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PRESS STATEMENT - DRAFTED BY DURBAN REGIONAL OFFICE -  
ISSUED BY QUINTIN WHYTE ON 12/12/60

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INDIAN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The South African Institute of Race Relations is again constrained to protest against the establishment of a separate Indian University and the debarring of Indian students from other universities unless given special exemption. Despite the representations from leading universities throughout the world, the world-wide trend away from university segregation, and the findings of its own Commission, the Government is proceeding with this policy of compulsory university separation.

There has been no consultation with the educational and other leaders of the Indian people nor has the Government consulted any of the persons who have been working in the field of Indian university education for the past 25 years.

Most Indians living outside Natal will find it difficult if not impossible to attend the Indian University and in addition many part-time students will be unable to get to the new University after 5.00 p.m. owing to difficulties of travel.

The Institute believes that the policy of enforced separation at University level is all the more regrettable in view of the fact that political and community leadership is to a great extent drawn from university graduates. To educate potential leaders of all sections of the community in an environment where they are totally isolated from their fellow country-men is hazardous in the extreme and inimical to the development of a peaceful multi-racial society.

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national union of south african students  
nasionale unie van suid-afrikaanse studente

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KABELS NATUSAS CABLES

ST. GEORGESSTRAAT 148 ST. GEORGE'S STREET  
KAAPSTAD CAPE TOWN

28th December, 1960.

Mrs. N. Scott,  
Administrative Assistant,  
Institute of Race Relations (S.A.)  
Auden House,  
68 De Korte St.  
Johannesburg.

Dear Mrs. Scott,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th December, and for the information.

~~enclosed~~

We have noted your additions to our memorandum in the sections relating to the Indian College and we thank you for them.

We shall be drawing up a supplement and shall do the roneoring of 300 copies ourselves, which I shall bring along to the meeting.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Adrian Leftwich*

Adrian Leftwich.

PRESIDENT.



SUPPLEMENT

N.U.S.A.S. Memorandum on Higher Education for Non-Whites in South Africa consequent upon the Enactment of the Extension of University Education and Fort Hare University College legislation.

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The following information, which we submit as a supplement to our Memorandum, has only recently come to light, particularly with regard to the Indian Tribal College on Salisbury Island and to the publication issued by the Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria, entitled "Investment in Education" which deals with the establishment of Universities and University Colleges in Nigeria.

Supplement to Point 3: Appointment of Councils and Advisory Councils of the Colleges.

As far as we are aware, the names of the Advisory Council of the University College of the Western Cape have not been gazetted. However, in the Prospectus for the College for 1961, the following persons are listed as members of the Advisory Council:-

Mr. S.Dollie; M.R.S.H., P.H.C., M.P.S. (G.B.) (Chairman)

Dr. S.J.Arendse; L.R.C.P.S.(Edin), L.R.F.P.S.(Glasgow)

Rev. J.F.C.Booyesen.

Dr. E.T.Dietrich; Med. Prac.

Dr. J.W.Forbes; M.P.C.H.(Edin)

Mr. C.Liedman.

Mr. T.R.Swartz.

.....2/-

It should be emphasised that the Councils of the Colleges set up by the Government are appointed by the Government alone, while at other Universities in South Africa, such as the University of Cape Town, this is not the case: there are Government members on the Council of the University of Cape Town but the majority are elected from specified constituencies.

With regard to this question of University Councils, the report of the Commission on Post-School Certificate and Higher Education in Nigeria, the Chairman of which was Sir Eric Ashby, states on page 31: "Responsibility for its (the University's) management must be vested in an autonomous Council. The Council must include representatives of the public; but these representatives must attend as individuals and not as agents of some sectional interests or party line. This Council should have undisputed control over the affairs of the University: the appointment of Staff, the content of courses, the admission and the examination of students. In order to exercise its control, it must have a secure income, provided as a block grant to be disbursed entirely at its own discretion."

It is interesting to compare the recommendations of the Nigerian Commission, a Commission whose members are men of considerable experience in academic affairs, with the practice at the Tribal Colleges.

Supplement to Point 5: Academic Staff.

Fort Hare:

Shortly prior to the drawing up of this supplement, the Government Gazette of 30th December, 1960, advertised vacancies in the following academic posts at Fort Hare: Dept. of English - Professor;

Dept. of Agriculture - Senior Lecturer; Dept. of Commerce - Senior Lecturer; Dept. of Law - Senior Lecturer and Lecturer; Dept. of Education - Senior Lecturer and Lecturer; Dept. of Philosophy - Lecturer.

It has been impossible to ascertain whether such vacancies have been caused by resignations and, in the case of such resignations, for what reasons.

Supplement to Point 6: Sites of Colleges.

Indian College:

The Indian College, which is to be on Salisbury Island in Durban Bay, is to be housed in ex-Naval Barracks. The Island is usually approached by road since there is a causeway leading to it, but the start of the causeway to the mainland is approximately ten to fifteen miles from the centre of Durban; there is then a long walk across to the Island which is connected to the shore by swamps at low-tide and by the above causeway which is approximately three-quarters of a mile long.

On the Island there are barracks, a yacht club, a boat club and what appear to be repair shops. The Island itself, we understand, has a creek running across it, beyond which is beach and mangrove swamp.

There are numerous long buildings besides the barracks which are possibly to be converted into laboratories. There are good fields and a swimming bath and the buildings are in a fair condition.

Near the start of the causeway are huge oil storage tanks, while the Oil Refinery is some miles away.

Supplement to Point 7: Finance.

In the report on the Commission on Post-School Certificate and Higher Education in Nigeria, the Commissioners, while stating that the initial capital cost of a University in Great Britain is about £3 million, excluding expensive faculties like engineering but including libraries, laboratories, offices, class-rooms, tutorial rooms and halls of residences for some but not all students, recommended that for the new University of Lagos in Nigeria, £2½ million at a minimum should be spent in initial capital outlay. It is again interesting to compare such a recommendation with the £431,848 spent on Turfloop and the £349,937 spent on Ngoya.

Conclusion:

On page 31 of the Nigerian Commission Report, a most important principle is enunciated when the Commissioners discuss University government. They write: "Universities are unlike other educational institutions: they have bonds of loyalty not only to the country which supports them, but also to the international company of Universities all over the world. This double loyalty is essential because a nation's Universities' degrees, like its money, must have currency in other nations. Through a tradition which is six centuries old, Universities like to recognise each others degrees and open their doors to one another's members, for this is the only way international standards in science and scholarship can be maintained. The activities of the Universities know no frontiers save the frontiers of knowledge. These two loyalties of the University - to its own country and to the International company of Universities - do not conflict; for no nation would wish its Universities' degrees to be unacceptable abroad. But if a University is to enjoy international recognition, it must be given freedom to run its own affairs on the standards of Universities elsewhere."

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B. JAN 1961  
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TO MEMBERS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE

"New Indian University"

The Durban Regional Committee wishes Head Office to issue the enclosed statement. Will you let me know if you have any comments or amendments by Friday 9th.

Yours sincerely,

*Q. Whyte*

Quintin Whyte,  
Director.

*Statement unqualified  
has my approval  
Mey*  
*M. R. Musingu*

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