



PC 11/12/3/39

One. Zachariah Keodirelang Matthews was born in Kimberley in 1901, son of a Tswana mineworker. His parents sacrificed much to send him to Lovedale and Fort Hare, where in 1923 he became the first African to obtain a B.A. at a South African institution. His academic career was brilliant. He was appointed head of Adams College High School, and met Lutuli there. He was the first African LL.B, a Johannesburg attorney, M.A. of Yale, and spent a year at the London School of Economics under Bronislaw Malinowski. In 1936 he became a lecturer at Fort Hare, professor in 1944, acting principal in the '50s.

Cartoon: Z.K. defending before a white judge.

Two. But politics was inevitable. With Seme and D.D.T. Jabavu he launched the All African Convention in 1935, but his true political home was the African National Congress. In 1943 he was elected to the Natives' Representative Council. In open session he told Mr. Hofmeyr that Africans did not want a separate kind of education. They did not want to go into the "blind alley of African civilisation". This was ten years before Dr. Verwoerd created Bantu Education in 1953.

Cartoon: Z.K. addressing Hofmeyr in the N.R.C.

Three. Z.K. paid a high price for his beliefs. He was charged with high treason in 1956 and discharged in 1958. He was detained in the Emergency of 1960. In 1961 he resigned from Fort Hare as a protest against separate universities, thus sacrificing all his pension rights which were considerable. The World Council of Churches called him to Geneva in the same year.

Cartoon: Z.K. in the Dock, with Lutuli, Helen Joseph, Joe Slovo, M.B. Yengwa.

Four. Like Lutuli, Z.K. would have served as Prime Minister of South Africa, and with great moral authority. Like Lutuli he received recognition at last when Sir Seretse Khama appointed him as Botswana's ambassador to Washington in 1966. He died there in 1968. He was one of the noblest of men.

Cartoon: Z.K. under the Capitol.