

(translated)

NO:- Inl. 2/z/9

C67

Native Commissioner,
ESHOWE.

P/B 1007,
Pietermaritzburg.
13th. April 1954.

RE : TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - T.W.S. MTHEMBU.

According to arrangement then just this letter, I send it with Mthembu himself, because he requested to go and call on you himself and discuss the matter with you. I think myself that this will be the best arrangement.

Mthembu is very well known by us. The work that he does follows suit. He has always regularly kept us informed either by writing to us or by writing direct to the Chief Office.

Also letters from Natives who tell the whole story of what Mthembu says and does reach our Office and Chief Office. They are very enthusiastic when they learn of the Bantu Authorities Act, and something about the taking over of Education by the Department of Native Affairs etc..

We do not believe that there is evil in what he says or does, otherwise the complaint would have already come out. With the exception of a few he knows all Chiefs in the whole Natal. He also knows an amazing number of Teachers and other influential people, and here I must add that they also know him.

At present he is rather to our advantage than to our disadvantage, and we have left him alone. He did also organise for Senator Cowley. I understand that he was in trouble about certain Native Medicines which he sold without a licence. He was a Parson of the Lutheran Missionary Society, but was apparently dismissed because he went about too much and other ecclesiastical objections.

We know that if he so wants to go about he must ofcourse have that right from the Local Native Commissioner and that there are laws with which he will have to comply. But seeing that he is now paying you a visit we shall leave that aside, so that he can hear from yourself the necessary requirements and also complaints.

We have however explained to him that he can expect difficulty and that not even a Chief is entitled to leave the District without the Consent of the Local Native Commissioner.

When I last left you I met him on the road going to Chief Gqokinimbi's place. I gave him a lift and went there myself, from there he went with me back here at Pietermaritzburg. Today he leaves from here to return to you.

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