

everything, better progress than amongst the whites. I am forwarding interesting cuttings from the local paper dealing with the white workers attitude towards the question of cooperation with the blacks. It is exactly as I predicted in my report to the Anglo-American Secretariat. There is absolutely nothing to be expected from that quarter. In spite of this the European members of our Party do not consider it 'practical politics' as they call it, to launch even a National Revolutionary movement amongst the blacks until such time as our lords and masters, the white worker, bestows his blessing upon us.

This attitude of the Europeans is creating distrust in the minds of our non-European comrades. It will perhaps interest you to know that during one of the 'peppy' arguments I mentioned, the question arose as to what would happen if the Party rejected the thesis and it was subsequently adopted by the National Congress<sup>1</sup> and Communist such as myself for instance worked for it within the National movement. The reply by a prominent European comrade was that I would be expelled from the Party. So you will no doubt follow that if a compromise is not arrived at it will mean a colour split in the Party. I for one am not afraid of it being very optimistic of the Party gaining a strong foothold amongst the non-European masses providing it is able to win the confidence of the non-Europeans.

I would be very pleased indeed if you would give me advice as early as possible what course to pursue should the thesis be rejected by the C.E. The non-Europeans including myself, a few Europeans as far as I know, all feel that it is the correct one. We have no desire to split the Party. But you will understand that we have a keen desire and the strong determination to emancipate ourselves from these chains of bondage that we have so long endured. And in our opinion the way to that emancipation lies through the earnest propagation of the slogan of a free and independent native republic, steps towards a workers and peasants Republic, with full safeguards for national minorities. We feel that it is our due and will work for it.

Hoping to hear from you quickly, with best wishes and revolutionary greetings to all the comrades. I have the honour to be,

Yours for the World Revolution,  
LaGuma.

RGASPI, 495/64/77/4-5.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: To Petrovsky  
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(in Russian)

1. The ANC.

**Letter from D. Petrovsky to J. La Guma,  
15 February 1928**

February 15, 1928.

Mr. Laguma,  
62, Hanover Street,  
CAPE TOWN.  
South Africa.

Dear Laguma,

Victor<sup>1</sup> has shown me your letter dated January 10. It is a pity that we have no concrete information about the stand of your colleagues on the question you raise. I will write to them today, but I want to impress upon you as strongly as I can that it would be the greatest mistake to raise at the moment the question about breaking the company.<sup>2</sup> Everything must be done in order that our point of view be accepted by all our colleagues.

Yours,  
A. Bennett.  
~~~~~

RGASPI, 495/64/77/3.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 622 - 16.FEB.1928

**Letter from D. Petrovsky to CPSA,  
15 February 1928.**

February 15, 1928.

PO Box 4179,  
JOHANNESBURG,  
South Africa.

Dear Comrades,

We have received information that there is great <sup>disagreement</sup> about our thesis concerning the question about the Native Republic. It is a great pity we have

1. Victor Demar.

2. Obviously, the Party.



not heard anything from you until this date. I wanted to call your attention to the fact that several months have elapsed since you received these theses and not a word has been said to us by you, either for or against the theses.

I would ask you urgently to do whatever possible in order to make clear to us your point of view. At any rate I hope that no final decisions against our proposal would be taken without preliminary discussion with us.

Yours,  
A. Bennett  
~~~~~

RGASPI, 495/64/77/2.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 621 – 16.FEB. 1928.

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**Letter from V. Demar to J. La Guma,  
22 February 1928**

February 22nd 1928.

My dear Laguma,

I was very glad to receive a letter from you. I completely sympathise with you in your complaints regarding our white friends who do not understand the importance and absolute necessity of working among the natives. But I think, Laguma, that you exaggerate a little the difficulties you have to face. You speak of a break. This is too much. Of course, there will be some amongst our friends who will maintain their attitude, but I do not believe that the majority will oppose the line given by the Centre.<sup>1</sup>

It is necessary to work to guarantee the complete isolation of such persons as continue to resist. But I hope no break will occur among our African friends.

There is one important matter which should be stressed, and should give a new stimulus to all our friends to increase their activities. In spite of the big statesmanlike experience just experienced by your native Reformist in Geneva and Amsterdam,<sup>2</sup> he has now been compelled – as I see from the Press – to make strong protests against the administration for preventing his union to establish local branches. This situation gives a good opportunity of explaining

1. The Comintern.

2. Obviously, Kadalie. See document 51.

to the natives the real meaning of Reformism, of Geneva, of Amsterdam, and so on. There is much work for you to do.

I hope you will continue to write to me about everything you consider important and that you and the old man<sup>3</sup> will make the most of your big trip and of everything you saw here.

Please let me know about the old man. How is he behaving? I hope everything will be all right and that you will give up a little of your pessimism as your work proceeds.

Yours,  
(Victor)  
~~~~~

RGASPI, 495/64/77/1.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 671 – 22.FEB.1928

Inscription: South Africa

(in German)

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**Minutes of Meeting, Executive Committee, CPSA,  
15 March 1928**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH  
IN ASHERS BUILDING AT 8 P.M.

PRESENT.

S.P. Bunting (Chair), T.W. Thibedi, V. Danchin, B. Weinbrenn, A.H. Michalson, M. Wolton, D.G. Wolton, W. Kalk, G. Makabeni, Phooko, R. Bunting, E.S. Sachs.

Comrade La Guma was also present.

LA GUMA'S REPORT.

Comrade LaGuma stated that as a guest of the Soviet Union he had accompanied the British, Irish and American delegations on a tour to the Caucasus.

3. Most likely, J. Gumede who was in the USSR at the same time as La Guma, in November–December 1927.