

4070/1111/52

**Subject: Re: more on lectures**

**Date:** Fri, 02 Feb 2001 17:59:27 -0500

**From:** magnus gunther <magnusg@magma.ca>

**To:** Randolph Vigne <mwvigne@mweb.co.za>

Dear Randolph,

Many thanks for the elaborations- v v useful.

I thought the comment about PAC and ANC did not sound right.

Du Toit did also write a short and much more moderate piece about ARM in a pub called the Long Road (I think)-wh had short pieces on all the anti-apartheid resistance groups.

Story about Oliver is new to me-boy god ole JL. I assume the letter was "clear" as to ORTs loyalties or was it a JL interpretation? I just dont think ORT was CP. He gave no indication of the usual indicators when we were on the Bishops Committee for a year in the late 50s-I represented Wits SRC and got to know him a bit--liked him a lot too.

Will you be going back to England after Feb 20?

Cheers

Magnus

Randolph Vigne wrote:

Comments on your comments on my comments: Du Toit: I was referring to his MA dissertation. I'm not aware that he has written anything else about us. 1989 interview: what I told Du Toit and you was my 'take' on the view of our future and goals that I shared with Rhoda Prager, AL, Baruch and, more fleetingly, Watson. I suppose everyone had their own idea of what we were trying to achieve. We could not, of course, circulate manifestos. At one of my Summer School lectures I was asked, by a sympathetic woman trying to be helpful: "I suppose you and the others got involved in the ARM out of sheer frustration and anger?" My point is simply that we had a plan. Linking organization: The AFM people had connexions (I remember talking about this when one of them came to CT for a meeting and with another with Roman in Joh'burg) and we had the Cape Lib/PAC links you mention. There was also a good link with ANC through Jordan Ngubane and Bill Bhengu, who were both aware of what was going on (in very vague terms - Dave Evans says he definitely did not recruit Jordan as the report in the archives claimed). Tambo: I think I told you that Oliver asked John Lang to take a letter to an ANC addressee when he was flying somewhere (Tanzania?). Lang, needless to say, steamed it open, and said 'Now we know he's one of "them"!' Maybe ORT was talking 'Pondo language'; i.e. pretending to the Commies he was a Commie and to others the reverse. CP influence: In 1962-4 the CP was on the ropes here, especially after Rivonia and all the bans. It wasn't until I got to England in '64 that I learned (from Neville) how all powerful they had become abroad. There was certainly hostility from the ANC (mainly because of Pat Duncan and *Contact's* anti-Com arguments), but we were by no means cut off from them. No real difference between ANC and PAC: I can't imagine what I meant by that. Our address here (until 20 Feb) is 64 Nerina Crescent, Fish Hoek 7975, tel/fax +2721 782 1450. Looking forward to seeing Mike Schnieder here. He arrives tomorrow. I'm collecting AL's paper tomorrow. Randolph