

Subject: Re: ARM

Date: Sun, 29 Sep 2002 02:10:13 -0400

From: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>

To: Magnus Gunther <magnus@intranet.ca>

Dear Magnus,

I'll do my best to deal with the queries and the appraisals.

1. I don't really agree with your assessment of JL. Basically, he was after an independent supply of funds with which to push his vision of an all-embracing, liberal oriented alternative to the CP influence over the Congress movement. He would have preferred to get his hands on the D & A loot; , he worked there at one time but was thwarted by Collins' innate unwillingness to cede real control to anyone else, plus his (Collins') own further left - old fashioned Popular Front - inclinations, and his own desire to be the main financial support for all those in SA who relied on him. Bear in mind that, from the time he left Minerals Separation - conveniently situated in the City, near Amen Court so he could pop across at any time - JL never had a reliable source of income, certainly not substantial enough to maintain his style of living (the flat in Gayfere St., Westminster; the three children at the top public schools - Eton, I think, and Roedean; the entertaining of whoever, regularly, to lunches at Simpsons in the Strand; the handouts of little L5 bags of half crowns "for taxis" to all and anyone). Once he joined the firm of attorneys headed by James Lemkin (as an articled clerk, nominally, because he was not admitted in England), he was physically more distant from Amen Court but, through Lemkin, closer to the English Liberals. Hence his ability to get us all into touch with McCallum Scott of the Liberal International, plus Jeremy Thorpe, soon to be leader of the LP in the Commons. My idea of forming a holding company - called Gransight Holdings - to own both Contact and the NA abroad, so as to avoid their confiscation by the SA govt., with Jeremy as Chairman of the Board, JL, Marion Friedmann and I as Directors, pleased him no end as it was yet another way of exercising influence, boasting of ownership and raising money, noner of which came to anything. My point is that Lang did dispense some of the money he got - you refer only to the capital sum, not the monthly sums that later dried up - but used a good deal of it to live the life he wanted to, and pretend to the influence he claimed and which could justify further attempts to get funds elsewhere. An interesting example of all this is the fact that, unknown to Monty, Myrtle or me, he sold, first, a half interest, and then the entire ownership of Torquill, to Nana Mahomo. Where did that money go to?

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2. Specifics: yes, the boat and a part interest? subsidy?) the 'plane were acquired, no cars (as far as I know). Vaughan Stone flew the 'plane, but the main cost of the boat was maintaining an engineer to keep it in trim, on a salaried basis. The other bits and pieces - the Congresses and Conventions, the LP etc. all fit into the pattern of the "alternative focus" I described above. He did not provide funds for Contact, and was rather amazed that the NA could get its funds independent through the CCF in Paris. RV's work in the Transkei may well have been financed by him, but if so as the result of a request from RV (possibly transmitted through me on one of my overseas visits, but I certainly never corresponded about this. I think ther reference later in your email to hearing from RV in time, must have been about that aspect of the matter).

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3. As to the details of mondy transfers - I do not remember the sums, but the L1500 rings a bell; perhaps it was L1750. Whether it came through John(D.) Wilson, I can't recall. Wilson (the senior Partner in the firm of attorneys of which JL was a partner, and also a leading Tvl LP person) was his closest ally. The assets realised by JDW of behalf of JL came from the

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sale of his house in Jhb, after he had left the country and was subsequently disbarred for suggested embezzlement; the confusion as to what were private and what were trust funds for the ARM is typical.

4. The funds were indeed to be administered by me, for which purpose I opened an at at at bank in Wynberg. JL did not want them administered in Jhb, whose personnel did not have his confidence. This is why they were annoyed at not hearing from him, and miffed that I was in charge of the money. But when Hirson and Rhoda Prager indicated an urgent need, I flew up to Jhb for a day with about 600 (can't remember whether it was pounds or rands) in cash, handed it over, and went straight back. I've no idea who or what Brigit might be. I don't think it was Rhoda, but I may be wrong.

5. The "somewhat awry":, "slight flop" and "unbusinesslike" references are to the failed attempts on pylons and the relative lack of experience and technical competence. The subsequent reference to 'recent events' refers, I think, to the detention measures recently introduced.

6. There was only one painting, that of Luthuli as Christ on the cross. No money was sent from London. JL asked me to get it so that Collins could put it in the crypt of St Pauls as a fund-raiser. This I did, with the help of Randolph in relation to Harrison. He was paid L100 from the funds I had already received from JL and which he said I could draw on for the purpose; Lizzie took it in her suitcase to Joburg by car, and airfreighted it from there to JL at Minerals Separation. This was all by way of (a) showing people in London how effective we could be, and (b) allowing JL to score one with Collins.

7. The General and Allied Workers' union was my idea. JL put me in touch with the ICFTU via his contacts with Irving Brown. They did give me the money, after I corresponded with Heribert Maier in Brussels (By a strange twist of ironic history, he later became my superior as Deputy Director-General of the ILO in the late 1980s). Thomas Ngwenya had already decided to run the union; it was I who suggested subsidising it, , but he was not a member of ARM, unless Watson (with whom he was also friendly) got him involved. My idea was simply to have such a union available as an adjunct to whatever activity was successful politically. I suggested to Thomas that he approach Monica Wilson for money to run the union, which he did successfully.

⑧ Joachim Israel was someone I met in Sweden while on a lecture visit in April 1963. He was a lecturer in sociology at Stockholm university and had been part of an underground set up in Sweden, though I don't recall anything to do with any Israeli connection. He was sympathetic but not very helpful, as to funds or contacts. It was from him, basically, that I got confirmation of the existence of the two main elements in the Danish and Norwegian wartime underground, namely the communists and the nationalists - neither of whom were likely to be interested in dissident liberals.

9. I am not sure what gthe mediterranean trip was all about. I think it was a dummy run for Terquil, JL still harbouring the idea of sending it down the west coast of Africa with supplies. As he was planning to be away for a while, he needed to hear from Randolph before he left. I'm by no means sure that the trip took place - Myrtle might know - but nothing came of the other aspects of the matter.

If I've omitted to deal with anything, let me know.

Yours,

Neville