

10th October 1962

Dear Neville,

I enclose copy of a letter which I have written to Peter and an extra copy which I should be glad if you would send to Ernie together with my letter to him.

Unless I have misunderstood your views, a conference as now suggested seems a possible way of meeting all the difficulties but of course if it is to happen in January the ICFTU will want to know as soon as possible estimates of the cost in order that they may get an allocation of monies at their finance meeting in November. They are completely determined to get into the field in South Africa and they are not particularly concerned about affiliation although obviously they would prefer it. - They feel that if agreed propositions emerge from a discussion a good deal of money would be available for the work.

In regard to Thomas Ngwenya the ICFTU showed a good deal of interest. I told them that I thought Thomas was a first class person and one of a rather exclusive type of African leader. As you know I have always thought that Thomas was first rate. On the basis of our backing they are prepared to start with to make the first quarter's grant on the basis of an annual payment of £500, the balance to depend on what happens in January and what sort of impression they form of Tom when they meet him. I think this is only fair. Accordingly if you are now in possession of the other monies of have sources available, could you please arrange for Tom's union to get a quarter's payment being £150 which is paid to the union in order that it may employ Tom as secretary. This can if necessary be paid monthly to the union by you, but a condition of the payment is that a receipt from the union goes directly to the ICFTU reflecting receipt of the monies unless you think this may be dangerous. For their books they require a proper voucher in respect of such payments. They are going to remit money to me for payment to you in the course of the next few days I hope. We are following this course in order that money should not pass too obviously and in the interests of speed. A copy of this letter will have gone to the ICFTU.

They are also very interested in Lazarus and I think will be prepared to use him if they like him. Once again would it not be possible to use some of the monies in your control to keep Laz going until January and if need be he could start working on the branch of Tom's in the Transvaal.

Yours,

John Lang