

tremendous influence amongst all sections of workers black and white and did a great deal to draw wide sections of black and white intelligentsia closer to the party. During this period the excessive strain caused a renewal of serious heart trouble which ^{had} manifested itself in the USSR, until finally she was beyond any further activity. (A copy of a letter from the P.B. to her is enclosed).

RGASPI, 495/64/132/17-19, 20-2.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: 25.MAR.1934 - 1575

(in German)

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**Letter from D.G. Wolton to ECCL,
13 March 1934**

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMRADE D.G. WOLTON TO ECCL.

March 13th 1934

Dear Comrades,

In this report I wish to put forward my reasons for taking the step I did in leaving South Africa, without having secured the authority of the Party for doing so.

It will be necessary to go into the question of my personal position, for although when my personal responsibilities were negligible, this question was never raised by me, yet when Comrade Molly returned with our child in November 1931, the question was forced upon me.

The Party had not been in a position to support its functionaries and this question had to be left to the Comrades themselves, whatever was available having to be utilised to the best political advantage.

My child was left in Capetown with Comrades which completely released Comrade Molly and myself for work.

During this period of exceedingly strenuous activity when in addition to physical neglect, the single-handed character of the work¹ at that time, resulted in a complete physical and mental breakdown of Comrade Molly. The Doctors had pronounced that unless she were immediately removed from the scene fatal consequences would be inevitable.

1. There is a typed-over word after 'work' in the original.

Even if a holiday and rest could have been secured this would not have solved the question for she needed complete removal from the sense of responsibility which was ever-present wherever she was in South Africa.

Finally in March 1933, she was sent to Capetown where I was. At this time the child was with us for the Comrades could no longer continue to maintain her and we could not make other arrangements for her. Both she and Comrade Molly in her prostrate condition were going from place to place for a night or two at each and she was steadily getting worse.

I wrote to the Political Bureau acquainting them with the seriousness of the position and asked for advice and if possible assistance.

I also wrote to relatives in England asking for assistance. I could not secure employment in South Africa – I was too publicly known.

I was awaiting sentence at this time and wished to make some arrangements for Comrade Molly whilst I was in Gaol.

There was no reply of any kind from the PB in response to my letter.

I went into gaol without any arrangements being made for Comrade Molly and learned whilst in gaol that² she was still seeking a place to stay and that she was worse than ever.

Upon my discharge from gaol there was no³ word from the PB either directly or through any other sources, and not even any instructions nor greeting (not personal nor political).

I found a letter waiting for me from my relatives in England enclosing the fare for three from South Africa to England and undertaking to provide employment for a period until Comrade Molly was recovered.

I reviewed the whole position and saw that I had no alternative but to accept this proposal.

I wrote to the PB immediately and asked them for⁴ endorsement to my proposal and that I intended sailing on a certain date. There was still no reply, neither letter nor telegram, although there was time for either.

I received no communication until the end of October in England declining to endorse my action and demanding my immediate return and that I provide my own fare.

The tone of this letter which most uncomradely did not explain the position of the PB on the question but in a most hostile manner made a series of unwarrantable and completely unfounded allegations of a reprehensible character.

Any insinuation of running away or leaving the Party in the lurch, any allegation of draining funds will not bear examination in the light of my party record of more than ten years of sustained work. Work which in a great many

2. There is a typed-over word after 'that' in the original.

3. There is a typed-over word after 'no' in the original.

4. There is a typed-over word after 'for' in the original.

cases has resulted in my going single-handed into the struggle, in the day to day work of the Party. Work which has seen ten years of refusal to touch any penny of Party resources when it was needed for other tasks.

The question of⁵ Party discipline, far from being violated has been exceeded as in the case of Comrade Molly whose devotion has resulted in failure to rest when instructed to do so.

The charge of violation of Party discipline can be answered and explained, but the charges and insinuations contained in the letter in question, whilst they are entirely without any foundation reveal a complete non-recognition of the devoted party work and a struggle through a decade which stamps the personal character of any comrade.

There is no question of⁶ the formulation of any political line against that of the Party, but there is the record of carrying the Comintern banner alone in 1927 when the entire leadership was fighting against it.

I replied to this letter in October of last year and asked for a formulation against my action but I have received no reply.

On my arrival in England I reported to the Secretariat CPGB on the circumstances of my departure from South Africa, supplementing it with a special letter soon afterwards.

This report to ECCI has been awaiting a reply from South Africa in order that I may know what I am called upon to answer.

I have now received word through CPGB that my report should be sent off at once.

I await an early reply ^{from you} ~~~~~ which will receive my immediate attention.

D. Wolton
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RGASPI, 495/64/132/15-16.

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5. There is a typed-over word after 'of' in the original.

6. There is a typed-over word after 'of' in the original.