

As from;

c/o M. Gunther, Esq.,
3a Hout St.,
Leiden,
Holland.

Dear Mr Paton,

Having concluded my term of office as President of NUSAS I am at present seeking entry to any one of a number of universities in the United States where I wish to do a post-graduate course in African studies.

After obtaining a B.A. degree from Rhodes in 1956 I went to the Reef where I commenced articles and study for an LL.B at Wits. After a year I stopped articles and took up a variety of jobs as I felt that work in articles was too restricting. At the same time I became more and more absorbed in student affairs, having been elected to the SRC at Wits in 1957. By the end of 1958 I had become President of the Wits SRC but had not been able to do enough work to sit for the exams. In 1959 I was elected full time President of NUSAS, in which capacity I served from November of that year until December of this year with the consequence that I did not write exams in the years 1958, 1959 and 1960. I was incidentally teaching during this time as well so it was not possible to do the academic work I wanted to. I am fully cognisant of the fact that this can in no way be construed as a sound academic record. Nevertheless I am told that there are a number of universities in the US which would be prepared to admit students from such countries as South Africa who have taken anything like a leading role in the defence of academic freedom. It is on this basis that I intend to apply.

May I ask you if you would be prepared to act as a referee on my application with particular reference to any work you may feel I have done for the cause of liberalism in South Africa.

If it were at all possible for you to make a short statement in the form of a testimonial which I could use in my application, initially to Harvard, I should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

John Shingler
John Shingler.

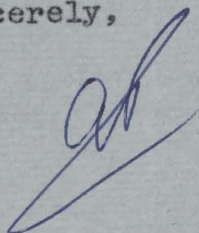
287
23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

25th January, 1961.

Dear John,

I hope the enclosed is what you want, and that
you are successful in getting a place. Then come back
and apply your studies!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ad', written over a horizontal line.

A TESTIMONIAL FOR MR JOHN SHINGLER

Mr. John Shingler, a graduate (B.A.) of Rhodes University, Grahams-town, South Africa, is anxious to take a post-graduate course in the United States in African Studies. Mr. Shingler is aware that his work for the National Union of S.A. Students, his opposition to the Government's attempt to curb the freedom of the Universities, and his total rejection of policies of racial discrimination, have prevented him from preparing himself further in South Africa for the kind of study that he would now like to pursue.

I therefore make a special plea that special consideration be given to Mr. Shingler's application. It was out of a sense of duty to his country, and because of the principles he espoused, that he threw himself with such abandon into his extra-mural duties. On occasions he ran the risk of arrest and punishment, but he did as much as any person in South Africa to keep alive the bonds between the non-white students of Fort Hare and the other students of the country. Those who are painfully aware of the dangers of complete isolation of white from non-white students will know how to value his work.

I wholeheartedly support Mr. Shingler's application, and feel sure that he will deserve any consideration shown to him.

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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