

comrades. Many boats go from Scandinavia to Lisbon. Naturally, it is necessary to be very careful, since my comrades are still being watched in Portugal.

Communicate with the South African comrades at the following address:<sup>23</sup> However, Comrade Ström received all the details from me and pledged to arrange a direct connection from Sweden.

RGASPI, Personal file no. 49. ECCI. Personnel Department.<sup>24</sup>  
Original in Russian.

**1a Appendix to no. 1<sup>1</sup>**  
**Report of Informant of South African Police,**  
**5 April 1919<sup>2</sup>**

Confidential.  
JOHANNESBURG.  
5.4.19.

re: – Lapitsky and Sosnovick.<sup>3</sup>

I beg to report that keeping an appointment with Mr. Traub I proceeded to the Balcony Tea Room at 9.30 p.m. last night to meet Mr. Lapitsky. At 10 p.m.

**Doc. 1**

23. Break in the text.

24. A. Davidson copied this document while working in the Comintern Archives in 1966. The only reference on the file that he received at that time was: 'ECCI. Personnel Department. Personal File No. 49 (Wolberg)'. The original Comintern stamp ran: 'The Archives of the Comintern, No. 136. Moscow.' After the Comintern Archives were opened in 1991 this file could not be found and, consequently, can not be precisely identified. Despite this the editors decided to include this document into the volume in full because of its importance. Not only does it describe the most prominent event in South Africa connected with the Russian revolution and the arrival of the first emissary of South Africa's left to Soviet Russia but it also contains a detailed description of the route that Wolberg and other Socialists and Communists used and the problems that they encountered. No other documents of similar nature have been discovered in the Archive.

Wolberg's file contained only one other document, besides this report: his request to allow him to leave Russia because he could not adjust to life there. The outcome of this request is not clear.

**Doc. 1a**

1. This is the only document in this selection that does not come from the archives of the Comintern. The editors decided to publish it as a supplement to the previous document because it contains the information supporting the authenticity of Wolberg's report, proves a deep interest of South African police in personalities involved and shows police methods.
2. The original has no indication of authorship.
3. See document no. 1, vol. I.

Traub, Miss Benjamin,<sup>4</sup> Jones, several others whose names I could not catch on introduction, and the Secretary of the League of International Socialists,<sup>5</sup> whose name I understand to be Aubret or O'Bell<sup>6</sup> arrived. I was given to understand that all of them had just left a meeting of the Executive of the League. The Secretary had all his books with him. Lapitsky himself was for some reason prevented from coming.

Traub introduced me as Mr. Hirschman to all present and Miss Benjamin took me by hand and wanted to know my intentions as regards Socialism. I gave her to understand, that being anxious to join the League and take an active part in their propaganda, but before doing so I would like to be enlightened as far as their Native Policy is concerned, as being a man who has been living amongst natives for sometime, I would never bring myself to acknowledge absolute equality with them.

Miss Benjamin, saying that she had nothing to do with Native Propaganda, turned me over to Jones and to the Secretary who outlined their policy as regards Natives to me in detail.

Put in a nutshell it simply amounts to this: The present native trouble is engineered by the League, who by inciting the natives to strike for higher wages, hope that when the time comes when the natives achieve their object, wages of the white men will rise as a matter of course as no white man will work for a lower wage than natives. The destruction of their passes is merely a side issue which appeals to the native mind.<sup>7</sup>

Jones admitted that they were only using the natives in a selfish way to further their own ends. That their policy might lead to serious trouble does not seem to concern those people in the least, as to their mind 'the end justifies the means'.

Joining in the general conversation Miss Benjamin remarked that even if Lapitsky and Sosnovick were deported, they, the League were quite competent to carry on Bolshevik propaganda and that no doubt I too would prove a willing helper.

South African Central Archives: SAB; JUS; 267; 3/1064/18.

Original in English.

Typed.

4. The identity of Miss Benjamin could not be established.

5. International Socialist League.

6. The identity of this person could not be established.

7. There is a single line in the left margin opposite the paragraph starting from 'Put in ...'.