

He was owned leather factories in Smorgon, Rostov on Don, Riga and S. Africa. Was arrested by the Soviet Authorities in Rostov on Don in 1920 for, I believe, speculation. Was sentenced to deportation to Achagelsk,² but the sentence was afterwards changed for deportation to Latvia. The rest of the family left, I believe, in terms of the peace treaty.

During Soviet Latvia I was in Russia. Have never been approached by the police to work for them neither in Latvia nor in S. Africa.

L. Bach (Eugene)

10 February 1936

RGASPI, 495/279/30/12-14

Original in English.³

Handwritten.

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Draft Resolution Prepared by ECCI for Adoption by 9th Congress of CPSA,¹ 25 February 1936

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INNER PARTY SITUATION IN THE CP

Strictly confidential

The 9th Congress of the Communist Party of South African wholly and entirely subscribes to the decisions of the 7th Congress of the CI.

On the basis of the fact that the 7th Congress of the CI put before the Communists in the colonial and semi-colonial countries the necessity of working to form an anti-imperialist people's front, as one of the most important tasks, and taking into account the growth of the fascist danger in South Africa and the big changes that have taken place all over the country among the workers, the poor whites, the Native peoples, etc., the Party Congress

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2. Archangel.
3. The archives contain Bach's autobiography in Russian dated 3 November 1935 and signed 'L.Yuzhin'. (RGASPI, 495/279/30/11)

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1. Both the Russian original and the translation were, most probably, prepared by the Secretariat of A. Marty. The English text was obviously intended as an official document of the 9th party congress.

advances the following slogans as the central slogan for the formation of a wide people's front – 'For bread, land and freedom!'

'For Independent South African Republics!'

The Party Congress states that the Party did not in time understand the changing situation which has made it inexpedient in the given situation to further advance the slogan 'Independent Native Republic', formulated by the 6th Congress of the CI.

This slogan played a big role in the fight that the Party conducted under the leadership of Comrade Nzula against the Right opportunist Bunting leadership of the Party. But now new conditions: to day it does not ensure the new employment of the united front tactics formulated by the 7th Congress of the CI and the unifying of the movement of the oppressed Native peoples, the anti-British republican movement of the Boers and the workers' movement into a mighty anti-imperialist people's front. For the fascists, on the other hand, it facilitates their work in igniting nationalism and race hatred, primarily between the Natives and the whites.

The Congress also considers it necessary to point out the erroneousness of mechanically identifying the task of the national liberation struggle with the tasks of the revolutionary-democratic dictatorship of the workers and farmers, all the more so since the Native peoples can today be mobilised against imperialism but the mass of Native toilers have not yet matured to the point of raising the struggle against the chiefs of their tribes. They will mature for the solution of this second task first and foremost in the struggle against imperialism.

The Congress places on record that the Party leadership in its daily work usually appealed only to the workers, the farmers and the toilers and ignored one of the most important allies of the South African proletariat – the oppressed peoples. The Boers were considered only as an oppressing nationality. This also led to ignoring the national-reformist organisations and to a hostile attitude towards them (the African National Congress was characterised as an organisation of compradors and feudal bourgeoisie, and the ICU as a counter-revolutionary organisation) and to the anti-British Republican movement of the Boers, which made it difficult or impossible to form a united front with these national organisations, and to organise a wide people's front.

The opposition raised the question of the incorrectness of this sectarian policy of the PB, but it itself did not correctly understand this national question and therefore could not give a correct political platform. In the articles of Comrade Roux and Comrade V.M.L.² the same narrow orientation on the workers only can be seen. And Comrade Kotane shown certain elements of Native nationalism.

The Congress also condemns the struggle of many years on the question of the character of the Native bourgeoisie, in which one side – Kotane – went as

2. V.M.L.: Winifred Lunt, wife of E. Roux.

far as to deny the existence of a Native bourgeoisie, and on the other side overestimated it and forgot that these are national bourgeoisie elements of the oppressed peoples. The Congress considers the characterisation given by the CI in 1930 as correct, viz., that the 'Native bourgeoisie exists only in its embryonic form'.

The Congress considers it incorrect that the Party leadership, despite an invitation, did not send its delegate to the 7th Congress of the CI to discuss the burning questions of the Party. The Congress sharply condemns Raymond's refusal to go to Moscow on the call of the CI and also sharply condemns the conduct of Comrade Kotane who left only a year later in response to the call of the Comintern.

The Congress also considers it abnormal that since the beginning of 1933 there was not a single conference or Plenum of the Party and that the Party leadership was changed simply at the sessions of the PB in October 1934. Comrade Kotane's refusal to work with the present leadership of the Party in 1934 was also incorrect.

The Congress resolutely condemns the factional struggle lasting for years which diverted the attention of the Party from solving the burning problems of organising the people's front, shattered Party discipline and paralysed the ranks of the Party and the influence of Communism. The Party Congress demands the immediate liquidation of the factional struggle and the concentration of the attention of all Communists on the solution of the tasks arising from the organisation of a wide anti-imperialist front. In the practical work the Party will verify who is a genuine fighter for the new line of the Party and the CI.

The Congress of the Party is certain that the comrades will rectify the serious mistakes that they committed, that this will serve as a serious warning for both groups, and the Congress warns that the Party bodies will employ all measures of Party discipline, including expulsion, against all comrades who violate Party discipline, who refuse to carry out the line of the Party and who begin to struggle against the Communist Party.

RGASPI, 495/64/154/89-101.

Original in English (Comintern translation of the Russian original text. For the Russian original see: RGASPI, 495/20/658/116-26).

Typed.

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Inscriptions: 1) Tr. Russ.

(typed)

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2) 25.II.36

3) 12.2.36