

October 20, 1960

Dear Frank

The reason for sending this special delivery is not the "ordinary" kind. That is to say it is not due to an immediate activity of a political nature. Yet it requires immediate action. It concerns books, books of the kind that are unobtainable here and of the essence to the future activity of the book. You may have gotten the impression from some of the letters relating to the books that it is all on philosophic foundations. It is not. Philosophic foundations are a framework, not the building. The building must be the ACTIVITY OF THE MASSES, and since it will bulk large on Africa, until I can actually go there, this means books, books unobtainable here and urgently needed. Therefore, please do the following at once:

First and foremost get me Dr. K. Onwuka Dike: TRADE AND POLITICS IN THE NIGER DELTA, 1830-1855. (Oxford: 1956) Now the dates this covers may make you think: how can it be urgent? That is precisely it. It will prove that THE REVOLTS AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM HAVE GONE ON FOR SOME 400 YEARS, and that it was the OPPOSITION TO IMPERIAL ROLES, AND NOT THE TSETSE FLY, THAT PREVENTED WHITE MAN'S ESTABLISHMENT OF RULE THERE TILL COMPARATIVELY LATE.

Now that book is easy to get in GB since it has a respectable publisher and is comparatively ~~late~~ recent, but most of what else I want will require AN IN PERSON VISIT BY YOU TO THE NIGERIAN Ambassador, Council, Students Union, or whatever it is you have in London—probably all 3, and very likely now that Nigeria is independent, and much of the revolutionary edge of Azikiwe, cut by the prime minister of the northern, mainly feudal region, you will both be able to get some material, and not be able to get others. Those that are quintessential to our book are:

1) ANYTHING BY DR. Nnamdi AZIKIWE, premier of the Eastern region now, but I prefer getting his early works, mainly, RENASCENT AFRICA. Since that was published back in 1937 in Accra, that may not be possible, therefore look for anything by him, including perhaps the possibility of getting his publication, WEST AFRICAN PILOT. We never have been able to get that on the exchange list of newspapers, but perhaps a letter by you from London, sending them N&L from there, would bring better response; or they may have some odd issues available. One of his books is recent and does have London as the place of publication, although I do not know who is the publisher; it is called THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.

(Faber, London, 1947)

2) Obafemi Awolowo. PATH TO NIGERIAN FREEDOM. (Faber, London, 1947)

3) Also look for anything by Eyo Ita; since he is all the way from Calabar, I do not know that anything can be gotten although he is one of the original organizers.

4) Finally I wonder whether the Stalinist bookshop would have anything like Osita C. Agwuna's "Go with the Masses: Studies in Essential Tactics in National and Colonial Struggles." I may be wrong but it just ~~seems~~ sounds Stalinist. What I really want is things on the 1945 General Strike, and History of the Trades Union Congress, but I don't seem to see things listed, except that some refer to having gotten "information" from its first president, T.A. Bankole.

Thanks a million for attending to this, especially the Dike book to be sent to me at once; you might be able to order this over the phone, while the ~~rest~~ rest takes a visit in person and browsing.

13772

*As the papers in should only be given to the British club? Don't you think it's better to have them in the club? I don't see how you can get them from the club.*