

subsequent developments towards a proletarian dictatorship and communism.  
E.R. Roux

RGASPI, 495/64/148/15-17, 20-1. For the full text of the document see:  
RGASPI, 495/64/148/15-21.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamp: illegible.

Inscriptions: several illegible numbers and words both in pen and pencil.

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**Statement of L. Bach to South African Commission,  
23 November 1935 (Extracts)**

FOURTH MEETING OF SOUTH AFRICAN COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 23, 1935

Confidential

Present: Marty (chairman), Sussmanovitch,<sup>1</sup> Mingulin, Berey,<sup>2</sup> Eugene, Henderson, Kotane, Potechin, Richter,<sup>3</sup> Patterson, Porter, Huiswoud, Grey, Randolph.

Speaker: Eugene (Bach):

[...]

Reviewing the situation as I see it I am of the opinion that during the whole period of existence of the South African Party there was practically no real Bolshevik Communist Party in South Africa. This was at all times, at all periods, during all the leadership which the South African Party has had, during the time of Bunting, during the time of Wolton and myself, during the time of Kotane, and at the time of the present leadership.

This party was established in 1921. It was imported into South Africa by a number of elements who really and truly were not Communists, against whom actually twenty one conditions of the Communist International<sup>4</sup> were directed, and for a period of about ten-twelve years the Party was working along the lines of those who had established the Party in 1921, embedded with the ideology of what is called Buntingism [...]

In his speech Comrade Kotane has accused me personally of number of questions. My time is limited, and I won't be able to deal with these accusations.

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1. Zusmanovich.

2. The identity of Berey could not be established.

3. Maurice Richter.

4. See footnote 4 to document 5, vol. I.

These accusations are, some of them, really monstrous, such that I really do not know what to say about them – for instance, one that I have bought whisky for the native comrades, I made them drunk, I instructed them to fight at the meeting, I myself was not present at the meeting, etc. Well, it is incorrect, it is entirely incorrect, it is absolutely monstrous. I want to say to Comrade Kotane that there are political disagreements, political differences between us and we are here, not at a Party meeting in Johannesburg, we are in front of a C. I. Commission, so let us for a change discuss these disagreements in a political way as to clear them up politically, and let us not bring here the methods in which we fought these political disagreements in the Party in Johannesburg [...]

If we see the various periods of the work of the Party we will see a very characteristic feature is the inability of the Party to estimate correctly and correct its mistakes. In the fight against Buntingism the Party swung to the 'left'. In the fight against the left mistakes of the leadership of Walton<sup>5</sup> and myself the Party swung to the right. In the fight against the right mistakes committed by Comrade Kotane, the Party again swung to the 'left'. Not having a clear ideological line, not realising and not understanding correctly its tasks, the line of the Party was swinging like a pendulum from one extreme to the other extreme. In the fight against the present 'left' sectarian line of the Party we have to take note of this very peculiar experience of the South African Party and to guard against it.

RGASPI, 495/60/224/93–4, 104, 109–1109. For the full text of the document see: RGASPI, 495/60/224/93–126.

Original in English.

Typed.

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### **Circular Letter – Invitation to a Meeting of Anglo-American Secretariat, 27 December 1935**

1106/35

27th of December 1935

To Comrade Randolph  
Anglo-American Sector

Comintern

Dear Comrade Randolph,

On December 31, 1935 at 4:30 P.M. there will be a closed meeting of the Secretariat at which the following questions appear on the Agenda:

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5. Walton.