which no doubt you have seen reproduced.

The letter were then handed over
To the Police. The laundry workers committee
have sent a letter to the Trades Union
Council requesting that they should
hold a meeting at the City Hall on Sunday
night the 27th Calling upon all Trade
Unions to protest & not hope for Police
protection. This Sunday.

The C.P. have issued a leaflet
Telling how thousands of workers
rolled up their old allow the grey
shorts shirts to speak before us
mostly young fellas were those
called hero's.

Last Sunday night again a Trench
crew turned up & the C.P. opened
their meeting at 5 p.m. At 5:30
the grey shirts started up the crowd
was very hostile to them but they
were allowed to talk for about 15 minutes.
I had considerably toned down their
language & declared that the letters
"by Drizzy & Andrews where forgeries
which was greeted with a howl of laughter
they were soon hustled away, so not
allowed to carry on these meetings by a crowd of young Jews. There was no organized force against the Greyshirts, and the C.P. only concentrated on quieting their own platform to discourage all attempts to organize a real opposition to the Greyshirts. When the crowd did attack them away they would not allow anybody to address the crowd from the captured platform of the Greyshirts, so then latter the C.P. claimed that they organized the opposition of workers against the Greyshirts.

Well I am going to take over the reorganization of the laundry workers' union, and I am waiting for Lardi to take one round to the different laundries as only one committee meeting has been held the last month. Only the workers from two laundries turned up. Father there is a great possibility that I might get a job from the T.U.C. to organize a Commercial Local Workers Union at £10 per month.
Sachs is arranging it, and tomorrow afternoon I am meeting him. For the 19 Andrews to discuss the matter.
By the way, Howie is in Jo'burg, please hang on to my periodicals for the line being will want you some money as soon as I have some to hand.
Well no long.

[Signature]
14a Longmarket Street,
CAPE TOWN,
26th March, 1935.

Dear Lee,

Things have not been too good the past week. First there was the rush to do the stencils. I really was worried last Wednesday when I was still waiting for the articles to come down from Joburg. But they came in good enough time and that's that.

Second, Burlak's wife and child who are sailing for Europe today almost did not go. Last Monday (the 18th) the child came down with influenza and suffered a hemorrhage. It looked as if the sailing which had been arranged months ago would have to be postponed. Burlak had to drop all activities. Now they have sailed and Burlak will have more time for us.

Third, the Treasurer of the C.U.R.W. Council has spent all the Council funds (you will see the position from the Minutes which I will send up soon) and the rent had to be paid.

Fourth, Goodlatte got bitten by a dog and we all worried. How she is all right again. Fifth, our "opposition" in the Lenin Club have been up to dirty tricks and gave us a stab in the back last Wednesday night. They persuaded Lunn (a nitwit) who is not a member of the Party but who spoke at Wednesday night open air meetings to stop speaking, in an attempt to put a stop to our meetings. Ever since the foundation of the Party, the "Opposition", Pick and the two van Gelderen have refused to speak. When Gordon left, it was another gone. With the help of the nitwit Lunn we were able to carry on. We made him the first speaker and as he has a magnificent booming voice he soon attracted a crowd. As soon as there was a crowd someone else took his place. The troublesome truth is that with Lunn out our meetings are seriously hampered. All in all it was a bad week and although it has got better in some respects it has got worse in others. More trouble with the Council, the organiser has handed in his resignation. Wednesday night meetings have not yet been arranged. And we are wondering what mischief the van Gelderen will be up to next. My temperature is slowly rising in their direction. I think that I will soon declare war on them.

Yesterday I received a long letter from Basch dealing with the position in France. This letter is very good, very important and substantiates the position taken up by Burlak months ago. I will send you Basch's letter just as soon as we have discussed it at our Party meeting which will be held on the 2nd April. It is about time too. We haven't had one for a month.

I have read your article on the "Lessons of the L.W.S." and want to say a few words about it. Goodlatte has seen it. Burlak has not. What I will say is my own opinion.

