

21-OCT-1964

# 260 students join university in Nairobi

**A**BOUT 260 students — the first to enter University College, Nairobi, since Kenya gained independence — enrolled at the college yesterday.

A college spokesman said that the students mainly came from East Africa but there were also a few from Gambia, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Germany, Britain and America.

The College Principal, Dr. A. T. Porter, advised the students to work together as a single and undivided community of seekers after the truth and wisdom, irrespective of race, religion or creed.

By making their solemn declaration and vow, they had completed the ceremony of their matriculation and admission to the international family of universities, men and women. "You have a new mother, University College, Nairobi — your alma mater," he declared.

Their education was costing about £1,000 a year, made up from heavy contributions by the Government and people of Kenya, a number of foundations and other benefactors. The privilege of their having a college education was made possible only by sacrifice of many people, some of whom the students would never meet.

Someone had faith in each of the students and that is why they were singled out for the privilege. They were less than one per cent of the many who could have been at the college.

He hoped they would work hard and well, be diligent and honest. They had also to remember their debt to society, to their country and to their continent.

Prof. Simeon Ominde said that professors and students at the university were part of the unique rejoicing throughout the nation.

## Common endeavour

In the course of the students' experience at the college, they would be vitally involved with the past, present and future of Africa's common endeavour — the challenges of man's organised living, which had to form the students' foundation of understanding and interpretation of the common lot of humanity in a world of change.

During the colonial regime, the university could have regarded itself as specifically concerned with teaching and research, regardless of the deep interest of the men and women of Kenya and East Africa over its fate.

"Today we witness the end of this isolationist outlook and from now on we face our future knowing that we have to address ourselves to the problems of common concern to peoples of this country."

The target of the institution was a graduate with a social conscience. "You must strive to enlarge the freedom of others in order to enjoy yours."