
Report No. 13 to Jay Lovestone et al. in New York from Ludwig Katterfeld in Moscow, March 27, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, ll. 29-30.

No. 13

March 27th, 1922.

Dear Friends,

Johnny's [John Ballam's] "documents" have not arrived yet and as a consequence I am stuck here for a few days longer like an ocean liner on a sandbar. One thing is sure and that is that I won't budge from here until the final decision is signed, sealed, and delivered. There is no question about what it will be, the main part of it has already been definitely adopted by the full Board of Directors [ECCI] and it is 100 percent our way exactly along the lines that I wrote you two weeks ago. However the tone of the letter that will accompany these specific propositions will depend on whether Johnny [Ballam] promises to be good or not. My personal opinion is that he will agree to submit and urge his faction [Central Caucus] to do so, but that on arrival home he will sabotage the decision as much as possible. When the decision was adopted the other night he made a big holler about their deciding the matter without even seeing his "documents," which he had given over to a messenger to bring. Now he admits that there is nothing in the "documents" but what he has already told the Committee and that they would make no difference in the decision. However, since the point has been raised the Committee will wait until next Thursday [April 6, 1922], when this messenger is supposed to report here again.

I explained the damage that every day's delay in stopping the cut-throat competition of Johnny's cut-rate firm [the "CPA" of the Central Caucus faction] does to our business [the CPA], so telegrams are going forward today, both from him and from the Main Office itself [ECCI] instructing them to cut it out.

I wired you last Thursday [March 23, 1922] that the Brown [Bedacht] shipment had been made containing many bales [literature, presumably], that Elk [Katterfeld, alternate pseudonym] would leave soon, and that you should send another representative [to ECCI] immediately. I hope that you acted on this suggestion instantaneously, I note in the minutes of your February Directors' [CEC] Meeting that you already have the matter on consideration. It is not good to leave this territory [Moscow] without a special representative as matters come up nearly every day in connection with our old customers [Central Caucus faction] that cannot be very well be handled by the Main Office [ECCI] itself. Of course, I have made arrangements to have the most important matters, correspondence and so forth, attended to by the people here, and I will also receive all letters from you at my new address, but somebody should come as quickly as possible and stay until I can return.

I tried to get Marshall [Bedacht] to stay; personally, under the circumstances it was his duty to remain here until relieved. Since I was elected to the special mission for the Two and Two-and-a-Half,[†] I have to be absent for a month or more from the post here, and

[†]- The Executive Committees of the 2nd International, the Vienna International (so-called 2-and-1/2), and the 3rd International met jointly in conference at Berlin from April 2-5, 1922. The gathering was held in the Reichstag building and was intended to pave the way for joint action which would hopefully lead to eventual reunification of the divided world socialist movement. Each of the three Internationals were represented by 10 voting delegates, with remaining members of the three Executive Committees entitled to attend as nonvoting observers. The delegation of the 2nd International included MacDonald, Vandervelde, Bevin, Wels, Stauning, Shaw, and others; that of the Vienna Union included Adler, Martov, Longuet, Bauer, Crispin, Compère-Morel, and others; and that of the Third International included Radek, Bukharin, Zetkin, Bordiga, Frossard, and Katayama, along with Katterfeld and others.

then it is essential that I get back to attend to my Mid-Western business [return home to see his family]. I was greatly disappointed with his absolute refusal to remain even one more week so that one or the other of us should attend all the sessions of the Young People [3rd Bureau Session of the Young Communist International, March 15-25, 1922].

The firm's financial resources for this year will be only a small fraction of what the Head Office had hoped for and expected when they made certain promises to our branch upon my arrival last November. As a consequence every branch House [national CP] is being cut down to dead rock. The appropriation for our Branch [CPA] for the entire year will be *****. † I am told that in contradistinction to other years, this year the amount appropriated will really be paid. It is supposed to cover *all* items, including the ***** for English and Jewish customers. ‡ I suggest that you work out carefully a budget for the year and make an earnest effort to stay within it. Also that you increase activities in lines that will produce some revenues for our own Branch [CPA]. Under the circumstances I consider it necessary that more of the work planned the B [Friends of Soviet Russia] be turned over to the T [Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia] so that our own salesmen [CPA members working for the FSR] will devote more of their energy to taking care of our own customers.

