

I had to write the second part of the report in a hurry and in an inconvenient situation. I am afraid that it will not be possible to read it without typing it beforehand. (There are no secrets there, except for the part about the Party).

RGASPI, 495/19/189/1.

Original in Russian.

Handwritten.

Stamped: No. 2415 10.AUG.1929

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**Circular of League of African Rights,  
1 September 1929**

LEAGUE OF AFRICAN RIGHTS.

Address:-  
41a, Fox Street (Box 4179),  
Johannesburg.  
1st September, 1929.

**President:**

J.T. Gumede.

**Vice-President:**

A. Modiagotla.

**Secretaries:**

A. Nzula.

E.R. Roux.

**Chairman:**

S.P. Bunting.

**Vice-Chairman:**

N.B. Tantsi.

M. Kotane.

S.M. Kotu.

**Treasurers:**

C. Baker.

S.P. Bunting.

**Committee:**

B. Molobi.

T.W. Thibedi.

Dear Sir,

We desire to call your attention to the objects of the above league, as set forth in the enclosed copy of its constitution. As you will see, it has been formed with the definite object of launching a 'Petition of Rights', to which it is hoped to obtain a million signatures, embodying some of the most elementary demands of the Native, Coloured and Indian people of the Union, to be

supported by meetings, processions and demonstrations, all culminating on Dingaan's Day<sup>1</sup> next.

The League's appeal is to the entire non-European population, whether organised or not, but it is desired to enlist the support of all non-European associations, etc., whose organisational machinery can be of great assistance, especially in obtaining signatures for the petition and in calling public meetings.

We may add that the League is in no way designed to supplant or interfere with any existing bodies; it only invites their co-operation in this particular campaign, which, we may add, is a perfectly constitutional one. It is felt that the demands are common to practically all the bodies concerned and are such as to command absolutely unanimous support from all non-European and even from the more liberal European elements. The promoters of the League have no other object in view than to see that its task is successfully carried out on a pan-South African scale, if possible before General Hertzog's Native Bills are put through, for it is contemplated that such a demonstration of solidarity on the part of the subject races cannot but give the Government pause in its reactionary proposals.<sup>2</sup>

In the hope that you will assist in the work, we enclose ..... forms of petition (Nos. .... to .....), and ask you, and with you any organisation with which you may be connected, to take up actively in the interest of yourself and your countrymen the task of getting signatures and arranging meetings of support. The signature of every adult African (including Coloured and Indian) should be solicited (and also of any European sympathiser), whether educated or illiterate, voter or non-voter, men and women, in town and in country. Signatures can be written on both sides of the sheet. In the case of those who cannot write, the name and address should be written out for them and they should affix their mark ('X') immediately after the name.

As soon as five sheets have been filled up they should be returned to us, and so on, five at a time. The matter is urgent, especially in view of the Nationalist Party demand for immediate anti-native legislation and of General Smuts' proposal to tighten up the Native Administration Act. The petition must therefore be proceeded with AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. In order to produce the desired effect we look not to the mere presentation of the

1. Dingaan (Dingane) Day – the day of the Battle of the Blood River (16 December 1838) when advancing Boer commandos defeated Zulu warriors under their ruler Dingaan (Dingane, 1795–1840), slaughtering thousands. The day became a symbol of victory for the Boers, commemorated as the 'Covenant Day'. The CPSA and later the ANC turned it into the day of protests and a symbol of struggle, commemorating it as the 'Heroes' Day'. After 1994 it became a public holiday, the 'Day of Reconciliation'.
2. There is a single line in pencil in the left margin opposite this paragraph.

petition, but to the enormous number of signatures which it is hoped to obtain.

We need hardly say that there is NO OBLIGATION WHATEVER ON ANYONE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE or pay any subscription or donation to it or to buy its badge. Signing the petition is one thing and joining the League another. It is, however, desired that the League shall be a real and permanent body, and, as you will see, the constitution provides for membership, local branches, etc., as well as for affiliation of other bodies.

The League will have important work before it for years to come and will need all the strength derived from a rank and file membership, for, as you will see, it is a democratically controlled body, especially with regard to its finances. You will therefore, we hope, invite anyone who has signed the petition to become a member of the League also. The subscription, 1/- per year, is put designedly low in the hope of attracting thousands to join. Every individual member on paying his first shilling becomes entitled to the League's badge, and we send herewith ..... badges accordingly, which you will please issue only against payment of the shilling in cash.

The subscriptions (i.e. proceeds of sale of badges) will constitute the only funds of the League, and will be used solely for furthering its objects and in particular for sending out organisers to canvass for signatures for the petition and to hold meetings. The more members the larger the funds available for this work.

If a branch of the League is formed in your locality, half the amount of the subscription will be retained by the branch for these purposes, only the other half being sent to headquarters. If no branch is formed the whole amount should be remitted to headquarters. We ask you to make a point of seeing that remittances to headquarters are made promptly by Postal Order (payable to S.P. Bunting) as soon as £1 is due to headquarters (after deducting necessary postage, cost of Postal Order and other petty disbursements).

Please write the letter M in the margin of the petition in front of the name of every signatory who becomes a member of the League. If a branch is formed the branch secretary should copy out from the petition the names and addresses of these members. These will make up the branch membership roll.

The holding of mass meetings, demonstrations, etc., must necessarily be left to local effort by yourself and your friends, but you will appreciate the tremendous value of the simultaneous and unanimous demonstrations on Dingaan's Day in particular, to which all other meetings held should lead up as a climax; and we ask you to make all necessary arrangements accordingly in your district. Of course it will be at meetings that signatures will be most quickly obtained.

Please advise us as soon as you require a further supply of petition forms and badges.

In the hope that you will see in this arduous but important work the very best service that can be rendered at the present time to the subject people of Africa.<sup>3</sup>

We remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
A. NZULA.  
E.R. ROUX.  
Joint Secretaries.

RGASPI, 495/64/85/12.

Original in English.

Printed.

Stamped: 3900 - 27.NOV.1929

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**Report of D.G. Wolton to ECCL,  
20 September 1929**

REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA

September 20th, 1929

Shortly after the conclusion of the 6th World Congress of the C.I. the 7th Annual Conference of the C.P.S.A. was held in Johannesburg.

At this conference the new Party line, as approved by the C.I., was laid before the delegates after a wide, though incomplete, preparatory discussion by all Party organs.

After the opening of the Conference, the Credentials Committee reported the presence of 18 native delegates and 10 white delegates, representing an aggregate party membership of 3,000.

During the discussion on the C.I. resolution, which lasted for a whole day, practically all the delegates participated. The whites for the most part opposed the resolution, partly through unclear understanding and the rest through a social-democratic outlook. The native delegates, whilst not following all the intellectual hair-splitting of some of the white delegates, supported the resolution on race grounds. Ultimately the resolution was put, and only four votes were cast against. Thus it was carried by a big majority.

3. There is a single line in pen in the left and right margins opposite this sentence in the original.