

at the present moment. The League did very good work for a year, but many mistakes have been made and the result was that the good work of the League went to pieces. We have to pay serious attention to the revision of this movement again. I would like to say a few words in connection with the internal situation here. I think Comrade Basner said very correctly that we must devise ways and means of building a Bolshevik Party that will be acceptable for leading the masses in this country. And this is what we have to do. When I say that I want to touch on the inner situation of the Party I mean that unless we have within the Party leadership that will be solid, that will stand together and point out the correct line, we shall not have a Communist Party. Therefore, the first thing we have to consider is the creation of unity and consequently the Bolshevik Party in South Africa.

RGASPI, 495/14/343/3, 5-8.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 23.OCT.1936 no. 4804

(in Russian)

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Address of J. Mpama to Sixth National Conference, CPSA, September 1936 (Extract from Conference Minutes)

September 1936

[...]

CONFERENCE REPORT.

JOSEPHINE MOFUTSANYANA

Much has been said and ground well covered. As communists we are popular for our speeches and we must also prove by our deeds. Comrade Welcome should not have left the Convention but should as a Communist have remained and shown the correct line. I am glad that Welcome is now a Party member. We have followed the A. Convention¹ closely and I am sure that it is the mightiest movement which will shock the ruling class. The fact that they offered a compromise on the Native Bills means that Hertzog saw the Natives were uniting to fight against oppression. We must work in the Convention and build it up. During the Abyssinian War the dockers in Cape Town were

1. Most probably, All-African Convention.

aroused but although protests took place we did not do enough. If all the Africans were organised like the dock workers no boats would have been loaded with supplies for Italian troops. The position today is very precarious. Mussolini is training a large Native army. Spain is attacked by Fascists and war on a big scale can break out any day. African workers must help the workers in Europe to fight for their liberty. Peace is only possible by action of the workers.

With regard to the question of women we must change our attitude and realise that women's place is not only in the kitchen. Women must be brought to meetings. We must win the masses who are under the influence of the churches by getting them to fight for better conditions. The 7th World Congress stressed the necessity of organisation. Today conference show we have made a turn, although we have been rather late in starting up. We must build our Party in S.A. which will attract all the poor people and become a mighty mass party. We must build up unity in the movement. In regard to the question of schools and Kaffir Beer² I want to say a few words. Natives must have the opportunity to get Kaffir Beer, the food of their fathers. Europeans are allowed to drink liquor. We must demand schools, free of charge for Native children. European comrades must help in this work. In conclusion, we must build a mass party. Our composition is bad. We have no Afrikaners and not enough Natives. We must bring all nationalities into the Party and we must speak to people in their mother tongue.

RGASPI, 495/14/343/54-5. For the full text of the Minutes see: RGASPI, 495/14/343/1-154.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

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Letter from J.B. Marks to ECCI, [1936]¹

REPORT FROM COM. FLEET, SOUTH AFRICA. PARIS

I am at the out set lodging a very vigorous protest against the attitude of the comrades in the C.I. who are responsible for the South African Section. This I

Doc. 70

2. See footnote 4 to document 56, vol. II.

Doc. 71

1. The archives contain a typed copy of the same text with an inscription 'Raimond-Marks' at the top of the first page, and stamps: '3.NOV.1936 no. 4928' and '8 Incom. no. 303, 9.XI.1936'. However, the letter was clearly written long before the dates that the Comintern incoming stamps indicate.