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Biographical Note

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NEW REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Zachariah Keodirelang Matthews, new Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations, presented his credentials on 20 October to the Secretary-General, U Thant. He was accompanied by Pierre de Meulemeester, the United Nations Chief of Protocol.

Mr. Matthews was born on 20 October 1901. He holds the following degrees: Bachelor of Science from the University of South Africa (1923); Diploma in Education of the South African Native College for High School Teachers (1924); LL.B. from the University of South Africa (1930); and Master of Arts from Yale University (1934).

Mr. Matthews first began his career in 1925 as Headmaster of the High School Department of Adams College, Amanzimtoti, Natal. Later, in 1936, he was appointed Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Native Law and Administration at the University College of Fort Hare, Alice, Cape Province. In 1945, he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of African Studies at the same university, and from 1955 to 1957, he served as the acting Principal of the college.

In 1945, Mr. Matthews was appointed by the Minister of Education, Arts and Science of the Union Government of South Africa to serve as member of the Union Advisory Board on Native Education. In 1947, he was elected member of the Executive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, and in 1949, he was elected President of the African National Congress in Cape Province and member of the National Executive of the African National Congress.

In 1955, he served as Visiting Professor of World Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary, New York.

In 1959, he resigned his Professorship at University College of Fort Hare in protest of the take-over of the university by the Union Government. In 1960, Mr. Matthews was detained for 135 days during the state of emergency in South Africa.

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That same year, he started practice as an attorney of the Supreme Court of South Africa in Alice, Cape Province. In 1961, he was admitted as an Attorney to practise in the Courts of Bechuanaland Protectorate. In 1962, he was appointed Secretary for Africa of the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches, Geneva.

Among Mr. Matthews' publications are "The African Response to Racial Laws" (1951); "South Africa: A Land Divided Against Itself" (1953); "The Crisis in University Education in South Africa" (1958).

Mr. Matthews is married and has two sons and three daughters.

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