
Report No. 9 to Will Weinstone et al. in New York from Ludwig Katterfeld in Moscow, Jan. 22, 1922.

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 93, l. 12.

Report 9

Jan. 22, 1922

Dear Friends:—

Your cable regarding Marshall [Max Bedacht] for February Conference [1st Enlarged Plenum ECCI, Feb. 21-March 4, 1922] is here. Very glad he came, so we'll have full representation.

A number of very important questions will come before that Conference. Some of them may necessitate some rather fundamental changes in our sales plans [tactics] in the United States. I therefore suggest that you set our meeting of stockholders and sales agents [party convention] of Number 1 [the underground CPA] late enough in the Spring so that the documents from the February Conference will be SURE to be there; that is, not before the first of May.

Received also your cable re Relief. The various matters are being attended to. Dub [??] is to keep hands off. FSR [Friends of Soviet Russia] will receive communications direct. Want tractors etc. from now on instead of food. Sending many photos. Films will take more time, but are being secured. † Plans for food drafts are being made. Marshall [Bedacht] will report in detail on these matters when definite.

Received long appeal from Finnish customers

[party members] re N. [Santeri Nuorteva] wanting definite information regarding his fate. ‡ This question will come before the Board [ECCI] at next meeting, and hope soon to be able to answer. However, please inform the Finnish that they must use regular Party channels instead of their private wires.

Again remind you that March 8th is a special day for introducing our line among the women [International Women's Day, a day of coordinated demonstrations]. Make a start in the large cities at least.

As I wrote you before, the controversy with your obstreperous salesmen [Ballam, Ashkenuzi, and Dirba, the three CEC members who split to lead the split of the Central Caucus faction] will not again be reopened here. The answer carried by Davis [Robert Minor, alternate pseudonym] is final. Shall get an official signed statement to this effect at next Board [ECCI] meeting.

Please send definite information regarding the member of the Southern Branch of the AA [Mexican Party representative of the American Agency, that is, Louis Fraina]. Has he reported and turned over his business to you as yet? §

The IWWs here are very much concerned over the stand taken by their home office over there regarding our affairs. They are sending a cable repudiating it, and are now drawing up a document in answer to

†- Reference here is to photographs for the illustrated magazine of the Friends of Soviet Russia and movies to be shown as part of the relief effort.

‡- Santeri Nuorteva (born Alexander Nyberg in 1881), was a Finnish language Socialist journalist in America before becoming a top figure in the Russian Soviet Government Bureau in New York in 1919. Nuorteva worked as an employee of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs in 1921. Towards the end of that year he was denounced as a spy in a letter to the Cheka and was subsequently arrested. He was ultimately cleared of all charges after investigation by the Political Bureau of the Russian Communist Party on Sept. 28, 1922. Nuorteva later served as the President of Soviet Karelia, dying in Leningrad on April 9, 1929.

§- Louis Fraina, one of 3 members of the so-called American Agency that was given the task of establishing communist organizations in other countries of the Americas, had been instructed to dissolve his operation and provide accounts and all remaining funds to the Communist Party of America. Instead, he refused this direct order and headed for South America with funds in hand.

Williams' report. The Big Fellow here [Bill Haywood] is especially angry about it. He seems to be developing all right.

A Conference of salesmen from the Far Eastern territory is now taking place [1st Congress of the Toilers of the Far East, Jan. 21-Feb. 2, 1922], almost 200 of them from Japan, China, Korea, Mongolia, and Java. I have been placed on the Presidium for this Conference and shall of course learn all I can about the proper sales methods to be used by our concern in that big field.

And now an item which will make our friend Ballister [Robert Minor] turn handsprings: [Nicholas] Hourwich has at last been forced to vacate room 300, and yesterday Marshall [Bedacht] and myself moved into it. An outward symbol of a fact already long established. Please get this word to B. [Minor] wherever he may be. Mrs. B. [Lydia Gibson], Gorney [???], and the others that have been here will also be able to appreciate this news.

Yours for a Booming Business this Spring,

J. Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld]

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