PRESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

Atlanta proxy to retire in '77

Morgan head returns from Africa

ATLANTA—Dr. Thomas D. Jarrett, President of Atlanta University, has indicated to the Board of Trustees that he plans to retire from the presidency of the institution in the summer of 1977.

Dr. Andre Billingsley, President of Morgan State University, has returned from southern Africa, where he was an official delegate to the Seventh African-American Conference sponsored by the African-American Institute of New York. He was one of 186 delegates, drawn from 22 different countries, in every region of Africa and from all parts of the United States.

NEXT SUMMER DR. JARRETT, the Atlanta University President will have completed thirty years at Atlanta University, having served as Professor of English, Chairman of the Department of English, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and President of the University. In 1947 he became Acting President, following the death of Dr. Rufus E. Clement, and was elected the seventh President in November 1948. During the period of his presidency the institution has expanded greatly in academic offerings, which now include five doctoral programs and thirty-two master's programs. Noteworthy are doctoral programs in Educational Administration and Supervision and Political Science, special degrees in Education and Library Service, a master's program in Public Administration, and a Doctor of Arts program in Chemistry, initiated during his tenure as president.

The University is one of six independent educational institutions comprising the Atlanta University Center. These institutions have worked together under an affiliation agreement since 1869 when Atlanta University, a graduate school, Morehouse College and Spelman College agreed to an arrangement which permitted joint use of facilities and facilities and a system under which students were free to take courses at any school. Later, Morris Brown College, Clark College and the Interdenominational Theological Center (a graduate school) joined the group under the same affiliation agreement.

Also of these institutions, though completely independent, are now members of the Atlanta University Center: an organization which acts as a central administration and coordinate selected center-wide activities. The combined enrollment of students in the Center is approximately 8,000.

Atlanta University has the largest enrollment of the affiliation institutions, 11,000 students, the largest since 1971. The University opened nine new schools on the graduate level—Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Social Work, Library Service and Education. The School of Business Administration opened a new accredited school located at a predominantly Black graduate university, and the graduate schools in Social Work and Library Service are unique in the extent to which they are two accredited schools to be found among predominantly Black universities.

The Board of Trustees authorized the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee to appoint a Search Committee.

The Conference in Africa attended by Dr. Billingsley which was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation, was held in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, a small, independent Black African nation about the size of Maryland with a population of approximately one million citizens. Lesotho, which was formerly a British protectorate, received its independence in 1966. It is completely surrounded on all sides by the Republic of South Africa and is dependent on South Africa for trade, transportation, and the employment of a majority of its working male population. Even so, the people of Lesotho are a proud, unified, and fiercely independent people whose government is actively opposed to the apartheid policies and the Bantustan policies of the Republic of South Africa. Although Lesotho is an Ancient Kingdom, with an