

NOTES OF MEETING BETWEEN CHIEF PATHFINDER, SOUTH AFRICA
AND MR. FRANK RALEIGH, ONE OF THE SOUTH AFRICA SCOUT
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN PATHFINDER
COUNCIL - ON MONDAY, MAY 2nd, 1932, at 1.30 p.m.

Mr. Jones intimated at the outset that the discussion was quite unofficial and purely informal and confidential.

He said that Professor Jabavu of Fort Hare College, who had been a member of the Cape Border Divisional Pathfinder Council, had some time ago resigned his membership from that Council, and there was difficulty between Mr. Jabavu and Mr. Ball, who is Divisional Pathfinder for the Cape Border Division. Mr. Jabavu is associated in the establishment of the "Pioneer Movement" for Native boys, which is an opposition organisation. Mr. Jabavu had now intimated his intention to resign his seat from the "Institute of Race Relations" on the issue. He had written to Mr. Ball suggesting that he should have some conversation with him on his resignation from the Pathfinders, but Mr. Ball had replied that no useful purpose would serve by further conversation as he had already discussed the question on a previous occasion and nothing had come out of it. Mr. Ball considers that the Pathfinder Movement is anti-Native, and that the time had come for Natives to run their own show. The Pioneer Movement was in some respects a parallel to the Voortrekker Movement.

Confidentially Mr. Jones said that at a Conference held at Bloemfontein about ten days ago between South African Girl Guides Association Representatives and the Wayfarer Movement Representatives, the Wayfarers did not desire to find themselves controlled in the same manner as the Pathfinders, and did not ask to have Wayfarers admitted as Guides. Instead they asked for recognition as a Movement parallel with the Guides and for registration as such by the World Federation of Guides.

The Conference unanimously agreed to recommend the formation of a joint Council of Guides and Wayfarers, to which both bodies would be separately affiliated, the Joint Council to be recognised, by registration with the World Federation of Guides, as the central body for the Girl Guide and Girl Wayfarer Movements in Southern Africa.

Mr. Jones pointed out that if the Wayfarers secure recognition by the World Federation, he would find himself in a difficult position, unless there was some re-arrangement as between the Boy Scouts' Association and the Pathfinder Movement. He did not at the moment wish to put forward a definite proposal. He was feeling anxious because of the Jabavu point of view and the view of those who considered that the subordinate position of the Pathfinder Movement was humiliating.

Mr. Jones suggested that to explore ways and means of meeting these difficulties it might be well to call together the Co-ordinating Committee - already approved by both the South Africa Scout Council and the South African Pathfinder Council and this Committee might also examine and consider the Draft Pathfinder Rules and Regulations as revised by the Pathfinder Movement.

He emphasised that he did not desire to approach the future relations of the two Movements from the point of view of separation, but to discuss ways and means whereby relationships between the two Movements could, without damaging the Boy Scout Movement, accomplish something which would satisfy those who felt that the present position of the Pathfinder Movement vis-a-vis the Scout Movement was wholly unsatisfactory.

Mr. Jones did not desire this statement circulated to the Scout Council yet, but intimated that at an early opportunity he would set out the points and make the request officially. For the time being no action is to be taken until the Scout Council hears from him officially.

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