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Letter from D.I. Jones to G. Zinoviev,
11 May, 1922

11th May 1922.
 Lux.¹

Dear Comrade Zinoviev,

Owing to the very serious character of the matter claiming your attention at the last Executive meeting, I did not care to worry you about the South African question. Especially as I knew that the Presidium had dealt with the matter, but the result had not been conveyed to me.

I would not worry you further did I not know that Comrade Lenin and yourself are still as anxious as ever to gather the full details about the revolt.² But the whole of the arrangements for carrying the idea into effect seem in a state of confusion, and the latest communications from South Africa show that the matter is urgent.

It is now a month since it was decided to send me to Africa, and today my departure is held up. According to Comrade Rakosi there are no funds for the project. Comrade Brandler gives other reasons.

I have therefore given a report on other methods for gathering the material, copy of which I enclose. I have also suggested that, if Presidium decides that only by sending me to Africa can the work be done efficiently, the expenses for this might be reduced by getting the South African comrades to bear part of the expense.

But I now see from the latest issue of the London 'Communist'³ an appeal from the Capetown Branch of our Party to the British movement for financial aid in the present crisis.⁴ Although the organisation has been smashed up the comrades killed and imprisoned, almost the whole membership in Johannesburg, they are determined to keep the flag flying.

Smuts has ordered a Commission of Inquiry which will sit concurrently with the trial of comrades. It is urgent that our enquiry should proceed at the same time, in order to avail ourselves of all material, and while the matter is fresh. Two months have already passed since the events.

I feel that now or never the Comintern should give some token of solidarity with comrades, no matter how distant, in the tragic position revealed in the letter to 'The Communist'. The Comintern lost a great opportunity, for some reason not yet explained, when it suppressed our draft appeal ordered by the Executive.⁵

1. See footnote 2 to document 5, vol. I.
 2. 'Red revolt' on the Rand. See documents 17-19.
 3. Most probably, the London journal, *The Communist Review*. D.I. Jones was member of the editorial board.
 4. There is a typed-over word before 'Although'.
 5. The text of the appeal, mentioned in several documents, has not been found in the Archive.

I urge that we do something in connection with the appeal in 'The Communist'. In any event, I feel it my duty to return to encourage the remaining comrades.

With kind regards, and communist greetings,
 D. Ivon Jones
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RGASPI, 495/64/10/5-5 reverse.

Original in English.

Typed. Corrections in a red pen in D.I. Jones' handwriting.

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**Letter from D.I. Jones to M. Rakosi,**  
**23 May 1922**

THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION.

23rd May, 1922.  
 Room 7, Lux,<sup>1</sup>

Dear Comrade Rakosi,

Regarding your suggestion over the telephone to draft another appeal for South Africa, I have thought it over and consider the time inopportune until we know definitely the state of affairs there.

I moreover confess to a lack of enthusiasm for drafting another appeal after the suppression of the one drafted by Comrades Borodin, Bell and myself immediately after the revolt, addressed not exclusively to South Africa but to British Labour as well and attempting to embrace the vital issue of colour prejudice in general. You will remember that the reasons given for suppressing that draft was that it was unsuitable and not understandable to working men. I could only repeat the general tenour of that draft.

I would urge that the new appeal can wait until we make enquiries through Comrade Borodin<sup>2</sup> as the state of things in South Africa. It is to be regretted that, though a Party Branch<sup>3</sup> has appealed to the English ~~and~~ <sup>Party</sup><sup>4</sup> for support

1. See footnote 2 to document 5, vol. I.  
 2. M. Borodin was at this time on a secret mission in Britain.  
 3. Communist Party of South Africa.  
 4. British Communist Party.