A. degree.

Physical education

The Commission also suggests the creation of a department of physical education, a gymnasium and a swimming bath.

"We are convinced that the release from mental tensions that healthy physical interests and activity will bring about will play a large part in restoring a calm and congenial atmosphere, besides, of course, contributing greatly to the bodily improvement and welfare of the students."

Food Complaints

There were many complaints about the diningroom—chiefly about the monotony of the meals and the standard of the cooking. "The Commission is of the opinion that the college, to be good, and the standard of the cooking satisfactory."

"If greater variety were provided, we fear that

2 SEP 1955

Fort Hare Inquiry report published

JOHANNESBURG, Friday.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College appointed after the college was temporarily closed on May 11, has been issued by order of the governing council of the college.

The report of the commission, which was under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Dominy and had Professor M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as other members, made a detailed survey of conditions leading up to the troubles at Fort Hare and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general (says the report) it aims at the elimination of relics of the Missionary High School past, surviving at Fort Hare and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is a recommendation that the men's hostel should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

STUDENTS' ATTITUDE

In addition to criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities. It refers to politics at the college, to the lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in the classrooms, and to drinking and immorality among other matters.

The commission says all members of the staff at Fort Hare were most co-operative in giving their views and items of detail which they thought might be of interest to the commission.

"The attitude of students at the assembly at which we met them, did not give us reason to hope that we would receive any co-operation from them but we were extremely gratified when, in the end, this initial sphere of suspicion was gradually by a truly cooperative attitude."—Sapa.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

2 SEP 1955

Skokkende Toestande aan Fort Hare

'N OPSIENBARE verslag oor misstande aan die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare (vir naturelle) is bekend gemaak. Dit openbaar sedelike, politieke en anti-godsdienstige uitspattighede van die allerernstigste aard.

Die verslag is opgestel deur 'n kommissie wat op versoek van die Beheerraad van die universiteitskollege ondersoek ingestel het, nadat die kollege vroeër vanjaar gesluit was omdat die toestand hand-uit geruk het. ('n Opsomming van die verslag verskyn op bl. 3.)

Die Burger

VRYDAG, 2 SEPTEMBER 1955

Die Skandaal van Fort Hare

IN byna onnatuurlik rustige taal het die kommissie van ondersoek na die sake van die Universiteitskollege Fort Hare 'n alleronsaligste gemors blootgelê.

Dit bevestig die indruk ten tyde van die noodsluiting van die inrigting dat die moeilik-hede aldaar baie diep sit en 'n saak van dringende openbare belang geword het. Die toestande soos dit deur die kommissie beskrywe word, is trouens só bedenklik dat sy ontleding van die oorsake sowel as sy aanbevelinge vir 'n verbetering vir ons, om dit sag te stel, heeltemal ontoereikend lyk.

Miskien bring die volledige verslag groter insig as die uittreksels, maar ná die lees van laasgenoemde vra ons met nog meer erns: Hoe op aarde is dit moontlik dat 'n staatsgesubsidieerde inrigting, onder sterk kerklike seggenskap en invloed, en onder beheer van vooraanstaande burgers en geleerdes, in so 'n verrotte en bose toestand kon verval? En uit hierdie vraag groei vanself ongelooft dat die middels wat aanbeveel word—'n verandering hier en 'n reorganisasie daar, met 'n klompe nuwighede—die moeras sal opruim.

Die kommissie maak daar geen geheim van dat Fort Hare feitlik tot sterwens toe siek is nie. Waar moet die owerheid van die inrigting, onder wie die siekte so rampspoedig ontwikkel het, die besieling en die visie en die energie vandaan haal om skielik 'n nuwe bedeling te begin? En sonder so 'n nuwe bedeling is Fort Hare klaar-

blyklik gedoem om van krisis tot krisis te beweeg en intussen produkte Suid-Afrika in te stuur wat 'n geestelike besmetting van die ergste aard uitdra.

Dit maak van die vraagstuk van Fort Hare 'n nasionale saak. Die inrigting is 'n kweekplek van naturelleiers op allerlei gebiede. Wat hulle vandag dink en sê en doen, sal binne korte tyd die gedrag van honderdduisende van hul rasgenote bepaal. Kan Suid-Afrika dit bekostig dat die Fort Hare wat die ondersoek-kommissie beskrywe, só 'n rol in die lewe van die land speel?

Ons is bevrees dat bloedmin openbare steun te kry sal wees vir die verdere ontwikkeling van hierdie inrigting, of selfs vir sy voortbestaan, sonder die duidelike waarborge dat die misstande van 'n kant af opgeruim sal word. Daartoe is nodig dat veel deurtastender ingegaan sal word op die verantwoordelikheid vir die huidige toestand, ook en veral vir die soort „ideologie” wat die koers (of die koersloosheid) van Fort Hare bepaal.

Dat die gemoed van die geleerde en lerende naturel in 'n geweldige gisting verkeer, is 'n gemeenplaas. Dat verantwoordelike blankes daardie gisting met simpatie moet probeer vorm en lei, spreek vanself. Dat daar op Fort Hare in dié verband 'n afgrondelike mislukking was, skreeu uit die kommissie se verslag. Dit is noodsaaklik vir die toekoms dat dit tot op die bodem ondersoek word.

DIE VADERLAND ★ Vrydag, 2 September 1955.

Die Vaderland

Suid-Afrika Eerste

Posbus 845 — JOHANNESBURG — Telefoon 31-5411.

FORT HARE

DIT IS 'N LELIKE prentjie wat ontvou word in die verslag oor die wanordelikhede by Fort Hare. Die kommissie (prof. J. P. Duminy, prof. M. C. Botha en dr. E. H. Brookes) draai geen doekies om nie en sy bevinding dat die huidige atmosfeer daar oppergevaarlik is as gevolg van 'n byna hoorbare en sigbare gees van boosheid verdien die ernstigste aandag. Tegelyk behoort dit diegene wat die naturel met onheldere frases en vae algemeenhede wil voorlig, aan die dink te sit.

Aanskouingsles Hoe seer ons die gedrag van die naturellestudente laakbaar en veroordelenswaardig vind, glo ons tog dat die wortels van die verontrustende optrede en die ontstellende misopvattinge ver buitekant die kollegeterrein lê. Wat die kommissie daar aangetref het, is 'n duidelike afspieëling van wat in sekere leierskringe onder die naturelle gevind word. Ons doel hier op die noodlottige geesteshouding dat die politiek die alfa en omega van die Bantoe se vooruitgang moet wees en dat ontwikkeling deur eie geestes- en fisiese inspanning van ondergeskikte belang is. Vandaar die oppervlakkige begrip onder die betrokke studente dat die hoofsaak van opleiding die verkryging van 'n graad is en die materiële voordele wat dit kan meebring. Hiernaasaan staan die gees om regte op te eis en met onhebbelikhede te probeer afdwing sonder om die pligte en verantwoordelikhede daaraan verbonde, te wil aanvaar.

Hierdie wanopvattinge moet herlei word tot 'n onderwysstelsel wat nie rekening gehou het met die kulturele aanleg en beskawingspeil van die naturel nie, en wat van hom 'n iesegrimmige mens maak, vatbaar vir volksvreemde invloede. Hoewel die kommissie enkele oordeelsfoute by die kollegeowerheid gevind het, het die prinsipaal met sy doserende en administratiewe personeel hulle halfdood gewerk om die beste te maak van die oorgeërfde stelsel en om die studente van die groots moontlike hulp te wees. Die beloning wat hulle gekry het, was buitensporiger eise en ongelooflike aстранheid en onbeleefdheid — 'n gedragslyn wat lynreg staan teenoor die naturel se houding in sy natuurlike staat wat betref wet en orde en die gesag van die witman oor die algemeen. Die bittere vrug wat van Fort Hare gepluk is, leer derhalwe dat dit ydel is om te dink dat die Westerse stelsel en standarde netso op onrype mense oorgeplant kan word. Verder is dit 'n aanskouingsles dat geleerdheid en beskaafdheid nog lank nie sinoniem is nie.

Suspisiesaaier Dit bring ons by diegene wat so te kere gaan oor eie soortige ontwikkeling en elke stukkiewetgewing wat vir die naturel se vooruitgang bereken is, as 'n onderdrukkingsmaatreël afskilder. Die kommissie het bevind dat „agterdog 'n merkbare verskynsel van die studentelewe is — agterdog teenoor die kollegeowerheid! agterdog teen baie (nie almal nie) blankes . . . In die jongste tyd is wantroue en oneerbiedigheid saamgetrek op die prinsipaal en op die kollegeowerheid en dit is moeilik om nie tot die konklusie te kom nie dat minstens 'n deel van die studentemans teen alle gesag as gesag gekant is.”

Gevaarseine Hierdie ontstellende verskynsel bevestig wat ons al meermale in hierdie kolomme beweer het. Die praktyk om met kwaadwillige vertolkings suspisie teen 'n deel van die blanke bevolking te saai, is 'n ernstige gevaar vir die natuurlike ontwikkeling van die naturel.

FORT HARE: „ATMOSFEER GEVAARLIK” — Bevind Kommissie

Daar is 'n verontrustende mate van immoraliteit, en drinkery by Fort Hare, terwyl die golf van 'n anti-Christelike gevoel 'n euwel by Fort Hare is wat erken moet word, verklaar die Kommissie wat aangestel is om ondersoek in te stel na die toestande by Fort Hare, nadat hierdie inrigting op 11 Mei gesluit is.

„Ons voel dat die huidige atmosfeer nie slegs onaangenaam is nie, maar uiters gevaarlik en die bese gevoel was soms selfs sigbaar en voelbaar,” aldus die verslag. Hierdie gees is 'n „vyand van alles wat normaal en skeppend is, en dit kan tot die algehele vernietiging van Fort Hare lei.”

Hierdie kommissie het bestaan onder voorsitterskap van prof. J. P. Duminy met prof. M. C. Botha en dr. E. H. Brookes en ander as lede

Een van die belangrikste aanbevelings is dat die hostels vir mans na die kollege oorgeplaas moet word en dat die kerke-kapelane moet aanstel om dissipline te handhaaf. Luidens die verslag was daar ook foute aan die kant van die kollege-owerheid wat reggemaak moet word.

„Ons wonder of die simboliese waarde van Fort Hare vir die naturel en ander seksies van die gemeenskap voldoende besef is,” aldus die verslag. Die deelname van nie-blankes aan universiteite soos dié van Kaapstad, Johannesburg en Natal, hoe waardevol ook al, het nie die selfde simboliese betekenis nie.

Ondergrondse

Aan Fort Hare het daar 'n ondergrondse element jarelank geheers maar tot onlangs toe was hierdie element nog beheerbaar, lui die verslag

Agterdog is 'n kenbare eienskap van studentelewe — agterdog teenoor die kollege-owerheid, teen sommige blankes en teenoor mekaar. Die houding teenoor die blanke, hoewel skadelik vir die studente self, is verstaanbaar in Suid-Afrikaanse toestande en dit vorm deel van die obsessie in die stryd om vryheid en in die algemene politieke stryd aldus die verslag.

Wantroue en disrespek is onlangs teenoor die hoof en die kollege-owerheid geopenbaar en dis moeilik om nie tot die slotson te geraak nie dat sommige van die studente teen alie gesag gekant is.

