

SPEECH BY DR. ARTHUR T. PORTER, PRINCIPAL,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI, ON PRESENTATION
OF GIFT OF BOOKS TO THE COLLEGE BY THE
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, 5TH MAY, 1967.

We are gathered this morning to formally receive from the British High Commission in Kenya a number of volumes and pamphlets which ^{the British Government} they have donated to us as a contribution towards our library resources in the field of Management Studies.

These books represent only a very small proportion of the assistance we have received from the British Government in the whole area of our library holdings and certainly are an infinitesimal portion of the general assistance which from time to time we have received from the British Government, both in terms of capital and personnel, for the development of this College.

We take this opportunity to express to the representative of Her Majesty's Government present here this morning, and to the High Commissioner, our deep appreciation for this further manifestation of their interest in the work that we do here and we will be grateful if our thanks could be passed on to the Government in London.

In 1964 the first University Grants Committee, under the signatories of very distinguished scholars, wrote, and I quote: "The University College has grown out of a Technical College and it retains elements which do not properly belong to a university institution. We refer particularly to the Faculty of Commerce". Some of us, I must confess, who at that time had no connection with the College were frankly astounded at such a statement and, since my own arrival here, I have found it all the more surprising that such a statement could have appeared in print. However, I am sure that if a second edition were to appear of that University Grants Committee Report, the offending paragraph would be drastically revised. And I would like to regard this gift of books from the British Government for our Management Studies in the Faculty of Commerce as one indication, if ever proof was necessary, of the contribution which this Faculty is making to the solution of Kenya's much needed manpower problem in the crucial area of managerial positions both in the public and the private sectors, and also of the wisdom of University College in offering courses to students in this vital area.

Today Management Studies cannot be relegated to dilettantes or the amateur. It is now a discipline and a science in its own right and deserves a place in any university curriculum. Gone are the days when ascriptive criteria were enough, when businesses could pass uninterruptedly from father to son without any other qualification than

the ascriptive ones of birth and hereditary. Gone also are the days when a degree in the Classics, or more particularly in Sanskrit, from one of the ancient universities was regarded as adequate preparation for a managerial position in this technological and atomic age.

We are proud to announce that our Faculty of Commerce is one of the over-subscribed Faculties within the University, which in itself confirms the importance of the related subjects of Business Administration and Accounting and others within the Faculty for a developing country such as Kenya. Numbers of students have grown considerably and plans are afoot for the introduction of postgraduate Master's studies within the current triennium.

We are confident that this gift will make its contribution towards the realisation of our aims and objectives in this area, and would like in your name ^{and that of the whole College} once again to thank Her Majesty's Government for this further token of their interest and generosity.]

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