

PP/IK

18th August, 1971.

TO: TEMBA SONO,  
FROM: PAUL PRETORIUS, DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Dear Temba,

Thank you for your letter 12th August. I have noted with some concern the contents as well as several press statements you have made regarding NUSAS over the past month.

Firstly the resolution quoted in the letter (44/71) bears little relevance to the lengthy discussions we had in Cape Town. We agreed that an inter-executive meeting should not be held on the basis of 'co-operation on a political platform' but in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlap in our independent projects. For instance I am disturbed by the fact that Black students have to continually appeal to a predominantly white NUSAS for scholarships. This programme I feel could be far more effectively taken over and handled by your organization. Again we have both planned economic programmes and literacy projects. In both fields our policy is similar and clashes, which are avoidable, seem inevitable unless something is done about it.

On the other hand it seems that such a meeting would cause considerable strife and confusion as to its real value and as to the motivations of the participants. As regards the latter point I can only re-state what I have already said to you. NUSAS has decided on its policy with regard to SASO and Black campuses. This does not involve attempts to impose our ideas or actions but clarifies our position as an organization working completely independently of SASO in practice (though possibly not in theory). We do not seek co-operation as this would be anomalous to the aims and objects of your organization and would only serve to confuse our policy formulated over the past year in this regard. However it is possible that the meeting would not be understood in these terms by those to whom we are responsible and for this reason I accept your decisions.

As regards the statements you have made in the press recently I would like to have a few things clarified. It seems to me to be very possible that the press have distorted what you have had to say and thus I have not made any official reaction. I enclose a photostat copy of an article which appeared in the Daily Dispatch on the 10th August. The parts underlined I think are meant to refer to Black students who flirt with NUSAS. It could be read however as referring to the attitude of whites in NUSAS i.e. that they regard themselves as the Black man's salvation. I am sure that this was not the meaning intended but I would like you to clarify so that I can be sure of what to say should I be asked to comment.

I hope to be able to see you again while I am in the Transvaal over the next few weeks and to discuss these matters more fully. I would really like to avoid any unnecessary misunderstanding.

Best regards,