

have antagonised the chiefs against us and use coercive measures against us in our work to stifle our Association.

The only organisation in South Africa that has extended a helping hand to us is the Communist Party. We have already affiliated our organisation with the League Against Imperialism.

From the Communist Party we had the chance to get and read the *Negro Worker* edited by you and as I do not get it regularly I applied for its subscription to the Communist Party and I was given to know that it is not for sale; and as this journal is most needful and instructive I beg to lodge my application before you to send me few copies of the above mentioned journal to keep our organisation in close connection with the world movement of Negro Workers.

Within a short space of time we shall organize the agricultural Association with which to protect our people from further falling prey and victims to the local capitalist agents, which we shall affiliate to your organisation.

I am,
Sir
Your humble servant
Maphutseng Lefela

RGASPI, 534/7/77/49-50.

Original in English.

Handwritten.

Stamped: Profintern Secretariat No. 16/23/2 - 22.XI.1929 (in Russian).

Inscription: 'See minutes no. 63 of the Secretariat about the affiliation to Profintern of the Federation of Natives of Basutoland'² (in Russian).

2. From minutes no. 63 of the meeting of the Secretariat of the Profintern, 15 November 1929: 'Question: Organisation of Natives of Basutoland joining the Profintern (c. Lozovsky). Decided: To note the information about the joining. To charge the ITUCNW together with the Eastern Department of the Profintern to draft a reply from the Executive Bureau on establishing contacts and the request to explain what kind of information this is. (RGASPI, 534/3/408/1).

The reply of 24 November 1929 signed by the secretary of the Profintern, A. Lozovsky, and addressed to the Acting President of the Lekhotla la Bafo, J. Tsuene, read: 'Dear Comrade, it gives me a great pleasure to confirm the receipt of your application for joining the Profintern. It is a great support of our work when organisations of the oppressed and exploited peoples appeal to us for assistance and advice [...] I ask you to pass on fraternal greetings of the Profintern to the oppressed people of Basutoland and to assure it of the moral support of its struggle against capitalism and imperialism on the part of the world revolutionary trade union movement headed by the Profintern'. (RGASPI, 534/6/24/69).

In May 1930 the Secretariat of the Profintern received M. Lefela's letter of 24 April 1930 addressed to George Padmore, at that time member of the Executive Bureau of the Profintern. The letter contained confirmation of the receipt of *The Negro Worker* and the request to publish M. Lefela's article and Lekhotla la Bafo's open letter to heads of 12 states and to the British Colonial secretary (both enclosed). (RGASPI, 534/7/77/55-74).

**Draft Telegram, Political Secretariat, ECCI to CPSA,
15 October 1929¹**

Confidential

MATERIAL FOR THE SESSION OF THE POLIT-SECRETARIAT,
OCTOBER 16, 1929.

Draft Telegram to South Africa

The struggle against the Native Bill must be waged not through petitions, but in a revolutionary manner. The Party must take the initiative and the leadership in this struggle without fusing with and without giving over the leadership to the reformists, as has been the case with Gumede. The auxiliary organisations can be utilised only if they are based on a mass movement and on local organisations – committees of action, etc. Proclaim December 16² as a day of national disgrace and struggle, conduct broad militant demonstrations under the slogans:

1. Down with the Native Bill, the pass law, and all restrictions of the rights of the natives.
2. Down with the entire system of oppression and plunder of the natives' land.
3. Long live the native republic.
4. United front of the native toilers and the white workers under the leadership of the Communist Party.

Factory meetings should be held on the eve, by all means penetrating the mines. With the aid of the trade unions and other organisations, short strikes with political slogans and demands that December 16th be paid for, should be declared.

1. The Russian original (RGASPI, 495/64/84/14) contains the following postscript: 'Com. Manuilsky! The Eastern secretariat (including myself) supports sending this telegram immediately, a letter would take two months. G. Safarov.' (in Russian). Nasonov crossed this text out and wrote below it: 'The present directive is offered by the Negro Section and has been approved of by the Eastsecretariat. It is necessary to send it as a telegram because the letter may take until the end of November – the beginning of December. Nasonov' (in Russian).

2. Dingane Day. See footnote 1 to document 73, vol. I.

This is proposed by the Negro Section in agreement with the Eastern Secretariat.

The telegram should be despatched as a letter would not reach before the end of November or the beginning of December.

Nasonov.

RGASPI, 495/64/84/17.

Original in English (Comintern translation of the Russian original text).

Typed.

Inscription: Urgent. Confidential.

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**Coded Telegram from S.P. Bunting to Comintern,
25 October [1929]¹**

Petition form of mass protest involves local organisations no danger fusion
reformist leadership suggestions December noted send up to date funds.

Bunting.²

RGASPI, 495/19/189/21.

Original in English.

Typed.

Inscriptions: 1) From Johannesburg 25/10, 16.10 (all typed)
2) Received 30/10, 13.00 (in German)
3) Decoded 1/XI, 09.45 (in German)

1. The year established on the basis of the contents of the document.
2. The Russian translation of the full text of the telegram follows on the same list with incorrect transliteration of Bunting's name: 'Bentink'.

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Letter from E. Roux to ECCL, 30 October 1929

Communist Party of South Africa
P.O. Box 4179,
Johannesburg.
30 October 1929

To the E.C.C.I.

Dear Comrades,

We have received the following cable, dated Berlin, 22 October:

'Struggle against native bills and all other oppression must be waged not through petitions, but (in a) revolutionary manner. (The) Party must take initiative and leadership in (the) struggle without fusing with or giving leadership to reformists, as is (the) case (with the) League of Rights. (Au)xiliary organisations can be utilised only if based on mass movement and on local organisations – committees (of) action, etc. Proclaim December 16 as day (of) national disgrace and struggle. Conduct broad militant demonstrations under the slogans: (1) Down with Native Bills, pass law, all restrictions of rights of natives. (2) Down with entire system of oppression and plunder of Natives' land. (3) Long live Native Republic. (4) United front of Native toilers and white workers under the leadership of the (Communist) Party. Factory meetings should be held on the eve of the demonstration. By all means penetrate the mines. With the help of Weinbren's and other organisations on December 14 call stoppage for the whole day; if not possible then stoppage before time under political slogans and demand pay for December 16. Inform us of receipt of cable. Your friend E.C.C.I.'¹

Our reply by cable was sent on 25 October, as follows:

'Petition (is a) form of mass protest; involves local organisations; no danger (of) fusion (or) reformist leadership. Suggestions December noted.'²

We enclose copies of the constitution, ~~petition form~~ and circular letter³ of the League of African Rights. In taking the initiative in the formation of the League, we have been acting on the decision of the Sixth Congress (and also the suggestion of Comrade Merker, when he was here in June) to try to unite 'existing embryonic national organisations among the Natives, such as the

1. For the draft version of the telegram referred to by Roux see document 77. Notice that the final version of the telegram quoted here contained an additional sentence demanding a general strike on 14 December. The words in brackets are, obviously, the result of the deciphering of the cabled text by the Party leadership.
2. See document 78, vol. I.
3. See document 73, vol. I.