

Minutes of Bureau Meeting, A-UCP(B)  
25 August 1927 (Extract)<sup>1</sup>

MINUTES NO. 8. OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE A-UCP(B)  
TO ECCI OF 25.8.27.

Strictly confidential.

Typed three copies.

1 copy sent to c. Stalin

1 - " - destroyed

Present: c.c. Stalin, Molotov, Piatnitsky, Kuusinen and Shatskin

Agenda: 1) About c. Varga's apparatus.

2) About the circulation of the Steno of the last plenum of the CC and of the CCC of the A-UCP(B).

3) About the publication of speeches and papers of the first day of the plenum.

4. Questions of individual comrades.

Heard

[...]

4. Questions of individual comrades.

a) The suggestion of c. Shatskin to allow c.c. Zusmanovich and Bobryshev to go abroad illegally if they do not get visas.<sup>2</sup>

[...]

Resolved

4.

a) No objections.

Secretary of the Delegation of A-UCP(B) to the ECCI:  
Piatnitsky (Piatnitsky)

RGASPI, 508/1/55/1.

Original in Russian.

Typed.

1. This document has no direct connection with South Africa (A.Z. Zusmanovich who later on became head of the African Section at KUTV was not connected with Africa at the time of this meeting) but shows how and at what level decisions of sending Comintern emissaries abroad were taken. No similar documents on Comintern emissaries to South Africa were found in the archives.

2. Most probably, the words 'if they do not get visas' are inserted into the text by Piatnitsky.

Letter from S.P. Bunting to L. Gibarti, League Against Imperialism,  
[October 1927]<sup>1</sup>

Abs:<sup>2</sup> Central Executive Office  
4 Trades Hall  
Johannesburg

The Secretary L. Gibarti  
League against Imperialism and  
for National Independence.

Dear Comrade,

In a communication from yourself to J.T. Gumede some weeks ago touching on the work of the League against Imperialism, you draw attention to the fact that John Beckett, M.P., Executive Member of the League Section in Britain, was paying a visit to South Africa. You stated that Beckett would be only too willing to do all in his power to assist in the development of the work of the League during his sojourn here. Unfortunately expectations in this respect have not been realised. Right from the moment of his landing in South Africa, Beckett made it clear that his visit was solely concerned with certain private personal business matters.

When he arrived in Capetown he was met by a number of comrades who are interested in seeing the League progress and develop, but he could render them no assistance whatsoever. In due course he came to Johannesburg, and the Secretary and Chairman of our Party made it their business to at once get into contact with him for the purpose of asking him to assist in taking steps to bring about the formation of a committee that would devote itself to carrying out the programme of the Brussels Congress. It was pointed out to him that if he took the initiative in calling a meeting of sympathetic trade unionists and other elements, then in all probability the setting up of a committee pledged to carry on the work would result. Mr. Beckett could not see his way clear to do so.

He informed us that the tactics of the League has undergone considerable change in some respects and that it was no longer thought advisable to press for the affiliation of the native workers organisations, until such times as the white trade unions had linked up to the League. He was of opinion that it was no use attempting to set up a committee composed of European and non-European elements in this country as such effort was meantime out of the

1. The date established on the basis of the contents of the document.

2. Abs. - Absender - 'sender' in German.