

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. Macarnley⁸

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).

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**Report to Comintern,
8 June 1933¹**

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

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.

ability; comparatively speaking he has a good political understanding; while at times has shown tendencies of pessimism and has developed theories of curtailing mass work in face of imperialist terror – this in order to enable the Party to 'strengthen itself and prepare Bolshevik cadres', nevertheless Kumalo promises to develop to one of our best leading cadres; is about 4 years in the Party, has considerable mass influence amongst the Durban dockers and amongst sections of the toilers in Basutoland; about 27 years old; previously a dock worker and labourer.

3. Mafele (Mathlomi) – Basuto; 26 years old; member of P.B. and is in charge of the work in the mines; is very reliable comrade but greatly inexperienced; while only recently drawn into the leadership of the Party has carried on excellent work in the mines and as a responsible political worker; still needs to work under the leadership of more advanced comrades; about 4 years in the Party; has experience in number of mass actions in Potchestrom and has been in prison for his activities; for brief period was a teacher in the elementary schools, but has worked mainly as a labourer and dock worker.

4. Thomas (Ngedlane) – Xosa; about 40 years old; member of P.B. and of Secretariat AFTU; can do capable work under the leadership of the P.B.; about 6 years in the Party; in the past has participated in number of mass struggles in the Cape Province, though at various periods became passive due to a lack of faith in the Party and the fighting strength of the masses; is a former farm labourer though in recent years has worked as an employee in a store.

5. J.B. Marks – Basuto; 29 years old; is an effective mass agitator; member of the P.B. for about 18 months, during which time he has developed considerably; at times shows strong conciliatory tendencies; has considerable influence amongst native workers and intellectuals in Johannesburg area; formerly a teacher.

6. J. Gomas – Cape Coloured; about 31 years old ; member of P.B. and national secretary of AFTU; very responsible and reliable comrade; has fairly good political understanding; about 6 years in the Party; weak organisationally; has actively participated in a whole number of strike struggles and militant demonstrations and has been in prison for a number of times for his activities; formerly provincial secretary of the ICU, also at one time was in the ANC; while a very courageous fighter, in the past has shown tendencies to come to pessimistic moods and to become passive; member of the garment workers' union for a number of years; tailor by occupation.

7. Edwin Mafotsonyae² – Basuto; about 32 years old; member of P.B., now in the Lenin School;³ up till his departure was national secretary of AFTU; has not shown a great deal of initiative but is one of the most dependable and

2. Mofutsanyana.

3. In fact, Mofutsanyana studied at KUTV.

politically consistent comrades in the Party; in the past has been handicapped by lack of training and self-confidence; about 6 years in the Party; organised and participated in series of mass struggles in Potchestrom as well as Johannesburg; formerly a clerk in the mines and a teacher.

8. D. Wolton – Englishman; 36 years old; member of P.B.; now P.B. representative in Capetown district; would be member of the Secretariat if he were not banished from Johannesburg; has great Party responsibility and is one of the most developed comrades in the Party; has a big influence both in the Party and amongst the masses; because the lack of theoretical understanding and training is confused on many political and organisational questions; while he is an essential part of the leadership of the Party centre and contributes a great deal to the line of the Party in all fields; is somewhat weak organisationally; does not react quickly to events and issues, has a blind optimism in the Party, in the sense that he often does not see in time various shortcomings in the work of the Party; also had strong sectarian tendencies which he is overcoming; has a wide experience in the struggle of South Africa and has been imprisoned for a number of times for his activities; formerly a telegraph operator and postal clerk.

9. M. Wolton – Latvian; 26 years old; effective mass agitator; one of the most advanced comrades in the Party theoretically; very weak organisationally; has considerable political initiative; best fitted for agitprop work; has strong petty-bourgeois individualistic traits and is strongly influenced by personal likes and dislikes; at times adopts a very vacillating position, swinging from strong sectarian tendencies, to right opportunist capitulatory policies; she has considerable experience in mass demonstrations and in several strikes; formerly an office worker; about 9 years in the Party; along with the other 8 comrades mentioned above consistently fought against Buntingism for the line of the Comintern; member of P.B. and Secretariat; responsible for agitprop work.