On page 2 (top of the page) of your article you say that the "fundamental error of the strike" was the refusal of the workers, acting on Purdy's advice, to accept a compromise by abandoning the demand for a signed agreement. I cannot agree with this. I think that "the fundamental error of the strike" is ably described a few lines later, "unpreparedness of the laundry workers for a decisive struggle", "weak union", "1/2 in the funds", "Without headquarters", etc., then is the fundamental error. As you yourself say "Under these conditions the strike was an adventure" so the "fundamental error" could not have been the demand for a signed agreement or the refusal to compromise on this demand. Your point "we must not fall over ourselves in our eagerness" should be driven home by adding that we must not try to prove to the whole world at once what great revolutionaries we are. Let us strike our blows when we are fairly well sure that they will get home. Naturally, guarantees we cannot have before hand. But neither should we start with
with no cash on hand, without sufficient forces.

Your paragraph on page 3 dealing with the need of a faction is a part of the plea for the fullest possible preparation. For this reason to argue about whether or not to compromise on "union recognition" is right or wrong seems to me to be futile. Having started off with the left foot, the strike had to keep going with its left foot by the very logic of the events. To say "In view of the absence of a faction an error was committed when the workers were not advised to compromise by withdrawing the demand for 'union recognition'. This demand was not important enough for the workers to risk all." to say this calls for only one retort—it is not proper for the workers to risk all for nothing. It is not proper for the workers to risk all without these minimum preparations that give them a fighting chance.

Your summing up of the errors (Page 4) are in my opinion all right so far as points 1 and 2 go. When we come to point 3 it is another matter. The demand for union recognition is not an "ultra-left" demand. To demand anything, to go on strike at all under the conditions which was an adventure. To demand recognition in a properly organised strike is an indispensable condition, and is worth fighting for. But here we were licked before we started. This question keeps recurring to me as I read your article, Why Was a Strike Called in the First Place?

I wholly agree with your line about the Wage Boards.

I do not know if I have made myself as clear as I would like to. I cannot readily type straight on to the paper as I am doing now. I think better if I write in longhand first and then type. But I am anxious to discuss this matter further.

I notice in your Minutes of your meeting of the 14th that Purdy raised the question of the membership of Cape Town and asked why so many of the original group stayed out. In this I see the cloven hoof of the Van Gelderens. At our next Party Meeting I will somehow bring in this point so that it will appear in our minutes. As a matter of fact, if you put the question the other way it is more disastrous for the "opposition", why are they only four? The "swamp" of the Lenin Club, the great majority, (the Club has grown greatly in the last month and is taking new premises this week) do not want to join a political party for as many reasons as there are people. They will be members of the Club, will support the Club and the Party but will not join. It may mean work to join the Party, it may mean that they must give up a few evenings a week, etc. They dont want to be bothered. Some of them are being "activised" in Club work, but further than that they do not want to go. Naturally, the best of them, when they are ready, will be drawn into the Party. Purdy shouldnt fret. One of these days the Van Gelderens will get it in the neck.

Yours fraternally,
L.C.I. (B.-L.), S.I.

To the Cape Town Comrades

28 March, 1935

Dear Comrades,

We have received your letter, written in Russian, of 6 March, as well as the pound sterling enclosed. The money and the letter have been sent on to the administration of the Russian Bulletin for which they were intended. The comrades of the Russian Bulletin have explained to us that you ask for an acknowledgment of 75 francs for the end of the year 1934. Now the money has arrived safely, and there is no objection to your forwarding to us the amounts due for January, February and March, 1935, which we greatly need. We cannot compel you to pay for January and February the sum of 100 francs (instead of 75), but if it is possible for you to do this, it will help us much. In any case, from March onwards we count upon a monthly contribution from you of 100 French francs. Of all the methods of transferring money, the best is the cheque (such as you have sent for the Russian Bulletin).

You will direct money to the address given below, and you will put the name on the draft.

We also ask you to separate in future the correspondence for the Russian Bulletin from that of the S.I. The language preferred by us is French, but you can also write us in English or in German (these are the three languages which Comrade Dubois, our Deputy for South African affairs, reads easily). On the other hand, we ask you to tell us if correspondence in German would suit you better.

