Migrants face a great variety of difficulties upon return. They normally come back from relatively rich countries to countries with limited job opportunities and with lower standards of living; they come back from differentiated social systems to relatively simple social and economic structures in which much of the overseas acquired skills may prove to be not very useful; they come back from countries with sometimes very different norms, values and ideas, into their traditional cultures etc. There is massive evidence of the enormous personal problems returning migrants encounter upon homecoming, and the resulting disappointments. This is well documented in the case of students from the third world who returned after graduation at European and American Universities. These students have usually been abroad during their formative years and they have been very much influenced by their foreign experiences. The processes of alienation and readaptation of overseas students are very well described in two impressive case studies: Bennett et al. (1958) about Japanese returning from the U.S.A. and Useem & Useem (1955) about English and American educated Indians. Merriam (1970) wrote of the problems of returned Indian scholars, Kizilbash (1964) gives some cases of returnees from the U.S.A. also to India. Baldwin (1963) reports the result of a survey among returned intellectuals from Europe and America to Iran. Fröhlich & Schade (1966) interviewed 16 graduates from West Germany who returned to their home countries in the Middle East. Cajoleas (1959) mailed a questionnaire to 81 doctoral alumni from Teachers College (Columbia) who had returned to their 30 countries of origin, in which he asked for the personal problems they had met. Levine (1965) described the personal demoralizations of the foreign-educated among the new class of intelligentsia in Ethiopia. Du-
Bois (1956) wrote in general about “factors in postreturn adjustment” of returned U.S.A. graduates to their countries in the underdeveloped world. Danckworth (1959) carried out research in several West European Universities to study the effectiveness of Western education in the formation of Asian and African elites.

Students are not the only ones that find great difficulties in readaptation. It is all too often mentioned in the literature of return migration how much the home country has been idealized during the time of emigration and how great the disillusionment is upon return. Nelli (1970) describes the disappointments of Italians, back from the U.S.A. Saloutos (1956) those of Greek returnees. Dahaya (1973) mentions the shock Pakistanis get after return from Britain: they don’t recognize their “familiar social landscape” any more. B. Davison (1968) found that for her small sample of Jamaican returnees from England, although their dream of return had been realized, the shock was enormous; there was no work, no housing, the cost of living had risen alarmingly etc. Lowenthal (1972) reports similar results from other Caribbean countries. Knowles (1967) found great disillusionment among Puerto Rican returnees from the U.S.A. They complained about the lack of privacy, about gossip and about generation problems with their American educated children. Richardson (1963) mentions some of the personal problems of Australian returnees to Britain.

I think it is most interesting to set those findings against studies about migrant labour in Africa south of the Sahara, where it is often demonstrated how easily the re-adaptation process took place. Fortes (1938) described how Tallensi migrants of the gold coast “dropped their town experience like an old coat” when they returned. Schapera (1947) thought that urbanization in South Africa did by no means imply detribalization. Soon after migrants return, there is a short period of idleness and display of new clothes and affectations in speech and behaviour, but after a short while they settle down and revert to their normal routine as if nothing had happened. Watson (1958, 1961) reaffirmed Schapera’s viewpoints in Rhodesia, where re-adjustment of former urban dwellers proved to be an equally quick