„Ons glo dit is gedeeltelik te wyte aan die verwarring van wetlike dissipline met baasskap en met die oog op politieke en rassegeskille buitekant die kollege, is dit verstaanbaar, hoewel dit nietemin nie skadelik en gevaarlik is.

Die verslag maak dan melding van die min ontsag wat teenoor die hoof geopenbaar word wanneer hy aan die woord is, en van naamlose briewe wat op die

lede aan verskillende organisasies behoort.

Ons voel dat dit oortuigend dat daar studente is wat na Fort Hare kom met ander idees en tegnieke wat buite buitekant geleer het en wat hulle daar wil toepas. Hulle is in aanraking met die leiers van hul organisasies en word deur hulle beïnvloed, en die Kommissie wonder of dit nie moontlik sal wees vir die leiers van hierdie organisasies en verteenwoordigers van die kollege om saam te kan kom en informele gesprekke te voer nie.

Nietemin is 'n kritiese maatreeks nodig om die gelukkige voortbestaan daarvan te verseker en daarvoor sal veranderinge in persoonel en metodes. Die Kommissie beswerp die gedagte dat Fort Hare gesluit moet word en dat die studente na ander inrigtings gestuur word.

Daar is oortuigende bewyse dat linksgesinde en rassionalistiese propaganda onder die studente versprei word en in baie gevalle nog voor dat hulle by Fort Hare kom. In sommige gevalle selfs eers nadat hulle daar aangeland het.

borde opgeplak word.

Die studente aan Fort Hare het 'n vreemde konsep van universiteitsvryheid en hulle eis 'n vryheid wat groter as dié aan enige ander blanke universiteit is. Die oordrewe opvatting van eiebelangrikheid van die studente openbaar in briewe tussen studente en die V.S.R. en die senaat „is miskien te wyte daaraan dat die kollege as die voorhoede van die politieke en rassestryd beskou moet word”, lui die verslag.

„Daar heers baie onverdraagsaamheid onder die studente en 'n aansienlike mate van gebrek aan morele waardes aan die kant van die studente as geheel.” In die verslag word dit betreur dat daar so baie van griewe gemaak en so min dankbaarheid betoon word.

Dit sal moeilik wees, aldus die verslag, om politieke gesprekke en betrekkinge oor rassebetrekkinge aan 'n universiteit uit te skakel. „Die Fort Hare-studente word noodwendig deur politieke ontwikkelings en rassesspannings in die Unie geraak en deur die gevolge van die verskillende benaderings teenoor politieke en rassevraagstukke net buitekant ons grense, en nie die minste nie deur die veranderinge wat verder plaasgevind het, soos bv. in Nigerië en Indië.”

Waarskynlik is die meerderheid van die studente nie lede van enige politieke organisasie nie, terwyl die politiekbewuste

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London.

- 2 SEP 1955

"SPIRIT OF EVIL" IN COLLEGE

S. AFRICAN REPORT

From Our Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Thursday.

Revelations of "a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible" among students of Fort Hare University College, near Grahamstown, are made in a report issued to-day. Fort Hare is the only non-white institution of university status in South Africa.

A commission of inquiry was appointed to study conditions at the college after Fort Hare was temporarily closed on May 11.

The commission says the college is being used as the spearhead of a national political struggle. "Students who come to Fort Hare are already inculcated with ideas and techniques learned outside and which they feel they must apply at the college."

The report recommends drastic measures. These would include changes in college personnel and methods.

2 SEP 1955

REPORT ON FORT HARE: DRASTIC CHANGES URGED

Commission Speaks Of Evil Spirit

JOHANNESBURG, Friday.

DRASTIC MEASURES which might lead to better conditions are suggested in the report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the college was temporarily closed on May 11.

In general, says the report, the aim is the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

The commission, under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy with Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as members, criticised both the students and the college authorities.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

"Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the college has outgrown the system so admirably suited to earlier years, so unsuited to the present day

"We were shocked on arriving at the college to realise how bad the atmosphere really was; and though the students attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students. In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.

SUSPICION

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another (the last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control).

"The attitude towards the White man, though harmful to the students themselves, is understandable in South African conditions, and is part of the obsession with the struggle for liberation and with politics generally."

Mistrust and disrespect had been focused recently on the principal and the college authorities, and it was difficult not to conclude that some at least of the student boys were opposed to all authority as authority. We believe this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with *baas-skap*.

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the college, but is none the less harmful and dangerous."

BOOING, CATCALLS

Booing catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the principal was speaking were

Students Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

S.R.C. CONSTITUTION

The commission suggests that the constitution of the S.R.C. at Fort Hare should be made to conform as closely as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions in the Union.

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognised only subject to certain conditions.

Those who demanded it for themselves must concede it to others, which they were not very ready to do.

Those who claim freedom of speech should learn not to obtrude political and racial speeches into every kind of discussion, and to take advice and exercise due discretion in speech and writing when the expression of their thoughts may bring the college into disrepute.

IMMORALITY

The commission members report that they feel there is a disturbing amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

"We do not think this is wisely dealt with by what appear to be unreasonable and impracticable rules about contact between men and women which hinder the well-behaved and are easily evaded by the real criminals, or by expelling students merely for having tasted liquor; but on the other hand we do not feel that the existence of these great scourges should be a matter for equanimity."

On the educational side, the picture was brighter. Relations in the classroom were according to both staff and students, happy and friendly and in general the students work well.

EVIL SPIRIT

"We feel that the present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme. It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible—a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative like the evil possessions recorded in the New Testament.

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform."

THE TIMES

LONDON

2-SEP 1955

Date.....

CONDUCT AT FORT HARE COLLEGE

REVISION OF RULES RECOMMENDED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN, SEPT. 1

A depressing picture of paternalist discipline on one side and politics, immorality, and drinking on the other arises from the report of a commission of inquiry into the closing in May of Fort Hare native college.

The commission consisted of Professor J. P. Duminy, principal of Pretoria Technical College, as chairman, Professor M. C. Botha, formerly rector of Pretoria University, and Dr. E. H. Brookes, formerly of Natal University and a well-known Liberal.

The commission recommends in general the removal of "relics of the missionary high school past" still surviving in Fort Hare and its transformation into a modern university institution. The present control by which the churches are responsible for the discipline of the men's hostels and the college for their classroom and general behaviour should be abolished with the transfer of hostels to the college and the appointment by the churches of chaplains instead of wardens.

The situation disclosed by the report is disquieting, showing as it does an almost complete lack of cooperation between the students and staff in matters of discipline. This is attributed largely to politics among some students, who consider themselves as the vanguard of progressive African thought and show an extreme intolerance of any fellow students who advocate a more moderate attitude. There was evidence of excessive drinking, immorality, and militant anti-Christian attitude among some students. On the other hand the relations between staff and students in the classrooms were usually good.

OVER STRICT RULES

The commission finds that rules are over strict; for example the possession of liquor in bedrooms is itself an offence. The commission recommends the reorganization of the college to conform more closely with university custom elsewhere, closer relations between the staff and students outside classrooms, more comfortable bedrooms for students, and better feeding, with more generous facilities for physical recreation and relaxation of disciplinary rules. They also recommend the creation of new faculties of law, commerce, and physical education. A warm tribute is paid to Professor Dent, the principal, who is resigning because of ill-health.

A suggestion that the college should be closed and the students absorbed in those universities (Cape Town, Witwatersrand, and Natal) where non-Europeans are admissible is rejected, and the commission expresses confidence that with reorganization and a determined attempt at improving relations between students and staff the college may recover. This they regard as important, as Fort Hare, being exclusively non-European and mainly an African institution, has an immense symbolic value for the African people, especially former students. Among the other measures for improving relations the commission suggest seeking the collaboration of African political organizations in persuading their student members to a more cooperative behaviour.

2 SEP 1955

Fort Hare: 'Disquieting' Factors

INQUIRY REPORT
BY COMMISSION

THE commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare University College found that there was a "disquieting amount of immorality and drinking" among students as well as a wave of anti-Christian feeling.

Racialism, political undercurrents, rebellion against discipline, "disgusting lampoons" posted on notice boards, and a "spirit of evil, so strong as to be almost visible and tangible" are other points recorded in the commission's report.

STAFF FAILINGS

The staff, and conditions in the college, also came under stricture from the commission, which says that punishments meted out to students were often too harsh or too soft; that the staff encourage tale-bearing among students; that bedroom and common-room accommodation and furniture was inadequate and that too much was left on the shoulders of the principal.

(Report on Page 12)

The Star

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1955

Fort Hare report

THE report of the commission of inquiry into the troubles at Fort Hare Native University College is disquieting not only because of the conditions it disclosed there but also because of the wider implications of what the commission found. Taken in conjunction with other recent disturbances at Native colleges, the report must arouse grave doubts about the future of such institutions.

Apart from the allegations of immorality and excessive drinking, which reforms in administration and discipline may remedy, the most disturbing discovery at Fort Hare was the spirit of aggressive African nationalism, anti-White and anti-religious, that appears to have pervaded the college. The commission found that many of the students were preoccupied with the struggle for independence in the political sense, in which they considered themselves as the spearhead. This has resulted in opposition to authority of any kind, including college authority.

The question these disclosures inevitably raises is whether the policy of separate Native university colleges, if and when it is further applied, will not aggravate these conditions. The commission, while not subscribing to the principle of academic separation, sets some store by the symbolic importance of Fort Hare for the Native peoples, but the evidence must cause concern.

It is difficult to see how a similar spirit is to be avoided in future either at Fort Hare itself or in other segregated institutions. They will always be in danger of becoming breeding grounds for an exclusive nationalism. It is significant that it is at Fort Hare, not at the mixed universities with their "liberal" influences, that this spirit finds its crudest expression. The mixed institutions, on the contrary, have hitherto exerted a moderating influence on extremism.

Vigorous reforms will no doubt diminish many of the evils that recently brought Fort Hare to a temporary standstill, but the lessons should be studied by others besides those immediately concerned with the affairs of the college. The ferment of ideas cannot be stopped, but it can be directed into less dangerous brews than are seen to be ripening in the seclusion of the Cape countryside.

South of the Border

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

THE part Scotland has played in the formation of South African traditions is quite surprising. You meet men with names like Campbell, Pringle and Macgregor and find that they belong to the Afrikaans-speaking part of the population, that they even teach in the Afrikaans-medium schools and that their fathers or grandfathers were ministers in the Dutch Reformed Church. The reasons for this are interesting. Early in the nineteenth century Lord Charles Somerset, Governor of the Cape which had not long previously been taken over by the English from the Dutch, imported six Scottish schoolmasters to run the elementary schools he was establishing. As part of his policy of anglicising the Cape, Somerset issued a proclamation in 1822 by which, after five years, English was to be the only official language. At the same time he Scotticised the Cape by bringing out a number of ministers of the established Church of Scotland, it being a Calvinist church similar in dogma to the Dutch Reformed Church. Some of these ministers had been sent to Holland for a year so that they would be able to preach in Dutch and help to reconcile the Dutch and English colonists. By 1837 the surprising situation had arisen in which more than half the ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church were Scotsmen. In his very readable history of South Africa, Mr Leo Marquand writes:—

“Without abating one jot of their love for Scotland and her traditions they identified themselves with the people to whom they ministered; they retained their belief that to love one language and country it was not necessary to hate another; many of their descendants — and they had large families — became ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church or missionaries to other African territories. By their contacts with Scotland and by sending their children to Scottish universities, they brought South Africa under the powerful influence of Scotland's traditional belief in the value of sound education.”

