

LAM/049/0022/08

P.O. BOX 31791

LUSAKA

Zambia

30/11/82.

The General Secretary,

SACP

Maputo/Lusaka

Dear Comrade,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter with thanks dated 1/11/82 in connection with my absence at the last C.C Meeting held in Moscow and the report thereof of the C.C appointed commission of inquiry to investigate the incident and the C.C composed commission by members of the C.C stationed in Lusaka.

The results of the inquiry and the decision are a relief to me which I should pay special tribute to the C.C in taking this decision on behalf of the party membership. I wish briefly to make the following observations e.g, there are eight (8) members of the commission but in the two sittings half of those who attended last sitting held on 13/5/82 were absent on the 7/8/82. There were no terms of reference and nothing written for purposes of a record unlike the communication I received few days ago removing me from the C.C. On this I wish to welcome your comradely gesture and courtesey given to me.

There was yet another party commission also headed by the General Secretary Moses Mabhida composed of Moses himself, Ray Simons and Dan Tloome to investigate criticism I made against Dan Tloome at a SACTU NEC meeting in 1981 held in Maputo for the manner in which he handled SACTU's P.B or C.C if so what were the findings of the above mentioned commission? I don't understand how they arrived at the final conclusion as it was a disjointed combination of persons. The commission did not give all the reasons I gave when I gave my evidence and reasons of my failure to attend C.C Meeting in Moscow. The commission only highlighted a comment I made in response to a question that I have lost a respect for party leadership.

(b) I wish the following to be placed on record I raised the question of the Chairman Y.D amongst others drinking habits that he was over-drinking to be able to develop the political standard of the party, taking all members one by one the PB and the CC as a whole it will not face the onslaught from within the country and outside. I made no apology about this criticism on him.

(c) I also raised the reality of our times during this transitional period where the struggle of our people is parting with the past where minority domination is, on the defensive and should be forcefully removed, it is my believe that this development should be recognised and reviewed realistically.

Africans should not be allowed to remain within the comfort of leadership inferiority. The African is expected from historical development to play the leading role in this process of the revolution. He must be helped to master the art of leadership before and after liberation. He must not only lead but must be seen to be leading. If this is not demonstrated in theory and practice for the continuation of the effective revolutionary changes and challenges of the times, this revolution will be unthinkable. It will be like putting the cart before the horse and expect it to pull. For those who have the know-how on the other side of the colour-line the field is widely open to give full support of this concept - including the SACP. Let us face it the main sufferer are the Africans and they are in the majority during this transitional period. The liberation of an African will be freedom for all.

We should be principled and matured enough that the period referred to above requires that Africans should be at the leadership of the Party and this expression will not be equated with racism, anti-whitism or deviationism, hoping that the latter word has no orthodox connotation outside reality of our situation. The words deviationism and ultra are commonly used if people are afraid even to debate the reality of a situation.

I owe many progressive young people in S.A particularly in Natal and Kwa-Zulu why a document which was supposed to be confidential, taken with trust and believe that it will not be out of our hands by any foul means, but comrade Moses Mabhida asked for it and passed it on to Kwa-Zulu parliament through Gatsha Buthelezi without our consent. The above mentioned document carried three names of John Pule, Alfred Nda and Mac Maharaj.

Alfred Nzo's name was later removed by Gatsha Buthelesi himself. I suppose he was pardoned. Maharaj was dismissed as unimportant. I remained as a culprit in the eyes of our people.

I raised this matter with YD sometimes early last year, he suggested that I should raise it with the members of the C.C stationed in Africa and they became indifferrent to the issue. I am left with no alternative but to loose confidence on their leadership. And I make no apology about it. I do not accept the reason why I cannot criticise them. If I cannot criticise them then who should? They are my equals and therefore I strongly feel that some leading personalities in the party misdirect themselves.

Unless what Engels said, its not true, when he said: "If some leaders misdirect themselves and want to get away with it by avoiding criticism from their age group they canvas support of the young people who hero worship them.

If I have no right to criticise them where and when should they be criticised - moreso the criticism was internal and not for public consumption. I hope that the C.C action took into account that this matter is no longer an internal affair. I wish at this stage to lodge an appeal to the first Congress of the party to establish the rights of members and the appointment of the party commissions because the above-mentioned commission was not in the spirit of solving an internal party contradictions of members. It took defensive position taken by a section - in other words the issue was prejudged. e.g Moses Mabhida should have recused himself or P.B should have advised him to recuss himself! He should not have led the commission because he knew that he accused me of being unreliable without telling me in plain language, that I should not have met professor Bengu that he was a shady character. He also knew that I criticised him of deliberately passing a confidential document to the enemies of our struggle which will endanger our lives. He also knew that this involved the lives of the people inside and outside the country.

It is obvious that my accusers became my judges. For those comrades who have been in touch with me on behalf of the C.C at the height of the commission's deliberations, I hope their bonafides and discrepancies will be revealed sooner or later. I had the courage to criticise several comrades for a number of unfair behaviour instead some were unable to criticise me in the same spirit. They instead resort to manoeuvres. I wish them well in their crusade. I fully support the policy of the SACP as I have participated in its formulation for its cordial fraternal relationship with the CPSU and other socialist countries. The CPSU is not only a consistent anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism but a reliable ally of the liberation of the people of South Africa and other oppressed people around the world.

I am a communist. I have been one for the whole part of my political life to date. I believe in socialism and communism. I will try to maintain this believe. I also recognise S.A's people to work for a non-racial society free from colour domination.

I do not want my services and clean record in the party to be besmirched. I value this service and record. Since I have nothing to be appologetic for, I request to be suspended from the party with an option to re-apply at some stage later If I live long enough to do so.

My action should have nothing to do with my wife, brother, children in exile or at home.

I am yours fraternally,

John P. Motshabi
John Pule Motshabi.

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