

**Minutes of Meeting of Political Commission,
Political Secretariat of ECCI,
15 July 1932 (Extracts)**

Confidential

MINUTES (A) NO. 258
MEETING, POLITICAL COMMISSION, POL SEC, ECCI,
15.VII.32

Present: Piatnitsky, Knorin, Florin, Gusev, Vasiliev, Gerisch;

Present Intermittently: Lozovski, Kostanjan, Kun, Legrand, Grigorovich, Marty, Fried, Girard, Smolianski, Slavinsky, Wiesner, Soms, Magyar, Angaretis, Sakun, Vuiovich, Chemodanov, Grossman, Beuzemacher, Kolarov, Randolph, Lapidus, Vasilieva, Nasonov

Question

1. (3651) Confirmation of agenda

.....
25. (3675) Proposals¹ of the Eastern S. in connection with the letter of Com. Bunting about his expulsion from the CP of South Africa

Decision

1. Agenda confirmed with additions

25. (a) Return the proposals to the Eastern S. and recommend to the Eastern S. to send the letter from Bunting and the draft response of the Eastern S. to the ECCI representative² with the instructions to investigate the complaint against the party leadership in Bunting's letter and, in the event that the complaint is justified, to bring Bunting's letter and the answer to the attention of CC of the CP of South Africa and send

1. The draft proposal of the Eastern Secretariat read:

13 July 1932

Confidential!

Proposals

- 1) To publish the letter to Bunting in the press.
 - 2) To instruct the Central Committee of the Communist Party of South Africa on the absolute necessity for recruitment and on tactics with respect to Bunting's followers.
 - 3) To inform the party that a party conference should be called for May, 1933.
 - 4) To address a semi-official communication to the Central Committee and the representative about the future tasks of the party.
 - 5) To telegraph immediately to Bunting that he will receive an answer to his letter.'
- (RGASPI, 495/4/203/235. The Russian text of the same letter is signed by Nasonov and Magyar. See: RGASPI, 495/4/203/234.)
2. Presumably the reference is to Eugene Dennis who was in South Africa at this time.

the answer to Bunting; in the event that Bunting's complaint is shown to be incorrect, then the ECCI representative is to inform us of his opinion and of the opinion of the CC on this matter.

(b) Bunting is to be told that an investigation of the facts which were mentioned in his letter is being conducted by us, and that after the investigation is completed he will receive an answer.

(c) The Eastern S. is instructed to write a letter to the Party³ concerning the tasks of the Party and the calling of a Party conference.

RGASPI, 495/4/203/2.

Original in German.

Typed.

Inscription: Mü/3 Expl. (typed)

13

**Letter from E. Dennis to ECCI,
16 July 1932 (Extracts)**

July 16th

Dear Comrades,

[...]

2. Party membership. A few remarks are necessary in order to clear up the contradictory figures as contained in Jackson's report of September 1931¹ (5,000 members), the CC report of February 1932 (153 members), and my estimate for April 1932 (58), as well as to determine when, where and why the catastrophic drop, if any. I have checked and double-checked this question thoroughly and the following statements may be accepted as authoritative.

Neither in Sept. 1931, nor at any time in the history of the Party, has the membership equalled 5000 in any given period. The estimate of 5000 applies to one thing only, that is, since the formation of the Party, approximately 5000 cards have been issued. But 95% of this number (5000) were never placed or functioned in a nucleus, never paid dues, and, what is more important, never

Doc. 12

3. There are several crossed-out illegible words after 'Party'.

Doc. 13

1. Nzula's report (see document 5, vol. II) is dated (stamped) 5 August 1931. However, it was a draft which means that the final version could be presented to the ECCI in September; or else Dennis could have made a mistake.