

national union of south african students
nasionale unie van suid-afrikaanse studente

294
NUSAS

TELEFOON 2-7831 TELEPHONE
KABELS NATUSAS CABLES

ST. GEORGESSTRAAT 148 ST. GEORGE'S STREET
KAAPSTAD CAPE TOWN

AL/RT

23rd March, 1961.

A. Paten, Esq.,
Lynton Rd.,
Kloof, Natal.

Dear Mr Paten,

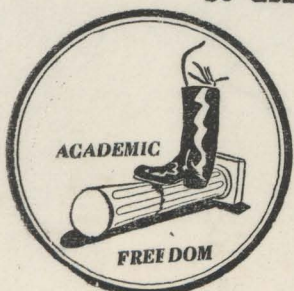
In July this year the annual Congress of the National Union of South African Students will be held at the University of Natal, Durban. This Congress is the annual meeting place of the representatives of the 17,000 students who are members of our organisation.

NUSAS, we are proud to say, is the largest non-racial organisation in the country outside of the Churches. This is a tradition which we value and which we will endeavour always to maintain as the most essential characteristic of our National Union of Students. However, with increasing government pressure on our activities and with government legislation being passed which divides up the student community, our task becomes more and more difficult. Thus our Congress in Durban in July is, we believe, going to be a critical one at which we shall have to take stock of the tremendous developments both within our country and in Africa as a whole. We believe that what is so necessary at the moment is the boosting of morale of these South African students who see in what is happening as a result of the policies of the government, only evil and human misery.

I am therefore writing to you, Sir, to do us the honour of opening our 1961 NUSAS Congress. We believe that in South Africa at the moment there are few better people to give a lead to young South Africans than yourself, hence we would consider ourselves greatly privileged if you would agree to open our Congress.

The dates of our Congress are 4th to 15th July, and the official opening will be in the evening of either 4th or 5th July, but we shall be able to inform you definitely once our Congress programme has been worked out within the next few days.

At Congress, the Student Assembly - the main policy-making body of NUSAS - sits concurrently with the Winter School and the Education Students' Conference. This year the theme for

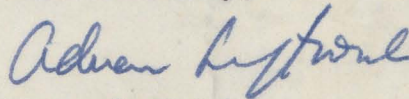


our Winter School is "Man in Africa" in which there will be a number of lectures delivered by prominent South African academicians on topics ranging from "Man in Africa - Genesis" to "Political Banners Unfurled", Linking up with the Winter School will be the Education Students' Conference, the theme of which is to be "Education in Emergent Africa", and here we hope to have lectures and discussions on the traditional forms of education in Africa, tracing developments through until the present time when the problems of illiteracy and adult education are so prevalent. If you should be interested in any of these lectures, we shall be pleased to welcome you there too.

If you are able to open our Congress, we would be glad if you could let us know as soon as possible. We would be grateful if you could let us know the title of your address so that this may be included in our official Congress Programme.

We hope, Sir, that you will do us this honour and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Leftwich
President.

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

11th April, 1961.

Dear Adrian,

I am glad to accept the honour of opening your 1961 Congress.

At the moment I am devoting all my time to the Hofmeyr biography, and that is why I hesitated to accept your invitation, but my wife says I must. Before I send you the title of the opening address, I would like to know from you what NUSAS itself would like to see dealt with in this address. Secondly, how long should it be? The third and last question is whether you have such addresses printed or roneoed before the actual Congress? I always find it most difficult to have an address ready until the day I am to deliver it.

Yours sincerely,

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