

22nd. September, 1962.

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter of the 19th. and the enclosure. Doubtless Ernie will be disappointed at ICFTU's reaction which is politically understandable. I shall not communicate it to him at this stage; it does seem to me however that we could tie in the question of Liz with the proposed conference. If the Part agrees to organise the conference, Ernie - as the holder of the trade union portfolio on the national committee - will be the person who ought to deal with it. He will undoubtedly require secretarial assistance for this purpose. Liz would fit the bill admirably. I imagine that the cost would not be more than R60 a month and I should imagine that 6 months salary would not be beyond the capacity of the ICFTU.

As regard to the conference as a whole, I share some of your doubts as to the possibility of our retaining any influence after it has been held - because of the possible combination of the Labour Party and the SACTU people against us. I do not feel that FOFATUSA and the independant unions such as Ngwenya's are sufficient to counter-balance them yet. My suggestion is therefore that the Party should in principle agree to the holding of the conference, and should convene it, but that it should be delayed for as long as possible, while we establish ourselves in the trade union field, and have someone available to run any organisation which may emerge from the conference.

My suggestion in my letter last week concerning Ngwenya might fit very well within this plan of action - ie. if he could be trained in Kampala and then be able to return in time to take over the running of any organisation which would be excellent.

Randolph tells me that the trouble with the picture is that the censorship board is looking at it at the moment. He will however contact Harrison again to see whether it can be obtained for J.C.

Best wishes,
New. H. R.