I tried hard to get an appropriation for the Northern Branch [Communist Party of Canada], but this Branch in common with all other small branches throughout the world is cut off without anything. Would suggest that you take this into consideration and provide in your own budget for at least the most necessary advertising matter [printed literature] for the

Northern Branch [CPC] as asked for by Scott [Karlis "Charlie" Janson].

Last night I had a meeting with Board of Directors [Executive Committee] of the * * * * [RILU]. § They are in the same boat financially as the Main Office [Comintern] and voted * * * * *; two-thirds for * * * * * and one-third for the special work of organizing * * * * *. Δ All of this together with half of the above will be available next week in * * * * * [BERLIN] and I shall ship with Brown [Bedacht] if possible, if not then independently. ¶

I was very glad to note in the Minutes of the Board [CEC] Meeting that you have gone back to the old rate of 50 cents a month assessment [party dues], as I was convinced from the start that 25 was not enough. I also like your plan of special assessments for people with larger income, and hope that this will not be dropped before at least a six months' trial has been given to it, as it will give time to agitate the membership on this point. Tell Fred [Directors of the Federated Press] that the bride [female correspondent] that I found for him here does not take him seriously and that he is not beholden to her for any alimony [wages] or anything else [travelling money]. She leaves here within a week and will undoubtedly drop in on him sometime this spring to tell him her troubles. It will be well for Fred [Federated Press] not to have too sympathetic an ear. Also tell him that I definitely engaged * * * * * beginning sometime next month. ◇ I want him to write a letter confirming this and giving whatever directions he may consider necessary. You all know this person's abilities. I was very pleased indeed to be able to secure the services of one so well known to the entire trade, and have strong

†- Original (*dollar amount*) represented by 12 letters of "fraction code":

7/12[#] 16/9[#] 28/13[#] 10/8[0] 30/10[0] 9/2[d] 9/5[o] 9/6[l] 6/6[l] 6/3[a] 6/4[R] 4/1[s].

‡- Original (*noun*) represented by 7 letters of "fraction code": 6/2 6/3[a] 5/2 5/8 5/7 8/1 12/1[s].

§- Original (*acronym*) has 4 letters of "fraction code": 6/4[R] 7/1[T] 7/2[U] 7/4[I]. Katterfeld seems to have favored the English rendering of Profintern as the "Red Trade Union International." (f. 515, op. 1, d. 93., l. 112)

Δ- Original has "fraction code": (a) (*dollar amount*) 11 letters:

34/6[#] 40/12[#] 30/10[0] 10/8[0] 11/4[d] 11/1[o] 12/6[l] 12/7[l] 11/3[a] 10/4[r] 12/1[s].

(b) (*project*) 15 letters: 9/7 9/5[o] 4/3 7/5 7/7 8/2 4/1[s] 21/8 21/2 21/3 22/1 3/4 21/4 21/1 22/5.

(c) (*group*) 8 letters: 8/6 8/7 9/7 7/1 48/9 48/8 49/2 49/1.

¶- We know from the date and location of the joint conference of the 3 internationals that Katterfeld was going to be in Berlin the week following this letter. Original has 6 letters of "fraction code": 1/3[B] 1/2[E] 3/6[R] 2/6[L] 3/5[I] 3/2[N].

◇- (*Person*) 16 letters: 3/7 3/2[N] 3/5[I] 20/1 20/4 20/9 20/3 20/14 5/11 28/6 28/1 28/2 28/10 28/11 29/9 31/1.

hopes of being able to connect this one permanently with our firm.

I was amazed to note in the Minutes of your February Directors' [CEC] Meeting that you voted to pay \$50 to Guthrie.† This person according to all reports is no good whatever for our business [the communist movement] and drew \$400 here last year without being entitled to it. * * * had better straighten * * * out on this matter.‡

A customer [party member] named Lasseff arrived here with a letter of credit [transfer credential] signed Lewis [William Weinstone, former Executive Secretary of the CPA], dated January 9th. Have you rescinded the rule against issuing letters of credit [transfers to the Russian Party]?

More anon.

J. Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld].

†- "Guthrie" is the pseudonym of a woman who travelled to Soviet Russia on behalf of the Federated Press — "Fred's bride" mentioned earlier in Katterfeld's letter. It is unclear at this writing whether this was the disaffected Federated Press correspondent Helen Auger ["Harriet Baker"] or some other individual.

‡- Original has fractions code: (a) 3 letters: 2/4 3/3 1/3[B]. (b) 3 letters: 29/6 30/3 30/6.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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