I have visited three native educational institutions which in the course of their history owed much to Scottish enterprise and faith — Lovedale, the university of Fort Hare and Blythwood. Lovedale is a large mission station with a school and a training college. Fort Hare is the native university. It was Fort Hare which was recently closed down because of incalculable damage among the students. It will probably be remembered by some readers that part of the condition of its reopening was that certain students were to be expelled. Because of the recent troubles at Fort Hare I had not expected to be lecturing there, but I was. I had a most pleasant afternoon and evening and spoke to a good-humoured audience of about three hundred

Bantu undergraduates, most of whom will at some time or other be teaching English or using English in the course of their teaching.

The full history of Fort Hare has not yet been written, but it ought to be written. One of the native lecturers there has been trying to unearth some of the facts about it, but the archives are almost non-existent. It is probably in Scotland that some of the history lies buried either in the recollections of people still alive, letters, or in the documents of some missionary societies.

This university college (it has a sort of affiliation with Rhodes University about eighty miles distant) is in the small town of Alicedale and within a couple of miles of the school and college of Lovedale.

Alicedale has about 2,000 inhabitants about equally divided between European and native. The nearest town is about forty miles away and on that road there are only two tiny clusters of houses. On the other side of Alicedale, on the eighty miles, that is, between Alicedale and Grahamstown, there is no European village at all. This whole area is called the Ciskei and is one of the native reserves. At this time of the year, in spite of the brilliant sunshine, it is an uninviting area, but so are thousands of square miles in South Africa because if you have seen one square mile of rock, thornbush, and cactus-like trees you have just about seen all of them, and that is true of the places taken over by Europeans as well as those reserved for native agriculture.

Quite apart, therefore, from the present state of political tension in the country, those in charge of Fort Hare have a difficult task to perform. There are none of the amenities of town life to give the students some relief from the college atmosphere, which, however pleasant it may be, may well become monotonous. It is made more difficult still by the fact that a large number of the students live a very great distance from home and cannot afford to travel home more than once a year. For this reason, instead of the usual three- or four-week breaks at Christmas and Easter they are given only a long week-end.

The native lecturers at Fort Hare are at present paid at the same rate as the European lecturers which means that they are better off than university lecturers in Great Britain — income tax and all that being taken into account. Whether this state of affairs will continue no one knows. So long as the college remains independent, it probably will; but in academic circles there seems to be an idea that as things are now going Fort Hare may be placed under the control of the Department for Native Affairs and that would inevitably bring some changes.

What was a real surprise to me after what I had read in England about the Bantu Education Act was the fact that those concerned with missions of Protestant origin are so little concerned about it. The Government has taken over a good deal of their land and buildings but have certainly not driven hard bargains in the instances of which I have some knowledge. The bitterest opponents of Government policy from this angle are the Anglicans and the Roman Catholics.

Rand Daily Mail

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1955.

FORT HARE'S PROBLEMS

THE report on conditions at Fort Hare is a revealing and instructive document, drawn up by three men who must be commended for their detachment and at the same time for the concern they show over the serious state of affairs they have examined. Their report is the indirect result of the temporary closing of the college in May in circumstances which made the action of the authorities seem a very drastic one indeed. In the light of this report it is difficult to say that the closing was not justified. It still looks drastic, but if it served to bring matters to a head and produce this report, it may have done Fort Hare and the country a valuable service.

Two things now emerge clearly enough from the three commissioners' very thorough investigation of Fort Hare, its institutions and the people associated with them. As the only non-European university college in the Union, Fort Hare must continue in existence. Its value to the non-European community, as the report stresses, is symbolic as well as practical. But it cannot continue as it is now. It must undergo fundamental reforms.

The commissioners uncovered serious faults of conduct and outlook among the students. But, if they lay heavy blame on the students, they do not exonerate the authorities. To us it seems that the mistakes of the authorities were largely the result of history and situation. Certain traditions have become encrusted at Fort Hare in the course of time, and it has taken perhaps a crisis like this to alter them. But the misdemeanour of the students is also largely the result of situation. It is true that the students do not seem fully to have realised their responsibilities. As the elite of their communities their role at Fort Hare was that of future teachers and leaders. They seem to have lost sight of their privileged position and the obligations it placed upon them.

Basically, however, the students' grievances and misconduct seem also to have arisen from the peculiar position of Fort Hare. The report speaks of this in the clearest possible words: "Fort Hare is *isolated* geographically, academically, culturally, socially and in the field of sporting activity and competition, as well as being *segregated* in the sense that admission is confined to non-European students." It becomes obvious that a great many of the evils revealed are the result of this unhappy isolation. The students resented discipline because they regarded it as devised especially for them as non-Europeans. They seem even to have confused discipline with *baaskap*. They could not see that European students at other universities also had to submit themselves to discipline and authority, and were unable to see themselves in the general perspective of university life. They also suspected that they were not receiving the same consideration as students at other universities, and in respect of comfort and conditions at the hostels.

Everything points to the "isolation" of Fort Hare as being at the root of the trouble, and the suggestions made by the Commissioners for keeping the student body

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2 SEP 1955

FORT HARE: RELIGIOUS CURES

'Anti-Christian feeling'

S.A. Press Association — JOHANNESBURG

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL of active hostility towards Christianity among the students at Fort Hare, says the report of the Commission of Inquiry into conditions at the Fort Hare University College.

The Commission was appointed after the College was temporarily closed on May 11. The report has been issued by order of the Governing Council of the College.

Prof. J. P. Duminy, was chairman of the Commission, and Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes were other members.

The report says the religious services which formed part of the earlier life of Fort Hare were the morning and evening services at the hostels, a daily morning assembly for reading the scriptures, prayers and announcements, and a united college service on Sunday evenings.

In two of the three men's hostels all services became voluntary some time ago and recently the college service on Sunday evenings also became voluntary.

When the Commission arrived at Fort Hare, the only compulsory service was the regular morning assembly. This was abolished by the principal on his own initiative in the course of our sittings, and the only form of indirect compulsion remaining is at Iona House, where students, though not compelled, are expected to attend devotions.

Indifference

"As to the present state of religion in the college we must record our impression, fortified by the evidence of many witnesses, that there is much indifference and a good deal of active hostility towards Christianity among the students.

There is convincing evidence that leftist and rationalist propaganda has been spread among the students; in many cases, we believe, before their arrival at Fort Hare, and in many cases, we are sure, after their arrival.

All the usual Leftist ideas of religion are found combined with African rationalist views of the missionary as the agent of the conqueror, and traces of the crude rationalism popular 50 years ago and now to a large extent discredited in intellectual circles."

Remedy

As a remedy for anti-Christian feeling, the Commission recommends:

- The complete elimination of the element of compulsion from religious services.

- That as far as possible the association between the teaching and preaching of religion and responsibility for discipline among the students be broken.

- That "the forces of Christianity should be marshalled for a new advance on all parts of the front, based on a realistic picture of the situation as it is, and not on a nostalgia for the past or

"We as a Commission cordially endorse the principal's decision to abolish the daily assembly, wishful thinking about the future."

disrespect, insubordination, attacks on the legitimate authorities of the college," the report says. In certain circumstances gross or repeated intimidation should be dealt with as an offence, it adds.

The Commission rejects a suggestion that Fort Hare might be closed and the students distributed

"There were important reasons of a disciplinary nature for this decision. On the religious side we must record our feeling that the devotional exercises at assembly had become, for many students, a mockery."

The report emphasises that it is not in the class-rooms or laboratories, but in the hostels, the dining hall and the administration of discipline that the chief difficulties of the college are to be found.

The spirit in the hostels, generally "not happy", is attributed by the Commission to three main factors: personalities, accommodation and the system itself under which the hostels are administered.

No mattresses

While many students were accommodated in single rooms, there was other distressing evidence of overcrowding, with cupboard space for personal belongings almost non-existent. Such defects should be remedied without delay.

The report continues: "With regard to the bedrooms, it appeared to us to be so little hard that students were in many cases not provided with mattresses.

"Perhaps the provision of mattresses could be arranged on the basis of a yearly fee for hire so that their cost could be defrayed over a period of years."

There were many students' complaints, says the Commission, about the food in the dining room—chiefly about the monotony of the meals and the standard of the cooking.

During the week the Commission was at the college "the quality seemed to be good and the cooking quite satisfactory".

Tale-bearers

"If greater variety is to be provided we fear that the fees for the dining hall will have to be raised. The meals in our opinion represent very good value for the money."

"We have also formed the impression that too much use is made of student tale-bearers, and feel that they should be discouraged, especially if they are reporting on Fellow-students' political or other speeches."

"The Commission wishes to place on record its conviction that Fort Hare will have to go a long way to find a principal of greater integrity or deeper caring for the students than Professor Dent.

"He has never spared himself and those who know him well cherish for him, as we ourselves do, sentiments of deep affection and admiration.

Caution money

The Commission suggests that the council should include "caution money" in the composite fee for the first year of residence. This should be retained as security against library losses and general breakages and to be refunded at the end of a students' career.

The report says the Commission was informed in confidence of the intention of the Fort Hare principal to resign because of ill-health.

Go On"

y unpleasant, but dangerous of Fort Hare and it is for tion to our somewhat drastic of Inquiry into conditions at on yesterday. A full report Page 6 of this issue.

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2 SEP 1955

Fort Hare chair of music?

JOHANNESBURG, Friday. — The report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare University College (published in The Argus yesterday) expresses regret that drama at Fort Hare 'if not dead, seems to be in a coma.'

The commission feels that music, too, should play a far greater role at Fort Hare than it does, as music is an African gift.

It suggests that the best way of giving music its proper place in the college would be to establish a chair of music, to teach music as a major subject for the B.A. degree.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The commission hopes that the council will also favourably consider the creation of a department of physical education, whose head would also be in charge of the necessary amenities, which should include a gymnasium to start with and a swimming bath later.

'We are convinced that the release from mental tensions that healthy physical interests and activity will bring about will play a large part in restoring a calm and congenial atmosphere, besides, of course, contributing greatly to the bodily improvement and welfare of the students,' the report says.—Sapa.

2 SEP 1955

Report on Fort Hare Released

Johannesburg Thursday.

THE Commission of Inquiry into conditions at the Fort Hare Native University College in the Union of South Africa released its report today.

The Commission was appointed after the College was temporarily closed on May 11 after trouble between the authorities and the students.

Many changes which might lead to better conditions are suggested in the report.

The Commission says that, in general, the aim is the elimination of relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the College's transformation into a modern university institution.

As well as criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities.

It says: "Perhaps the most important single item is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the College and be placed under College wardens. The churches should then appoint not wardens, but chaplains, who will be asked to administer discipline."—Sapa.

"EVIL SPIRIT" COULD DESTROY FORT HARE

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the College was temporarily closed on May 11, has been issued by order of the governing council of the College. The report, in part, states: "We feel that the present atmosphere at Fort Hare is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme. It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible. It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform."

