

and its decisions, but we have here a popularisation of Gandhi and Gandhi-ism. The articles are of a very nationalistic character. It gives an impression that an attempt is being made to build up a new magazine, at first under cover of complete neutrality to the Party, in order to be able to utilise it, when strengthened, against the Party.

- (5) It is also suspicious that neither Kotane nor Gomez (district organiser in Capetown and former factionalist) have not in recent months been writing for 'The South African Worker', the official organ of the Party.

I propose that we immediately find out if the British comrades, in order to carry through the Secretariat decisions of April 3rd, have called to England ^{any} comrades from South Africa. If this has not yet been done, then it would be advisable to send Comrade H. to South Africa immediately.⁴

Comradely yours,
ANDRE MARTY.

RGASPI, 495/14/352/74.

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: 7.5.37

SS/1

(typed)

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Minutes of Meeting, PB of CPSA,

11 June 1937

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PB OF CPSA HELD IN JOHANNESBURG ON FRIDAY THE 11TH JUNE 1937.

Present: – Comrades Mofutsanyana, Wolfson, Kalk and Josie Mpama.

Comrade Wolfson said that after discussion with Com. Mofutsanaya it was decided to call this meeting to discuss a plan as to how the work in the Johannesburg district could be improved, as there seemed to be lack of co-ordination and the pb was not giving the lead it should. The work should be divided in the best possible manner and leading comrades should also undertake the task of leading, and not merely being passengers. He then submitted the following plan:-

4. The last paragraph of the letter is crossed out in the original. In the left margin there is an inscription in pencil in Marty's handwriting: 'Shown to H. Pollitt for the sequel, 15/V/37, A.M.'

ORGANISATION OF PARTY WORK (JOHANNESBURG DISTRICT)

1. District Party Committee must receive reports in writing of all activities and after collation submit them to pb. DPO must lead work and take up all important political questions, in Johannesburg area.

Party groups to be organised in Sophiatown, Ferrieratown, Doornfontein, Vrededorp and City.

Trade Union committee must meet fortnightly regularly.

Trade Union groups in following industries: – Clothing, Hairdressing, Building, Furniture, Trades Council, Railways, textile, distributive, Native Co-ordinating committee, Leather, Stone, Tin, Baking.

Mass organisations groups must work in following: -

Vigilance Committees, All-African Convention, Congress,¹ FSU, Spanish Committee, Jewish Workers Club, Left Book Club, University, Labour Party, Youth League, Peoples Bookshop, Peoples Front.

S.A. Worker must be organised: – Editorial, new writers and good board to suggest new improvements.

Circulation, people to sell and get subscribers. Readers Leagues in various suburbs.

Propaganda groups to sell literature at factories and at meetings.

Finance: – Committee to be appointed to undertake functions in houses of sympathisers, party concerts, collections from sympathisers, guarantors fund.

Immediate tasks: – Campaign to make known and expose new legislation such as Industrial Conciliation Act, Marketing Act, Wage Act, Native Laws Amendment Act, Conscription policy in every group, in every locality, and also arrange a mass central meeting.

Education Commission: – Party to give evidence, discuss this question in all groups, prepare and draft memorandum, and give evidence to Commission.

Municipal Election, Party to start work in those wards in conjunction with Labour Party.

Party School: – Appointment of tutors and arrangement of classes.

Rearrangement of functionaries.

Recruiting of new members.

Campaign against trotskyism.

Comrades Kalk and Mofutsanayana agreed with the plan submitted and the meeting then resolved as to how to carry it out.

PB to hold regular fortnightly meetings.

Comrade Mofutsanayana suggested a PB member to visit every group.

Aggregate meeting to be held on Saturday afternoon 26th June at 2.30 p.m.

Party Groups the following leaders to be confirmed:-

1. Obviously, the ANC.

Sophiatown J. Mpama, Ferriera, N. Nikin, Doornfontein, S. Rosenblatt, Vrededorp, M. Thomas, Benoni Com. Peter,² Pimville, Com. Thibedi. Eastern Native Township and Prospect not fixed.

DPC Consists of Comrades, Kruger, Josie, Malie, Joe,³ Thomas, Kalk, Glavin,⁴ Radebe, Nikin, Rosenblatt, Landman and Fleet.

Work of groups to include mass sale of our paper and daily grievances of areas in which they work.

