

2000 10 29

Subject: Re: Lang (in the teeth)

Date: Thu, 05 Oct 2000 12:19:26 -0400

From: magnus gunther <magnusg@magma.ca>

To: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>

Dear Neville,

Many thanks for your letter.

It is a most most useful one. Hugely valuable info. I muc appreciated you taking all this time with it. I mustsay too that your memory remains as formidable as ever.

I note you say you forbear detailed comment for the moment but hope you will still give me the detailed comment if so moved.

Havana must have been fun??? I was last there in 1983-just outside Havana at a place called Los Pinos v v nice-expropriated US proterties converted to serve the subjects of the imperium-Canadians. Please tell me more. A seminar I was at in 98 at IComm Stud said that things were very bad esp in paarts of the cities and the countryside. What were your impressions? Ice cream still good at the Cuppola?? A pal and I have talked about going there next year and touring ie really doing the countryside and the other big towns. Any advice?

1 Are you saying Curle may have been CIA? Surprising but not impossible at that time. But then who would pass it onto the S Africans? Would then have to be CIA.? Id love to get more info on this but have not come across much. Except have a CIA doc saying there will be a lot of violent turmoil in SA in early's etc.

3Good idea on F of I Act. I checked this in Wash a couple of years ago and the waiting time for requests was so long that I gave up on the idea but will try this again Many thanks for that info on the CIA guys. Ill see what I can do? I should probably write dave Baad-now retired in Miami and ask him. if he can help. But I will get onto the Embassy here about this. Another name just came to me. Did you know someone called Millaard Shirley who hung around at Wits a bit but was mainly interested in what was going on in COD-talked to me a couple of times in the year I was a member of COD.

4. I am not sure Lang went to Lloyd but will check with Randolph-John tended to appropriate other people's stories for himself.

5. Ill try Jonny on the ICFTU question. The Ngwenya atory raises the interesting question of wether the ARM ever had the idea as a group or among significant members to create a mass base and whether the Ngwena TU was to be part of that offensive or rather plan. I know there was discussion of the need for a mass base. But some seemed to feel that one might hopefully in some sense lead or perhaps even "take over" the ANC (Lang) or PAC (Duncan)??? Others felt the idea was just to keep the flame alive till the ANC could regroup (Hilary C). I think (maybe wrong) that RV eventually thought a mass base might form but curiously did not see his Transkei work as part of ARM or as maass base work. Was the TUnion stuff LP or was it ARM mass base or neither or both??

6 Had no idea that Torquil was sold to Nana. Any idea of what happended? Did PAC ever use it?

7. Another stunner. Was Fluer the second person involved in the blond spy case, ie Shingler's fuckee who revealed Priscilla's spy work? Ill be damned.

By the by haave finally gotten thru to Schneider and got a rather curt note to say hell see me. He now has a plce in CT. Still running around all overthe place but Ill try to see him in Ny either in Dec. or in the N Year. Got much help from Hilary C on this.

Also did I tell you I have an address from Lynn v der Riet-(had a v good interview with her. Leftwich I think tried to prevent me from seeing her-not sure-but he said that when he contacted her on my behalf she did not want to be interviewed. When a couple of years laater I went directly to her--she said sure.) for Millie McConkie -living in US..

8 It scares me when you can remember not only where Lang worked who for--in 1960!!

9This is a great story-Lang helped Zambia get 100 million. If he was central to this it might even be another indirect feather in the cap of ARM-at least

indirectly-no scrub that idea.

10. But Luthuli would never recommend arson would he?

11. Vorster misspelling is mine. Another interpretation would be that as long as 90 days existed it would help radicalise people but this kind of left anarchist thinking would not have been JLs style-I think. But I think your interpretation is correct.

One other thing re CIA etc. Do you remember a long 80/90 paage analysis that Shingler and I did in -I think 1961 in which we urge that the NCL and LP be supported by the US. I have correspondence that says we asked Don Hoffmann to pass this onto the State Dept. Obviously we were not aware of the CIA and NSA connection at that time. Nothing seemed to have happened but I also have correspondence saying that you had seen it and thought it was OK and that it may also have been seen by other NCL/LP people. I think it had to get approval from SA before we sent it off. Does any of this bring back emories? I just looked at the Doc for the first time in decades-amasing for young guys but alsov chancy in lots that it says esp about CP and ANC. Doc. mentions NCL but gives v little hard info about it.

Well thats all for now. Will send you some stuff the Weekly Mail asked me to do on ARM Finance.

