

3 months not to be worked consecutively but to be worked piecemeal whenever the master chooses, throughout the year.<sup>5</sup>

These bills and the Durban raid have secured some support not only from Dutch farmers but also from the British jingoes of Natal and British farmers elsewhere, although against these must be set off the shock given to the humanitarian or libertarian sentiments of others, especially English elements, leading to a running controversy in the press led by the Joint Councils of Europeans and Natives.

But there is more than mere vote catching in Pirow's 'madness', he is expressing the inevitable tendency of modern imperialism to fasten ever heavier chains of slavery on the colonial peoples. After all it is he who is the exponent of 'normal' capitalist development, his liberal critics in asking for a relaxation, while adhering to imperialism are showing themselves<sup>6</sup> to be merely sentimental and anachronistic. Nevertheless we must use these liberal tendencies to split the white anti-native front.<sup>7</sup>

We have noted with some amusement Comrade Ford's attack on us as social democrats and a disgrace to the Comintern (also<sup>8</sup> echoed in an interview<sup>9</sup> on S. African affairs with Bessedowski, as published recently in our papers in which Bessedowski said that Comrade Piatnitzky and others expressed themselves very contemptuously about our Party – though sending us £12,000 a year?) as contrasted with the laudation of our Party and of the Comintern as having provided it with new life at the VIth Congress, which was <sup>cabled</sup> as alleged extracts from Pravda as ~~as~~ food for overseas or backveld consumption, about riots in Durban. As a matter of fact we have been quite active in proportion to our resources, throughout, and our course and policy have suffered no change before or after Durban riots. Even now with <sup>the</sup> cloud of threats gathering even thicker over our heads, we do not feel at all sure that the Government will be able to suppress our movement very materially.

But we would ask you not to be always seeking occasion for vilification of us on the one hand or public laudation of yourselves at our expense on the other. It is not impressive nor is it comradely. We know the forces we are up against and our ~~dwingling~~ <sup>limited</sup> resources in men and money; and we do not only do our best but better than, if we may say so, you can teach us to do when it comes to local details. Today we have a certain moral leadership of the native movement, somu much so that those who want to fill their pockets out of it find it pays them to do so under our aegis, though we ourselves cannot do it.

5. There is a double line in pencil in the left margin opposite this sentence starting from 'Finally, ...'.

6. There is a typed-over word after 'themselves'.

7. There is a double line in pencil in the left margin opposite the last two sentences starting from 'anachronistic ...'.

8. There is a typed-over word before 'also'.

9. There is a typed-over word after 'interview'.

However they all help to swell the storm of protest, though as we anticipated it will not be possible to carry out your suggestion of a general strike on the 14th inst of which Pirow, quoting your cablegram (tapped through the Post Office) made such a feature in his speech. And by the way we think all our letters are being tapped. Yours fraternally

A. Nzula,  
on behalf of Ex Bureau CP. S.A.

RGASPI, 495/64/85/50-1.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: Archives X

(in Russian)

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**Letter from Krestintern to Maphutseng Lefela,  
2 February 1930**

No. 58 2.II-30.

Mr. Maphtusing Lefela,  
Lekhoting la Bafo,  
Mapoting, box 33  
Ficksburg, O.F.State  
South Africa

Dear Friend, –

We recently learned<sup>1</sup> about the existence of your organisations, and according to the scanty information, which we have been able to obtain, we are under the impression that your organisation is pre-eminently peasant in character. In view of the fact, that the International Peasants' Council,<sup>2</sup> in whose name we are writing to you, is an organ that unites revolutionary peasant organisations of all countries and of all parts of the world, it is, consequently, very much interested to establish connection with your organisation. We shall therefore, be very thankful to you if you send us

**Doc. 83**

10. See documents 79 and 81, vol. I.

**Doc. 84**

1. Obviously, from the Secretariat of the Profintern. See document 76, vol. I.

2. The official name of the Krestintern.

more detailed information as to the economic, social and political conditions of your people, as well as information concerning the history, programme, composition and activity of your organisation. We also request you to send us any printed matter, that you possibly have, concerning your country. We need all the above mentioned, in order to have the possibility of acquainting ourselves with the activities of your organisation and to inform about it the broad circles of revolutionary peasants of other countries, with the help of our literature, so that in the future, if there will be a possibility, we may be able to establish permanent contact with you.

With comradely greetings  
THE MANAGER OF EASTERN  
AND COLONIAL DEPARTMENT  
(Banderas)

RGASPI, 535/2/195/4.

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

Typed. Copy.

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**Letter from J. Tsuene to D. Banderas,  
25 March 1930.**

Lekhotleng la Bafo  
Mapoteng  
Box 3  
Ficksburg  
O.F.S.  
South Africa  
25/3/30

Mr. D. Banderas

Sir

We have the respect to have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 2 February 1930 addressed to Mr. Maphutseng Lefela by you of behalf of the International Peasants' Council. A detailed reply as requested will be sent to you in due course which is now under preparation.

We are peasants in character despite the fact that our organisation is carried on political lines to protect our rights and freedom.

We make our living by working on the land which is held on communal tenure in accordance with our Sesuto laws and customs, and therefore the

people of Basutoland are peasant proprietors. Our laws, social, economic and political are unduly interfered with and rapidly violated by the local agents of our enemy and work hard to introduce laws, methods and tactics to facilitate the flourish of Imperialism in our country.

According to the conditions under which Moshesh, the founder and collector of this nation, asked the British Government to take him under protection, Basutoland is a protectorate with the right to enjoy internal self Government of Basuto people under their hereditary chiefs who are entrusted with the right of looking after the welfare of Basuto nation. The chiefs more especially the Paramount chief, on their part have no power according to Sesuto laws to do anything of national importance without first calling the people to a national gathering to consult them about the measure they wish to adopt. But all these are now subverted, the chiefs are turned into the puppets of the local officers of the Government who no longer represent the British Government in accordance with her pledge to protect Basuto nation from its political enemy now the Union Government with the full liberty to enjoy semi-independence under her protection. But the local Government officers through Proclamations have deprived Basuto people of all their rights and our national assembly which had power over legislation had been abolished in 1903 and new laws in vogue are taught to the people through incarceration. Many European Imperialists are imported into the country under various ways and heavy taxes, direct and indirect are imposed upon the people. The flocks of sheep and goats owned by Basuto people are exterminated through poisonous dip to accelerate poverty to overtake Basuto people so that they may become the exploited wage earning slaves of European capitalists in the land composed of traders and in the surrounding provinces of the Union Government.

It is under these circumstances that Lekhotla la Bafo was constituted as an organ to fight for our internal self Government embodied in the conditions laid by Moshesh before British Government for acceptance under protection under which Basutoland was recognized as a protectorate. Since the local officers of the Government have become the agents of our political enemy – the Union Government – they detest our organisation and therefore work hard to seek for the means and pretexts of crushing our Association before the world at large could know of its existence and the true political position filled by Basutoland under the British Empire. For this reason we welcome the establishment of permanent contact with your organisation and we should be very thankful if you would accept our Association to affiliate with your International Peasants' Council so that you may help us, as already suggested by you, to disseminate our reports of activities and persecution we received at the hands of our rulers, sent to you by us for the information of other oppressed races of the world. We may be glad if you would give us to know other sincere organisations with which we may come in contact so that they may help us in the matter of disseminating our reports to them and give us moral support in our struggles