

Reasons why  
The native representative council  
in the Union of South Africa  
adjourned.

By  
Matthews Z.K

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*The Native  
Representative Council*

*in  
The Union of South Africa  
Adjourned*

*By*

**Professor Z. K. MATTHEWS**

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## FOREWORD

The South African delegation to the United Nations, now meeting in New York, have tried to justify racial discrimination against Africans on the grounds that Africans have not yet reached the stage when they can exercise democratic rights.

Mr. Heaton Nicholls, one of the South African delegates, has said that "the whole conception by South Africa of its trusteeship has been to protect the Native ethos . . . to encourage native development in consonance with modern conceptions of life . . . to train their leaders in the work of modern local government . . ."

The author of the following statement, Professor Z. K. Matthews, is in our opinion, fully qualified to demonstrate the hallowness of South Africa's claims. Professor Matthews, who first graduated in South Africa and later took his M.A. degree in the United States and his L.L.B. degree in South Africa, first entered the Native Representative Council in 1942. He is also a member of the National Executive of the African National Congress.

In this statement, Professor Matthews shows how the Africans, denied the elementary right to vote, are completely voiceless in the affairs of government. He shows that the Native Representative Council, a body set up by the Government itself to speak for the Africans, is hardly consulted on matters affecting the African people. In short, the statement is a complete repudiation of South Africa's trusteeship over the Africans.

Since this statement was written the Acting Prime Minister of South Africa, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, has said that "there were disadvantages with which the Native peoples had to contend" and that "changes in existing conditions must necessarily be gradual. . . ." The Native Representative Council met again to consider this statement, and have come to the conclusion "that pending the receipt of a more reassuring reply from the Government, the proceedings of this session of the Council be suspended. . . ."

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