

**Resolution of Secretariat of ECCI on the Situation in CPSA,
17 March 1936**

Strictly confidential

**ON THE POSITION IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY
OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA¹**

Having heard the information of Com. Marty on the state of affairs in the C.P. South Africa, and noting that:

a) a factional struggle has been carried on for a number of years under the cover of a scholastic discussion regarding the interpretation of the slogan of the 'Independent Native Republic' and on the question of the existence or non-existence of a Native bourgeoisie;

b) as the result of this struggle² and this discussion the Party has almost completely ignored and has disdained in a passive sectarian manner the developing movement of the workers, the Native peoples and the poor whites;

c) demoralisation, lack of discipline, are increasing in the Party, especially among its cadres;

d) the number of Party members has fallen from about 2,000 on the eve of the 6th Congress of the Comintern to 150;

And taking into consideration the fact that a further continuation of the³ scholastic discussion and the factional struggle threatens not only to lead to the complete liquidation of the Party but also to compromising the Communist movement in general for a lengthy period,

The Secretariat of the ECCI resolves:

1). To bring about an immediate stoppage of the discussion and the factional struggle, which play into the hands of the enemy (the capitalists and the authorities);

2). All who try to continue the discussion and factional struggle must be exposed as agents of the capitalists and authorities and expelled from the Party ranks;

3). Put at the basis of Communist activity a programme of action containing the chief concrete demands of the Native peoples, the workers of all races, the poor whites, all the toilers;

1. There are crossed-out words 'Document No. 4' above the title in the original.

2. There is a typed-over word before 'struggle' in the original.

3. There are two typed-over letters after 'the' in the original.

4). To concentrate the work of Communists mainly: a) in the trade union movement, to bring about a united trade union organisation of the whole South African Union and draw the majority of the workers, white and Native, into the unions, in the shortest possible time; b) the defence of the rights, interests and demands of the Native population.

5). The leadership of the Communist Party to be composed exclusively of tested activists of the trade union movement, connected with the masses, and of true and loyal activists of the Native movement.

6). To make a check-up of the present 150 members and mobilise the best and healthiest among them around the programme of action and for actual work in the trade unions and among the Natives;

7). The editorial board of Umzebenzi to be composed of tested comrades who can really carry out this line, so as to convert the paper into a centre for uniting and organising the working class and trade union movement, the movement of the Natives and the poor whites. To carry on a campaign for forming a single daily paper for the united trade union movement.

8). Only after all these measures have been carried out in the main, to call a Party conference for consolidating the results achieved. To raise the question of forming a monthly Party organ of the magazine type.

9). To select about 10-12 loyal and well-developed Communists from among the Natives and local whites for sending to the school.

10). The responsibility for carrying out this decision to be laid on Comrade X.⁴

RGASPI, 495/20/655/30-1.

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2) Approved at the meet.

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Secretariat of ECCI

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3) COLLECTOR

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4. G. Hardy ('X' is the first letter of his surname in Russian).