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ICFTU	INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
CISL	CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SYNDICATS LIBRES
IBFG	INTERNATIONALER BUND FREIER GEWERKSCHAFTEN
CIOSL	CONFEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES SINDICALES LIBRES

President - Président President - Presidente Arne GEIJER

OD/vh

24, rue du Lombard, 10 October 1962
 Bruxelles 1, Belgique

General Secretary - Secrétaire général Generalsekretär - Secretario General Omer BECU
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Mr. Neville Rubin
 c/o Miss B. Cloete
 P.O.Box 143
Wijnberg
 Cape
 South Africa

Dear Mr. Rubin,

Our mutual friend, Mr. John Lang, has called our attention to the difficult position in which Mr. Thomas Ngwenya finds himself as a result of losing him employment with an insurance firm which has apparently folded up. Since Mr. Ngwenya is the moving spirit of the African General Workers' Union, Mr. Lang thought it extremely unfortunate that he might thus be forced to give up his trade union work to which he has devoted so much energy and which apparently has shown a good measure of success.

It is for this reason that Mr. Lang has appealed to us whether we would be in a position to at least give some temporary assistance to Mr. Ngwenya so that he may continue his trade union activities. General speaking the ICFTU cannot come to the aid of every individual union since as you will appreciate there are many such cases in the whole of Africa. What the ICFTU is usually prepared to do is to help towards the implementation of a coordinated plan of trade union activities on a national level.

However, in this particular case the reputation of Mr. Ngwenya has been presented to us in such a good light, and the importance of keeping his union going has been emphasised, that as an exceptional measure the ICFTU would be prepared to help the African General Workers' Union in its predicament by making available for a period of three months a sum of 80 Rand per month. At the expiry of this period the situation will have to be reviewed and we hope that by that time we shall have some further detailed information about the union's activities and its position. You will understand that the ICFTU cannot commit itself to a longer period than stated above since from our point of view it is at the moment a calculated risk since we have no direct knowledge of the union, its importance and its activities. The money that we are making available now should be considered as financial assistance towards the activities of the union itself, and should, in principle, not be regarded as the payment of a salary to Mr. Ngwenya. We firmly believe that a trade union official, if he

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Mr. Neville Rubin

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is full-time in the employ of the union, should be paid out of the income of that union. In this particular case there may be a good reason for part of our assistance to be devoted towards the living costs of Mr. Ngwenya for as long as he is out of a job, but we will leave it to your own good judgement in how far you believe you have to go in this respect.

We are informing Mr. John Lang of the contents of this letter and we are sure that he will be writing to you giving details as to the financial arrangements that have to be made in connection with the commitment that we have undertaken as far as the African General Workers' Union is concerned.

Yours very sincerely,



S. Nedzynski
Assistant General Secretary