The report of the commission makes a detailed survey on conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general, says the report, it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens."

In addition to criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities. It refers to politics at the college, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

On May 4, the executive of the governing council of the College was informed that the College Senate had decided that 330 students of the College, of a total of 367, should be suspended from the College for an indefinite period.

In view of this, and of a review of the situation by the principal of the College, the executive decided to suspend the activities of the College "so that the position could be examined in a calmer atmosphere."

On May 11, the governing council confirmed the action of the executive and decided to appoint a commission of inquiry into the life and work of the College.

The report says: "Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the College has outgrown the system so admirably suited to those earlier years, so unsuited to the present day."

The report says the closing of the college in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally. "We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

It says the participation of non-Europeans in the life of the universities of Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal, while most valuable and better in principle than the building up of a great "segregated" institution has somehow not the same symbolic value.

"Old Students, who occupy a very distinguished place in non-European society and do much to mould its opinion, are peculiarly sensitive to anything which makes Fort Hare appear less in status than a true university should."

"We were shocked on arriving at the college to realise how bad the atmosphere really was. In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained."

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years but up to recently it has been manageable."

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the College authorities, suspicion of many—not all—Europeans, suspicion of one another."

some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

Drastic measures are certainly needed to ensure Fort Hare's safe and happy continuance, and among these are changes of personnel and methods. New ways of life more compatible with the status of a university institution are called for on the side of the authorities. With these must be associated not any inquisition into the political beliefs of the students, but prompt and effective action to deal with all disrespect, insubordination, and attacks on the legitimate authorities of the college.

—Sapa.

2 SEP 1955

"Fort Hare Must Go On"

"The present atmosphere at the college is not merely unpleasant, but dangerous in the extreme. It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform," says the report of the Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare University College which was released for publication yesterday. A full report of the Commission's findings and recommendations appears on Page 6 of this issue.

Taken as a theme the slogan "Fort Hare must go on," the Commission suggests that new ways of life at Fort Hare more compatible with the status of a university institution are called for on the side of the authorities. With these must be associated "not any inquisition into the political beliefs of the students, but prompt and effective action to deal with all disrespect, insubordination and attacks on the legitimate authorities of the college," the report says. In certain circumstances gross or repeated intimidation should be dealt with as an offence, it adds.

The Commission rejects a suggestion that Fort Hare might be closed and the students distributed

among the universities that admit non-Europeans.

"It would be most regrettable even to contemplate the closing of the College," the report says, "because it is virtually certain that all the students would be debarred by financial considerations from going to the other universities even should there be class-room and hostel accommodation for them available there.

"A considerable amount of capital has been spent at Fort Hare and any thought of abandoning what has been built at such expense dare not be lightly entertained," the Commission adds.

The report says the Commission was informed in confidence of the intention of the Fort Hare principal to resign because of ill-health.

"The Commission wishes to place on record its conviction that Fort Hare will have to go a long way to find a principal of greater integrity or deeper caring for the students than Professor Dent. He has never spared himself and those who know him well cherish for him, as we ourselves do, sentiments of deep affection and admiration. . . Any new principal will, if the Council approves the main tenor of this report, begin a new era in the life of Fort Hare. He will not be accessible to the students as Professor Dent has been and will delegate most of the day-by-day administrative and routine duties; for the College can no longer be conducted successfully on the paternal basis so natural in its earlier years."

2 SEP 1955

Commission finds that Fort Hare lacked discipline: too keen on politics

Christian spirit lacking

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

THE COMMISSION of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College, appointed after the college was closed on May 11, has been issued by order of the governing council of the college.

The report of the commission, which was under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy and had Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members, makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general (says the report) it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains, who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

In addition to criticizing the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults by the college authorities. It refers to politics at the college, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

STRONG REACTIONS

The report says the closing of the college in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally.

"We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated."

The report continues:

"We were shocked on arriving at the college to realize how bad the atmosphere really was; and though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future, we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impression of the faults on the side of the students. In our opinion there have been faults and errors by the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained.

SUBVERSIVE ELEMENT

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive ele-

ment has been present for years but up to recently it has been inoperative at Fort Hare

A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another. (The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control.)

The attitude towards the White man, though harmful to the students themselves, is understandable in South African conditions, and is part of the obsession with the struggle for liberation and with politics generally.

OPPOSED TO AUTHORITY

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focused recently on the principal and on the college authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student body are opposed to all authority as

authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baaskap.

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the college, but it is none the less harmful and dangerous.

"Neither Fort Hare nor any other university can exist without discipline, but it may be desirable to modernize the rules of the college, provided that such as are still necessary in present-day conditions must be enforced.

"Booing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and indeed should not be tolerated. Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting, anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice boards.

"The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action are also to be deprecated."

STRANGE MISCONCEPTIONS

The report says the commission feels the students at Fort Hare have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a license far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students' Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

The commission suggests that the constitution of the S.R.C. at Fort Hare should be brought as closely into conformity as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions in the Union.

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognized only subject to certain conditions.

One "rather depressed student" told the commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drink."

The commission members report that they feel there is a disquieting amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN

"Similarly, the very strong wave of anti-Christian feeling which we were sad to encounter at the college is an evil which must be recognized and against which quiet and effective remedies must be devised, but it is pre-eminently not a subject for official cognisance or disciplinary action."

The report says the commission was sad to feel how great a concentration there was among students on grievances and how rare were expressions of gratitude or appreciation.

On the educational side, says the report, the picture is brighter. Relations in the classroom are, according to both staff and student evidence, happy and friendly and in general the students work well.

POLITICS

Discussing political and racial factors at the college, the commission says probably the majority of the students are not active members of any political organization.

"Those who do belong as members to political groups are divided in their allegiance. Some belong to the youth movement of the African National Congress, some to the S.O.Y.A. (Sons of Young Africa), the junior branch of the All-African Convention. There is reason to believe that S.O.Y.A. has the upper hand at the moment and has exercised considerable influence on the student body.

"We feel convinced that there are students who come to Fort Hare already inculcated with ideas and techniques which they have learned outside and which they feel they must apply at the college. They are in touch with the leaders of their organizations outside the campus, and are influenced by them. We find it hard to believe that responsible men could countenance actions and attitudes so foreign to the true university ideal and so calculated to lead Fort Hare to disaster."

Eastern Province Herald

(ESTABLISHED 1845)

FORT ELIZABETH, SEPT. 3, 1955

The future of Fort Hare

THE chief recommendation which emerges from the report of the Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare (Native) University College would seem to have a psychological rather than a strictly academic significance. For it implies that the minds of students have been dangerously pre-occupied with matters which in fact lie outside of the academic sphere. Except for their concern with the routine of degree-hunting—an affliction, incidentally, that is not entirely unknown in the "White" universities—there would appear to have been an over-emphasis in their daily existence on non-academic aspects of life, that is, on matters not directly connected with the business of acquiring knowledge. Politics and problems of personality adjustment seem to have loomed larger than is compatible even with student life.

Human relations

When the minds of young men and women, no matter what their skin colour may be, have little else to occupy them but examinations, suspicion of the motives of their mentors, and the escapism provided by sex and alcohol, there is bound to arise an unhealthy atmosphere in which ordinary human relations become increasingly difficult. It is for this reason that the Commission rightly states that the deepest remedy for the existing unhealthy state of affairs must be sought in a broadening of the academic life and in the development of cultural instincts, sport, and personal friendships.

Despite the best intentions of its founders and subsequent administrators, it is unhappily true that Fort Hare has become an institution of higher learning in the narrower sense of that word, rather than a university. The fault for this lies neither with the staff nor with the students, but with the comparative isolation of the College which is a consequence of the racial divisions in the country as a whole.

Lack of insight

Another important factor, which is almost equally difficult to remedy, is the understandable lack of insight into motives and attitudes on the part of the students themselves. It may be that they are not entirely to be blamed if they confuse the legitimate discipline upon which university authorities naturally insist, with the baasskap policy that sours their lives elsewhere. It may be that their regrettable anti-Christian attitude is the natural offspring of a juvenile rationalism rather than of an unreasoning hatred of the good

and the true. It may be that the explanation for their apparent lack of appreciation and gratitude must be sought in a feeling of inferiority that breeds suspicion and resentment.

But the very fact that these attitudes exist, and persist, constitutes a challenge which it would be unwise to ignore. As the Commission says, "quiet and effective" remedies must be devised which will have the effect of removing grievances, real or imaginary, and of winning the student body over to closer cooperation with the university authorities. They must be taught to appreciate the purpose of the academic curriculum and fellowship. At the same time, there cannot be any relaxation of the discipline without which no university could continue to exist. Students must be made to see the need for rules and regulations, and it must be brought home to them that there can be for them no educational privilege without corresponding obligations and responsibilities.

Precondition

For all this there is a necessary precondition. There must be eradicated from the minds of the students, and from the public mind, the tendency to regard higher education at Fort Hare as different from education at any other university institution. Attendance at Fort Hare must become a matter for the same pride as is attendance at, say, Rhodes or Natal University. But in order that this may be so, it is necessary that the leaders of thought in the country should take the same interest in what has hitherto undoubtedly been somewhat of an academic step-child, as they do in the other universities.

To the students, who carry at least an equal share of the blame for the unfortunate events which led to the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry, we would say: remember the symbolic value of Fort Hare, and do not do anything that might jeopardise the education and therewith the advancement of your people.

2 SEP 1955

Report on Fort Hare: "Dangerous atmosphere"

Johannesburg, Thursday.

THE present atmosphere at Fort Hare University College is not merely unpleasant but "dangerous in the extreme, a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible," says the report of the commission of inquiry into the affairs of Fort Hare.

The report said a very strong wave of anti-Christian feeling "which we were sad to encounter at the college" is an evil which must be recognised and against which quiet and effective remedies must be devised.

In addition to criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the college authorities. It refers to politics at the college, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the college and be placed under college wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

The report of the commission, which was under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Duminy and had Prof. M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members, also makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

In general it aims at the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past surviving at Fort Hare, and the college's transformation into a modern university institution.

"The atmosphere," says the report, "may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to proposals for reform.

"The fact that the present generation of Fort Hare students tends to have a bad reputation outside, even among the African people themselves, must make one think very seriously indeed about the grave situation at the college."

"We were shocked on arriving at the college to realise how bad the atmosphere really was, however, and though the students' attitude to ourselves changed so markedly for the better as to give us hope for the future, we should not be doing our duty if we did not set down simply and clearly our impres-



University of Fort Hare
Togetherness in Excellence

Fort Hare report: "politics" alleged

(Continued from Page 1)

politics at the college, to a lack of in their evidence. But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognised only subject to certain conditions.

"In the first place, those who demand freedom for themselves must concede it to others, and this they are not very ready to do."

Students taking an unpopular line at student meetings tend to be shouted down or, if they are given a hearing at the time, persecuted afterwards as "sell-outs," says the report.

It adds that "sell-out" is the most devastating term in the present-day vocabulary at Fort Hare.

"There is much intolerance among students and unfortunately a considerable lack of moral courage on the part of the students generally."

