

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,¹ 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 She did not leave then, however, and the Secretariat rescinded the previous decision that she should leave, until the matter was sanctioned by the PB.

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

All this happened while Comrade Douglas Wolton was in gaol. Comrade D. Wolton came out of gaol on August 27th and he immediately, without consulting the PB, booked a passage for England on a boat leaving Sept. 5th. He only deemed it necessary to tell us that they were going and that the PB should sanction their action and send them a letter of endorsement to England.

The reasons that Comrade Douglas advanced to the PB were that he had no employment, that Molly was a nervous wreck, that they had nobody to look after their child, and, since he saw no possibility of obtaining means of livelihood for himself, wife and child, he saw no alternative but to leave for England where his parents would make provision for them. The PB, however, was of the opinion that sufficient financial support could have been organised in Cape Town for the up-keep of Comrade Douglas and family. A plan was sent to Cape Town DPC from the PB prior to receiving the letter from Comrade Douglas that he was off. The PB is definitely of the opinion that sufficient funds could have been raised in Cape Town had the Comrades Woltons made energetic efforts, as they have done in the past up to the time he went to gaol.

In the opinion of the PB the reasons advanced do not warrant these comrades leaving us in the way they did. More so, since the Party is badly in need of advanced comrades to lead the work. The Party members and workers under our lead are very disappointed at this action of the Comrades Wolton. Comrade Douglas ought to have remembered that he re-entered South Africa with difficulty in 1930, and this time the authorities will surely be on their guard to prevent him from returning.

Now, from what is stated above, the PB cannot approve such irresponsible action on the part of leading Party members. The Comrades Wolton must take all responsibilities for their action.

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours fraternally,

P.B., C.P.S.A.

Per J.W. Macauley

RGASPI, 495/64/126/39-40.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: '8.FEB.1934 - 0599'.

Attachment

(in German)