

- Professor of Electrical Engineering. Should have Ph.D. in Electrical Power and Machines, with at least five years teaching and research experience. Relevant research publications in recognized journals, administrative and industrial experience is necessary.

Detailed applications (2 copies) including a curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent to the Registrar, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya.

---

---

## LETTER

July 2, 1975

Professor Richard Lobban  
Anthropology Department  
Rhode Island College  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Professor Lobban:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 24, 1975, addressed to Dr. Duffy. Your letter requested the Board of the African Studies Association "to consider passing a motion of censure" on me because I "accepted an invitation to be a key-note speaker in South Africa," and furthermore that I "spoke in the land of apartheid in December 1974."

I was surprised that you did not consider it necessary to send me a copy of your letter. It is also equally surprising that no member of the Board, including Dr. Duffy, who had access to your letter before the April Board meeting, called it to my attention. In this circumstance, I did not know how seriously to treat your letter.

Since the Board has responded to the issue raised in your letter, I consider it advisable to make a brief statement.

1. It is not true, as your letter implied, that I *accepted* an invitation to speak at a conference in South Africa "while serving in an official capacity within the ASA." I was not on the Board of the ASA when I accepted an invitation to speak at a conference in South Africa. I did not become the Vice President of the ASA until October, 1974. Anybody who is knowledgeable about the planning of international conferences should be able to appreciate its long gestation.

2. I was not invited to the conference as a member of the ASA or its official, and I did not go to South Africa to represent the ASA.

3. I was fully aware of the political implications of my decision to participate in the conference in South Africa. I am prepared to pay the political price, if this is the right phrase. I have no apology to offer to anybody because I decided to fight apartheid in my own way and with the weapon available to me.

4. The important question is not whether people like Dr. Lobban misperceive my intentions in the same way they swallow South African propaganda without discrimination, but rather whether we are capable of distinguishing between "speaking in the land of apartheid" and "what is said" in the land of apartheid. Those who are interested in the latter should read my keynote address, *Motivation and Incentive Structure for Planned Rural Development*. They should also read my press conference and excerpts of the critical comments I made on other papers presented at the conference. *The Star*, Johannesburg, December 4, 1974, and December 5, 1974, and *Die Transvaler*, Donderdag, December 5, 1974, should be read in this connection.

5. It requires more guts to debate the evils of apartheid in South Africa, among South African whites, who seldom reason beyond their own logic of apartheid, than to condemn it in the distant and protected haven of Providence, Rhode Island. I know that Professor Lobban and people who share his views would have applauded if they had read that I led a guerrilla group into South Africa. To engage in this activity would have necessitated access to South Africa. So, in fact, my visit to South Africa is not the issue. The misperception and misinterpretation of the visit is the question. In this light, I want to submit that there is some kind of interaction called "intellectual guerrilla warfare." Those who saw me in action in South Africa did not form the impression that I was shy of apartheid or willing to compromise with it.

I am a politically aware animal. If the South African Institute of International Affairs invited me to "use me," I accepted their invitation because I know that I could use the South African system in my own limited way.

6. Finally, I accepted the South African invitation because it met important guidelines: the conference was multi-racial in composition; I was guaranteed freedom of expression at the conference, which I exercised; and my paper was on a subject of my own area of research, and it was not censored. I reserve the right to accept an invitation to any international conference which meets those conditions.

Very sincerely,

Victor C. Uchendu

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign