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K39.

I spoke to a Bob about his trip to t Exert Cape is late-January and early-feb. on behalf of t Africanists. He said the had started a branch in New Brighton Central, Port "lizabeth (this formerly an ANC branch), and tt 3 out of t 5 ANC branches in Kirkspood, P.E. had also come across. He had also brought across t magness branches in East London, Mount Coke and Kidds Bay (this eatirely a factory). In Untata, he had begun a branch where no former one existed. He had also tried to set up one at Butterworth, and it was being done when he left. "e has not yet heard what happened finally.

Bob said ttt only place in which he encountered trouble was Veeplants, and he did not succeed in setting up a branch there. He said tt, generally, he first encountered doubt about t Africaniats. This doubt was not in regard to t misdeauxif Africanist point of view, but rather about t wisdom of leaving t that ANC.

About his trip as a whole, Bob said to he was enthusiastic, but not over-such so. He said to wherever he went, except for Veeplaats, he had succeeded in starting branches. At t same time, he had not had nearly enough time, and could have sepat several souths in t area.

he told me he had had a letter from t Dept. of Dantu Studies at Shedes University. He was going to work there at t end of t year. I letter, however, tactafully asked him for an assugrance tt he would not take too active a part in politics. He had replied the could not give the assurance. Hob added to he was having t same trouble at Wits., and he did not think to he could for much lenger continue in him job. He said he would have to try some other way of earning a livelihood, in orders to devote more time to politics. He In fact, he said, he was thinking of working full-time in politics, and living off what t movement could pay him.

In regard to Cape Western, Bob said tt not less than 15 branches have been established. Each branch has at least 15 members. I branches include Nyanga, Langa, Kensington, Winderenre, Athlone. I told him I would ask friends in Cape Town to check this information, as I doubted it. He said he would be happy if this were to be done, because i it was what had been reported from t Africanists in t Cape.

Bob said he was not certain about detailed progress of t movement in other parts of t country, but believed all was going quite well.

On t question of t national convention, scheduled for April 4-6, he said the original venue of Queenstown had now been changed to Johannesburg. I decision was taken at a meeting in bg. on March 3. I venue was changed both because of t difficulty of obtaining a hall in Queenstown and also because of a bit of an upset with t Cape Provincial Exec. of t ANC (i.e. t one in opposition to t ANC grouping). Bob said this exec. was apparently feeling a bit sore the t Africanists had gate gone ahead with plans for a conference in t Cape - on their own ground, so to speak, without first consulting them. Bob said t exec. was completely Africanist in outlook, but there was some difference of opinion about timing and strategy. T Africanists wanted t exec. was an of now. exec., however, wanted to hold a conference first - also on April 4-6 -

at which they would castigate t Luthuli leadership of t ANC, and then walk out.

Bob said tt, whatever organisational difficulties might lie ahead of holding t conference in Jbg. it would definitely go shead as arranged. T fact tt people in t Cape and "astern Cape might largely not be able to come would not affect t holding of t conference.

COMMENT: None needed. Incidentally, when he got onto t subject of t mixed up Cape ANC fare fraces, my head began to reel. is I neked him - and he agreed - to draw up for me a short point form explanation and outline of t struggles within t ANC in t Cape.

ends.

Robert Sobukwe Papers

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