

Recd 1/7/25/261 329

FRANCIS PICKENS MILLER
2810 P STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON 7, D.C.

August 10, 1961

Dear Mr. Paton:

J. H. Hofmeyer was a dear friend of mine and I have always regarded him as one of the truly great men of his generation. Have you any plan to write his biography?

It occurs to me that in the present state of affairs, a publication of Hofmeyer's life, while paying tribute to his memory and the value of his life, would also be a very useful contribution to people's thinking. I happen to be a Virginian who has been through the same struggle in my part of the United States that you have been going through in South Africa.

You may recall my name in connection with the World Student Christian Federation and the World Council of Churches. I succeeded Mott as Chairman of the Federation from 1928 to 1938 and, while Chairman, presided over the Conference at Fort Hare in 1930. After serving in the Second World War on General Eisenhower's staff, I returned to Virginia to enter the political arena, where I have been since. At the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954, I was elected to the Central Committee. At present, I am a member of our Department of State, but am writing to you not as a governmental official, but in my private capacity as a citizen.

You may write me at the above address, which is my home in Washington.

It may be that you have already begun on a life of Hofmeyer. If you have not, I beg you to do so. You are the one man qualified to undertake this task.

Cordially yours,

Francis P. Miller

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Alan Paton, Esq.,
23 Lynton Road,
Kloof, Natal,
Union of South Africa.