

**Report of A. Marty to G. Dimitrov,
6 February 1938**

To Com. Dimitrov

Strictly Confidential
Attachment No. 1

ON THE POSITION OF THE CPGB ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN
QUESTION (DOCUMENT OF A.M. OF 6 FEBRUARY 1938)

1. The internal resolution¹ and the draft manifesto² which were written in March 1937 were not sent to S. Africa.

2. These two documents were not given to Comrades Wolfson and Basner, delegates of the CPSA, even though these comrades stayed for a month in London. Hardy explained this with the excuse that it was impossible to find the documents again. Only after my protest were these two important documents found and given to the comrades.

3. A new resolution and a draft for a brochure were worked out in London without reference to the documents of March 1937.

4. These resolutions, inter alia, contained the following changes:

- a) the most important slogans of the draft manifesto were changed in the following manner: almost complete deletion of the points about the natives and of the principal direction of the whites who represent the minority of the population; b) an authentic position on Trotskyism: the resolution maintains that there are traces of Trotskyism in the party which was phrased in the following fashion: '... to cleanse the party of all opportunistic and Trotskyist elements', while neither the role of Trotskyism in South Africa nor its counter-revolutionary character was pointed out anywhere.

5. The passage in the draft manifesto of March 1937 about the elections was changed and Hardy vigorously defended the draft resolution worked out in London which completely excludes the natives from the next election campaign for parliament. Wolfson, who was completely under his³ influence, at first maintained the same position. He maintained this position until the very last moment and tried to win Kerrigan over to it. (See Kerrigan's addition to the internal resolution).^x

^x Since it is garbled a translation is useless.

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

2. This document was not found in the Archive.

3. Hardy's.

6. The position of the London commission (H.P.,⁴ Hardy, Bradley, Dutt) was completely wrong. During the meeting of the commission in August I had drawn the attention of Kerrigan and Gallacher to the danger of working out a special policy for parliamentary elections. (See the opinion of Com. Naumann).

7. The position of Hardy was particularly bad; he moved the discussion into a wrong direction because of his so-called 'familiarity' with South Africa.

Already in March 1937 I accused him of having forgotten the most important slogans of the manifesto and the platform of the people's front in South Africa. He neither took note of my remarks nor of the resolution. He insisted on pushing through a 'white' line in the party.

For this reason and in contrast to the position of Comrade Pollitt (see his letter of 23 October 1937) I am absolutely opposed to sending him to South Africa. The pressure from H.P. and Hardy I find rather strange.

8. As far as I am concerned these mistakes are no accident. It is impossible that one forgets to inform the South African delegates of our resolution. The delegation was summoned for this purpose.

A.M.

RGASPI, 495/20/666/10-11.

Original in German.

Typed.

Stamped: 1) Incom. no. 317 |C (in Russian)

'5' June 1938

2) ARCHIVES OF THE ECCI (in Russian)

Inscriptions: 1) List/2. (in German)

913/5.VI.38

2) com. Dimitrov (in Russian)

3) RETURN (in Russian)

20 days

4) Confidential (typed, in German with the word
'Strong' added before it by hand).

5) Attachment no. 1 (in German)

4. Harry Pollitt.