Propaganda Dept. PB to prepare notes for speakers and to train new speakers. Malie, Radebe and Joe to be instructed to speak on Sundays.

Decided to call a meeting of doctors and teachers in connection with the Education Commission.

Decided to reprint the International Control Commission's report in connection with the exclusion of L. Bach, M. and P. Richter,⁵ and also to write an article on the danger of undesirable elements creeping into the party.

2. The identity of Peter could not be established.

3. The identity of Joe could not be established.

4. Galvin.

5. The report and the decisions of the International Control Commission on Bach and the Richters was quoted in *The Communist International* (March–April 1937, no. 3–4 pp. 263–4) in the article 'The Accomplices of Trotskyism in the Ranks of the Communist Party' as follows: '... the case of the brothers Richter (Maurice and Paul) and Lazarus Bach (Jack Yuzhin). For a number of years they were closely connected with the Trotskyist Jacob Berman, brother of Berman-Yurin, who was shot last year, and with whom they associated until he was actually arrested. Berman-Yurin was in the habit of having his correspondence addressed to the flat previously rented by him and later occupied by Paul Richter, apparently not considering it possible to use his own address. The Richters and Bach assert that they knew nothing of the counter-revolutionary Trotskyist activity of the Bermans, but who are these people, so trustful of the Trotskyists, who would now like the Party to accept their explanations?

Bach is the son of a factory owner once condemned by the Soviet courts for speculation, who then left for Latvia. Bach concealed this fact from the Party until recently. In Latvia Bach lived with his father, who again opened a factory, and at the same time allegedly belonged to the Communist Party. Then, together with his father, he went to South Africa, still living with his father who there also became a factory owner. Then Bach took part in disruptive factional work in the Communist Party of South Africa.

The Central Committee of the C.P. of Latvia denies that he belonged to the Communist Party while he lived in Latvia. In the USSR, Bach got into contact with elements undeserving of confidence, and hid the fact from the Party.

Paul and Maurice Richter were born in Latvia from whence they also emigrated to South Africa. After travelling in various countries they finally decided to settle down in the USSR, where they moved in circles hostile to the Party and the Soviet government. There is nothing anywhere to show in what their adherence to the Communist Party was expressed.

The International Control Commission decided to expel Lazarus Isaacovich Bach (Jacob Yuzhin), as an element undeserving of the Party's confidence, for concealing from the Party what sort of an individual his father, a speculator condemned by the Soviet courts, actually was, for failing to inform the Party of the anti-Party behaviour of his friends, and for insincerity to the International Control Commission. Paul Richter and Maurice Richter have been expelled from the Party as individuals whose entry into the Party was fortuitous, and as not deserving confidence.'

DPO.⁶ Decided that Com. Marks be removed immediately⁷ and that Com. Josie⁸ be appointed assisted by Com. Mofutsanyana.

Party School: – Comrade Kalk to conduct a special class to train up new cadres. PB to select names of students.

Circulation:- S.A. Worker. Joffe⁹ to be in charge.

Umsebenzi, DPO

All groups to co-operate and each group to be in charge of paper, and also one in charge of literature.

It was also decided to deal with Com. Joffe for making a statement to non party sympathiser about Bachs expulsion to the effect that He warned Bach not to go to the Ussr. Also decided to deal with the case of Marks at same meeting. Meeting fixed for tomorrow Saturday at 2.30 p.m.

Meeting closed.

RGASPI, 495/14/350/25–6.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: Incom. no. 4400 | C

(in Russian)

‘10’ XI 1937

6. There is a typed-over word before ‘DPO’.

7. Since Marks’s return from the Soviet Union in 1934 rumours spread in the party circles that Marks was a police spy. These rumours were based on the information that back in 1930 Marks was approached by the police who asked him to work for them. He agreed because, in his own words, he ‘was at that time unemployed and starving’ – but immediately reported the episode to the then leadership of the party. They decided to ignore it as insignificant. (RGASPI, 495/64/145/43). In 1935 the rumours were discussed by the PB and dismissed as ‘unfounded’. However, the information about this episode served as a foundation for ECCI’s verdict on Marks: ‘suspected of ties with the enemy’ (see footnote 2 to document 71, vol. II). Luckily for Marks he avoided punishment for that. He was expelled for the breach of discipline (see document 81, vol. II).

8. Josie Mofutsanyana.

9. Louis Joffe.