

**Letter from H. Pollitt to A. Marty,
1 November 1937¹**

1.11.1937.

H. C.¹²

We regret that a misunderstanding has developed about the work of the South African commission. We assure you that we in no way wish to deviate from past decisions.³

We did not seek the responsibility for the leadership of the South African comrades and we believe that this task was given to us by the center.⁴ We readily admit that we have no authority to make decisions in this matter. As soon as we found out that you were in Paris we immediately suggested that the comrades contact you as the responsible leader representing the center.

We know that you have studied the South African question thoroughly and that we in comparison have had only limited possibilities to study it.

We are of the opinion that you should take on the responsibility in Paris and provide leadership to the comrades on the basis of your experience.

The existing resolution⁵ was drafted on the basis of the report of Comrade Wolfson, as amended by Comrade Andrews.⁶

We now learn that Comrade Basner is of the opinion that the report of Comrade Wolfson gives a precise picture of the current situation in South

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1. Originally this document was certainly written in English but only a German translation of it remains in the archives.
 2. In the German original the letter begins with 'W.G.', W[erte] G[lenosse], here translated as H[onoured] C[omrade].
 3. H. Pollitt refers to the resolution of the Secretariat of the ECCI of 3 April 1937 (see document 76, vol. II). Apparently the CPGB had assumed that on the basis of this resolution it had full authority over the CPSA, including the drafting of resolutions.
 4. The ECCI.
 5. The reference is to a resolution drafted by the PB of the CPGB on the basis of Wolfson's report (see document 82, vol. II). Wolfson was also part of the commission of the CPGB that had been charged with the task of drafting the resolution. The resolution was drafted for consideration at the forthcoming meeting of A. Marty with I. Wolfson, H. Basner, G. Hardy and P. Kerrigan in Paris in late October.
 6. Most probably, the reference is to W.H. Andrews, who at the time had not yet rejoined the CPSA.

Africa. We are of the opinion that any further discussion and revision of directives for the comrades is a responsibility that you must shoulder.⁷

Harry Pollitt (for the Polbureau)

RGASPI, 495/20/666/19.

Original in German.

Typed.

Stamped: ARCHIVES OF THE ECCI

(in Russian)

Inscriptions: 1) List/2.

(typed, in German)

2) Attachment No. 6

(typed, in German)

84

Decisions of Meeting in Paris,

4 November 1937¹

DECISIONS OF THE PARIS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4

Chair: Comrade Marty. Participants: Kerrigan, Basner, Wolfson, Hardy

Attachment No. 4.

From the documents sent by Comrade Marty it is clear that at this meeting a discussion took place based on the internal resolution of March 1937² and on the draft manifesto³ and that an addendum to the resolution was worked out and accepted unanimously (see attachment).

Doc. 83

7. There is a line in blue pencil in the left margin opposite the whole text of the letter.

Doc. 84

1. See also document 86, vol. II.
2. The March 1937 resolution of the Secretariat of the ECCI was not found in the Archive. A 1938 report 'On the situation of the Communist Party of South Africa' states that the document approved by the Secretariat of the ECCI in March 1937 was, in fact, 'the decisions' of the ECCI Secretariat on South Africa of March 1936 'with some alterations made' after these decisions were discussed and accepted by the CPSA at its last party conference in September 1936. This, most probably, refers to the resolution on South Africa passed by the Secretariat on 17 March 1936 (see document 63, vol. II).
3. This document was not found in the Archive. For references to its contents see document 90, vol. II.