

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.

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5561/2.

8.6.33.

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

Johannesburg  
3rd Aug. 1933.

C.I.<sup>1</sup>

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,

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

there is noticeable improvements in certain aspects of our work. The P.B. has drawn the attention of the whole Party to the C.I. letter of Dec. 1932, which was, by the way, not well received here officially. We drew the attention of the Comrades to the catastrophical position of the Party and the correctness of the document almost in all its entirety with the exception of some of the figures. Yet the correctness of this document is unquestionable, it means the mirror reflecting the C.P.S.A. We are not in a position to show any statistical increase because in some places the Party has increased its membership and in some places dropped – ‘Marking time’ aggregately. We have gained some footing (though still very weak) in the reformist T.U.: (tramways and the railways, Durban) (Tram and Bus, Capetown and Garment Johannesburg). We won over the Laundry W. Union, Jo-burg and we have big influence among the laundrymen in Capetown, we also have group contacts in other industries and have some livingbeings in the mines though numerically very very few but livingbeings! Great achievement can be recorded as regards the Party Organ which is now rousing interest among the masses, marked by the increased correspondence and actual buying of the paper by the masses – for the paper is now being bought! To avoid misunderstanding, I do not mean that, it is sold 100%, but in Johannesburg for instance, every issue brings in average about £2.03.10 d. whereas formerly it was only about 10/-. The paper is not regular. But we also recognise the technical defects in the paper and steps are being taken to eliminate them as much as we possibly can, likewise in the other spheres of the Party work, and, it would not be an exaggeration if I anticipate more progress in our next reports, for the steps we have taken hitherto and the footing we have, if properly handled may carry us further and bring us closer to the working masses. But tactlessness of our Comrades may ruin this work done by hard toil. We are unable to send the P. Minutes<sup>2</sup> we have no address where to send them to. Please supply one. Further Comrades, we want to draw your attention to the looseness that is going on in your школа. Ваша студент.<sup>3</sup> are behaving badly. Please stop the exhibition! A fellow by the name Levin is telling people over here of having seen Юсний Африканский народ в М.;<sup>4</sup> be careful of the fellow Мэясон too он работал в АПО<sup>5</sup> exercise iron discipline! That is the whole position

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2. Probably minutes of a meeting of the PB, CPSA.

3. ‘школа. Ваша студент’. Insert in broken Russian: ‘school. Your student’.

4. ‘Юсний Африканский народ в М.’. Insert in broken Russian: ‘South African people in M.’ (obviously, Moscow). The identity of Levin could not be established.

5. ‘Мэясон too он работал в АПО’. Insert in broken Russian: ‘Meiason too, he worked in APO’. The identity of Meiason (Meison? Maison? Meerson?) could not be established. The meaning of APO is also unclear – unless it is African People’s Organisation.



Comrades. We will give you the whole Party situation in our next report, where statistics too will be given.

Yours fraternally.  
J.W. Macaulay.

RGASPI, 495/64/126/64-6.  
Original in English, inserts in broken Russian.  
Handwritten.

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**Letter from M. Kotane to Communist Party of Great Britain,  
12 September 1933**

JOHANNESBURG.  
SOUTH AFRICA.  
September 12th 1933.

The Secretariat,  
C.P. Grt. Britain,  
16 King Street,  
COVENT GARDEN.  
LONDON, W.C. 2

Dear Comrades,

For some time now the life of Comrade Molly Wolton has been very critical. She suffered from an enlargement of the heart and nervous breakdown. The doctor advised her to take six months leave from all Party work and suggested that she should stay in Cape Town instead of Johannesburg. This the Party approved of.

Later on she was under the impression that she might be deported to Lithuania, whereupon she suddenly came to a decision to leave for Europe without obtaining the opinion of the PB. She wrote to us asking for the endorsement of such steps. At first, because of the hectic nature of the letter sent to us, and because she informed us that she was leaving by the next Mail,<sup>1</sup> we replied by wire that she could go. She did not leave then, however, and the Secretariat rescinded the previous decision that she should leave, until the matter was sanctioned by the PB.

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1. 'Mail' refers to the Union Castle steamships carrying mail, which sailed regularly from Cape Town to Southampton, England.