

DOCUMENT 22

To consider me as a leader would be mockery to Negro people and the Communist Movement in South Africa in particular. Please give these to the Eastern Secretariat of the C.I. and Negro Bureaux in the Profintern for discussion.

J. Warren

I will not be leaving for few more days. Cherio.

RGASPI, 495/64/119/26-33.

Original in English.

Handwritten.

Stamped: 11391- .XII.1932<sup>5</sup>

22

**Letter from M. Kotane to ECCL,  
1 April 1933**

Johannesburg<sup>1</sup>  
April 1st 1933

Mr. Nicolaus<sup>2</sup>

Dear Sir,

I am indeed very sorry for having kept silence for such a long time, it was not my intention at all. But the effect of the situation I found myself in, was very much demoralizing. We had a meeting of our business directors early in February. The meeting was very instructive as regard the business and commercial situation in South Africa.<sup>3</sup> There were some confusion in the organisational structure and the policy of our company. Though the meeting was called to clarify that confusion, I am afraid most of our directors are still confusion. The confusion is particularly dangerous in my opinion, towards the

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**Doc. 21**

5. The day in the date is illegible.

**Doc. 22**

1. The word 'Johannesburg' in a different ink is pasted over a cut-out word; there is the number '2' in red pencil above it.
2. The name 'Nicolaus' in a different ink is pasted over a cut-out word; there is the number '1' in red pencil above it. Nicolaus - most probably, Nikolai Nasonov.
3. The word 'South Africa' in a different ink is pasted over a cut-out word; there is the number '3' in red pencil above it.

unlimited companies under our control.<sup>4</sup> The policy before and still is to restrict their influence by always interfering with their work and customers. We are every where in their work. We interfere with their committees. They must absolutely follow our policy. When I say some thing against these I am told that I am making mechanical separation of the work of both limited and unlimited companies. When I say what is the good of having the two separate bodies with one and the same policy? We better have one organised company then, that could function properly. These same directors are theoretically correct, but practically they are erroneous. This does not of course exclude the fact that I may be altogether wrong. But that is my candid opinion, that if we cannot make the difference between our limited and the unlimited bodies, what is then the good of this separation? Either we adopt two different policies or do away with this mechanical separation in our companies. What is the situation now? Our directors for the limited companies actual take the work of the directors of the unlimited ones, with the result that they become too dependent and irresponsible. Otherwise all are very energetic fellows, but they are not given chance to illuminate themselves and develop further. This is only a personal letter and not a report. We had about 1,835 members of the limited company and 2,736 in the other unlimited companies up to March 31st. This are National figures. We did not yet get the figures from C. and D.<sup>5</sup> for March. But this is not a report. We are facing a financial catastrophe ever experienced in the history of our company. This is primarily due to the economic crisis and the terrific drought in this country. People and even the livestock of the farmers are dying of starvation all over the Union of South Africa, including S.W.A.<sup>6</sup>

The country will be 'fortunate' this year having a new cabinet, Smuts and Hertzog together.<sup>7</sup> We are going to have candidate for the election representing our companies, if only we can be able in securing some funds but if no financial aid comes forth, we will be in a state of dilemma. We are endeavouring to link up our company with the SA key industries with but a very little progress at all. Our production is very negligibly slow, a snail pace, but there for despair. We are moving forward! There is every reason to

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4. In the coded language of this letter 'company', obviously, means 'the party', 'confusion' refers to the internal party struggle, and 'unlimited companies under our control', most probably, non-party organisations created by the party and/or led by its members but open to non-communists.
  5. 'C' and 'D', most probably, Cape Town and Durban.
  6. South West Africa.
  7. The so-called 'Fusion Government' formed by the National Party led by Hertzog and the South African Party led by Smuts. In 1934 the two parties merged to form the United Party.

believe that we are entering a prosperous period for our company. I am sending a report on separate cover.

With Best regards  
Yours faithfully  
J.W. Macarnley<sup>8</sup>

RGASPI, 495/64/126/33-5.

Original in English.

Handwritten.

Stamped: 19.JUN.1933 - 3437.

Inscription: South Africa, Letter about the situation in the Party (handwritten, in Russian).

23

**Report to Comintern,  
8 June 1933<sup>1</sup>**

Strictly Confidential.

INFORMATION RE THE LEADING CADRES CPSA.

1. Pilane (Kotane) - Bechuana; at present general secretary of the Party; has a high degree of Party responsibility and is quite stable politically; was a consistent fighter against the line of Bunting for the line of the CI; very limited experience in mass work as most of his previous activity was on the Party press and in inner-Party organisational activities; his training and ideological development at the Lenin School indicates on the basis of his past record that he will prove one of the most valuable of the leading cadres; his complete autobiography and characterisation is on file in the Lenin School.

2. Kumalo (Nchee) - Basuto; D.O. in Johannesburg, member of P.B. and Secretariat; was taken from a job as a labourer in July last and made D.O. in Durban where he showed great responsibility and considerable organisational

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**Doc. 22**

8. The name 'J.W. Macarnley' in a different ink is pasted over a cut-out word; there is the number '4' in red pencil above it. 'Macarnley' is, without doubt, 'Macauley'.

**Doc. 23**

1. This report was probably written by E. Dennis, who had returned to Moscow from South Africa shortly before.