

**Statement of A. Marty and Responses, A. Marty's Secretariat,  
17 March 1937<sup>1</sup>**

MEETING OF SECRETARIAT ON SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION 17.3.37

Confidential

Speaker: Marty (sub-report)

I have not seen in the material the information that we got in the South African paper, explaining that in Berlin a young South African citizen is now the chief of a new department in the Foreign Office which is in charge of South African questions. This is an explanation of why the Nazi propaganda is now so important in South Africa. Also why they are building organisations and why terrorist acts are beginning on the part of the Nazis in South Africa.

The second important point is that plenty of new organisations are growing in South Africa amongst workers, Natives, Afrikaaners and so on, and one characteristic is the following: plenty of splittings are now taking place in South Africa in all organisations. For example, the Labour Party organised on the basis of individual membership. The Labour Party of South Africa has nothing to do with the Labour Party in England. It has been split twice, first by the creation of a Farmers and Workers Party, and second by the creation of a Socialist Party, etc. It means that Nazis and intelligence services are working for splitting all organisations. For that the steps taken by our party on the line decided by the Secretariat are insufficient.

The Secretariat decided here exactly one year ago the 17th of March a general line, very concrete. The line is right. Nothing has to be changed. But the building of the mass movement, well, something must be done. Truly the work of Comrade Hardy was pretty good in the trade union movement, etc., but the people's front not sufficient.

- Comrade Hardy was as a commissar, he commanded the whole affair?

No, no, I mean that Comrade Hardy helped the Party, but the Party was obliged to decide itself. He did not take the place of the Party. But for the building of the people's front he did not do enough, also in explaining our line to the Party. I have here all the resolutions of the conference. They are too long, very long and this is very difficult for these people to understand. They are primitive people. Plenty of them cannot read. The resolutions were too long. All things have been written in these resolutions which are not very good. For example, the main resolution for preparing the conference about political

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1. Evidently A. Marty was responding primarily to information contained in G. Hardy's report written for the Secretariat and presented at the same meeting.

situation in South Africa. It is very long, and in it there is written firstly: 'let us learn from European experience, where the treacherous social democrats refused the proposals for unity made by the Communist Parties as in Germany and Austria fascism came to power'. And later the resolution explains: 'Learning from these tragic experiences, the Communist International proposes the building of a broad united front movement,' etc., and creating the people's front in France, etc. I think this is very bad because it was contrary to the Seventh Congress where the report of Comrade Dimitrov explains that we are basing ourselves on the French experience. So the resolutions have been too long and some questions not dealt with correctly.

- Did Comrade Hardy take part in drawing up these resolutions? Did he write them?

- Hardy - I took part in drawing them up, but I did not write them, they are absolutely written by the Comrades themselves. Comrade Mofutsanyana wrote the political report. Comrade Wolfson - the trade union report and Kalk - the Native question.

Marty - Thirdly, we have nothing in the Afrikaaner movement. This movement among the English we have the trade unions. But amongst the poor whites, the Boers, the Nazis are working very hardly. These people have the old Republican tradition, but we have nothing amongst them. Since last year we have not a single person in the Boer movement.

Fourthly, Comrade Hardy told us that it was a mistake not to clear the Party entirely of such people as Rue<sup>2</sup> and Raymond. Well, it was written in the resolution of the Secretariat, the second point 'All who try to continue the discussion on the factional struggle must be exposed as agents of capitalists and agents of Trotskyists and expelled from the Party.' At that time we did not know anything about the factional struggle and we told Comrade Hardy to please investigate whether there are not some Trotskyite elements in South Africa. But the resolution was very clear: who continues the factional struggle, expel from Party.

But I think in general we made good progress since the resolution. Plenty of leaders are ours, working for unity in the trade union movement. In the Native movement and All-African Convention we made also good progress. In the new leadership of the All-African Convention we have good comrades, members of the Party and sympathisers. Our Party itself does not grow. It has 100, 120 members. But they are not the same. Formerly one year ago, almost all the leaders were factional people. Now almost all the leaders are mass workers, coming from the trade union movement or coming from the Native movement. There are only a few people like Raymond and Rue<sup>3</sup> who remained until now in the Party, but not in the leadership. So I think that the

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2. Roux.

3. Roux.



work done in South Africa, owing to the big difficulties of the country, owing to the very bad situations, is pretty good.

Now we have the basis for going forward. As a decision I propose only to accept as a basis the draft of the resolution, which is the same as that of last year. Also the programme of action, it is the same. We have only changed some small parts, but in general it is the same. This programme of action must be concretised by the leadership of the Party to fit the situation in the country, and prepared by the Party itself to be a basis of the mass movement in South Africa.

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RGASPI, 495/20/664/14-17.

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(in German)

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### Decision of Secretariat, ECCI,

3 April 1937<sup>1</sup>

Strictly confidential

#### DECISION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE E.C.C.I. ON THE C.P. OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

1. To propose to the Central Committee of the C.P.S.A. to enter into permanent connection with the Central Committee of the C.P.G.B.
2. To propose to the C.C. of the C.P.G.B. to assume responsibility for giving constant help to the C.P.S.A., sending advice which will aid the C.P.S.A. to carry out its tasks.
3. The C.C. of the C.P.G.B. should invite to London two or three members of the C.C. C.P.S.A. who will together with the Polit-Buro and Comrade Hardy discuss fully the essential questions before the C.P.S.A. and communicate the results of this discussion to the E.C.C.I. To the C.C. C.P.G.B. will be sent the prepared Draft Program of Action<sup>2</sup> and the Draft Resolution<sup>3</sup> to be used as materials. The necessity of clearing out of the Party all untrustworthy elements must be thoroughly examined in this discussion. The question should also be

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1. The archives contain a Russian version of the same text signed by G. Dimitrov, O. Kuusinen, R.P. Arnot, G. Hardy (RGASPI, 495/18/1185/272-3).

2. See document 67, vol. II.

3. Most probably, the reference is to the resolution of the Secretariat of the ECCI passed in March 1936 (see document 63, vol. II).