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**Draft telegram, CPGB to CPSA,
10–11 December 1929**

DRAFT OF CABLE TO COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Strongly support E.C.C.I. cable regarding League¹ emphatically condemn white chauvinism expressed such intermediate organisation for politically immature elements unanxious have in party (stop) Reformist programme and petition not equivalent mass revolutionary agitation but correct form united front from below for immediate issues mass struggle as seen League against Imperialism (stop) Suggest make Conference demonstration with native republic slogan leadership Communist Party postponing organisation League African Rights we deny agreement stated your letter to ECCI writing.²

RGASPI, 495/64/85/13.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 57 – 1.JAN.1930

Inscriptions 1) England

(in Russian)

2) 1929

(in Russian)

3) 10/11 Dec 1929

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**Letter from A. Nzula to ECCI,
11 December 1929**

Communist Party (S.A.).

Johannesburg.

11 December 1929.

E.C.C.I.

Dear Comrades,

Since we wrote to you in reply to your letter about ^{the} League of African Rights, matters of some importance have taken place. The new minister of

1. League of African Rights.

2. See Roux' reference to his discussions with the Colonial Department of the CPGB (document 79, vol. I).

Justice, Mr. O. Pirow, catering for the most savage slave driving backveld¹ Dutch (and English e.g. Durban) vote, has launched a reckless campaign to stop Communist propaganda.

With the silent consent of his Cabinet colleagues he has by a few weeks' display of 'the jackboot in native affairs' as a local Daily called it, intensified the always latent ferocity of whites to blacks quite 100 per cent, indeed he has even disgusted the more liberal elements of the white bourgeoisie and has thus perhaps ^{shattered} General Hertzog's scheme of a united white front against blacks, for the Rand capitalist papers have attacked him pretty severely. The labour party, both sections, however has been silent and so have the usually negrophile churches, even the Trade Unions (white) have been rather² sluggish in the matter compared with Pirow's bourgeois opponents. These latter, however, unite with him in condemning the Communists in any event, though they correctly add that the right way to deal with agitators is to remove grievances.

Pirow, with ^{the} blessings in advance of his political opponent Smuts who in the last Parliament said that the sedition clause in the Native Administration Act, reduced to tatters by judgements of the Supreme Court, would have to be strengthened came out for it with amendments to the Riotous Assemblies Act of 1914 (itself a panic measure following on the general (white) strike of that year, which ended in 9 deportations, whereby appeals to the Courts will be barred and the opinion of the Minister himself will henceforth be the conclusive test of sedition on the strength of which anyone can be imprisoned, lashed and, if not born in South Africa, deported – the avowed object being especially to get at some of the white communists whom the Dutch hate above all others. Public meetings will be made impossible for the natives if the Bill becomes law.

This measure, which is to have precedence in the Parliamentary session which opens on the 17th proximo, at once called forth a united native protest in Johannesburg, and at our suggestion Pirow's effigy was publicly burnt – a procedure which seems to have shocked even Pirow's opponents into an equal denunciation of us and of Pirow. Pirow's reply was a staggering armed attack on Durban in the form of a³ raid for unpaid taxes. A Government Commission following on the raids admitted that there was no communist 'plot'. As a matter of fact there was no rising but merely a prolonged boycott of municipal native beer halls.⁴ Our Party branch there only has a few devoted comrades but its influence is growing, all over S. Africa. Finally, Pirow has announced a new bill imposing a tax of £5, and lashes on any native (with certain exceptions) who does not work at least 3 months in any year, the

1. The reference is to rural Afrikaners.

2. There is a typed-over word before 'rather'.

3. There are typed-over letters before 'a'.

4. See footnote 1 to document 80, vol. I.