

**Letter from D.I. Jones to O. Kuusinen,
[April 1922]¹**

STATEMENT REGARDING APPLICATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN
DELEGATE TO PROCEED HOME.

Dear Comrade Kuusinen,

With reference to our conversation today regarding the situation in South Africa, and my desire to return home without delay, I have the following points on which I desire the advice of the Presidium.

1. ...² The critical situation in the South African movement, the armed uprising and its suppression by the Government ... The arrest of Comrade Andrews, our Secretary, who is also one of the most respected Labour leaders there. The probable smash up of the Communist Party, the police having occupied the premises, and the armed conflict scattered the membership, and made open activity impossible ... Also the need from the International point of view to stiffen the white workers to resistance in order to prevent Imperialist Capital from breaking through into wider spheres of Negro exploitation which is necessary for its existence, – ALL THIS BACKS UP OUR APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL AID FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT.

2. ... The necessity for me to immediately proceed to London on my way to South Africa in order to acquaint the Labour Movement in England of the true merits of the colour issue which started the conflict, and which is liable in English circles to be construed to the disadvantage of the white workers of the Rand now in the struggle. White Guard justice will follow the conflict, and ruthless suppressions and executions are most probable. It is necessary for me to move Press and Trade Unions in England to come to the aid of our comrades.

3. ... I am now engaged with Comrade Borodin and Andrews in drafting an appeal to the International movement on the question for submission to the Presidium.

4. ... I also wish to have the advice of the Committee³ on the application of the United Front in Africa after the present events. Comrade Andrews, who was up to the war Chairman of the Labour Party and member of Parliament, by his

denunciation of the war forfeited these positions and his leading place in the Labour movement. The present struggle is calculated to restore him to leadership, at least of a very considerable section of the left wing and militant elements. He is also much respected by the Boer Farmers or Nationalists for his stand in the war and his defence of the Boer rebels in Parliament. He is a champion of the negro Labouring masses, and this has still further kept him out of official position. But he is the one man who combines the sympathies of all these three sections of the anti-imperialist forces to any degree. It seems impossible that the Smuts Government can retain power after these events, even in the case of a Labour defeat in the field. A Labour-Republican block⁴ is probable. HOW FAR SHOULD ANDREWS AS A REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNIST TAKE OFFICIAL POSITION IN SUCH A BLOCK FOR THE COMBINED ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONFLICT? This question carries us forward to the idea of participation in a left bourgeois Government with Labour in the centre, which is more than anything contemplated in the United Front under European conditions.

5. The status of Colonial or consultative delegates also might be considered by the Committee for report, as I consider that under present conditions our position is not sufficiently well defined.

D. Ivon Jones
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RGASPI, 495/64/159/69-70.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy. Corrections in D.I. Jones' handwriting.

Inscription: 26b  
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(in Russian)

1. This undated letter was written after discussions about the Rand Revolt in Moscow. Jones apparently intended to return to South Africa but did not do so. He remained in the Soviet Union until his death in 1924.

2. The breaks in the text in this document [...] appear in the original.

3. The ECCL.

4. Jones meant a block between the South African Labour Party and the National Party. He called the NP 'Republican' because of its anti-British, anti-imperialist and pro-republican legacy and stand which led it to support the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 and which was not exhausted in 1922. The block materialised in 1924.