



RHODES UNIVERSITY

433
STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Grahamstown, Cape Province Telephone 3422

6 January 1970⁰⁰

Dr Alan Paton,
Kloof,
Natal.

Dear Dr Paton,

When I saw you in April last year and when the question of the Daantjie Oosthuizen Memorial Lecture was raised for the first time, I said I would send this copy of a speech the late Professor Oosthuizen made in 1967⁰⁰. It is one of the most outstanding speeches I have ever heard - and I am sure it will give an indication of his views.

The other two speeches made at the symposium are a sharp contrast⁰⁰.

I was very pleased to hear, then, towards the end of the academic year that you had accepted the invitation to deliver the first Oosthuizen lecture.

If there is any other information you require for the lecture please let me know. I don't know what sort of itinerary is being planned for your trip down this way but if there are any people you would like to see, particularly in Alice or East London please let me know because I am sure this could be arranged⁰⁰. Perhaps you would be prepared to speak to the students at the Federal Theological Seminary at Alice, which is perhaps one of the few multi-racial institutions in South Africa. I am sure those students would like to hear you speak as the seminary is a bit isolated.

Anyhow, please give my kindest regards to Mrs Paton and I hope 1970 is a good year for both of you⁰⁰.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Streek

Barry Streek.

PS I was given your book, *Kontakion*, for Christmas. I couldn't have had a better gift. It is moving and outstanding because of the feeling it evokes from black and white type.

P.O.Box 278,
Hillcrest,
Natal.

PLEASE NOTE CORRECT ADDRESS.

January 23rd. 1970

Mr. Barry Streek,
Rhodes University.
Grahamstown.

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your letter of January 6th., and for sending me a copy of Professor Oosthuizen's address to the U.C.N.

You may or may not know that I received a letter from some twenty five Rhodes students asking me not to give the lecture in honour of Professor Oosthuizen, because the Academic Freedom Committee was being hypocritical in holding such a lecture while at the same time being the reverse of militant. I wrote to Mrs. Oosthuizen, whom I know quite well, and she told me to make my own choice, and I then replied to the students and said that whatever the shortcomings of the Freedom Committee and the S.R.C. might be, I intended to give the lecture in honour of the late Professor Oosthuizen.

You might perhaps later advise me as to whether I should mention this in my introductory remarks.

My wife and I decided that we would probably spend a few days at the Hog's Back on our way back from Grahamstown, and you could ask the Seminary students whether they would like me to visit them.

Thank you for your appreciation of "Kontakion For You Departed", and for your kind regards to us both, which we reciprocate.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Paton.



RHODES UNIVERSITY

433
STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Grahamstown, Cape Province Telephone 3422

4th February, 1970.

Dr. A. Paton,
P.O. Box 278,
Hillcrest,
Natal.

Dear Dr. Paton,

Thank you very much for your letter dated January 23, 1970.

I shall contact the Seminary students at Alice when they return but I am sure they will be delighted to hear that you will be able to speak to them, especially as their latest magazine contains an article about one of your books. (A copy of the magazine is attached for your interest).

The background to the letter by the 25 students to you is this: they felt that after the events of the past year, Rhodes is no longer entitled to say that it believes in Academic Freedom. If you would like an outline of the events, I could give it to you, but I should imagine you have read about them in the papers. The twenty five are a fairly radical group of students, many of whom have since left Rhodes University, who feel the S.R.C., the Academic Freedom Committee, and, of course, the University Senate and Council have acted as sell-outs.

This is why they wrote to you. I disagree, in many respects of course, but generally 1969 was a disappointing year Academic Freedom-wise for most of the University.

I ~~think~~ should leave it to your discretion as to whether you wish to mention the letter in your address. It might be appropriate, depending on your theme.

I shall write to you again when I have contacted the Seminary, but if you would like information on 1969 here, I will gladly supply this.

I must add though, that I am convinced nothing like the events of 1969 would have occurred had Prof. Oosthuizen still been with us. Both in his advice to the Senate and to students, he would have been able to give a lead which was so often lacking. He was sorely missed last year.

On that note I will end this letter. We look forward to your visit.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Streek

Barry Streek

433
P.O.Box 278,
Hillcrest,
Natal.

February 26th.1970

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your letter of February 4th.,

When you talk to the Seminary students I would like to have some suggestions from them as to the subject of the address. Please make it known to them tactfully that I am not asking for instructions, but only looking for a lead.

In regard to the letter from the twenty-five students, I shall probably mention it and send you an extract before hand for your comments.

Yours sincerely

Alan Paton.

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.