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Cables dated 22 February to 20 April 1922 (2 unrelated later cables included)

The cables, sent between 22 February and 20 April 1922, are addressed to Van Eyssen, Care Consoldia, Cape Town, being Dr. J.L. Van Eyssen, who was a Mining Engineer. During the Rand Rebellion of 1922 he was involved in the negotiations between Parliament in Cape Town, the Chamber of Mines, and authorities in Johannesburg. Some cables are written in coded language.

The Rand Rebellion of 1922, also referred to as the Rand Revolt or Red Revolt, occurred after a period of ongoing industrial unrest, when mining companies were faced with rising costs and a fall in the price of gold, leading to a sharp increase in the employment of cheap black labour at the expense of protected and higher paid white labour. The year 1922 started with strikes on the collieries of the Transvaal, spreading to the gold mines of the Reef, and eventually turned into an open revolution in a bid to capture the city of Johannesburg. The rebellion was crushed, costing 200 lives, more than 1000 people injured and millions of pounds in losses. Some of the leaders of the rebellion were deported, others sentenced to death and executed.

The cables in their chronological order demonstrate, how events unfolded from wage demands, developing into intimidation and violence and open rebellion. In February negotiations broke down between the Chamber of Mines and the South African Industrial Federation, which the cables claimed were involved in the strike. The cables also demonstrate how white mob violence lead to a random and widespread killing of black miners. Later, on the 11 March the cables reveal the readiness by the Chamber of Mines to meet with representatives of Mining Unions, but not of the Federation, at the same time informing how Government troops advanced against strikers from the 15 March on, taking strikers prisoners. The strike ceased to be effective as from Thursday 16 March. The cables indicate attempts by the Federation to re-establish itself, and how workers were now quick to seek re-employment, and the Mining houses being cautious whom they employ.

The first line of text is used as a description. Some of the cables appear to be written in code.

A	CABLES, 1922
A1	Johannesburg,Saving per ton coal by reduction white wages..., 22 February 1922
A2	General Hertzog's motion quite impracticable..., 23 February 1922
A3	Boetsap,Fourteenstreams deputation invited meet..., 24 February 1922
A4	Johannesburg,Your telegram wrongly addressed to..., 25 February 1922
A5	Johannesburg,Slight increase in number of men at work..., 27 February 1922
A6	Johannesburg,Yours today number employed yesterday..., 28 February 1922
A7	Johannesburg,870 workmen employed yesterday increase..., 1 March 1922
A8	Johannesburg,Information regarding number returning..., 2 March 1922
A9	Johannesburg,Collieries position very satisfactory..., 3 March 1922
A10	Johannesburg,Number at work yesterday 997.Complete debacle, 4 March 1922
A11	Johannesburg,1050 men employed on Saturday and some 200..., 6 March 1922
A12	Johannesburg,142 men signed on yesterday actual increase..., 7 March 1922

A13 Johannesburg, Yesterday 92 men signed on number at work..., 8 March 1922
A14 Johannesburg, Exact numbers employed yesterday not yet..., 9 March 1922
A15 Johannesburg, Bedol polih baymp Brakpan Benoni..., 10 March 1922
A16 Johannesburg, Following wire sent today Steytler begins..., 11 March 1922
A17 Johannesburg, Reference Boydells charge against Primrose..., 14 March 1922
A18 Johannesburg, Mines now restarting as local conditions permit..., 15 March 1922
A19 Johannesburg, Few miners working but most doing only..., 16 March 1922
A20 Johannesburg, On practically every mine men tumbling over..., 17 March 1922
A21 Johannesburg, Gixygedmyf naxuhanyny tiksiostryc..., 19 March 1922
A22 Johannesburg, Your letter sixteenth please have printed..., 20 March 1922
A23 Johannesburg, Yours yesterday the paragraph you suggest..., 22 March 1922
A24 Johannesburg, Very difficult to set out in connective..., 23 March 1922
A25 Johannesburg, Yours yesterday only important point to make is..., 24 March 1922
A26 Johannesburg, Yours today official denial of..., 25 March 1922
A27 Johannesburg, Owing to strike and shortage Geduld not..., 28 March 1922
A28 Johannesburg, Madelys interview, see Star Thirteenth and..., 29 March 1922
A29 Johannesburg, Yours yesterday received and contents noted..., 30 March 1922
A30 Johannesburg, Referring chambers terms recognition unions may..., 31 March 1922
A31 Johannesburg, Edhuxatpyv duvcuikwag pakytuniz..., 1 April 1922
A32 Johannesburg, According to mail this morning General Hertzog..., 4 April 1922
A33 Johannesburg, Will you please wire formally stating whether..., 10 April 1922
A34 Johannesburg, Steytler is returning to..., 20 April 1922
A35 Kimberley, Can you hire veldt for four hundred..., 22 April 1922
A36 Miscellaneous Notes, undated