10. L. Bach – Latvian; 27 years old; member of P.B.; now P.B. rep. to the Durban district; has shown great political initiative and responsibility and is one of the most able comrades in the Party organisationally, specially in concretising line and decisions; at times has shown very marked left tendencies and sectarian attitudes which are being overcome; has participated in several clothing strikes in Africa; formerly a leather worker and is member of the leather workers' union; member of the Party since 1930; formerly member of Latvian Party which he left without a transfer; his father is a factory owner and during the civil war period in Russia was sentenced to be shot; it is necessary to mention this because Bach openly maintains connections with his family; this fact and because he left the Latvian Party without a transfer has given rise to certain suspicions; these are being investigated there and through the Latvian Party; if there is no definite or strong circumstantial proof to indicate that he is an agent provocateur, it is advisable that he should function as org. secretary of the Party.

11. E. Roux – South African;⁴ about 30 years old; is a very courageous fighter and has a very high degree of Party loyalty; very unstable politically and is extremely confused on most political questions; has deep Right wing tendencies which he consciously tries to overcome; needs to work under the strictest guidance of the P.B.; about 7–8 years in the Party; has participated in various struggles and demonstrations for which he has been arrested and imprisoned for a number of times; is an intellectual; also member of P.B.

12. Josie Mafotsonyae⁵ – Basuto; about 30 years old; candidate to the P.B.; has considerable practical experience in organising and leading demonstrations, etc.; is a good mass agitator but is quite undeveloped politically; about 6 years in the Party; housewife.

Other members of the CC which should be specially mentioned as comrades who have come forward in the recent period and who show every promise of developing into capable organisers and leaders are Philamen, now district organiser in Durban, an ex-dock worker; Mabete, section organiser of the Party in the Pinetown Area and Reserves, now serving a prison sentence for his activities; Peterson, a Cape Coloured docker, now district organiser in Capetown; Janex, ?⁶, Party organiser in Tarkastad; Young Jim, YCL organiser in Cradock and Batwa, Party organiser in Cradock, who is also a provincial secretary of the IANC. Among the non-members of the CC Comrades Tefu, now secretary of Ikaka and former district secretary of the ICU in Pretoria, and Douglas, now section organiser in the Pinetown Area – are two new Party members (about a year in the Party) who should with more training and experience develop into leading cadres.

Mention should be made of 3 comrades who have been recently removed from the P.B. and CC. The first Kalk, his autobiography and characterisation is in the Lenin School and can speak for itself; he is now secretary of the leather workers' union in Johannesburg; he was removed from P.B. last October following a whole series of white chauvinist manifestations, opportunist passivity and for following a consistent right opportunist line. Speng, a native comrade, who has been in the Party leadership since 1930, was removed because of his opportunist passivity, his definite refusal to participate in 'dangerous' mass actions and sabotage of Party decisions. Thompson, another native comrade, who came forward in the fight against the Bunting leadership and was a member of the secretariat of the P.B. for a year and a half – since July drifted away from Party activity altogether following on a misuse of Party funds and a refusal to carry out a number of Party decisions.

4. Underlined in red pencil in the original.

5. Mofutsanyana.

6. Text unclear: 'x' is corrected to ',' followed by question mark.

All the leading comrades mentioned above, without exception, need considerable Party training and Marxist-Leninist education. It is desirable that they should be sent to the Lenin School, several each year.

RGASPI, 495/64/134/3-5.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 2364 - 8.JUN.1933

Inscriptions: '7'

EK/TR/Dictation

5561/2.

8.6.33.

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**Letter from M. Kotane to ECCI,
3 August 1933**

Johannesburg
3rd Aug. 1933.

C.I.¹

Dear Comrades,

It is now a quite long time since we ever heard anything from there. We cannot understand what is the matter. We have written you several letters but we could not get any reply. We are just speculating as to whether the connections are still intact, or as to whether our letters did not at all necessitate any serious attention, no doubt the latter is the case. The position here is not what it should be, we are still very backward indeed comrades; we have as yet failed to put the Party on a proper basis. Our Party is still very backward organisationally. Our mass organisations are still very weak. The plans which we drew sometimes ago were not carried out, due mainly to lack of forces and the funds, for we are incredibly short of forces, we have not yet got trained workers, whom the task of organising can be entrusted upon, particularly so, is the case regarding the Native Comrades. There is one constant progress, and that is, owing to financial shortage, we are losing our functionaries because of inability to maintain them (food, rents, clothing and fares). Our comrades are being arrested daily for poll tax and passes, and for distributing leaflets (Durban) and heavy sentences imposed on them. But despite the above mentioned facts,

1. There is a pencil inscription in Russian above these words: 'To Safarov'.