

Com. Bunting. Agreed with certain points in statements of each supporter of slogan. – There is no native Bourgeoisie in South Africa and stage of Nationalism need not necessarily be gone through in this country. Consider that I.C.U. was never based primarily on National appeal, leaflet issued by I.S.L. on class Unity was responsible for development of native Labour movement. It is not necessary to resort to Anti-White sentiments to rally Natives. Support of National movements has never led anywhere. We must bear in mind rejection recently of Lenin's declaration re British Labour Party.

Does not slogan imply 'independent of whites' or at least barely tolerant of them.

Slogan is not clear, but a subtlety like Hertzog's cry of Independence.¹ The supporters of the slogan all show an Anti-white attitude.

Slogan is a social democratic, social patriotic cry. We cannot tell on what lines the liberation of African Workers will take place. A slogan of a Workers South Africa – Liberation – Freedom etc., is and would be more popular and to the White Workers also.

After a considerable discussion on the question of voting, it was agreed by 5 votes to 3, that a majority and minority report be obtained from Capetown branch. It was agreed by 5 votes to 4 that similar reports be prepared and submitted to the C.E.

W. Kalk moved that voting be taken now. The motion was defeated by 5 votes to 2.

R. Bunting moved that no voting at all be taken on number of supporters to each report. The motion was defeated by 5 votes to 1.

Thibedi moved that voting be taken on the 2 reports to be submitted to the CE.²

A.H. Michalson moved an amendment that the voting take place on the Slogan. The amendment was declared lost and therefore lapsed.

The motion of T. Thibedi was carried with one dissention.

It was agreed that the reports must be despatched overseas by May 1st.

WORLD CONGRESS.³ A letter was read from Roux stating that he was willing to attend as a co-delegate, provided the time of sitting fitted in with his own arrangements.

E. Sachs moved 'That steps be taken to raise the fare to 6th World Congress'. Agreed.

E. Sachs moved 'That Com. Roux be sent as a co-delegate'. Agreed.

V. Danchin moved 'That we appoint a delegate tonight'. Agreed.

A ballot was taken on the two nominees, Coms. Bunting & Wolton.

The result showed voting 4–4.

1. The reference is to the National Party's anti-British and, originally, anti-imperialist (i.e. anti-expansionist) stand.

2. It would appear that here 'the CE' stands for the ECCL.

3. The 6th Congress of the Comintern.

It was agreed that another ballot be taken at the next meeting. Coms. Kalk & Michalson left sealed ballot papers as they could not be present at the next meeting.

[...]

RGASPI, 495/64/75/20.

Original in English.

Typed.

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**Minutes of Meeting of the Central Executive Committee, CPSA,
10 May 1928**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 10TH IN ASHERS BUILDINGS AT 8 P.M.

PRESENT. S.P. Bunting (Chair), R. Bunting, M. Wolton, W. Kalk, V. Danchin, T.W. Thibedi, D.G. Wolton, G. Makabeni, E.S. Sachs.

Thesis. Statements were submitted by S.P. Bunting and D.G. Wolton which were both read.

Upon a vote being taken the results were as follows.

S.P. Bunting's statement 8 votes.

D.G. Wolton's statement 2 votes.

As there was no statement submitted from the Cape branch it was agreed that the two statements should go forward as a majority and minority reports.¹

Students.

A letter was read from Comrade La Guma and Gumede. Gumede submitted the name Stanford Conjwa as a student. After discussion and investigation of his credentials it was agreed that Stanford Conjwa be sent as a student. The Secretary was instructed to advise Gumede accordingly. It was agreed that reservations should be made for Conjwa, Gumede Jr., Thibedi and Gomas or Tong. The Secretary was instructed to advise Comrade La Guma accordingly. Lenin course.²

It was moved that two delegates should be sent. An amendment was moved that one delegate be sent. Upon a vote taken the motion was carried by 6 to 3.

