

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

against our political enemy which organises more than ever before to take drastic steps to bring about the incorporation of our country in the Union Government.

Regarding the printed matter relating to the history of our country we beg to refer you to the following books:

1. The History of South Africa by George McCall Theal in eleven volumes published by George Allen and Unwin, London.
2. 'The Basutos' in two volumes by Sir Godfrey Lagden published by Hutchinson & Co. Paternoster Row, London.
3. Basutoland Records in three volumes.¹

In regard to Basutoland Records you may write to large bookstores both in London and South Africa, the most important of which in South Africa are the following:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. T. Maskew Miller | 2. J.C. Juta Esqr. |
| 29 Adderley Street | Cape Town, South Africa |
| Cape Town, South Africa | |

Basutoland Records are most reliable because in them are compiled the letters concerning Basutoland which passed between Moshesh, the Government of Cape Colony, the Government of the Orange Free State and the British Government at home.

Another important bookstore is that of Mr. J.L. Van Schaik, Box 724, Pretoria, South Africa.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your humble servants,

H.M.D. Tsuene
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Acting President

On behalf of Lekhotla la Bafo.

RGASPI, 535/2/195/13-16.

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Handwritten.

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27/IV 1930

Inscriptions: 1) To c. Banderas

2) Translate. D. Banderas

3) C. Noval

(in Russian)

(in Russian)

(in Russian)

(in Russian)

1. The reference is to G.M. Theal. Basutoland Records. 3 vols, 1883.

**Letter from Presidium, ECCI, to CPSA,  
25 April 1930 (Extracts)<sup>1</sup>**

Confidential  
10.IV.1930

TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Dear Comrades,

[...]

The Party leaders are committing serious mistakes of a Right opportunist character. The reason for this is the fact that the Party leaders have not yet carried out the 1928 resolution of the CI which demands that the Party take the initiative in and lead the struggle of the natives against the foreign yoke under the slogan 'Independent Native Republic'. The slogan of an Independent Native Republic means, primarily, the return of the land, to the landless population and those with little land, which is impossible without revolutionary liberation from British imperialism and the organisation of a revolutionary workers' and peasants' government on the basis of Soviets. The correctness of this slogan has been doubly confirmed by the desperate attacks of the South African ruling classes against it, by the opposition of former members of the Party known for the chauvinism and opportunism, e.g. Andrews, and especially by the development of the native national movement. The principal feature of the Right opportunist mistakes committed by the Party is the failure to understand the decisive importance of the hegemony of the proletariat and the complete independence of the vanguard of the revolutionary proletariat, the Communist Party, in the nationalist revolutionary movement, and the failure to understand the significance of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the social revolution.

[...]

Failure to understand the bourgeois-democratic and the socialist tasks of the South African proletariat is reflected in the fact that both the leaders and the

1. The rest of the document contains a description of the economic and political situation in South Africa.