POLITICS, ADULTERY AND DRINK

One "rather depressed student" told the commission that "the chief interests of the students are politics, adultery and drink."

The commission members report that they feel there is a disquieting amount of immorality and drinking at Fort Hare.

"We do not think this is wisely dealt with by what appear to us to be unreasonable and impracticable rules about contact between men and women which hinder the well-behaved and are easily evaded by the real criminals, or by expelling students merely for having tasted liquor. But on the other hand we do not feel that the existence of these great scourges should be a matter for equanimity."

The report says the commission was sad to feel how great a concentration there was among students on grievances and how rare were expressions of gratitude or appreciation.

On the educational side, says the report, the picture is brighter. Relations in the classroom are, according to both staff and student evidence, happy and friendly and in general the students do well.

The report says that while South Africa is a ferment of political and racial strife without, Fort Hare cannot escape difficulties within. "A university, after all, must be a cross-section of the society from which the students are drawn."

"The only remedy lies in getting to the hearts of the students, as very human persons full of potentialities for good, as for evil."

University students, says the report, should enjoy the opportunity of discussions on important topics, "but in our view in spite of what might be tolerated in other university institutions, it is totally wrong that a university should come to be used as the vanguard in a party political struggle, or even to be regarded as an appropriate place to make propaganda for party political purposes."

POLITICAL TECHNIQUES

The report continues: "We feel convinced that there are students who come to Fort Hare already inculcated with political ideas and techniques which they have learned outside and which they feel they must apply at the college."

"They are in touch with the leaders of their organisations outside the campus, and are influenced by them. We find it hard to believe that responsible men could countenance actions and attitudes so foreign to the true university ideal and so calculated to lead Fort Hare to disaster."

"We wonder if it might not be possible for informal discussions to take place between the heads of these organisations and representatives of the college."

"They could be asked to direct their members at Fort Hare not to confuse the political struggle outside the college with resistance to discipline and constituted authority inside it."

But the deepest remedy, says the report, must be sought in the development of academic life, cultural instincts, sport, personal friendships and all else that goes to make up the fabric of a true university, in the life of which politics (of whatever brand) should be healthy cells in the body, academic not a malignant growth, "threatening the health and the very life of everything else in that body."

New ways of life more compatible with the status of a university institution are

sion of the faults on the side of the students.

"In our opinion there have been faults and errors on the part of the college authorities, but it is not these alone which must be amended if a healthy atmosphere is to be attained."

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years but up to recently it has been manageable."

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the college authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another. The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control."

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focussed recently on the principal and on the college authorities, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student body are opposed to all authority as authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with boozing and catcalls."

"Boozing and catcalls

"This can be understood in view of political and racial controversies outside the college, but it is none the less harmful and dangerous. Neither Fort Hare nor any other university can exist without discipline, but it may be desirable to modernise the rules of the college, provided that such as are still necessary in present-day conditions must be enforced."

"Boozing, catcalls and other hostile and uncouth noises when the principal is speaking are quite intolerable in a university institution and indeed should not be tolerated. Even worse, if possible, are the disgusting anonymous letters and lampoons that are posted up on notice-boards."

"The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action are also to be deprecated."

The report says much of this sort of thing may be explained though not excused by the failure at times of the college authorities to recognise legitimate requests or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable—and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another, a circular which "on ethical grounds we cannot approve."

Yet the student attitude is none the less inherently bad, and makes happy university life impossible, the commission found.

The commission feels the students at Fort Hare have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students' Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the college must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

All Students' Representative Councils must at times be prepared to take "no" as an answer to their requests but "at the same time we would urge that those in authority should not lightly turn down students' requests as unreasonable."

The commission suggests that the constitution of the S.R.C. at Fort Hare should be brought as closely into conformity as possible with the constitutions of similar bodies in other university institutions in the Union.

The possibility of voting by ballot might also be considered as a means of avoiding intimidation of students by one another.

called for on the side of the authorities.

"With these must be associated not any inquisition into the political beliefs of the students, but prompt and effective action to deal with all disrespect, insubordination and attacks on the legitimate authorities of the college. In certain circumstances gross or repeated intimidation should be dealt with as an offence."

The commission rejects a suggestion that Fort Hare might be closed and the students distributed among the universities that admit non-Europeans.

LEFTIST PROPAGANDA

"As to the present state of religion in the college we must record our impression, fortified by the evidence of many witnesses, that there is much indifference and a good deal of active hostility towards Christianity among the students."

"There is convincing evidence that leftist and rationalist propaganda has been spread among the students—in many cases, we believe, before their arrival at Fort Hare, and in many cases, we are sure, after their arrival."

"As a remedy for anti-Christian feeling, the commission suggests, first of all, the complete elimination of the element of compulsion from religious services."

The report emphasises that it is not in the classrooms or laboratories, but in the hostels, the dining hall and the administration of discipline that the chief difficulties of the college are to be found.

Suggestions include new appointments, ranging from those of permanent deans on the one hand to those of capable general staff of the nature of porter and caretaker on the other among whom much of the routine work of the college could be distributed.

An adequate common room, with proper facilities, should be built on the campus to replace the present inadequate meeting place. It should have a cafeteria and the hours in which it remained open should be "generous."

The commission says it was impressed by the qualifications and efficiency of the administrative staff at Fort Hare.

"We feel that a sanatorium of say 25 beds is an urgent necessity, the provision of which will have to be considered very soon."

"One of the features of the administration of the college that struck us most forcibly is the fact that the principal takes a colossal amount of the work and responsibility on his own shoulders," adds the report.—Sapa.

2 SEP 1955

The Natal Daily News

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2, 1955.

After Fort Hare

IT has to be confessed that the report of the commission of inquiry into Fort Hare, a summary of which appeared in our columns, makes sad reading. It is sad for many reasons, not the least because various people will take extracts from the report to use them for their own purposes. Enemies both on the extreme right and on the extreme left will seize on passages to prove their preconceived theses. What may be forgotten is the middle path chosen by the Commission—a path which at the same time cannot but raise questions of fundamental importance for every thinking South African.

What has happened at Fort Hare and will happen there are a test of the theory to which most South Africans adhere about the need for the various races being educated in their own areas in their own way. Here at Fort Hare just this very thing was being done. Yet can it be said that it has worked? We ask this question not because of the remarks of the Commission about drinking and adultery and the lack of the Christian spirit on the part of some students at Fort Hare; the same remarks could be made, no doubt, about many other seats of learning which house young people of the same age. On the surface, it would seem, Fort Hare has had every reason to be a success. If the system of government appeared to be paternalistic, that is in accord not only with missionary tradition but with the whole South African attitude towards Native education and even all Native living.

What seems clear is that whatever reforms are introduced, not only Fort Hare but all other Native institutions for higher learning are going to continue to be the target of what is called the spearhead of the "political struggle." Institutions for higher education all over the world have performed exactly that role. They have done so in White South Africa and the same cannot but apply to the Native institutions as well.

How best can this be canalised and controlled? The Commission has made many valuable recommendations to that end, not the least being the resumption of links with Rhodes University. This is important, because Native institutions have not the tradition of blending freedom with responsibility that the Euro-

themselves, cut off from the example of the tradition of the White University, the Native institution cannot help but be a place of fermenting development. It is important that they be shown the need for blending freedom and responsibility. Otherwise, if left on their own, Native institutions for higher education will present authority with problem after problem.

To those who read as they run, the Fort Hare incident casts far shadows into the future. Here is one small institution on its own, which has all these difficulties of responsibility and control. Multiply that institution ten thousand times into a Native area, on its own, with its own doctors and teachers and its own leaders, which is the sincere dream of so many people. May not that dream become a nightmare? May not the larger area become the target of the "political struggle," just as the smaller unit was? Will not the problem of freedom and responsibility be magnified a thousand times?

These are sobering thoughts. Both in the institution and in the area, the issue of freedom with responsibility is difficult because of the Natives' lack of tradition in this particular kind of thing. It is all the more necessary that links, powerful links, be retained with them. Non-European students at White universities inherit that tradition. It is harder to give it to non-European students at their own institutions. On that one issue, the blending of freedom with responsibility among non-European students, the prospective leaders of their communities, may depend the whole future not only of apartheid or segregation, but living itself in South Africa.

FORT HARE: DRINK AND IMMORALITY CONDEMNED

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

REPORTING a "disquieting amount of immorality and drinking" at Fort Hare Native University College, the Commission of Inquiry appointed after the College was closed on May 11 suggests the elimination of the relics of the missionary high school past and the College's transformation into a modern university institution.

The report of the Commission, which was under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Duminy and had Professor M. C. Botha and Dr. E. H. Brookes as the other members, makes a detailed survey of conditions leading to troubles at Fort Hare, and suggests many changes which might lead to better conditions.

"Perhaps the most important single item in the report is the recommendation that the men's hostels should be transferred to the College and be placed under College wardens, the churches appointing not wardens but chaplains who will be asked to administer discipline," says the commission.

Faults Of College

In addition to criticising the attitude of students, the report says there were also faults on behalf of the College authorities. It refers to politics at the College, to a lack of Christian spirit, to good relations in classrooms, and to drinking and immorality, among other matters.

Fort Hare was opened in 1916 with an enrolment of 20 students and with "a kindly paternalism, a concentration of powers in the hands of the principal and an interpretation of discipline on high school rather than university lines."

The report says: "Part of the present difficulties arise from the fact that the College has outgrown the system so admirably suited to those earlier years, so unsuited to the present day.

Strong Reaction

The closing of the College in May produced very strong reactions among former students and non-European leaders generally. "We wonder whether the symbolic value of Fort Hare to the African and other sections of the community has been adequately appreciated.

"Old students, who occupy a very distinguished place in non-European society and do much to mould its opinion, are peculiarly sensitive to anything which makes Fort Hare appear less in status than a true university should. Recent events, whether justified or not, have deeply wounded this sensitivity.

"We were informed that an unhappy frame of mind has existed among the students for some considerable time. A subversive element has been present for years but up to recently it has been manageable.

Students Suspicious

"A noticeable feature of student life is suspicion—suspicion of the College authorities, suspicion of many (not all) Europeans, suspicion of one another. (The last-named, a most distressing feature, would seem to be partly due to unwise encouragement of tale-bearing as a means of control.)

"Mistrust and disrespect have been focussed recently on the

"It may seem as if we have dealt at undue length and with unseemly frankness on the faults of the students; but we feel that the present atmosphere is not merely unpleasant but dangerous in the extreme. It struck us at times as being a spirit of evil so strong as to be almost visible and tangible—a foe to all that is normal, sane and creative, like the evil possessions recorded in the New Testament.

"It may well lead to the utter destruction of Fort Hare, and it is for this reason that we hope the Council will give full consideration to our somewhat drastic proposals for reform."

Discussing political and racial factors at the College, the Commission says probably the majority of the students are not active members of any political organisation.

Divided Allegiance

"Those who do belong as members to political groups are divided in their allegiance. Some belong to the youth movement of the African National Congress, some to the S.O.Y.A. (Sons of Young Africa), the junior branch of the All-African Convention. There is reason to believe that S.O.Y.A. has the upper hand at the moment and has exercised considerable influence on the student body. In so far as there is any inner circle stimulating students to an attitude of resistance to authority, it is almost certainly to be sought in these political groupings.

