

**Address of A. Marty to his Secretariat¹,
11 March 1937**

Strictly Confidential

MEETING OF SECRETARIAT OF COMRADE MARTY MARCH 11, 1937.

Present: Comrades Marty (chairman), Ercoli, Mingulin, Arnot, Randolph, Hardy, Raylock, Davidson, Naumann.

MARTY: A year ago we discussed here the situation in South Africa. At that time, it was evident that there was growing in South Africa a mass movement; secondly, there was also developing a national movement amongst the Afrikaans, Boors, and thirdly, a good mass movement amongst the Natives.

It was clear at that time that many efforts were made in the country to unify the whole movement. We spoke of the Workers' and Farmers' Party.

At the same time the mass movement was growing, our Party was split into two or three factions. They were discussing for the last 7 years the question of the character of the Independent Native Republic, and also whether or not there was a Native bourgeoisie. It was a schematic interpretation of the whole line of the E.C.C.I.

I must say that I ~~am~~^{was} quite astonished when I once more found in my folder a note: 'The C.I. on the slogans of the Independent Native Republic and Tasks of the CP in South Africa'. I had thought that this question was dead, that the ~~barrier~~^{burial} ~~was~~^{finished} ~~down~~^{~~~~~}, and I do not understand why we have to repeat once more the same things, the same question, ~~a theoretical document~~, the decision of the Secretariat of the ECCI on that question.

These are not good methods – to give only a part of the document. If anyone wants to know this question once more, I suggest that we do not take it up now, but later. The thing is mainly that the decision of the Secretariat of the E.C.C.I. is not here.

Therefore I propose not to discuss once more this question; it is a decision of the Secretariat and I think Comrade Hardy will give us much more interesting news than that question.

The two fractions of the leadership of the Party, one led by Raimond and the other by Ruhe² and Katane, wired to us. We called them. Katane came here; the leadership of the Party sent Richter,³ and Raimond came five months later, too late to come to Moscow.

1. 'Secretariat of Com. Marty' was the official name of Anglo-American secretariat after the 7th Congress of the Comintern.

2. Roux.

3. Maurice Richter.

At that time, our appreciation, a year ago, was that the main question is to work to develop the mass movement in South Africa, to build a people's front there.

Comrade Hardy returned. I agree entirely with his proposals – to explain to the Commission the main questions on the situation in South Africa. This means, the growing of fascism in South Africa, of German and British fascism; the danger it represents, and also the work connected with them, and the Trotskyites in South Africa. This means that the South African question is an actual question.

Secondly, according to his proposal, Comrade Hardy will give to us some of the essential elements of the mass movements amongst the Natives, the Boers and among the workers, and then the situation of the main parties. This means, the line and the perspectives of the Malan Party,⁴ the white Nationalist Party, our position in face of the Labour Party, our tactic for the next general elections, which Comrade Hardy mentioned, the situation of our Party, the National Conference, the question of members and cadres. Comrade Hardy will give us a picture of the cadres, a living picture.

I think this is the best way to know the question because he has seen them in action, in the daily work and he can very easily advise us which are the cadres of the Party, of the Trade Union movement, of the Native movement, and the perspectives.

Comrade Hardy made these proposals. I think they are very good and I propose to the Commission to accept the line of the report of Comrade Hardy.

RGASPI, 495/14/349/231–3.

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4. 'Malan Party' – Purified National Party.