

if you have the chance convey my regards to Comrades Litvinoff and Fineberg whose acquaintance I made in England.

Yours for Revolution.

W.H. Andrews.
Secretary. I.S.L.

RGASPI, 495/64/5/38-41.

Original in English

Typed on the letterhead of the International Socialist League. Copy.

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**Report of S. Barlin to Comintern
[April-June 1921]¹**

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE AT WORK FOR UNITY

At its annual conference held on the 2nd of January last, the League invited all socialist parties and groups to send delegates for the purpose of discussing the question of uniting all communist elements into one South African Communist Party. A hundred delegates attended the conference, representing the International Socialist League, Poali-Zion, Communist Party (anti-political),² various Indian industrial unions (Natal), and individual members of the South African Labour Party, Federation of Trades, native workers unions, and unattached socialists.

On the question of communist unity the delegates agreed to the following as a bases for unity.

a. No desire for unity should be allowed to have any influence in the direction of admitting any elements which do not accept the principle of and agree to affiliation with the Third International.

b. A decentralised system of feebly connected revolutionary groups is no improvement of the present position of affairs. A strongly disciplined and centralised party and with no whining for local autonomy of branches, is the only change worth aiming at.

1. Neither the date nor the addressee are indicated in the original. Judging by the contents of the document, it is S. Barlin's report to the Comintern submitted between April and June 1921.

2. The Cape Communist Party created in Cape Town in 1920. It did not accept Comintern's conditions for membership (see footnote 4 to document 5, vol. I).

c. Whatever declarations, program and constitution can be agreed upon should be submitted for approval to the Third Communist International and the party shall be bound by its decisions.

A sub-committee was appointed to draw up a report of the proceedings to be submitted to all bodies represented, with an invitation to unite into one organisation on the lines outlined.

The second unity conference was held in March. The delegates present agreed upon to form a united Communist Party of South Africa (section III Communist International) based upon the 21 points laid down at the second congress of the III International.

The newly formed Communist Party will include the International Socialist League of South Africa, Poali-Zion, the Social-democratic Federation (Cape), The Communist Party (Cape), The Jewish Socialist Party (Cape), the Marxian Club (Durban), the Socialist-Democratic Party (Durban), and individual members of the South African Labour Party. Another split was intended in the Labour Party but it appears that the time is not quite ripe yet. The newly formed United Communist Party³ will command a membership of about two thousand.

There is a broad field for propaganda to be done in South Africa in the direction of establishing a joint machine in the British colonies for united action in its struggle against British imperialism, and with the recent affiliation of the Cape Federation of Trade Unions to the Red Trade Union International the U.C.P. of South Africa⁴ is going to be a strong force in the South African Labour movement.

This congress should consider the question of two mentioned organisations and should at once proceed to establish such a machine and lay down a definite line of action for such a body which will be the driving force for a speedy British revolution.

SAM BARLIN.

RGASPI, 495/64/5/28.

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3. Communist Party of South Africa (see footnote 1 to document 5, vol. I).

4. Communist Party of South Africa.