

much stronger lines. The comrade who had to resign from the committee, is now chairman of the Union. Otherwise, we have nothing much to talk of. I hope to write again. Greetings, etc.

(Signed) J... G...<sup>4</sup>

RGASPI, 495/155/102/6.

Original in English.

Typed.

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**Letter from J.B. Marks to ECCL,  
15 July 1935**

Dear Comrades,

Job -g 15th VII. We presume that the written and verbal reports which you have time and again received from us have given you an insight to the internal situation of the Communist Party of South Africa.

The C.P.S"A. consists of two hostile camps. To bring the two together is not a simple matter. In the main the White Comrades are responsible for this very unhealthy situation.<sup>1</sup>

Your recent analyses convinced us that you are very well, acquainted with the local political situation. The developments on the political front have by far out paced us. The party has not as yet succeeded to orientate itself, and turn its face towards the masses. The reasons for this failur are the fundamental and not casual differances,<sup>2</sup> in the leading ranks of the C.P. The fractions inside the Party are not only hampering the work, but retards same to a very great extent. Valuable time is being wasted in all kinds of unnecessary personal and political begging.

The ideological influence of the Party has spread wide and far, but this the Party has failed follow up organisationally and to consolidate same.

The facilities for carrying on Party work have been greater than any other time in the history of the C.P S"A. But this we did not exploit sufficiently.

With the rapid changes in the local political situation many changes have been brought about. We are witnessing a sharp turn as far as the white workers are concern. Even the Afrikaaner worker who has been very hostile for many

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**Doc. 41**

4. Despite the word 'signed' there is no original signature in the text.

**Doc. 42**

1. There is a double line and a cross in the right margin opposite this phrase. The paragraph starting with 'The C.P.S.A.' is enclosed in square brackets in pencil.
2. There is a typed-over word before 'differances'.

years, is now gradually turning towards the C.P. In this direction a very receptive mentality has been created by the Anti-Fascist League, under the guidance of the Party.

Presently the Party work spreads over the areas of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. In Johannesburg and Durban the work has to be carried on under semi-illegal conditions. In this areas all mass open air meetings have been banned. This is accompanied by a very sharp wave of police terror.

The work among the Native peasantry is still very weak and very unconsolidated. The same can be said about the work among the native miners. In this sphere work is carried on systematically, but with the utmost difficulty due to the vigilance of the authorities and the fluctuation of the native miners who work for a short period and then they go back to the reserves.

To overcome the difficulty of penetrating the mines the Party had to send some cadres to go and work down the mines. This schema has proved fairly successful.

The Trade Union work still forms one of the weakest links in Party work. Especially the work among the native proletariat. The situation in the Party is so serious that it is felt; that it would be very opportune for a REP<sup>3</sup> to pay us a visit. This question you should consider with all seriousness.<sup>4</sup> It is also very imperative that you sent L.B back to the old home.<sup>5</sup>

The material you sent us has come in very handy. Your analysis considered very correct by all except a few confused elements that constitute an opposition inside the Party.

Jack Raymond and Greenwood are still O.K despite all the opposition. But Com. Henry is no longer too firm, the rotten situation in side the Party had a very bad effect on him, especially that he himself is not a very stable element. K.<sup>6</sup> and some other parcels are ready for medical treatment.

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may go to see the doctor any day<sup>7</sup>  
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J. Marks  
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For the Secretariat.

P.S. Only Roux and M.<sup>8</sup> can be taken serious as far as the opposition is concerned. We shall be very much obliged if you would let us know more about the Book store.<sup>9</sup>

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3. Representative of the Comintern.

4. Two last sentences starting with 'The situation' are enclosed in square brackets in pencil.

5. 'L.B.' is, obviously, Lazar Bach, 'old home' in this case – South Africa.

6. Kotane.

7. Clearly, a reference to a group of communists ready for a trip to Moscow.

8. M. - probably, Kotane (Moses).

9. Coded words the meaning of which is unclear.



Another serious phenomenon inside the Party is the underestimation of the role of the Proletariat plays in leading the national emancipatory movement. The comrades are out for a pure and simple nationalist movement. Such tendencies are creating a very ugly situation inside the Party, and among the members of the Party. In this direction Comrade K.<sup>10</sup> is very much responsible. He certainly has very deep seated nationalistic tendencies. This you should make all effort to eradicate these tendencies, when he comes for medical treatment.<sup>11</sup>

RGASPI, 495/64/145/54-5.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: 1) ... SEP.1935 – 5275 (date before 'SEP.' is illegible)

2) ... NOV.1935 – 6469 (date before 'NOV.' is illegible)

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#### Letter from E. Roux to J. Gomas, 12 September 1935<sup>1</sup>

#### COPY OF LETTER FROM EDDIE ROUX TO JOHN GOMAS

131 a Kitchener Avenue  
Bez Valley  
Johannesburg  
12/9/35

Dear Johnnie,

I have been drawing up a lengthy reply to your letter enclosing the correspondence between the Cape Town DPC and the PB. I have not yet finished it. But recent events in the Party compel me to write without delay.

At a meeting of the PB this afternoon the following comrades were expelled from the Party: Levenberg,<sup>2</sup> Hilda Saks, Spilkin, Diamond and Kagan. I was suspended from the PB and Secretariat, to be expelled within three months if I do not express my agreement with the existing 'leadership' and 'Line' of the Party.

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#### Doc. 42

10. 'K.' – Kotane.

11. The last paragraph starting with 'P.S.' is enclosed in square brackets in pencil.

#### Doc. 43

1. This letter was sent to the Comintern by the addressee, John Gomas.

2. Levenberg.