

British trade unions. It would be a big step to overcoming the scornful attitude towards the natives on the part of white trade unions, especially if some of the strongest native unions will be under the control of British unions.

7). The recent Negro congress in America<sup>5</sup> seemingly has not had any response on the African continent as far as South Africa is concerned. A good start for the organisation of a world Negro congress which would be really representative of Negroes would be for various local native congresses in different parts of the African continent to take up this matter together with already existing American organisations. The Party has a certain influence on the Native congress of S. Africa.

8). All the resources of the Party have been spent so far on the International, the Party organ which has not justified itself despite all expenses. It has been edited by the editor who has done it in his spare time and this is why it has never come close to being a mass organ. It is important for the International to achieve a good financial base so that the Party could make certain means for its activity in view of the fact that colonial work cannot be carried out without means.

RGASPI, 495/64/49/3-4.

Original in Russian (Comintern translation of an English original text that has not been found in the Archive).

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: To the South African file

(in Russian)

36

**Letter from Head of All-Union Society for Cultural Contacts to  
Krestintern,  
29 June 1926**

Copy

All-Union Society for Cultural Ties.

Strictly confidential  
Moscow 29 June 1926

Cd. Orlov

Org. Secretary of the Krestintern. Here

Dear Comrade,

Cd. Petrov (ECCI) has reproached me for assisting Com. Sachs's trip to South Africa and for supporting him financially, while, according to Cd. Petrov, Sachs did not deserve such trust and the trip has told badly on his work.

5. American Negro Labour Congress held in Chicago in October 1925.

I deem it necessary to inform you that Cd. Sachs had been recommended to me by Cd. N.L. Meshcheriakov and by the Secretary of Your Presidium, Cd. Garni. As far as the financial support goes, I gave him a small sum for the materials that he promised to me.

In view of this I ask you to explain this matter to Cd. Petrov (ECCI) accordingly, for I personally would not like to take any responsibility for a person unknown to me.

I ask you to inform me about the developments.

With comradely greetings O.D. Kameneva  
Chairman of the Society.

RGASPI, 495/64/49/2.

Original in Russian.

Typed. Copy.

37

**Letter from Krestintern to Eastern Secretariat, ECCI  
30 June 1926**

Strictly confidential  
Personal  
30 June 1926.

TO CD. PETROV (EASTERN SECRETARIAT, ECCI)

Copies: Cd. O.D. Kameneva  
Cd. Pepper (Secr. on Anglo-Sax. countries,<sup>1</sup> ECCI)

Dear Comrade,

Following the letter from Cd. O.D. Kameneva (a copy of the letter is enclosed) I am forwarding the following information to you in regard to Cd. Sachs from South Africa.

Cd. Sachs was sent to us last October by Cd. Rafes, board member of the Eastern Department of the ECCI, and by Cd. Fokin from KIM to work part time in the Krestintern on Africa and on the Negro question in America. We were informed that Cd. Sachs had been called specifically from Berlin to work on this issue. Since it became clear from our communications with Cd. Sachs that

1. Anglo-American Secretariat.



he had left Africa a long time ago, we dropped the idea of using him full time and offered him just to write a pamphlet on the Negro question.

Later Cd. Sachs worked at KIM, getting a full salary there and credentials to participate in the Plenary Session of the Comintern (with a consultative vote).

After the end of the Plenary Session Cd. Sachs offered his service to the Krestintern in organising work among the Negroes in S. Africa. From Cd. Sachs's reference by Cd. Fokin and other comrades from KIM we understood that, despite being quite a trustworthy comrade, he is not sufficiently active in the Party. Therefore, we again rejected his proposal, having offered him to prove his qualification by work back home and by fulfilling the literary task given to him.

Because Cd. Sachs had already had a ready passport for the departure (if we are not mistaken, procured for him by KIM) we have directed him for a possible use to Cd. O.D. Kameneva, as a chairman of the Society for Cultural Ties, thinking that he may be useful in cultural work.

With comradely greetings  
N. Meshcheriakov.

RGASPI, 495/64/49/1.

Original in Russian.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 1) list 1

2) Outg. No. 548/c

30.VI.26

(in Russian)

38

**Letter from S.P. Bunting to Secretary, ECCL,  
3 November 1926**

Central Executive Office  
4, Trades Hall,  
Johannesburg.  
3rd November 1926.

The Secretary  
E.C.C.I.  
Moscow.

Dear Comrade,

We desire to remind you of our recent appeal for financial assistance, more particularly in connection with our printing press. This, which was founded in 1919, has been maintained all these years with great difficulty, and a year ago it

was decided that it must be enlarged as the only alternative to closing down. This was done and new plant was purchased, but we were not able to raise enough to pay for it, and are still about £750. in debt over it, apart from instalments on a new linotype which we have so far paid out of profits, – for the business now pays current expenses with something over to go towards the printing of our organ, the 'S.A. Worker', which we need hardly say does not pay for itself. If we could pay off our load of debt and have a little money on hand it would remove a millstone from around our neck, and we should have built up a permanent source of strength to our movement, and one capable of eventually paying off all its debt.

There is a special reason, however, why we apply to you now for funds. Our press has for a number of years past been obliged to conceal from the public its communist identity. Our manager, who has been in charge ever since our press started, has appeared before the world as the proprietor of the business, although actually only a wage earner. He has brought in a good deal of work, indeed the bulk of the work, from customers who would indignantly refuse to give it if they knew it to be a communist press. He has also lent some £300 towards the cost of plant, and reckoning other claims, e.g. for holiday pay, bonus for overtime, etc. he is a creditor of the business for about £400. Although not a communist (no communist has been available for the position) he has played his role of camouflage (which a communist could not have done), and generally served the interests of the Party on the whole very faithfully, bearing the brunt (and the discredit to himself) of dealing with creditors who during the past few ~~weeks~~ <sup>months</sup> especially have made themselves very importunate, as though he were personally the debtor, besides putting in a considerable amount of overtime in order to keep the business going, so much so that he is to a certain extent suffering from nervous strain, often resulting in extreme irritability.

This, coupled with the usual white worker's antipathy to blacks, has resulted in extreme friction between him and the representatives of the I.C.U. (Native General Workers' Union), who brought their paper to be printed at our press. He has very seriously insulted them on a number of occasions, and finally he has refused to print their paper any longer: and it is now being printed elsewhere. (There has also been constant friction between him and us on other matters).

This is a state of affairs which we as a Communist Party, of course, cannot allow to continue, especially as we are the only friends of the native workers in S. Africa, and several ~~weeks~~ <sup>months</sup> ago we decided to dispense with his services as soon as a suitable substitute could be found. Two obstacles, so far insurmountable, however, have prevented this decision from being carried out. In the first place to remove the manager will at once disclose to the public that the business is after all not his, and this will mean at present the loss of most of our custom (for the custom from Labour bodies is insignificant except the printing of a Labour Party paper which is given to our