

DOCUMENT 5:

Objects of the International League of the South African Labour Party, published in *The International*, September 10, 1915.

1. To propagate the principles of International Socialism and anti-militarism, and to promote International Socialist unity and activity.
2. To conserve the Socialist principles contained in the Constitution of the South African Labour Party.

METHODS:

1. To organise and educate by means of press and platform.
 2. To federate branches of the Party endorsing the objects of the League.
 3. To maintain and strengthen International Working class organisation.
- Chairman—W.H. ANDREWS
Vice-Chairmen—J.A. CLARK, MPC., A.F. CRISP, MPC.
Treasurer—G. WEINSTOCK
Secretary—D. IVON JONES

Editorial Note:

*The Second International collapsed on the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, when the majority of the European socialist parties reneged on their anti-war pledges outlined in the Stuttgart and Basle conference resolutions and called on their members to support their governments in the international slaughter demanded by the rivalries of world capitalism. But in all countries the true socialists remained loyal to their anti-war sentiments and started to work for the formation of a new international. In September 1915, a conference of socialist opponents of the war was held at Zimmerwald, Switzerland, attended by official delegates of parties from Italy, Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Rumania and Bulgaria, with minority groups from several other countries. The Zimmerwald conference adopted a general manifesto proclaiming international working class solidarity against imperialism and establishing a permanent International Socialist Commission which prepared the way for the establishment of the Third International. News did not travel so rapidly in those days as it does today, and the South African socialists knew nothing of the Zimmerwald conference. But, as we have seen, in the first issue of **The International** Andrews had expressed the hope that a new international based on the international unity of the working class would arise, and in the following issue of the paper the announcement was made of the independent initiative taken by the ISL to achieve this objective.*