

mtt.

GEORGE JOINT COUNCIL
OF EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS

as from "Winton"

Box 12, P.O. Blanco,

George,
C.P.

19. 8. 49.

Dear Miss Harrell.

22 AUG 1949.

I am afraid it is no use at this stage sending a reply to your Circular letter R.R. 86/⁴⁹/~~7~~, dated 13. 4. 49, on the subject of native family life, but I should like to explain that I tried to get the African representatives of the various Churches functioning in George (including the "Ethiopian" Churches) to express an opinion on this important subject, but I am afraid the investigation is right above their heads, and they would not commit themselves to any expression of opinion.

The only heading under which I personally feel in any way competent to express an opinion is A, i.e. the influence of contact with the Coloured community upon African family life. This influence is very great in places in the Western Province and South-Western Districts of the Cape (especially where no native location is provided) where small minorities of Africans

are living surrounded by a large Coloured population. The tendency is for these minorities to merge, in the course of a generation or two, into the Coloured population. A Coloured woman seems to have a peculiar attraction for a native man (though this may be accounted for by the fact that many of the young unmarried natives are migrant labour and have few opportunities of coming in contact with native girls). Union between Coloured men and native women are ^{more} rare. When a native man and a Coloured woman come together (generally by starting a family) they as often as not do not take the trouble to get married by any civil or religious law or ceremony. They are just accepted socially, and for purposes of Old Age Pension, etc., as man and wife, and as they all belong to the low income groups, the question of succession, inheritance, etc., hardly arises. ^{The} ~~Even~~ off-spring of such unions are, of course, "Coloureds". Even the off-spring of pure native fathers and mothers, born & brought up in "Coloured" surroundings, are commonly willing and anxious to be regarded as Coloured rather than native, because of the many advantages (particularly, I am sorry to say, in

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facilities for getting liquor!) which the Coloureds enjoy over the natives. They all grow up speaking Afrikaans more fluently than their own Bantu language, and they and their parents try to get them admitted to Coloured schools, where the medium is Afrikaans, because the native schools in such districts are generally so small that instruction ~~is~~ is not allowed to be carried beyond Standard III or IV, and those who want to proceed further with their education have no facilities for doing so. No wonder then that the traditions of native family life soon are forgotten, and nothing acquired in their place. The Coloured people, generally speaking, have, of course, no roots in the part, and are only very quarter-baked Christians!

Yours sincerely,

D. Hewby.

MM - MM
N M - please return to me. MM
MM

AFRICAN MARRIAGE SURVEY

c/o International African Institute,
Seymour House,
17, Waterloo Place,
London, S.W.1.

16th September, 1949.

The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
19, Stiemens Street,
Braamfontein,
Johannesburg,
South Africa.

Dear Mr. Whyte,

In the absence of the Director of the African Marriage Survey, Mr. Arthur Phillips, I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated 23rd August, your enclosure from the representative of the George Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, and the packet of newspapers (under separate cover). I am forwarding the letters to Mr. Phillips to-day.

Unfortunately your letter dealing with the Lobola correspondence arrived to-day, whereas the newspapers reached us yesterday. I have to confess that I began to cut out the relevant correspondence - with the intention of sending it on to Mr. Phillips - before we were informed that the newspapers were on loan from the library. I am most sorry about this mistake on my part, and very much hope that you will accept my apologies. I have, of course, stuck the correspondence into its columns again with transparent paper.

I note that you wish the papers to be returned as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Olive Pumphrey.

P.P. SECRETARY.

19 SEP 1949.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



The Director,
S. A. Institute of Race Relations,
19, Stiemens Street,
Bramfontein,
JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA.

First fold here →

Second fold here →

To open cut here →

Sender's name and address :-

The Secretary,
African Marriage Survey,
c/o International African
Institute,
Seymour House,
17, Waterloo Place,
LONDON, S.W.1.,
ENGLAND.

To open cut here ↑

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