

MR NAZARETH RETIRES FROM THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Mr J.M. Nazareth, Q.C., a member of the University Council for the last twenty years, has retired. He is sixty eight years old.

Mr . Nazareth, who has been deeply involved in the University since its inception, represented the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society for which he was the President since 1956.

Mr B.M. Gecaga, the Chairman of the University Council thanked, on behalf of the Council, Mr. Nazareth for his service to the University. He said the University would have liked to retain Mr Nazareth but since he had to retire he wished him the best of life. He informed him that his request to use the library had been granted.

As a gesture of his long and outstanding service, the University granted Mr Nazareth a painting which had been prepared by the Department of Design specifically for him. The gift was handed over to him by the Chairman of the Council.

In his departure address, Mr Nazareth had a few words to say:-

First he thanked the University for the painting given to him as a gift which depicted the Gandhi Wing and Library and the Yajnik Fountain.

He said that being a nominee of the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society, he wished to refer to some significant features of highlight in that association between the Society and the University and its predecessors.

After the preliminaries which, he said, within the Indian Community started in 1948 soon after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in that year, the formal association started in 1954 when the Royal Technical College of East Africa Act was passed and the various bodies associated with the College were constituted; the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society, the

Gandhi Smarsk Nidhi Trustees and the now defunct Gandhi Memorial Board. He was the first Honorary Secretary of the Society (from 1954 to 1956) and its 2nd President (from 1956-1959) and the 2nd Chairman of the Gandhi Smarsk Nidhi Trustees (since 1956) and he had the responsibility of drafting the constitution of the Society and of the Trustees.

In the Kenya Government's conception he noted, the Royal Technical College was started in 1954 to train students in the higher grades of technical skills, for that was the basis on which the Government of Kenya applied for assistance from the Colonial Development & Welfare Fund. The Society on the other hand, had decided to set up a University College. It was pressure from the Society on the very limited lines of a technical institute or merely as a technological college, which were the lines on which the 1954 Act proceeded.

But, he noted further, the undertaking given to the Society and the agreements made with it prevented the Society's objective of degree courses in Arts, Science and Commerce being bypassed.

The second development prevented by the Society was having one college for professional studies and a separate one for academic studies. That was the stand taken in the White Paper of the East African Governments "*Higher Education in East Africa*". The then Kenya Minister of Education Mr W.F. Coutts, stated at a meeting with the Society in 1958 that "London University insisted that the new University College must be housed in a separate building from the Royal Technical College". The Society, however insisted that the original scheme under which University as well as professional education was to be given at the College with which the Gandhi Memorial Academy was amalgamated must be implemented.

He recalled a luncheon party in 1958 given by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London in which he, Charles Newbold and R.J. Mehta tried to convert the London University of the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society's point of view.

In the ultimate result, he noted, the Society's views prevailed. Among the recommendations of the Working Party which visited Kenya in July, 1958 and which was

headed by Dr. Lockwood himself and included among the members Dame Lilian Penson and Sir David Lindsay Keir were the following:-

"An element of urgency in dealing with the development of University education in Kenya initially arises from the necessity to honour the pledge to the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society. The Governments of East Africa recognised this obligation in the White Paper.

"In examining the pattern of educational development in Kenya we have concentrated our attention especially on the relationship of academic and higher professional studies. It is our considered view, which we wish to state as forcibly as we can, that we see no valid reason why they should be dissociated as necessarily representing wholly different form of higher education.

In many Universities of the world they exist and flourish side by side. Their objectives and general purposes are not essentially dissimilar. We are convinced that if an opportunity for their close and intimate linkage could present itself in Nairobi the consequences would be of inestimable value to East Africa. We realise that the execution of such a proposal involves a departure from the conventional form of overseas University Colleges most successful example of which East Africa already possesses in Makerere College. The time seems to us to have come to contemplate an adventurous experiment.

"We feel that the only practical method of combining the full promotion of technological and professional studies with the due honouring of the pledge given to the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society and with the initiation of a University College is to adopt the old plan of transforming the Royal Technical College into a college which will provide not only courses of training in technological and other professional subjects to the highest professional subjects to highest professional standards but also courses leading to university degrees".

This was, he said, in the view of the Working Party, a "radical solution of the problem" but the Working Party had no hesitation in recommending it.

