

Our work in the youth movement where we have a number (or so)⁹ Afrikaner youths and parall organisations of Native and coloured youths shows that all difficulties can be overcome with tact and the correct approach.

RGASPI, 495/14/355/70-5.

Original in English.

Typed.

Inscriptions: EK/2.

(typed)

7.3.38.

86

**Report of R. Michel to A. Marty,
16 November 1937**

REPORT ON MEETING IN PARIS ON OCTOBER 28TH.

Strictly confidential
South Africa

Present: Comrades Marty, Hardy, Wolfson, Basner and Rosa¹ as secretary.

Wolfson submitted a resolution for the work of the South African Party which he had just written in London after the discussion in the special commission and in the British PB.

He declared that he had never seen the resolutions of the ECCI of March 1937² on the South African questions, neither in South Africa nor in London and only saw a 'resolution on the situation of the people in South Africa'.³

Hardy declared to have only got the inner resolution⁴ but not the other one 'which was not included in the package'. He turned everything he had re South

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9. There is an unintelligible word before 'or so' in the original.

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1. Rosa Michel was the secretary of A. Marty and almost certainly the author of this report.
2. See footnote 2 to document 84, vol. II.
3. Most probably, the reference is to the programme of action for the CPSA adopted by the South African commission (see document 67, vol II).
4. The reference is to the resolution of the Secretariat of the ECCI of March 1937 (see footnote 2 to document 84, vol. II).

Africa, to the British Party, as he was informed he would not return to S.A. He is now working for the British Party.

Basner declared to have seen a document in which it is said to finish the factional fight.⁵

Hardy: in order to help the South African Party, the British Party has sent two letters to them which were in the spirit of the resolution of the ECCI. He was of the opinion that the South African comrades should write the resolution themselves; that is the reason why Com. Wolfson was appointed by the PB to do.

Answering the remark of Comrade Marty that the new resolution⁶ does not give the proper place to the work among the Natives, Hardy answered: the resolution was orientated towards the short objective of the elections and the task of winning the decisive strata of the population, of organising a broad electoral front, as a loose organisation without an organised body. But nevertheless he agreed that the national question has not been dealt with in a correct way in the resolution.

Basner declared that he did not agree with the resolution. His declaration took place at the end of the above mentioned exchange of views.

Then there was an exchange of views on personal questions. Comrade Marty asked Basner his views re Roux-Gomez-Kotane. Basner answered: Gomez and Kotane can be put into one category. Roux stands in another. Gomez and Kotane are strong nationalists. Roux is a typical chauvinist intellectual, a university professor, more interested in the national movement than in the Party. He is very emotional.

Kotane is a clever man with a just understanding, but as the Communist Party is constructed now, he cannot work within it. He does not want to break sharp with the Party, but wants to start a new national movement together with Kotane.⁷ I have respect for Kotane. He is a nationalist. He understands that the Party line is correct but he cannot work with the Party. Roux' wife talks the same language as the Trotskyists. She left the Party three years ago, after getting a post as teacher in a government school. Roux is a very honest man, but he cannot think in a Marxist way. When he is alone he comes back to idealistic positions.

Gomez is a worst type. Not so honest, does not understand so much.

The three people are not at all connected with the trade union movement. Kotane is still publishing his magazine 'UMWIKILI TEBELE'.⁸ Roux was taken off the PB.

In Capetown, the connections with Gomez are very close. Gomez, Emmerich and Weinberg are secretaries in Capetown.

5. The reference is to the ECCI's programme of action for the CPSA (see footnote 3).

6. The reference is to the resolution drafted by Wolfson and the PB of the CPGB.

7. This paragraph only makes sense if this is Roux, not Kotane.

8. An educational magazine published by Kotane in Cape Town.

Wolfson: May be Gomez has something else on his mind, but his policy is on the line of the Party. In Johannesburg there is no opposition to the Party. Marks is the former secretary of the Party.

Basner: Marks is an enemy of the working class. He made open provocations. Natives have to complain on his attitude towards them.

Decided: Hardy, Wolfson, Basner to return to London and get new contact with the commission and to ask for the resolution of the ECCI. A new resolution should be written on the basis of the resolution of the ECCI of March 1937⁹ and take into account the changes in the situation. Since that time Com. Wolfson and Basner were to return to Paris and submit the new resolution to Com. Party.¹⁰

On November 3rd Comrades Wolfson and Basner came back. They were accompanied by Comrades Hardy and Kerrigan. No report on this meeting yet.

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16.11.37.

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Letter from P. Kerrigan to ECCI, 17 November 1937

REPORT ON PARIS DISCUSSIONS.

On Tuesday morning I arrived and saw Comrade M.¹ Only B.² of the other comrades was available. (It transpired that the fog had held W.³ up in the channel and he and H.⁴ arrived late Tuesday).⁵

On Tuesday I explained to Comrade M. that our P.B.⁶ had understood their Commission from the Centre⁷ to be to work out together with our friends from S.A. the line which would help them in the next period to develop the Party,

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9. See footnote 2 to document 84, vol. II.

10. Most probably, a mistake: the Paris resolution would be submitted to 'Com. Marty', not to 'Com. Party'.

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1. A. Marty.

2. H. Basner.

3. I. Wolfson.

4. G. Hardy.

5. This paragraph is crossed out in pen in the original.

6. PB of the CPGB.

7. The ECCI.