

appt

Winn 5000
Income 1000
L. Home 12000
Appt Hall
Wash

Soc Welfare
Stip on
Approved Cap
Exp. ditto
also for maintenance

Lib. relief
Clinic
milk bar
Soc Welfare Agency

Imp. 7
Club ground
Football, basket ball
rept. trees
L. Home 2 sets

S.A. RAILWAY & HARBOUR WORKERS' UNION.
(National Union of all Non-European Railway & Harbour
workers.)

Telephone 2.1647.

HEAD OFFICE?
310, Union Hous,ss,
Queen Victoria St.,
CAPE TOWN.

17th September, 1943.

TO ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES.

Dear Comrade,

You are no doubt aware of all the activities of Colonel Fyfe-King, who was deputised by the Railway Administration to form a staff union.

Explanation given by the General Manager to a deputation of the South African Trades and Labour Council, was that a scheme was prepared to cope with the position of the Africans employed by the Administration, under which their trade union can be recognised.

As for a number of years, various organisations were formed, who claimed to speak on behalf of African employees, but a few ever obtained a percentage membership to be accepted as reasonable or sufficiently representative and that some Organisations were being led by people who were never employed by the Railways, which is resented by the workers themselves.

Finally the Minister of Railways decided to ask Col. Fyfe-King, who is said to be a Native Commissioner well-disposed towards unbanished Africans, to investigate among the workers in order to ascertain their wishes "on how their grievances could best be ventilated through a body in which they have the utmost confidence".

Subsequent to the failure of Col. Fyfe-King's endeavours, the Native Affairs Department was utilised to smash our consolidated Union by means of the Native Financial Protection Regulation of 1930.

The only weapon to dispute this matter, at that stage was the fact that the Union was duly registered in terms of the I.C. Act.

The Minister of Labour assured the Union that he, (Mr. Madeley) is taking action in this connection. This was anticipated by the Union to be a method of sympathetic protection by our Hon. the Minister of Labour.

Subsequently we received a letter from the Industrial Registrar copy of which is herewith enclosed together with a copy of our reply, which is self-explanatory.

All these aforesaid facts have been disputed with the Railway Administration but to no avail. It is therefore now the duty of all the non-European workers to stand firm in their Organisation and protest against these fascist methods now being introduced by sending strong resolutions of protest to the Ministers of Railways, and Labour and the Prime Minister, urging for the recognition of Africans under the I.C. Act.

Yours fraternally,

Signed A.L.S. Louw

GENERAL SECRETARY.

English Representative,
S.S. Institute of Race Relations,
40 Britannia Arcade,
EAST LONDON.

30th September 1943.

Dear Mr. Jones,

re Non-European Railway Workers' Union.

It has been brought to my notice that the above Union, the General Secretary for which is Mr. Alas Louw, 310 Union House, Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, has been threatened with de-registration. The letter was signed by the Assistant Registrar, Compensation House, Pretoria, and dated the 11th September 1943.

The grounds given were that the membership included Africans who were not regarded as "Employees", under I.C. Act; that therefore, the Union was not functioning. A letter stating that unless a reply was received within fourteen days the notice would be published in the Government Gazette cancelling the registration which had taken place in 1937.

On the 17th September the Union replied to the Assistant Registrar's letter protesting strongly against this action and drawing attention to the fact that the Department of Labour knew at the time of registration that the membership included Africans, since all the information with membership lists had been supplied for purposes of registration.

The General Secretary sent copies of the letter to all branches requesting them to back up the effort made by Head-Quarters and to send in resolutions of protest. I addressed a meeting of this branch at short notice last night; hence my wire of the previous day. Unfortunately the reply did not reach me.

1/

I enclose copies of the correspondence mentioned. Please let me have, as soon as possible, any information which you might have on the subject and what you think the Institute's attitude is towards such de-registration proposals. Would you also bring the Institute's weight to bear against this contemplated step.

Obviously, the efforts of Colonel Fyfe-King being felt in the attempt to establish a Company Union, the Administration is attempting to find other means of squashing the workers.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank W. ...". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

7th October, 1943.

The Regional Representative,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
40, Britannia Arcade,
Terminus Street,
EAST LONDON.

THREATENED DE-REGISTRATION OF THE NON-EUROPEAN
RAILWAY WORKERS UNION

Dear Dr. Wollheim,

I have your letter of 30th ult. in this connection. I had already dictated a letter to the Secretary for Labour asking for information on the matter. I am puzzled by the action of the Registrar of Trade Unions, because I know of nothing in the Act to prevent the registration of a union merely because it has within it employees who are not recognisable under the definition of employee in Section 1 of the Act. If the Union can be said to be representative of other Non-European workers, it should be registrable under the Act.

