

LFP/32/222/3
20 April 1953

MEMORANDUM.

LIONEL FORMAN.

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1. Lionel Forman was born at Johannesburg on 25.12.1927. He is a student and his present address is 50 Seventh Avenue, Orange Grove, Johannesburg.
2. Forman was a member of the Young Communist League, and was actively engaged in disseminating Communist propaganda. While he was a student at the University of Cape Town Forman frequently addressed Communist Party meetings, and meetings of the Train Apartheid Resistance Committee. At a meeting of the Communist Party held on the Grand Parade, Cape Town on the 16th September, 1949, Forman was one of the speakers, and said inter alia: "we want a South Africa in which everyone will be able to sit in Parliament, and not be ruled by a crowd of howling savages and hooligans. You will only get that by joining the Communist Party." On the 23rd September he again addressed a meeting under auspices of the Train Apartheid Committee held at the Gleemoor Hall, Athlone, and in the course of his speech condemning apartheid, he said:
3. "I am prepared to go on to a platform and incite the people to commit a crime. I am prepared to say break these apartheid laws."
4. Forman returned to Johannesburg at the beginning of this year and since his return he has been actively engaged in Communistic affairs, and has addressed meetings held by the Communist Party. Since his return to Johannesburg Forman has been seen in the company of Hetty McLeod who is employed at the Johannesburg office of "The Guardian."
5. On 29.9.1949 Forman addressed a Communist Party meeting at the Edblo Bed and Mattress Factory and the All Gold Jam Factory in Johannesburg. He denounced the capitalist system under which the workers did not earn sufficient to buy the goods produced by them, and declared that the Communist Party was the only party to remedy this state of affairs.
6. On 6.12.49 Forman again addressed a meeting at the corner of Bevan Avenue and Hamilton Road, Newclare, Johannesburg and in the course of his address referred to the present Government as "a collection of criminals and circus clowns", and inter alia stated that "we must organise to throw the clowns and criminals out of Parliament." Forman's speech resulted in the opening of a docket against him, but the Senior P.P. declined to prosecute.

7. Forman applied for a passport to visit Europe on a students tour and according to a report in the "Star" of the 29th November, 1949, the Minister of the Interior refused to issue him with a passport. Forman in an interview, stated that he had written an article in the students' newspaper "The Witwatersrand Student" attacking police interference in University affairs, and he attributed the refusal of a passport to vindictiveness.

8. On 2nd February, 1950, it was reported that Forman would continue his studies at the Witwatersrand University during 1950, having passed his first year L.L.B. at the end of 1949.

9. On 1.2.1950 Forman was one of the speakers at a Communist Party meeting held at Edblo and Bunsen Roads, Industria, Johannesburg. He opened his address by saying:

"You know that the Herrenvolk circus is putting on another performance at the moment. Malan and his other clowns are in a circus they call Parliament and they plan to take away the freedom of the people."

10. He referred to the recent riots at Newclare and said that since the Nationalist Government had come to power there had been more bloodshed and street fighting, and said that the Government intended doing what had been done in all Fascist countries i.e. it intended banning the Communist Party. This speech was repeated at Bunsen Road, where Forman again attacked the Government, and accused the Police of ill-treating the Natives who had no money houses, or a vote. He added "The people must not only throw stones, but must organise in groups like the Police and must join the Communist Party. In Russia the workers also organised and took over the Government."

11. On 12.2.50 Forman addressed a meeting at Alexandra Township, and declared inter alia that the Government was afraid of the Natives and for that reason was going to suppress the Communist Party. He stressed the point that the Natives did not know their own strength and emphasised the fact that in this country there are ten Natives for each European.

12. On 18.2.1950 Forman visited Sam Kahn at the Carlton Hotel Johannesburg.

13. At a communist party meeting held in Newclare on 26.2.50 which was attended by about 600 natives, Forman spoke on the anti-communist legislation about to be introduced by "Malan and his fascist clowns" and called on the people of Newclare to fight with all their might against this Bill. The Government was weak and represented only a small proportion of the people of S.A. hence they were against free speech and were afraid of communism. It was the policy of the communist party that the Government did not like.