Thus it was that the Society made a vital contribution to the constitution on a novel or revolutionary basis, at least for Univer-

sities in the Commonwealth, of this University as an institution of higher learning on the highest levels in both professional and academic studies.

In another area of expansion of the University, he said, the Society made a vital contribution. The major portion of the purchase price of Chiromo Estate, where now are housed several major Faculties, was provided out of the accumulated interest of the Endowment Fund which had been given to the Royal Technical College by the Technical College by the Society and which remains as a valuable and very useful standby for needs such as the Gandhi Memorial Lectures and for calls which donors find unattractive such as the Tunnel built under the Uhuru Highway.

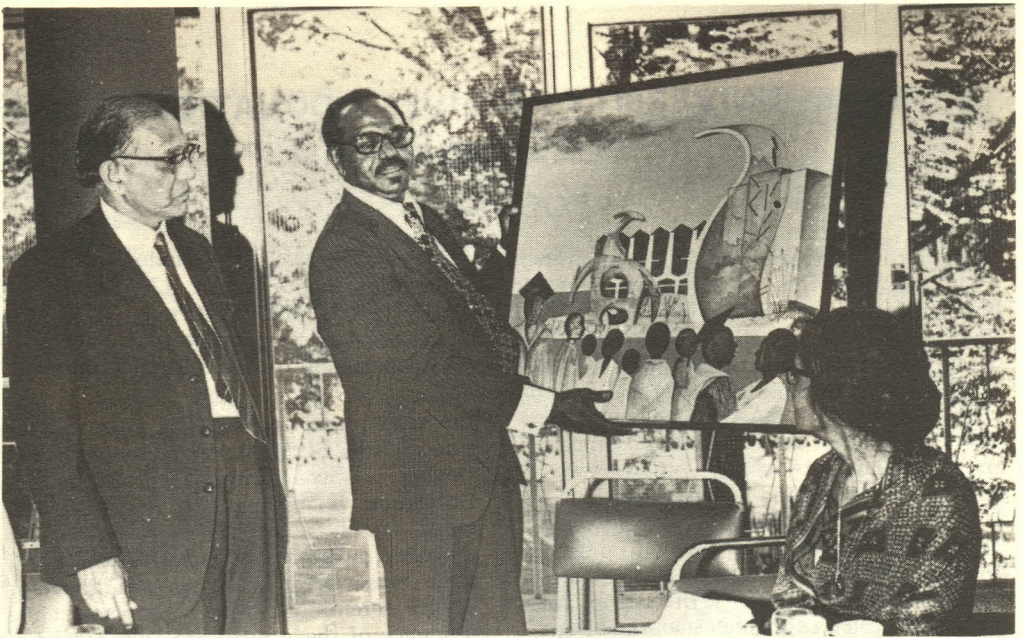
Involved as he had been all these 20 years with these bodies associated with the University it is no wonder that he was so

deeply proud of his association with the University through the Society, which had continued to nominate him to the Council or the Governing Council of its predecessors every time his term expired.

It was his deeply felt desire, that this University should establish itself, in spite of its youth, as one of the great Universities, one of the most vital universities, of the world. Nairobi was rapidly becoming the capital of Africa, the seat of some of the world's most important Conferences and of one of its most important bodies. The University of Nairobi must give a lead to Africa and in the vigour and vitality of its and nursing a spirit of idealism and a world outlook in a world which was becoming or has become one world, give a lead to the world. If he could make any contribution towards such high endeavours, he said, he would most willingly do so.



The Chairman of the University Council, Mr B.M. Gecaga thanks Mr J.M. Nazareth for the service he had rendered to the University for the last twenty years. Listening keenly are (R to L), Mr Charles Maina, Kenya's Ambassador to UN and also a member of the Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J.N. Karanja, Mrs Nazareth, and Mr J.M. Nazareth, Q.C.



The Chairman of the Council, Mr B.M. Gicaga, examines the painting which was specially made as a farewell gift for Mr and Mrs J.M. Nazareth by the Department of Design of the University of Nairobi at the request of the Council.



Mr J.M. Nazareth, the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society Representative to the University Council for the last 20 years, makes his farewell speech before he officially retires at the age of 68. To his left is the Chairman of the University Council, Mr B.M. Gicaga.