But, as I have indicated in an earlier letter, it should be possible to have this whole matter ventilated at the Conference on the Recognition of African Trade Unions which the Minister has called for the 27th instant. I shall let you know as soon as I hear from the Secretary for Labour.

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/NMC

ADVISER

S.A. Railway & Harbour Workers' Union

(National Union of all Non-European Railway & Harbour Workers)
(Registered in Terms of the Industrial Conciliation Act)

Suid Afrikaanse Spoorweg en Haver Werkers Unie

(Nationale Unie van alle Gekleurde Spoorweg en Haver Werkers)

General Secretary:

A. L. S. LOUW.

Head Office:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE,
COUNCIL,
310, Union House,
Queen Victoria Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Messrs. S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

P.O. Box 97

JOHANNESBURG.

12th October 1943

Received	15 OCT 1943
For Attention	KWP
Recorded	
Acknowledged	
Answered	

Branches at:

1. CAPE TOWN.
2. JOHANNESBURG.
3. DURBAN.
4. DE AAR, C.P.
5. PRETORIA.
6. BLOEMFONTEIN.
7. KIMBERLEY.
8. PIETERSBURG.
9. NAAUWPOORT, C.P.
10. BETHLEHEM.
11. EAST LONDON.
12. QUEENSTOWN.
13. BURGHERSDORP.
14. BEAUFORT WEST.
15. WORCESTER.
16. KROONSTAD.
17. MAFEKING.

Dear Sir,

Re : Col. Fyfe-King's Report.

I am directed by my National Executive Committee to advise you that your letter of the 3rd July, 1943 addressed to Mr. G.S. Mpuang, 85, Selby Street, Malay Camp, Kimberley has been forwarded to us, and I must at this stage convey my Committee's heartfelt appreciation for the assistance rendered by you.

My Committee will appreciate it if you will forward us a copy of Col. Fyfe-King's report as soon as practicable.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

A. L. S. Louw

GENERAL SECRETARY.

15th December, 1943.

Lt. Col. H. Fyfe-King,
P.O. Box 125,
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN.

ORGANISATION OF NATIVE RAILWAY WORKERS

Dear Colonel Fyfe-King,

May I trouble you again about this matter? You will remember that you suggested that I should await the Minister's decision on your Report before asking for a copy of your Report. The matter is becoming urgent, as the Registrar of Trade Unions has now advised the Minister of Labour to de-register the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union because it includes Native workers. I shall greatly appreciate your help in getting definite information on the policy that is to be followed in regard to the organisation of Native workers on the Railways.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Rheinallt Jones

ADVISER

JDRJ/NMC

to know what steps your Union proposes to take in the matter.

15th December, 1943.

The General Secretary,
S.A. Railway and Harbour Workers' Union,
310, Union House,
Queen Victoria Street,
CAPE TOWN.

ORGANISATION OF NATIVE RAILWAY WORKERS.

Dear Sir,

I regret to have to inform you that I have not yet received a copy of Col. Fyfe-King's Report, and I have written again on the matter.

Yesterday I had a long discussion at the office of the Registrar of Trade Unions on the threatened de-registration of your Union because it includes Native workers. I must admit that I had not appreciated that the definition of trade union in the Industrial Conciliation Act could be interpreted to mean that any union which included Native workers in its membership would thereby become ineligible for registration. I had always understood, of course, that such Native workers could not be counted in the membership registered with the Registrar of Trade Unions, but it had not occurred to me that their inclusion in a trade union would affect the registration of the trade union in respect of other workers. I understand that you will be receiving a communication shortly from the Department of Labour confirming the action of the Registrar, and I shall be glad

P.T.O. - to -

to know what steps your Union proposes to take in the matter.

15th December, 1943.

The General Secretary,
S.A. Railway and Harbour Workers' Union,
110, Union House,
Queen Victoria Street,
CAPE TOWN.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

ORGANISATION OF NATIVE RAILWAY WORKERS
ADVISED

Dear Sir,

I regret to have to inform you that I have not yet received a copy of Col. Lyle-King's Report, and I have written again on the matter.