1. It has been impossible to locate either the majority or the minority reports in the Archive. The major arguments of both are known from: E. Roux. *S.P. Bunting: A Political Biography* (Cape Town: African Bookman, 1944); 2nd edn: London: Mayibuye Books, 1993.

2. 'The Lenin Course' refers to the International Lenin School.

The three nominees, Danchin, Kalk and Kelly were discussed and it was finally agreed unanimously that Comrades Danchin and Kalk be appointed.

Comrade R. Bunting moved that the Lenin Course students be instructed not to leave before October. Carried.

Y.C.I. Congress. It was unanimously agreed that Comrade E.R. Roux be appointed delegate to the Y.C.I. Congress.

Basutoland.

The Secretary reported that Gumede would probably be invited to the Conference of the Lekhotla la Bafo, and that he had no funds to proceed with. It was agreed that the expenses of Gumede and Comrade Thibedi be paid.

Literature report.

Comrade Sachs was instructed to prepare a report for submission to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

Confirmed this 17th day of May, 1928
Chairman

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Minutes of Meeting, Negro Commission, Sixth Congress, Comintern, 11 August 1928 (Extract)

MINUTES OF NEGRO COMMISSION OF AUGUST 11, 1928
IN ROUND HALL OF DOM SOYOUSOV.¹

Present: Petrovsky, Williams, Nasonoff, Haywood, Roux, Jones, Phillips, Lasorey, Douglass, Whiteman, Adams, Bittelman, Representative from Columbian Party, Wicks, Wilson, Rivers, Bunting, Mrs. Bunting, Jacquemot, Farmer, Pepper, Don.²

1. 'Dom Soyousov' – transliteration of the Russian 'House of the Unions', a building in Moscow that housed Nobility Club before 1917 and was taken over by the Council of Trades Unions after the Bolshevik revolution.
2. Only 11 of those present at the meeting were members of the Commission (S.P. Bunting among them). Neither E. Roux nor R. Bunting were members.

Discussed.

Order of business

1.) Report of Comrade Bunting on South Africa which was submitted in writing. In the reading of this report it developed that there are certain differences of opinion in the Communist Party of South Africa in regard of the carrying out of the Comintern resolution sent to Africa last year.

Decided.

That the order of business be the following:

1) South African report 2) Negroes outside of South Africa and USA
3) Resolution on Negroes in U.S.A.

1.) Motion of Bittelman that Comrade Petrovsky give a brief report of the so-called misunderstanding first, that is, the difference of opinion which has arisen between the ECCI and the South African Communist Party.

Carried unanimously.

Report of Comrade Petrovsky: 1.) When Comrade Laguma was here in 1927 we had meetings with him and discussed the Negro problem in South Africa. Information received from Laguma does not co-incide with that received from Com. Bunting. For instance, Laguma reported that the Party had about 455 members of which 400 were white and the rest black.

2.) The new stand taken by the Industrial and Commercial Union which is composed of black workers. This union, under the leadership of Kadalie, has decided (1) not to allow Communists to occupy responsible positions and (2) to eventually expel them from the union. Comrade Laguma says that they are powerless to resist this which caused us to think something must be wrong as this union was organised and built up practically by our forces. We meant that the approach of the Communists in South Africa must be wrong since this is the union of the most oppressed population in the world and the rules which would apply in the case of the old bureaucracies in the imperialist countries would not apply here. After a careful study of all the material submitted at that time we came to the conclusion that the South African C.P. does not pay enough attention to the Negro problem, does not sufficiently stand as the champion of the Negroes and understand the peculiar relations of forces among the Negroes themselves. It seems that the Party believes it can simply organise the masses of proletarianised Negroes directly into the Party itself.

On the basis of this a resolution was worked out which was accepted by the Political Secretariat and Presidium of the Comintern. (Then Comrade Petrovsky went on to explain some of the points in this resolution for the benefit of those comrades who had not the opportunity of reading it). This resolution stressed