"We wonder if it might not be possible for informal discussions to take place between the heads of these organisations and representatives of the College who might be personæ gratæ to them.

Political Struggle

"One could not ask the organisations not to stand for their principles, but they could be asked to direct their members at Fort Hare not to confuse the political struggle outside the College with resistance to discipline and constituted authority inside it."

The Commission rejects a suggestion that Fort Hare might be closed and the students distributed among the universities that admit non-Europeans for two reasons:—

First, that it would be most regrettable even to contemplate the closing of the College; and, second, because it is virtually certain that all the students would be debarré by financial considerations from going to the other universities, even should there be class-room and hostel accommodation for them available there.

Religion

"As to the present state of religion in the College, we must record our impression, fortified by the evidence of many witnesses, that there is much indifference and a good deal of active hostility towards Christianity among the students.

"There is convincing evidence that leftist and rationalist propaganda has been spread among the students; in many cases, we believe, before their arrival at

Fort Hare, and in many cases, we are sure, after their arrival.

"All the usual leftist ideas of religion being the opiate of the masses are found, combined with African rationalist views of the missionary as the agent of the conqueror, and traces of the crude rationalism popular 50 years ago and now to a large extent discredited in intellectual circles."

Anti-Christian

As a remedy for anti-Christian feeling, the Commission suggests first of all, the complete elimination of the element of expulsion from religious services.

"In the second place we urge that as far as possible the association between the teaching and preaching of religion and responsibility for discipline among the students be broken.

"We would plead that Fort Hare do everything in its power to encourage co-operation with Rhodes University, with which it is especially affiliated. We deeply deplore the foolish action of the students in breaking off relations with Rhodes University."

Law And Commerce

The Commission says law and commerce are two departments which should be given early encouragement. The institution of a law chair is long overdue and the time is ripe for the introduction of commerce. These two activities would broaden the range of interests of the students.

"We also feel that such elements of the tutorial system as may be possible with the present small staff should be introduced, and testing or examination carefully watched to reduce the amount of mere memorising done by students, and to encourage original thought."

The Commission expresses regret that drama at Fort Hare, "if not dead, seems to be in a coma."

Music Necessary

Music, too, should play a far greater role at Fort Hare than it does, as music is an African gift. It suggests that the best way of giving music its proper place in the College would be to establish a chair of music, to teach music as a major subject for the B.A. degree.

The Commission expresses the hope that the Council will also favourably consider the creation of a department of physical education, whose head would also be in charge of the necessary amenities which should include a gymnasium to start with and a swimming bath at a later stage. —(S.A.P.A.)

orties, and it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that some at least of the student boys are opposed to all authority as authority. We believe that this is partly due to the confusion of legitimate discipline with baaskap.

"Neither Fort Hare nor any other university can exist without discipline, but it may be desirable to modernise the rules of the College, provided that such as are still necessary in present-day conditions must be enforced.

Boycotts

"The easy recourse to boycotts and other forms of direct action are also to be deprecated.

"Much of this sort of thing may be explained, though not excused, by the failure at times of the College authorities to recognise legitimate requests or their slowness in implementing those which are acceptable; and in recent weeks by errors of judgment such as the circular asking students virtually to inform on one another—a circular which on ethical grounds we cannot approve—yet the student attitude is none the less inherently bad, and makes happy university life impossible."

Self-Importance

The report says the Commission feels the students at Fort Hare have some strange misconceptions of university freedom, demanding a licence far in excess of anything prevailing at European universities.

The exaggerated sense of self-importance of the students shown in correspondence between the Students Representative Council and the College Senate "is perhaps due to the feeling that the College must be looked upon as being the vanguard of the political and racial struggle."

The students stressed freedom of speech in their evidence. But, says the report, a legitimate claim to freedom of speech must be recognised only subject to certain conditions.

Shouted Down

Students taking an unpopular line at student meetings tended to be shouted down or, if they were given a hearing at the time, persecuted afterwards as "sell-outs," says the report. It adds that "sell-out" was the most devastating term in the present-day vocabulary at Fort Hare.

"There is much intolerance among students and unfortunately a considerable lack of moral courage on the part of the students generally.

"We notice a very strong tendency on the part of the students to place the emphasis on examinations and degrees, and what these will bring in the way of material advancement, to the exclusion of the social and cultural side of education.

BOSE ATMOSFEER KAN FORT HARE VERNIETIG

—Ondersoekkommissie

JOHANNESBURG.

DIE bose atmosfeer by die Fort Hare-universiteitskollege kan maklik lei tot die algehele vernietiging van Fort Hare en daarom hoop die kommissie dat die raad volle oorweging sal skenk aan die eitwat ingrypende voorstelle tot hervorming, lui die verslag van die kommissie van ondersoek wat aangestel is om ondersoek te doen na die toestande by die Fort Hare-universiteitskollege vir natuurlike. Die kollege is op 11 Mei vanjaar tydelik gesluit.

Die kommissie wat ondersoek ingestel het, was onder voorsitterskap van prof. J. P. Duminy met prof. M. C. Botha en dr. E. H. Brookes as ander lede.

Die kommissie se lede meld dat hulle voel dat daar 'n verontrustende mate van immoraliteit en drankmisbruik by Fort Hare is. Skynbaar word hiermee nie wyslik gehandel nie deurdat die reëls onredelik en onprakties is. Dit is dikwels hinderlik vir diegene van goeie gedrag. Dit is verkeerd om studente te verban omdat hulle net aan drank geproe het, maar aan die anderkant word gevoel dat die bestaan van hierdie groot euwels nie 'n saak is om gelate te aanvaar nie.

„Net so is die bale sterk anti-christelike gevoel wat ons jammer was om by die kollege aan te tref. 'n ewel wat erken moet word en waarvoor doeltreffende geneesmiddels gevind moet word maar dit is duidelik nie 'n saak vir amptelike aandag of dissiplinêre optrede nie.

Die kommissie was jammer om te vind hoeveel klem deur die studente op griewe gelê word en hoe selde dank en waardering uitgespreek is. Meer geleentheid moet aan die natuurlike gegee word om hulself te help.

Opvoedkundig was die prentjie helderder. In die klaskamers was betrekkinge gelukkig vriendelik en studente het hard gewerk.

BOSE ATMOSFEER

Die bose atmosfeer kan maklik lei tot die algehele vernietiging van Fort Hare en daarom hoop die kommissie dat die raad volle oorweging sal skenk aan die ietwat ingrypende voorstelle tot hervorming.

Die feit dat die huidige geslag studente selfs onder die natuurlike bevolking 'n slegte reputasie het, moet 'n mens ernstig laat dink aan die erns van die toestand.

Die verslag meld dat die studente noodwendig beïnvloed moet word deur die politieke ontwikkelinge en rassspanninge in die Unie, deur die gevolge van die aanname van verskillende benaderinge van politieke en rassevraagstukke net anderkant die grense en nie minder nie deur die veranderinge wat verder weg op hierdie gebiede plaasvind soos in Nigerië en Indië.

Die studente moet die geleentheid hê om hierdie onderwerpe te bespreek, maar dit is nie die geskikte plek om propaganda vir party-politieke doeleindes te maak nie.

JEUGBEWEGING

Die kommissie is van mening dat die meeste studente waarskynlik nie aktiewe lede van enige politieke organisasie is nie. Sommige behoort wel aan die jeugbeweging van die African National Congress, ander aan die Sons of Young Africa en aan die junior tak van die All-African Convention. Daar is rede om te glo dat die Sons of Young Africa tans die oorhand het en 'n aansienlike invloed op die studenteliggam uitgeoefen het.

„In soverre as wat studente in die binnekring tot 'n houding van verset teen die owerheid gestimuleer word, moet die oorsaak beslis in hierdie politieke groeperinge gesoek word. Ons voel dat studente na Fort Hare kom met gedagtes en tegnieke wat hulle buite geleer het en wat hulle op die kollege wil toe-

pas. Hulle is in aanraking met die leiers van hul organisasie en word deur hulle beïnvloed.”

Dit is moontlik dat hierdie leiers die ongelukkige beleid volg om Fort Hare te gebruik as die spiespunt in die nasionale politieke stryd, aldus die verslag.

NODIGE MAATREËLS

Die moontlikheid van samesprekinge tussen hierdie leiers en verteenwoordigers van die kollege word genoem. „Hulle kan gevra word om hul lede op Fort Hare in te lig om nie die politieke stryd buite die kollege met weerstand teen dissipline en gesag binne die kollege te verwar nie.”

Fort Hare moet voortbestaan en uit die aard van die saak kan alle politieke moeikhede nie uitgesluit word nie, maar ingrypende maatreëls is beslis nodig om die veiligheid en geluk van die inrigting te verseker. Onder hierdie maatreëls is verandering in personeel en metodes. Die owerheid moet 'n beleid volg wat meer ooreenkom met die status van 'n universiteit.

Die kommissie verwerp 'n aanbe-studente verdeel moet word onder die universiteite wat nie-blankes toelaat. In die eerste plaas sal dit jammer wees om die kollege te sluit en in die tweede plaas sal die studente uit geldelike oorweginge nie na die ander universiteite kan gaan nie.

KLEM GELÊ

Die kommissie lê klem op gesonde verhoudings tussen personeel en studente op billike koshuisreëls, op gesonde verenigings- en sportlewe.

Die verslag meld dat vrywillige kerkdienste nie goed deur die studente bygewoon word nie.

Daar is onverskilligheid en 'n groot mate van aktiewe vyandigheid teenoor die Christendom. Ook is daar getuienis dat linksgesinde en rasionalistiese propaganda onder die studente versprei is in baie gevalle voor hulle aankoms by Fort Hare, maar in baie gevalle ook daarna. Die gewone linksgesinde gedagtes dat godsdiens die opium van die massas is, gekombineer met die rasionalistiese uitkyk van die natuur dat die sendeling die agent van die oweraar is, word gevind.

As oplossing word aan die hand gedoen dat alle verpligting in die bywoning van godsdiens uitgeskakel word, aangesien hierdie dienste vir baie studente 'n bespotting geword het.

Die beleid moet wees om moed in die harte van die Christelike studente te plaas sodat hulle vir hulle geloof sal veg en die propagandiste van ongelof op die verdediging sal plaas.

Die kommissie doen ook verskeie aanbevelings in verband met koshuisaangeleenthede —(Sapa.)

2 SEP 1955

Die Volksblad

VRYDAG, 2 SEPTEMBER 1955

Bevindinge Oor Fort Hare

DIE verslag van die kommissie van ondersoek na toestand in die natuurlekollege Fort Hare is een van die mees bedroewende stukkies leesstof wat in lange tyd verskyn het. Die beeld wat die kommissie voorskilder: verset teen gesag anti-Christelikheid, agterdog — onderling en jeens die blankes — ontug en drankmisbruik dui daarop dat die kollege 'n siek inrigting geword het, onbekwaam om die doel te dien waarvoor dit daar is, naamlik die opvoeding van jong nie-blankes tot verantwoordelike diens in hul eie gemeenskappe.