JDRJ/MMC

Yesterday I had a long discussion at the office of the Registrar of Trade Unions on the threatened de-registration of your Union because it includes Native workers. I must admit that I had not appreciated that the definition of trade union in the Industrial Constitution Act could be interpreted to mean that any union which included Native workers in its membership would thereby become ineligible for registration. I had always understood, of course, that such Native workers could not be counted in the membership registered with the Registrar of Trade Unions, but it had not occurred to me that their inclusion in a trade union would affect the registration of the trade union in respect of other workers. I understand that you will be receiving a communication shortly from the Department of Labour confirming the action of the Registrar, and I shall be glad

The Regional Representative,
S. A. Institute of Race Relations,
40 Britannia Arcade,
Terminus Street,
EAST LONDON.

17th December, 1943.

THREATENED DE-REGISTRATION OF THE S.A.R.
& H. WORKERS' UNION.

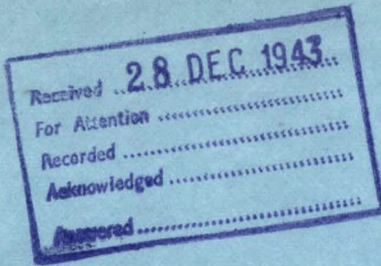
Dear Sir,

I had a long discussion on the 14th instant with the Registrar of Trade Union at the Department of Labour, Pretoria, and he was quite emphatic that the Industrial Conciliation Act's definition of "trade union" does not permit the registration of a union which includes Native workers, since they are not recognised as employees under the Act.

I must say that I had never appreciated this interpretation of the Act. I had always understood that while Native employees included in a union could not be reckoned as members, this did not affect the competence of a union to be registered in respect of non-Native workers. I still feel that the point calls for legal opinion. The registrar, however, informed me that his department was quite definite on the point. I hope to have the opportunity of consulting competent opinion before the Institute Council meetings and I hope you will be here then for the discussion by the Council.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



30 Durham Street,
Umtata, 22nd Dec. 1943.

Dear Professor Rheinallt Jones,

Your letter of 15th instant has just reached me, having been forwarded from King William's Town.

I am sorry that I am not in a position to give you any information regarding the fate of my Report which is still under consideration by the Administration, nor am I able to state the reason for the action of the Registrar of Trade Unions.

I may tell you in confidence however that the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union includes in its membership only a fraction of the non-european workers, and it should not therefore be assumed that it speaks on their behalf. There are numbers of other so-called Trade Unions which also claim to represent Railway and Harbour workers, but none of them has appealed to the majority. The S.A. R. & H. Workers' Union is the most vociferous but its membership is neither large nor constant.

I am forwarding a copy of your letter and of my reply to the General Manager.

With the Season's greetings and kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Professor J.D. Rheinallt Jones,
University of the Witwatersrand,
Box 97,
Johannesburg.

10th January, 1944

The Honourable the Minister of Railways
and Harbours,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

ORGANISATION OF NON-EUROPEAN WORKERS
ON RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS

Dear Mr. Sturrock,

Is it possible for you now to indicate what decisions you have reached upon Colonel Fyfe King's report on this subject. Recently the Registrar of Trade Unions has refused to continue the registration of the S.A.R. & H. Non-European Workers' Union on the ground that it includes Native workers in its membership. Whilst I do not know to what extent this Union covered the body of Native workers in your Administration's employ, the Registrar's decision has served to emphasise the necessity for a clear declaration of your attitude towards the principle of independent trade union organisation of the Railways and Harbours Administration's Native employees, and my Executive Committee will be grateful for any information you will give. The Institute has been approached by various groups and individuals on this subject, but obviously no useful advice can be given without full knowledge of your Administration's views and intentions.

With best wishes for 1944,

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Rheinallt Jones
ADVISER

JDRJ/NMC



KvT

538/160/1

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
MINISTERIE VAN VERVOER,
CAPETOWN/KAAPSTAD.

19th January, 1944.

Dear Sir,

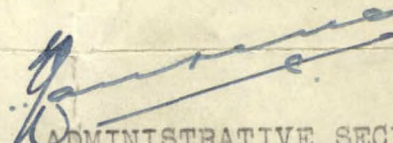
Organization of Non-European Workers on
Railways and Harbours.

I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Transport to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to inform you that a finality has not yet been arrived at in regard to the recommendations made in Colonel Fyfe King's report.

The matter is engaging the Minister's attention and he will advise you of the decisions arrived at as soon as it is possible to do so.

Yours faithfully,

Received	22 JAN. 1944
For Action
Recorded
Acknowledged
Answered


ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

The Adviser,
South African Institute
of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

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