All the best
Magnus

nrubin wrote:

> Dear Magnus,

>

> Found your email waiting on our return yesterday from an enjoyable (and
> much needed) week's holiday in Havana. Write some time yourself and I may
> tell you a bit more - of cigars, decrepitude and poverty.

>

> On the Lang thing, I forebear detailed comment for the present though offer
> the following as reactive thoughts:

>

> 1. I agree with you about the description of sources: their own spies or
> someone else's? (CIA, MI6?): there are clues on the latter in the refs to
> the Ghana money, which was arranged by my father around the same time as a
> visit with John Collins and Adam Curle (the Quaker Harvard Education Prof.
> under whom Trevor studied) to the then Upper Volta on a protest against
> French nuclear testing.

>

> 2. Which reminds me: have you checked CIA files on Lang as well as my
> father(and, for that matter, me and Randolph) under the Freedom of Info.
> Act. Apart from early stuff that might come from NSA, there should be some
> from Jack Mower (the CIA man at the Consulate-General in CT, also
> Leftwich's & Randolph's pal)) and from a chap called Donald Musch - a
> former G-man with the FBI, no less - who was planted at SOAS and then went
> on to Kenya; as well as from a part-timer teaching pol.sci. at the
> university in Nairobi who cottoned on to me as I arrived on the run from
> Swaziland and Zambia back to London and to whom I talked about the
> arrests etc. (I don't remember his name)

>

> 3. I think there is some confusion with Randolph here and there, including
> the approach to John Lloyd - unless they both did it.

>

> 4. The reference to the Italian LP is to a meeting of the Liberal
> International which my father also attended. The contact in London was with
> the then Treasurer of the LI, John McCallum Scott of Pall Mall Press
> (publisher of our little Delius volume, "The Day Natal Took Off") - later a

> CIA-subsidised outfit in harness with Praeger press - which published my
> book on Cameroun in a series edited by Colin Legum). As I recall, the
> Italian Liberals (under a Professor someone or other) were rather right
> wing; but the Danes, under one Per Federspiel, were much better.
>
> 5. The reference to German TU money must hark back to contacts JL made with
> Irving Brown of the ICFTU, which led the latter to provide us with £1,000
> for use by Tommy Ngwenya in forming & running a "General Workers' Union"
> that Watson was involved with and Lang liked to claim was part of
> everything he had a hand in financing. J Shingler might be able to throw
> light on the contacts with Brown.
>
> 6. The business about Torquil almost certainly refers to the start of
> negotiations which led Lang to sell a half interest to the PAC via Nana
> Mahomo (another CIA file worth a look at) - unbeknown to, and much to the
> irritation of Myrtle & me.
>
> 7. Rozwadowski later housed & befriended Schneider (and his pregnant
> girl-friend, Fleur-the-blond-spy Bjorkman) in Swaziland. He was refused a
> passport by the Brits for 5 years as a result and couldn't travel through
> SA.
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> 8. The business address given for Lang in the City (30 Gresham St) was that
> of Minerals Separation, for which Lang worked on first arrival in London.
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> 9. His presence in Lusaka in 1964 was connected with the contract he
> secured for Maxwell Stamp Associates (later, employers of Myrtle) to do the
> Blue Book (Command series, HMSO) on the Royalty Rights of the Charter Co to
> Northern Rhodesian Copper, which resulted in Wilson's Government
> renouncing the entitlement and foregoing 100 million pounds of royalties
> shortly after Zambian independence.
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> 10. The "chief" might conceivably also refer to Luthuli. I know nothing of
> Zwane, though believe that Rozwadowski was close to him - and to the two
> Nxumalo brothers, who were all part of the opposition to Sobhuza.
>
> 11. The High Commission Territories thing: Lang was one of the contributors
> to - though he may only have been on the editorial committee of - a Fabian
> Pamphlet called the "Unprotected Protectorates" organised (if I remember
> aright) by Jill Jessop when she was Assistant Secretary at the Fabians. I
> was another, and thought up the title. There was also a body called the
> Joint Refugee Committee on the High Commission Territories, run by Margaret
> Legum of which I was a member and Lang may well have been Treasurer.
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> 12. Like you, I cannot think what that reference to the 90 day law is meant
> to mean: why is Vorster spelled incorrectly? The speech could, if anything,
> been an attempt to suggest that V would be disposed of before the law he'd
> introduced - the sort of wishful talk we all went in for in those days.
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> Hope this is of use.
>
> Yours,
>
> Neville