

**Letter from Kuusinen and Marty to CPSA,
[14–20 September 1935]¹**

TO THE CP OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The Exec. Com. of the Comintern considers it imperative that it familiarise itself with the condition of your party and the existing differences. Therefore it is necessary for Raymond, Kotane, Roux, and Hilton to come here immediately. We demand that there be no expulsions before a decision of the Comintern. We insist that both sides refrain from any steps which could exacerbate the relations and join in the organisation and preparation of a national convention in the spirit of planned measures in full force. We hope that all members of the party will take into account the seriousness and importance of the situation, especially in the face of the threat of war against Abyssinia; that they will concentrate all their efforts on the implementation of the historically important decisions of the VII Congress of the Comintern, and first of all on the creation of a truly broad, mass, united, anti-imperialist people's front. Inform the members of the CC and comrades Kotane, Roux, and Gomas of the telegram.

Kuusinen
Marty

RGASPI, 495/64/145/24.

Original in Russian.

Handwritten, draft.

Inscription: To South Africa's file.

**Report of E. Mofutsanyana to ECCL,
20 September 1935**

REPORT

I reply to the cable sent for explanation of what is taking place, may be say that the C.P.S.A. is again passing through another historical period of its development. The present situation in the Party can to may mind be correctly

1. Judging by handwritings this document was written by Kuusinen and corrected by Marty. The date is established on the basis of the contents of documents 44, 48 and 50, vol. II.

characterised in the following terms: that both the theoretical law level of the members of our Party and the composition of its membership are unquestionable responsible to many important issues in the Party. The petty bourgeois intellectuals, stupefied by their bourgeois education fail to understand even the most¹ elementary rules of democratic centralism. Hitherto the development of the Party has mostly been hampered by the fractional fight persistently carried on by the opposition in the ranks of the Party. This elements feeling as they do that they are not only educationally but otherwise superior, the Native leadership is nothing but mockery.² Arising out of the slogan 'an Independent Native republic' they have utilised the differences of the various wrong interpretations of many uninformed comrades for their own end. Failing to get the position they are fighting for, they immediately began a campaign of lies and squander against the Party in general and against the leadership in particular to justify their own wrong conception of the slogan and many other questions at issue. Since K.³ has left for a long holiday,⁴ Dr. R.⁵ is at the head of this oppositional group. Since their fractional activities not only reflected themselves in the mass organisations, but definitely made attempts to corrupt even Party sympathisers, the Party was forced to act and to act immediately. And as a result the Dr. was suspended from the leading positions of the business and the following suspended: I. Diamond, Kagan, H. Sacks, Spilkin and Levenberg. The Dr. who is now separated from his most 'active' followers begins to waver.⁶ They had already gone to the extent of appealing to the rank and file members to ask for a conference in which the leadership would be ousted.

They have also threatened to form a new Party but it seems they already foresee the fall of such a Party. The Dr. supported by Gomas sees in the Party a 'return to the period of Wolton, a period of destruction'. He looks at the Bunting period as a period of mass bolshevik Party which was militantly struggling against imperialism. There is nothing so far to fear, for the group is not the real workers. They have also threatened to appeal for the settlement of the trouble to the C.I.

Regarding the business in general the situation is more favourable than even before and the basis of our efforts are in the basic business where for the first time in the history of this country we have made some good progress. Also the world situation has aroused the people in this country particularly more weight is at the docks. In the report which we shall forward soon we shall give

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1. There is a typed-over word after 'most'.
 2. There are square brackets in pencil in both margins beside the part of the paragraph starting from 'The present situation'.
 3. Kotane.
 4. 'Long holiday' refers to Kotane's trip to Moscow where he was summoned by the Comintern.
 5. Dr. R. and 'Dr.' - Edward Roux.
 6. There is a single line in pencil in the right margin opposite the second half of this paragraph starting from 'Since K...'.

a review of the whole Party and trade union work since the beginning of the year and also the difficulties and shortcomings we have met with.

Then procedure at the festival⁷ was misunderstood and distorted by the opposition and chiefly by Dr. In their estimation the Party had to be turned into a sort of liberal organisation accepting anyone and giving unlimited freedom to individual members. We carry on a persistent struggle against such distortions. The suspensions of those people is subject to certain conditions, such a recognising the line and leadership of the Party and carrying it out, stop slanderous and fractional activities⁸ against the Party in mass organisations and to disassociate themselves from all elements who carry on such activities. Of such statements are not forthcoming by this evening the five of them are considered as expelled from the Party. They also spread rumours among their supporters who are outside the Party that K. has specially been called to fix matters up, that their line is correct, that he is coming back as head of business and all the present directors⁹ will be removed. This is substantiated by the fact that although K.¹⁰ has been away for some time but his name has been used by the Dr. on the cable. Raymond is at present in Durban. As soon as he comes back¹¹ we will try to send him on a long holiday to witness winter sports.¹²

It is understood that all this will be a blow to us, but by hard work we are confident of our speedy recovery.

As far as the parcels¹³ are concerned we will direct all our energy to satisfy you. A cable was forwarded immediately on receipt of yours, acknowledge receipt.

E.T. Mofutsanyana

RGASPI, 495/64/149/119-21.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: 17.NOV.1935 - 6469

7. 'Festival' refers to the 7th Congress of the Comintern.

8. There is a blacked-out word after 'activities'.

9. 'Head of business and all the present directors' refers to the faction of the PB of the CPSA led by Bach, Marks and Mofutsanyana.

10. Kotane.

11. There is a typed-over word after 'back'.

12. 'Long holiday to witness winter sports' refers to sending Marks to Moscow in response to the summons of the Comintern.

13. 'Parcels' - party members to be sent to study at KUTV or at the Lenin School.