Dit is baie duidelik dat die vernaamste gebrek by Fort Hare se studente 'n onvoldoende begrip van die noodsaaklikheid van tug is. In hierdie opsig sluit baie van die studente hulle blykbaar by die agitatorgroep onder die bestaande nie-blanke leierskorps aan. Dit was nie altyd so nie. Binne die stamverband en volgens die stamwette soos deur die stamhoofde toegepas, was die natuurle van die verlede 'n wetsgehoorsame volk. Die jong natuurle se huidige afkeer van tug en wetmatigheid is nie 'n ou verskynsel nie. Dit hou verband met die aftakeling van die stamverband en die agteruitgang van die stamgesag. Dit spreek dus vanself dat, as positief teen hierdie toestand van negatiewe verset opgetree moet word, in die eerste plaas gedink moet word aan 'n herstel en uitbouing van die verantwoordelike stamgesag. Daarmee het die Regering gelukkig reeds begin, in die eerste plaas deur die herinstelling van verantwoordelike stamowerhede en in die tweede plaas deur 'n hervorming van die natuurle-onderwysstelsel. Miskien moet die liberalistiese teenstanders van die stamstelsel by Fort Hare gaan kyk wat werklik sal gebeur as die stamstelsel volgens hul begeerte heeltemal afgebreek en die hele natuurlegemeenskap 'n wettelose proletariaat word, want die jong natuurle op Fort Hare het immers nogmaals getoon dat die natuurle min van blanke gesag in enige vorm hou.

As blankes deur die aantasting van die stamstelsel onregstreeks medeverantwoordelik was vir die wetteloosheid op Fort Hare, dan was hulle dit in 'n ander opsig regstreeks. Wat moet die uitwerking op die gemoed van jong natuurle wees wanneer hulle sien dat ook blankes steun verleen aan allerlei versetbewegings teen die wettige landsowerheid? Daar was blankes wat die lydelike versetbeweging van 'n paar jaar gelede aktief gesteun het. Dit was blankes wat in beheer was van die Torch Commando, 'n ander soort versetbeweging. Blankes was die vernaamste versetters teen die nuwe onderwysbedeling vir die natuurle. Daar is trouens gedurig een of ander Sap-liberalistiese beweging met 'n eiesoortige versetplannetjie in die weer. Wat 'n fraaie voorbeeld stel hierdie mense aan die minder beskaafde nie-blankes met hul nog onontwikkelde onderskeidingsvermoë!

Kommissie Was Geskok

GEES AAN FORT HARE: GEVAARLIK EN UITERS ONAANGENAAM

DIE gees aan die Naturellekollege Fort Hare is nie net onaangenaam nie, maar uiteraars gevaarlik, verklaar die kommissie wat ondersoek ingestel het na die onlangse moeilikhede by die inrigting.

„Dit het ons soms getref as 'n bouse gees wat so sterk is dat dit byna sigbaar en tasbaar word — 'n vyand van alles wat normaal en gesond en skeppend is, soos die besetenheid waarvan die Nuwe Testament praat. Dit kan wel tot die algehele vernietiging van Fort Hare lei.”

Die kommissie is veronrus oor die sterk anti-Christelike gevoel onder die studente, en betreur die politieke agitatie wat daar plaasvind. Die indruk word gewek dat die studente die kollege beskou as die speerpunt van die politieke en rassestryd van die naturelle in Suid-Afrika.

Die voorsitter van die kommissie was prof. J. P. Duminy, Prof. M. C. Botha en dr. E. H. Brookes was die ander lede.

Die kommissie het bevind dat 'n deel van die huidige moeilikhede voortspruit uit die feit dat die kollege gegroei het uit die ou voorgestels wat in 1916 ingestel is. „Ons wonder of die simboliese waarde van Fort Hare vir die naturelle behoortlik besef word”.

Teen Alle Gesag

Die kommissie was geskok toe hy agterkom hoe erg die gees by Fort Hare werklik is. 'n Ongelukkige geestesgesteldheid bestaan geruime tyd reeds onder die studente. Daar was reeds jare lank 'n ondermynende element, maar tot onlangs was dit beheerbaar. Opvallend is die agterdog wat bestaan — agterdog teen die kollege-owerheid, agterdog teen baie (maar nie alle) blankes en agterdog teenoor mekaar.

Die houding teenoor die blankes is in Suid-Afrikaanse omstandighede verstaanbaar, en dit is deel van die obsessie met die stryd om vryheid en politiek in die algemeen. 'n Mens kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat minstens sommige van die studente teen alle gesag gekant is. Die kommissie glo dat dit deels te wyte is aan 'n verwarping tussen wettige dissipline en baasskap.

Hierdie gevoel kan verstaan word in die lig van politieke en rasse-wistie buite die kollege, maar is nitemin skadelik en gevaarlik. Onbehoortlike gedrag wanneer die hoof van die kollege die studente toespreek, kan aan 'n universiteit nie geduld word nie. Nog erger — as dit moontlik sou wees — is die nare naamlose briewe en spot-gedigte wat op die kennis-gewingborde aangebring word.

Losbandigheid

Dit is ook jammer dat daar so maklik gegryp word na 'n boikot en ander vorms van regstreekse optrede. Dit is so dat die kollege-owerheid nie altyd wettige versoeke erken nie, en soms aanneemlike versoekte stadig tgemoot kom; en daar was ook oordeelsfoute soos die feitlike versoek aan studente om mekaar te verkitt. Tog is die houding van die studente in

geen verantwoordelikheid nie. Die studente moet aangemoedig word om eie inisiatief te toon.

Uiters Gevaarlik

Aan die opvoedkundige kant lyk sake beter. In die klas-kamers is die betrekkinge goed en werk die studente oor die algemeen hard.

„Dit kan miskien voorkom asof ons te veel en te openhartige aandag aan die foute van die studente skenk, maar ons voel dat die huidige atmosfeer nie net onaangenaam is nie, maar uiteraars gevaarlik.

„Dit het ons soms getref as 'n bouse gees wat so sterk is dat dit byna sigbaar en tasbaar word — 'n vyand van alles wat normaal, gesond en skeppend is, soos die besetenheid waarvan die Nuwe Testament praat. Dit kan wel tot die algehele vernietiging van Fort Hare lei, en dit is om hierdie rede dat ons hoop dat die raad ons enigsnis drastiese voorstelle vir hervorming goed sal oorweeg.

„Die feit dat die huidige geslag van studente aan Fort Hare vir hulself 'n slegte naam buite verwerf, selfs onder die naturelle, dwing 'n mens om baie ernstig te dink oor die bedenklieke toestand aan die kollege.”

Partypolitiek

Die politieke en rassspanning in die land moet noodwendig in die kollege weerspieël word. Die studente moet ook geraak word deur wat in nie-blanke lande elders plaasvind.

Hierdie dinge sal bespreek word, en dit is moeilik om te verseker dat sulke besprekings objektief en akademies bly, „maar ten spyte van wat aan ander universiteite geduld kan word, is dit na ons mening heeltetal verkeerd dat 'n universiteit gebruik sal word as die speerpunt in 'n partypolitieke stryd, of selfs beskou sal word as die gepaste plek vir partypolitieke propaganda”.

Die kommissie sal graag 'n beter voeling tussen studente en personeel buite die klas-kamer sien.

Daar is studente wat reeds vol politieke idees na die kollege kom. Hulle word beïnvloed deur mense en organisasies buite die Universiteit. Die kommissie wonder of die leiers van buite-organisasies nie gevra moet word om hul lede aan die Universiteit aan te sé om die politieke stryd buite nie te verwar met verset teen dissipline en gesag binne die kollege nie.

Drastiese Maatreëls

„Dit is miskien te wyte aan die feit dat die kollege beskou word as die speerpunt van die politieke en rassestryd”.

Hoewel studenterrade bereid moet wees om soms hul versoeke afgewys te sien, kan die universiteitsowerheid die Studenterrad van Fort Hare 'n status gee wat meer vergelykbaar is met dié aan blanke universiteite. Die studente eis vir hulself vryheid van spraak, maar gun dit nie maklik aan mede-studente wat 'n ongewilde standpunt huldig nie.

Anti-Christelik

Daar is ongelukkig baie onverdraagsaamheid onder die studente en 'n aansienlike gebrek aan sedelike moed. Die studente moet nie politieke en rasskewissies in alle besprekings invoer nie, en die owerheid het die reg om te verwag dat die studente hulle matiger sal uitlaat.

Een swaarmoedige student het aan die kommissie gesé:

„Die studente stel hoofsaaklik belang in politiek, hoerery en drank.” Die kommissie voel dat daar onrusbarende baie onsedelike en drinkery in die kollege is. Die owerheid tree nie altyd verstandig op met sy reëls nie, maar dit is nie sake wat gelykmoedig beskou kan word nie.

„Ook is die baie sterk golf van anti-Christelike gevoel wat ons tot ons spyt in die kollege aangetref het, 'n ewel waarvan kennis geneem moet word, en waarteen stille en doeltreffende maatreëls ontwerp moet word, maar dit is nie in die eerste plaas 'n kwessie waarvan amptelik kennis geneem of waarteen dissiplinêr opgetree moet word nie.”

Dit het die kommissie seergemaak om te sien hoe baie die studente op griewe teer en hoe min dank en waardering daar by hulle is. Die studente kla dikwels dat hulle nie met hul eie sake vertrou word nie, maar te dikwels aanvaar hulle

Daar is drastiese maatreëls nodig om Fort Hare teen die gevolge van politieke agitatie te beskerm. Die kommissie meen dat geprobeer moet word om politieke belangstellings met kulturele belangstellings te vervang.

Die kommissie verwerp die gedagte dat Fort Hare gesluit moet word en sy studente onder die gemengde universiteite versprei moet word.

As teenmiddel vir die anti-Christelike gevoel doen die kommissie aan die hand dat verpligte godsdiensoefeninge afgeskaf word. Vir baie studente het dit reeds 'n spotterny geword.

Die Kerk kry die skuld vir die meeste dinge wat verkeerd gaan en die leke-afdeling die krediet vir die meeste dinge waarmee die studente tevrede is.

Die kommissie beveel aan dat die Christelike studente aan die Universiteit bemoedig moet word. Dit sal hulle help om minder eensaam te voel as wat vandag die geval aan Fort Hare is.

Rhodes

Omstandighede aan die kollege kan verbeter word. Die kommissie voel bv. dat dit 'n bietjie hard is dat baie studente nie matrasse kry nie.

Die studente kla baie oor die kos, maar die lede van die kommissie kan hierdie klagte nie deel nie. Miskien moet personeellede saam met die studente dieselfde kos eet.

Die kommissie wil veral graag sien dat daar noue betrekkinge met die Universiteit Rhodes moet wees. Hy betreur die dwase verbreking van betrekkinge tussen die studente van Fort Hare en die studente van Rhodes, waarvoor eersgenoemdes verantwoordelik is.

Die kommissie voel dat 'n regs- en handelsafdeling aan die Universiteit aangemoedig moet word.

Sunday Times

JOHANNESBURG,
SEPTEMBER 4, 1955.

PROBLEM OF FORT HARE

EARLIER this year, a Government - appointed committee of inquiry reported frankly that there were formidable objections, chiefly financial, to a general policy of segregation in higher education in the Union. After reading the report, Nationalist spokesmen, with equal frankness, said they were "disappointed" with the findings.

