
Report No. 8 to Will Weinstone et al. in New York from Ludwig Katterfeld in Moscow, January 16, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, l. 111.

Report 8

Jan. 16, 1922

Gentlemen:—

Your Brown [Max Bedacht] shipment arrived in perfect condition.† However it was a disappointment not to receive any supply of the advertising matter [leaflets and pamphlets] published recently by your branch-house with this ship[ment]. Please, send along a goodly supply at every opportunity, and with every shipment be sure to give detailed shipping directions for the next. You failed utterly in this regard this time, such neglect is criminal.

Your cable announcing arrival of the Davis [Robert Minor] shipment received this afternoon.‡ You will, of course, follow implicitly all the instructions sent with that shipment. You will by this time have heard the reasons for the instructions that were cabled to you about the holding of the salesmen's conference [convention of the underground CPA] prior to the Public Stockholders' Meeting [founding convention of the legal WPA]. The fact that you failed to do this cannot now be helped, but it makes it all the more essential for you to observe all the regulations that have been laid here at headquarters for our general sales campaign.

March 8th has been set aside for a special advertising campaign among women. Some material to help you with this has been sent under separate cover. Special numbers of all our organs should be issued before that date to make our line of goods attractive to the women, and to enlist them in our service. In every city where our firm [CPA] has a branch one person should be detailed to push this special women's advertising campaign. Big meetings should be arranged for.

The second Davis [Minor] shipment was made a week ago Thursday, and contains considerable special advertising matter, all of which is intended for you. However, no official message of any kind is sent with this shipment. My advice is to use it only for public work. Code Q: *****.§

Arrangements are nearly completed for Fred's wedding.Δ Hope to send full account of the ceremony next time.

The shipment for Staley [Shachno Epstein] can not be started until the matter of funds is definitely settled here. I expect this will be within a couple of weeks. It is not yet definite what will be available.

The Jewish customers will also have to wait for the same reason.

All addresses seem to be all right. Have received mail now through ***** and *****

†- Reference is to Central Executive Committee minutes and other documents sent to Moscow along with Max Bedacht, who travelled to serve as the second representative of the Communist Party of America to the 1st Enlarged Plenum of ECCI [Feb. 21-March 4, 1922].

‡- Robert Minor returned to the United States from Moscow with the Comintern's instructions regarding the termination of the split of the Central Caucus faction.

§- Original has "fractions code," 32 letters: 6/2 6/1 5/3 3/3 7/1 7/2 4/1 7/7 11/2 8/1 8/2 5/6 5/5 5/4 5/1 5/3 16/1 7/2 7/8 6/2 7/7 6/4 10/3 10/4 10/5 16/4 16/6 15/5 14/2 14/3 6/4 15/6.

Δ- Oblique reference to hiring of a female correspondent as the Moscow representative of the Federated Press ("Fred"), a CP-controlled news service for the American labor press.

* * * * *. †

Please change the figure system in the heavy code that Gorny is bringing from the 1432 1432 combination to the simpler system of 21212121; this because I am afraid that neither of the Davis [Minor] shipments were quite careful enough with it, and other people may have learned it that were not entitled to it. ‡

Expect to report in person when the violets bloom in the spring.

J. Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld].

†- Original has “fractions code”: (a) 15 letters: 10/4 10/6 27/4 27/3 19/4 19/6 18/3 10/3 10/1 26/6 26/7 26/5.
(b) 9 letters: 20/1 20/2 22/3 21/6 16/1 11/2 11/1 12/6 18/5.

‡- This is an important clue for any future scholar attempting to crack the CP’s non-fractional code — probably the one appearing as sets of five numbers. The “figure system” mentioned here may well be a set of numbers systematically added or subtracted to the digits showing in plain text, which creates the set of actual values to be decoded. This future codebreaker should be advised also that the groups of five digits in this code are actually groups of three digits for each character — the spacing on the plain text message does not correspond with the actual breaks between letters. The first two characters I believe to be the source code; text follows with each subsequent group of three numbers corresponding to one alphanumeric of the message.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.

*The content of this document is reproduced with permission of the Reference Center for Marxist Studies (RCMS), New York, NY.
For additional reprint information, please contact RCMS.*