

words but in deeds, in the class battles against imperialism, for the revolutionary way out of the present situation.

RGASPI, 495/20/654/274-7.

Original in English (Comintern translation of the Russian original text. See: RGASPI, 495/20/654/205-8).

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 1) 2733 - 22.JUL.1934.

2) Russian original (in German).

3) Adopted at the Meeting of Politkomm
on 3.6.34.

Minutes no. 380 (in Russian)

4) Storage (in Russian)

Inscriptions: Foreign. # ... 1290/ 26.VI.34. (in German)

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EK/Copying.

BC/Tr. Russ.

6712/4.

27.6.34. (typed)

36

Letter from L. Bach to PB, CPSA,

9 July 1934

Johannesburg

9th July 1934.

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

Dear Comrades,

I submit this statement as a supplement to my statement in connection with the petition,¹ for I want to make clear the accusation of attempting to instigate guerilla warfare in Natal.

Actually the position was as follows. In 1932, in our work in the reserves in Natal, it became clear that the peasant movement could spontaneously develop to a higher level, than demonstrations, struggles to protect cattle from the police etc. Already at that time we had such actions in Mgeni,² Molweni, where the peasants armed with assegais,³ drove out the police from the

1. See document 29.

2. Umgeni.

3. Assegai - a short spear used by the AmaZulu before the advent of firearms.

reserves.⁴ In this situation we could expect bigger outbreaks of armed struggles of the peasants with the police and defence forces. It was then, that I, the P.B. representative in Durban, took up with Com. R.⁵ the question of preparing the Party and of preparing cadres for possible spontaneous outbreaks of guerrilla warfare.

Realising the seriousness of the matter, I did not raise this question even at the Durban D.P.C., nor at the P.B. I have written to Com. R. personally, proposing that it would be advisable, that we in Durban, choose 3-4 of the best and most reliable comrades from the reserves, bring them to Durban and give them a training on these questions, work out with them a detailed map of the district etc. I have made it distinctly clear in that letter, that we do not propose to organise G.W.⁶ in the reserves, but we propose to train cadres so as to be prepared for all possible developments.

This was sometimes in January 1933. In February we arrived from Durban to the Plenum. On my proposal, we agreed with Com. R. that this question should not be raised at the Plenum nor at the P.B. meetings in order not to create any confusion, and also for reasons of privacy of this matter.

This question was discussed at a special meeting of the Durban delegation at which only Com. R. and Kotane were present. At that meeting I raised the question in the light mentioned above, and it was agreed that we proceed with this and that it was an absolutely correct step.

The Durban comrades left Johannesburg on the same day. I left for Durban 2 weeks afterwards.

Whilst I was in Durban, Com. Kotane (as it was established at the aggregate meeting) made it common property to everybody in the Party and has distorted the question, thus supplying with another charge against me the fractionists.

It is important to note, that none of the charges contained in the petition have ever been raised or mentioned at P.B. meetings, or in discussions or otherwise to me by any P.B. members, from whom all the 'information' of the fractionists (false reports, proposals to remove Kotane etc.) evidently emanates. I only got to know about all these accusations from the petition.

At that 'big' aggregate meeting⁷ all these accusations contained in the petition and in some statements have fallen to the ground and the 'charges' have proved to be nothing but lies and slanders.

It is characteristic for the position in the Party the attitude of some Party leaders to these fractionists who together with Bash⁸ carried on their fractional and splitting activities. According to Kotane and Roux they are the best

4. The reference is to local clashes with the police over confiscated cattle.

5. Most probably, 'Russell' - E. Dennis.

6. Guerrilla Warfare.

7. Most probably, Bach meant the Special Meeting of the Johannesburg Branch of the CPSA. See document 33, vol II.

8. M. Basch.

elements in the Party and their slanderous and criminal position is a 'justified revolt of the best rank and file'. The encouragement of fractional activities is unheard of and impermissible in a Communist Party and must stop.

With Communist Greetings

L. Bach
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RGASPI, 495/64/135/14.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: 3.AUG.1934 - 4777

Inscription: A letter from Bach to PB on 9/VII 34

(in Russian)

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**Letter from M. Kotane to ECCI,  
10 July 1934**

JOHANNESBURG, Transvaal  
South Africa  
July 10th 1934

Dear Comrades,

We have received yours dated Feb. 23d and May 20th 1934. We understand what you state in them but we are afraid that it is already too late to send a representative to the coming anti-war conference.<sup>1</sup> You can see that we just got your letters on the 29th of last month. Something must be wrong with your system of communication or either you are not posting your letters immediately after you write them.

Now in connection with the other one regarding parcels<sup>2</sup> it is almost impossible to get any labels.<sup>3</sup> The labels that we had are either misplaced or taken away by the Woltons. At any rate efforts are being made to procure some other labels, but mark my word, it is not an easy job. I understand that the

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1. Most likely this refers to an invitation for party officials to come to Moscow to discuss the factional struggle. The meaning was, obviously, clear to an addressee.
  2. Most probably, 'parcels' here indicate party members who were supposed to go to Moscow, or students to be sent to Comintern's schools. See document 42, vol. II, where the word 'parcels' is clearly used in this sense.
  3. It would seem that 'labels' refer to the addressees to which the CPSA could send its communications to the ECCI. Apparently the addresses were misplaced by the Woltons or taken with them upon their hasty departure in September 1933. It is also possible that communication was further compounded by the closure of Comintern's and other communist offices in Berlin in early 1933 in the wake of the coming to power of the Nazis. Prior to 1933 Berlin had been a major transmission centre for Comintern documents and officials to and from Moscow.