

**Report of Meeting of Central Executive, CPSA,  
7 July 1927<sup>1</sup> (Extract)**

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

7th July 1927

Present: Coms. J. Shields (chair), Mattushek, Myerson, B. Sachs, Weinbrenn, Thibedi, Michalson, R. Bunting and S.P. Bunting (sec.), also Coms. W.H. Andrews and J.T. Gumede. And later Coms. E.S. Sachs & Richter.<sup>2</sup>

Brussels: J.T. Gumede reported that he had been elected President of the African National Congress and E.J. Khaile Secretary; and that at the A.N.C. Conference he had reported verbally on the Brussels Conference, pointing out how oppression was due to capitalist conditions, and producing photos showing that it was worse in some ways in India and China than in South Africa, and that there was great discontent among the working class in England, France, Germany and Belgium also, so that all workers were one with those of Africa. He was confronted with statements in the native papers that he was a Communist, and replied: 'Before I left for Europe I was against what I had heard of them, but in Europe I found they stood up for the oppressed all over the world – hence the hatred of Governments for them, indeed they were the only party that concerned itself with us natives.' This was well received, as also at the Kimberley non-European Conference: and he was elected unopposed, despite Government attempts to prevent it.

The A.N.C. had set up a Labour Secretariat, on the motion of Prof. Thaele, who was in touch with the C.P. at Capetown. The A.N.C. executive should keep in close touch with the C.P. The A.N.C. would not trouble the I.C.U. whose rank and file were not against joining the A.N.C. The A.N.C. expected to register thousands of individual members, including those who leave the I.C.U., until eventually the I.C.U. would co-operate.

[...]

Chairman.

RGASPI, 495/64/63/29. For the full text of the document see: RGASPI, 495/64/63/29–30.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy. Corrections by hand.

1. The author of this document and the addressee could not be identified. The contents of the document indicate that it is a report or an extract from a report of a Central Executive meeting of 7 July 1927 at which J.T. Gumede informed the Party leadership of the developments within the ANC and of its attitude towards him in the wake of his attendance at the meeting of the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels organised by the Comintern to form the League Against Imperialism. The invitation and arrangements for Gumede's trip to Brussels came through the CPSA.

2. M. Richter.

**Resolution of Politsecretariat of ECCI,  
22 July 1927 (Extract)<sup>1</sup>**

RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA.<sup>2</sup>

22.VII.27

[...]

6. The CP and its tasks:

Our CP has a membership of about 400, fifty of whom are native or coloured workers and peasants. Though still weak, the present intensified campaign of the government against the natives offers it an immense field to develop its influence amongst these peasants and workers, and it is amongst this section of the South African population that its chief field of activity must lie in the near future.

a.) The first task of the Party is to reorganise itself according to the decisions of the CI and to put forward a political programme of action as a necessary condition to fight for a mass CP of S. Africa.

b.) While not lessening its work amongst the white population, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY to pay particular attention to the native section of the population and in particular to reverse the proportion of whites and natives in the Party membership figure: in addition, the Party should do everything possible to help the native comrades into the leadership of the Party.

c.) The Party while fighting against all the customs, laws and regulations which seek to discriminate against the native and coloured population and in favour of the white population, should put forward as its immediate political slogan an independent black South African Republic as a stage towards a Workers' and Peasants' Republic with full autonomy for all minorities.

[...]

RGASPI, 495/64/56/125. For the full text of the document see: RGASPI, 495/64/56/117–28

Original in English.

Typed.

Inscriptions: 1) PS no. 3584

2) M – Copying

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3) Archive DP.<sup>3</sup>

(in Russian)

1. The rest of the document is a general description of the South African political scene and situation. The archives contain the same document in Russian: RGASPI, 495/64/56/15–26.

2. This resolution was passed 'in principle' by the Politsecretariat of the ECCI on 22 July 1927 (Minutes no. 35). A commission consisting of Rathbone, Reesema, Petrovsky, Schüller and Petrov was charged with the task of editing it on the basis of comments made during the meeting (RGASPI, 495/3/28/1).

3. To D. Petrovsky's archive.