

5. The whole struggle, before, during and after Congress whatever the manoeuvres of the reactionary leaders, must be carried on under the flag of revival of the unity of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union and the demand for the right of workers of all tendencies to express their views within the general trade union organisation.

RGASPI, 495/2/71a/163

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: Attachment to the Minutes of Presidium of 16.III.27 (in German)

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**Memorandum of D. Petrovsky to Presidium of ECCL,  
17 March 1927**

Confidential

17.III.1927

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUUM  
COPIES TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SECRETARIAT

I could not stay until the end of the meeting of the Presidium. Statements by members of the British Secretariat as well as comments by members of the Presidium compel me to make the following statement.

1. Com. La Guma was summoned at the suggestion of the British Secretariat to inform it on issues of the South African movement.

2. After the arrival of Com. La Guma it turned out that his presence in South Africa was extremely urgent and therefore it was desirable to let him go as soon as possible.

3. On the 10th of this month a meeting of a part of the British Secretariat with Com. La Guma was held to consider the most urgent tasks. A short resolution was worked out together with Com. La Guma and was presented to the Polit. Secretariat on the 11th of this month.

4. The Polit. Secretariat decided not to consider the resolution and proposed that Com. La Guma remain at the meeting of the Presidium to hear a detailed report there.

5. A specialist in South African affairs presented a short introduction to the resolution for the British Secretariat and the Presidium which was a topic of the discussion at the meeting of the British Secretariat on the 16th of this month.

6. Both at the first and the second meetings we proceeded from the understanding that we would consequently thoroughly discuss all questions concerning the South African labour movement, but until then we would confine ourselves to answering the questions, that, in our opinion could not be delayed.

7. It is a pity, indeed, that an unfortunate expression about the antagonism between the Dutch and English population crept into the introduction. The economic precondition of the antagonism is clearly sufficiently stated. But I repeat that the introduction was not intended to be sent anywhere.

8. At the meeting of the British Secretariat on the 16th the point about a campaign on behalf of the Labour Party<sup>1</sup> did not evoke any disagreement. We proceeded from the assumption that reorganisation of the Labour Party and its conversion into a party based upon collective membership is possible only if communists conduct a campaign simultaneously in the trade unions and in the Labour Party itself. This discussion at this meeting was focused first of all on different wordings in the introductory part of the resolution. Com. Duncan offered to formulate tasks pertaining to the national movement separately for the resolution section, and also to find out more about the question of forms of contact between the British Communist Party and the Communist Party of South Africa.

9. It was not assumed that the resolution section would be sent. There was only the discussion about practical instructions to be given to Com. La Guma (verbally).

10. Participants at the meeting on 10th March were: Rathbone, Reesema, Young, Hunt, Demar and La Guma; at the meeting on the 16th participated: Murphy, Duncan, Rathbone, Katayama, Feinberg, Hunt, Demar, Hardy, Young, Smolyansky, Reesema, and La Guma.

D. Petrovsky  
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RGASPI, 495/72/25/47-8.

Original in Russian.

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1. Here and elsewhere in the document, the South African Labour Party.