Within a month or two, the question of racially exclusive universities cropped up in another form. On May 11 South Africa's only non-European university, Fort Hare, was summarily closed down and the students were sent home. They have since been readmitted after "screening."

Another committee of inquiry was then appointed—this time not to investigate the theory of university segregation, but to discover what had gone wrong with it in practice. The report of this committee was produced, with commendable speed, last week.

Fort Hare is what the Nationalists would probably call an "apartheid university." It admits only Native students, men and women. When the university was shut down in May, the Nationalists immediately rushed to its defence and pleaded that the trouble there did not mean that Fort Hare had failed as a model for segregated education.

Leaving aside the question whether Fort Hare is a "model" for segregation, we sincerely trust that Fort Hare has not failed. It has a long and proud record. But the committee's report, like the findings themselves, are "disquieting." The three members of the commission, all prominent educationists, found evidence of an "anti-Christian" spirit, of "political and racial influences," of "evil so strong as to be almost tangible."

What went wrong at Fort Hare? The report blames both the authorities and the students, but it makes it only too clear that there was more behind the "trouble" at Fort Hare than simply official ham-handedness and student wilfulness. The thing strikes deeper. It goes to the roots of the institution itself. For many years, Fort Hare has done its best to train individuals to higher skill and wider vision. Now, as the report declares, "while South Africa is a ferment of political and racial strife without, Fort Hare cannot escape difficulties within."

And that is the heart of the matter. How does Fort Hare fit into the context of present-day South Africa?

Fort Hare en die Toekoms

DIE misstande aan Fort Hare wat verlede week onthul is, laat opnuut vrae ontstaan oor die soort hoër onderwys wat in Suid-Afrika aan naturelle gegee word.

Sommige van diegene wat hierdie werk doen, praat van die hoër onderwys asof dit in die lug moet swewe, sonder opsetlike verband met die heersende politieke en maatskaplike strominge in die land. In werklikheid natuurlik is beheerrade en dosente mense van vlees en bloed, met min of meer duidelike oordele en opvattinge oor die maatskappy waarin en waarvoor hulle werk. Daardie oordele en opvattinge bepaal, sy dit dan onbewus, die oorwegende geestesgesteldheid aan die inrigting en die soort lewensbeskouing wat aan die studente meer of minder subtiel oorgedra word. In die sin het elke universiteit 'n ideologie, en dit is soms die sterkste (omdat dit grootliks onbewus is) daár waar dit die heftigste ontken word.

Die ideologie waaraan Suid-Afrika se swart studente merendeels blootgestel is, is integrasionisties. Die blote saamwees in die gemengde universiteite werk dit in die hand, maar daarby wys ook die grootste deel van die bewuste leiding wat aan die studente gegee word, duidelik in die rigting van die geïntegreerde gemeenskap waarin ras en kleur uiteindelik nie sal tel nie. Bale dosente beskou hulself inderdaad as hervormers en baanbrekers op hierdie gebied, wat besig is om die ouerwetse vooroordele van die maatskappy as geheel te ondermyn en af te breek.

Wat beteken so 'n liberalistiese universiteitsopleiding vir die betrokke naturelle? Dat hul gedagtes en ambisies en ingebore vryheidsdrang op die beskawing van die witman gerig word. Dit is daár waar hulle moet inbreek om te kan vorder. Dit is daár waar hul toekoms as vrye mense geleë is — langs en tussen die blankes.

Nou spreek dit vanself dat sulke beskouinge geweldige spanninge in die gemoedere van die swart studente moet ontwikkel. Die ideaal wat gekweek word, verskil só ver van die werklikheid daar-

buite dat 'n hele reeks van sieklike gemoedstoestande die waarskynlikste uitkoms is: fanatisme, wanhoop, sinisme en ontvlugting. En met hierdie nare produkte van hul voorligting weet die liberalistiese leidsliede natuurlik geen raad nie, want hulle is besig om mense voor te berei vir 'n soort maatskappy wat sonder 'n bloedige omwenteling in Suid-Afrika 'n hersenskim moet bly.

Die vraag is of die land moet vortgaan om deur middel van hierdie soort universiteitsopleiding onoorbrugbare teenstellinge en onoplosbare spanninge vir homself op te bou. Die enigste alternatief wat ons kan sien, is dat 'n ander ideologie as integrasie in die hoër onderwys vir naturelle tot sy reg moet kom. Die jong naturelle se drang na vryheid en diens moet bewustelik afgekeer word van die witman se maatskappy en gekeer word op hul eie gemeenskappe en grondgebied. In stede van redes te soek waarom aparte ontwikkeling onmoontlik is, kan die universiteite hulle ewe goed toelê op die oorweldigende redes waarom dit moontlik moet word, as die naturel moet vorder en die witman vry moet bly. Ook so 'n ideologie is vir die bestaande orde in sekere sin ondermynend — watter geleerdheid en ondersoek is dit nie? — maar dit het ten minste dié voordeel dat sekere universiteite dan nie langer besig sal wees om 'n onweerstaanbare mag teen 'n onbeweeglike voorwerp op te bou nie. Hulle sal ook dan nog swart studente voorberei vir 'n maatskappy wat nie bestaan nie, maar waaraan tog dadelik opbouend gewerk kan word, sonder die dodelike rassevyandskap wat die integrasie-rigting uiteraard verwek.

Dit lyk vir ons noodsaaklik vir die toekoms dat liberalistiese inrigtinge en dosente nie langer die hoër onderwys vir naturelle so volkome soos in die verlede moet oorheers nie. Ons kan dit nie bekostig dat in die naam van akademiese vryheid ambisies en apte van die mees revolutionêre aard met geleerdheid gewapen word nie.

5 SEP 1955

THE NATAL WITNESS

(Established 1846)

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED NEWSPAPER IN NATAL

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1955

THE FORT HARE REPORT

THE report of the three-man committee which investigated the situation at Fort Hare is both a courageous and a deeply disturbing document. It is courageous, because it must have been extremely distasteful to the members of the committee to pronounce the very grave strictures which they felt compelled to pronounce on many aspects of the conduct of the students. They cannot but have been conscious of the danger that much of what they have said may be seized upon by the crude advocates of repression to point to the danger of educating the Natives at all, except, perhaps for a purely subservient utilitarian rôle in the economic life of the country.

Courage must have been required, too, to pass an unfavourable judgment on some aspects of the way in which the college has been administered, for the members of the committee must have been deeply and painfully aware that they were by implication censuring, however gently, people who have devoted themselves to a heavy task in which they have had to struggle with heart-breaking difficulties for little in the way of reward: little material reward; and very little, as the situation uncovered by the committee reveals, of that intangible reward which consists in the sense of working fruitfully towards a noble end.

That the report is a deeply disturbing document is clear from almost every part of its contents. The recommendations made by the committee for improving the situation all appear to be sound and valuable. But the members of the committee probably feel more deeply than anybody else that it is likely to be a long time before they can produce a radical transformation for the better. Indeed, it is possible to feel some pessimism as to whether any changes at Fort Hare can do very much to ameliorate the situation so long as race relations remain in their present unwholesome condition in the country outside. Defects in the organisation at Fort Hare itself may have made the institution more of a hotbed for forcing the growth of some grave ills than it need have been; but the seeds of those ills are sown outside.

Perhaps the main lesson to be drawn from the report is that the policy for Native higher education needs to be very carefully thought out, and that it may well be fatal to the future of our country to pin faith to sweeping slogans as the basis of such policy. There seems to be no doubt that it is the isolation of Fort Hare that is the main factor in forcing to unhealthy growth the seeds which have been sown by the racial situation outside its walls. As the report observes: "Fort Hare is isolated geographically, academically, culturally, socially and in the field of sporting activity and competition, as well being segregated in the sense that admission is confined to non-European students." The fact seems to emerge very clearly from the report that isolation and segregation actually promote, instead of preventing, the perversion of institutions of higher education for non-Europeans into spearheads of "the political struggle."

On the other hand, it would perhaps be rash to conclude that any certain remedy is to be found in pinning one's faith entirely to the system which obtains at Universities like Capetown and the Witwatersrand. If that system has worked well on the whole, it may be due in large part to the fact that non-Europeans have not been a numerous or conspicuous element in those Universities. If they were to become so (and they would become so if the system of mixed universities were to become the sole accepted basis for non-European higher education, since the need for higher education of non-Europeans is growing and must be met) the evils which have been disclosed at Fort Hare might develop in another but not less serious form.

Perhaps the best working system is something like that in the University of Natal, where there is a considerable measure of segregation, but where the non-European students can at least learn something of what a University means for Europeans. It may be that in recommending that Fort Hare should continue in being, but that it should be more closely linked to Rhodes University, the members of the committee had this thought in mind.

5 SEP 1955

Fort Hare

DIE verslag van die kommissie van ondersoek oor die toestande by Fort Hare moet vir alle negrofiliste 'n pynlike ontugtering wees. Hierdie mense eis immers dat die natuur in een enkele dieselfde afstand op die beskawingsweg moet aflê waarvoor die blanke meer as honderd geslagte nodig gehad het. Volgens die negrofiliste moet daar nie rekening met die geestelike agtergrond van die jong naturelle gehou word nie en moet hulle so spoedig moontlik in nagemaakte blankes verander word.

Die gevolg van hierdie soort optrede is nou in Fort Hare geopenbaar. Die kommissie van ondersoek was werklik geskok oor die toestande wat daar

heers. In stede van 'n plekke te wees waar jong naturelle kennis deelagtig kon word, het Fort Hare die toneel van ongedissiplineerdheid, brassery en onsedelikheid geword. Wat in Fort Hare gebeur het, is natuurlik nie 'n uitsondering nie. In die afgelope paar jaar is min of meer soortgelyke tonele beleef by sekere kerk-skole waar daar ook geprobeer word om oorhaastig te werk te gaan.

Hierdie toestande staan in skrilte kontras tot dié wat aangetref word op inrigtings wat onder die toesig van die Afrikaanse kerke staan. Sulke tonele is nog nooit daar afgespeel nie en wel omdat daar met die natuur se agtergrond rekening gehou word.

Head of Fort Hare resigns



Prof. C. P. Dent, principal of the University College of Fort Hare for the last six years, whose request to be permitted to retire on the grounds of ill-health has been agreed to by the governing council of the college. The council said it appreciated his services and regretted that he was unable to continue his work for the college. The report of the commission of inquiry into conditions at Fort Hare, which found that there was a "disturbing amount of immorality and drinking among the students as well as a wave of anti-Christian feeling," placed on record that Fort Hare would have to go a long way to find a principal of greater integrity or with deeper care for the students than Professor Dent. "He has never spared himself, and those who know him well cherish for him, as we ourselves do, sentiments of deep affection and admiration."

Extract from
Dominion, Wellington, New Zealand.

16 MAY 1955



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

University Closed *Abby* **Government officials** have closed Fort Hare, South Africa's only university college for non-whites. An official statement said there was evidence of "secret authority" among the students.

Explanation of ...

The Farmer's Weekly

7 SEP 1955



The Governing Council of the University College of Fort Hare received a request from the principal of the College, Professor C. P. Dent, that he be permitted to retire "on grounds of ill health". Prof. Dent's resignation was accepted.

* * *