14. In the communist party there is no colour bar; they are all comrades and there is no such thing as "Sir" or "Baas". He said it was a bad thing for the Africans to fight the Indians; they must learn to organise and work together, then this would not be a country of "Herrenvolk."

15. Forman was seen to take a photograph of the A.N.C. meeting held in Alexandra Township on Sunday, 16.4.50.

16. The abovenamed was observed among those present at a joint meeting of the African National Congress, African People's Organisation, Transvaal Indian Congress and the Communist Party, held on the Market Square, Johannesburg, on 28.5.50. He was also present at a mass Protest Rally held under the auspices of the Tvl. Indian Congress at Fordsburg on 31.5.50, and at a public meeting held by the S.A. Trades & Labour Council in the City Hall, Johannesburg, on 6.6.50.

17. On 5.6.50, at the Witwatersrand University, Forman, who is a second-year law student, won the Best Speaker's Debate; he opposed the motion "That the Group Areas Bill is a practical step towards Apartheid." Forman will now represent the Witwatersrand University at an inter-University debate to be held at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown during July, 1950.

18. On the 18th September, 1950, L. Forman was "named" by the Liquidator, appointed, in terms of Act 44 of 1950. He was however, not finally listed as the outcome of the Kahn's appeal and the amendments to the Act were then awaited. The Liquidator subsequently declined to list him as he was overseas, and that the matter be left in abeyance untill his return.

19. On 15.11.50 it was learned that Lionel Forman was a committee member of the Witwatersrand local N.U.S.A.S.

20. Forman, as the Editor of the publication "Witwatersrand Student" published an "open letter" to the General Secretary, International Union of Students, Prague. In this publication he asks the question: "Must we leave the I.U.S.?" and proceeds to explain that many members of N.U.S.A.S. want to leave the I.U.S. because it fears that I.U.S. is not truly an International body, but a partisan anti-Western body. He avers however, that N.U.S.A.S. has never been intimidated into falling into the neurosis of anti-red hysteria.

21. Forman states that I.U.S. has two alternations:-
(a) to see the World as split into two camps and
(b) to visualise U.I.S. as a united front of all students who can be drawn together on a minimum policy - the basic policy entered on the desire of all decent young people for world peace.

22. On 21.2.1951 Lionel Forman was a speaker at a Colonial Youth Day Rally organised by the African National Congress Youth League, Transvaal Indian Youth Congress and The Students Liberal Association.

Forman said inter alia:-

23. "We are celebrating this youth rally with all the democratic loving people of the world to show our solidarity, irrespective of their nationality, colour or creed, against American and British Fascism which are murdering the people of Korea, Vietnam, Malaya and other parts of the world with their colonial rule..... All the countries which have united under the Communist Party, have managed to obtain their freedom. Colonial Powers are not interested in the welfare of the people, but to use them for their benefit.

24. Under the auspices of the South African Peace Movement a meeting was held in the Florain Hall, Johannesburg on 15.3.1951. Lionel Forman who was one of the speakers said inter alia:-

25. "Who would have thought they would ever encourage a war against Russia? (This was when he referred to the capitalistic newspapers.)

26. "To-day our papers publish with pride of the wiping out of whole villages in Korea by South Africans. A few years ago the same Russians fought with us to oust the fascist evil; but fascism today still exists in South Africa, America and other parts of the world.

We, who are striving for peace are being called Communists. Race discrimination is the cause of dumping the ^{world} into wars."

27. At a meeting of students when it was decided that the Witwatersrand University recall its affiliation to the International Union of Students, the question was raised why the Witwatersrand University could not affiliate with the Afrikaanse Studentebond, Forman said it was impossible because the Afrikaanse Studentebond was for Europeans only.

28. Lionel Forman left Palmietfontein per B.O.A.C. plane on 3.8.51, passport No. J.29293 dated 31.7.51, for London. It has been reported that he is to undergo an operation at Guys Hospital London, which cannot be performed in South Africa.

5.7.1951.

29.

Lionel Forman attended the Council Meeting of the International Union of Students held in Bucharest from 5th - 11th September, 1952.

30. He is at present serving on the executive of the I.U.S.

20.4.1953.

Our Reference S.1/245.
Their " PF.147054/B.1b/WMD.