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UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN NATURELLESAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,

15 NOV 1941

POSBUS } 384,
P.O. BOX }

PRETORIA,

14 NOV 1941

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76/275
Sir,Personnel of Commissions and Committees.

With further reference to your letter addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs on the 17th ultimo, in the above connection, I am directed by Colonel Reitz to inform you that he is entirely in agreement with your view that one or other of the representatives of the Natives in Parliament should be included on any Commission or Committee appointed to enquire into matters specially affecting the native population and that such a representative would probably be able to make a valuable contribution towards the particular investigation concerned.

In so far as he is personally concerned, the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs will, where practicable, give effect to this policy for the future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Howard Rogers.
SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Senator the Honourable
J. D. Rheinallt Jones,
P. O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

12 NOV 1941

Office of the Minister of Native Affairs.

Kantoor van die Minister van Natuurlesake.

PRETORIA.

10th November, 1941.

Senator the Hon. J. D. R. Jones,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

Dear Senator Jones,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 17th October addressed to me regarding the personnel of Commissions and Committees.

Your request that at least one influential person identified with native welfare be included in the personnel of such Committees is being discussed with the Secretary for Native Affairs with a view to seeing whether your suggestion can be adopted.

Yours sincerely,

Denys Reitz.

17th October, 1941.

The Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Colonel Reitz,

PERSONNEL OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that, notwithstanding that the African people have had directly elected representatives in Parliament since 1937, on no occasion has any one of them been included in the personnel of any Commission or Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into matters specially affecting Africans. The Native Farm Labour Committee was a notorious example, since on this Committee the European farmers had two representatives.

While I yield to no one in my respect for, and admiration of, senior officers of the Native Affairs Department and their devotion to the welfare of the African people, I hold that there are whole regions of Native thought and experience which their official position prevents them from knowing about and appreciating. Moreover, their official position makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to press points which are contrary to official policy, but which the interests of the Africans require should be pressed when recommendations are being framed. The representatives of the Africans and other unofficial persons have the knowledge and experience, and are in sufficiently close touch with Native opinion to be able to make important contributions in most enquiries.

I shall therefore be glad if you will in future appointments to Commissions and Committees make a point of seeing that at least one unofficial person identified with Native Welfare is included in the personnel of any Commission or Committee appointed to deal with any matter in which the interests of the African people are concerned.

Before long, too, I hope you will find it possible to include trained and experienced Africans for such work.

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/DH.

21st November, 1941.

The Secretary for Native Affairs,
P.O.Box 384,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

PERSONNEL OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES.

I thank you for your letter of the 14th instant,
Ref. No. 26/275, and for the information you so kindly convey.
The decision is much appreciated.

I would only add that my suggestion was not confined
to the Parliamentary representatives, but included the possib-
ility of using the knowledge and experience of other unofficial
persons.

Yours faithfully,

JDRJ/NMC.

21st November, 1941.

Col. the Hon. D. Reitz,
Office of the Minister of Native Affairs,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Colonel Reitz,

PERSONNEL OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES.

I thank you for your letter of the 10th instant, and for the later letter which I have received from the Secretary for Native Affairs.

I very much appreciate your decision in this matter. I would only add that in putting forward the suggestion I did not confine it to the Parliamentary representatives. There may be other unofficial persons who can be helpful.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/NMC.

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