We have just received certain Theses from South Africa, and Comrade Dubois is entrusted with the duty of studying the question in order to prepare the reply of the S.I. We greatly regret our lack of sufficient information upon the South African situation, upon the state of the workers' movement, and of political and other organisations, as well as on your special activity.

We shall be publishing very soon in French and in German an International Bulletin of public character. We beg you to name a comrade who from now on will keep up a regular official correspondence for this Bulletin. Furthermore, the regular monthly appearance of an interior bulletin of the L.C.I. is contemplated in the same languages, which will include controversial articles, interior information, etc. In connection with this you will shortly receive a circular. But we ask you to get in from now subscriptions for the International Bulletin, and to send us a precise order for the two bulletins, specifying so many in French, so many in German. Steps have been taken to secure also English and Spanish editions.

Fraternally for the S.I.

(signed) Martin.

Address for money:
(to be detached).

Monsieur Pierre Caminade,
193 Avenue du Béluvédère,
Paris 19e,
France.
L.C.I. (B.-L.), S.I.

Genève, le 28 mars 1935

Aux camarades de Kaapstadt

Chers camarades,

Nous avons reçu votre lettre en langue russe du 6 mars ainsi que le livre sterling inclus. L'argent et la lettre sont remis à l'administration du bulletin russe auquel ils étaient destinés. Les camarades du bulletin russe nous ont traduit que vous demandez une confirmation des 75 francs de la fin de l'année 1934.

Or, l'argent est bien arrivé, et il n'y a aucun inconvénient à nous faire parvenir les sommes dues pour janvier, février et mars, dont nous avons grand besoin. Nous ne pouvons pas vous obliger de payer pour janvier et février la somme de 100.- (au lieu de 75.-) mais si cela vous est possible, cela nous aidera beaucoup. En tous cas, à partir de mars nous comptons sur une cotisation mensuelle de 100.- francs de votre part. Vous recevrez la confirmation susditte que l'argent est arrivé. De tous les moyens de transfert, le chèque (ainsi que vous l'avez fait pour le bulletin russe) est le meilleur. Vous adresserez l'argent à l'adresse sous-mentionnée, dont le nom vous pourrez mettre sur le chèque.

Nous vous prions également de séparer dans l'avenir la correspondance pour le bulletin russe de celle du S.I. La langue préférée de nous est le français, mais vous pouvez également écrire en anglais ou en allemand (ce sont ces trois langues que le camarade Dubois, chargé des affaires de l'Afrique du Sud, lit facilement). Par contre nous vous prions de nous indiquer, si la correspondance en allemand vous conviendrait?

Nous venons de recevoir des thèses de l'Afrique du Sud et le camarade Dubois est chargé d'étudier la question pour préparer la réponse du S.I. Nous regrettons beaucoup l'absence d'informations suffisantes sur la situation en Afrique du Sud, sur l'état du mouvement ouvrier et de ses organisations politiques et autres, ainsi que sur votre propre activité.

Nous éditerons très prochainement en français et en allemand un Bulletin International de caractère public. Nous vous prions dès maintenant de désigner un camarade qui nous assurera une correspondance régulière de caractère officiel pour ce bulletin. En plus la parution également mensuelle d'un bulletin intérieur de la L.O.I. est envisagée dans les mêmes langues, qui contiendra les articles de discussion, les informations intérieures etc. Vous recevrez sous peu une circulaire à cet égard. Mais dès maintenant nous vous prions de récolter des abonnés pour le Bulletin international et de nous passer une commande précise pour les deux bulletins, spécifiant tant en français, tant en allemand. Des démarches ont été faites pour assurer également des éditions anglaise et espagnole.

Fraternellement

pour le S.I. Martin

Adresse pour l'argent:
(à détacher).

Monsieur Pierre Caminade,
193 avenue du Belvédère
Paris 19e, France
Collection Number: AG2722

WORKER'S PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1933-1935

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