

4/7/58.

P.A.
CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS: I went along to see Bob Sobukwe on the 3/7/58. He told me that, on the previous day, he had had a conversation with Vic Goldberg of COD. Vic had 'phoned him to ask what had happened about an article which he - Vic - had written for "The Africanist" - something about the stay at home. It had not appeared as it was no longer topical.

Vic apparently told Bob that about 75% of the members of COD were Communists by conviction, and they ~~believed~~ believed that the Party line had to be handled carefully and had to be slipped into Congress activities wherever possible. They also believed in infiltrating into the general Congress movement. The remaining 25% - and Vic classed himself as one of these - were more inclined to call themselves Socialists. I quizzed Sobukwe on this point, and after discussion he said that in fact the 25% were also Communists, and their main grouse against COD was that it was not prepared to come out openly on a Socialist - or Communist platform. Vic said that the feeling was growing that the 25% should break away and form their own organization, which would be quite open in its attitude. This group publishes a roneoed pamphlet, called "Analysis". Sobukwe has just received one, written about the stay at home. He promised to give it to me as soon as he finished reading it. This pamphlet is apparently ~~published~~ published independently of COD itself.

Comment: Although the above is interesting, it is, I know, much too nebulous. But that is all Bob could tell me about the matter. Now that the point is known, however, I will keep an eye on it. - particularly at the COD Conference over the weekend.

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"The World": I asked Sobukwe about the article about the Africanists as it appeared in the The World last week (the time). He confirmed my impression that the original statement had been drastically cut and that while the anti-White stuff had been retained, the more general aspects of the Africanists case had been omitted. He said that he did not know why Legwate had done this except that he knew that ~~Mr~~ Legwate was a Catholic and a very strong anti-Red. He felt that Legwate was so keen to hit the Reds that he took the most virulent stuff againsts them, and cut out the rest. He agreed with me that it would be a good idea to approach Legwate so as to try to remedy the situation.

Comment: At the time, I was rather distressed in the manner in which the statement had been edited, but it seems to be that the organization of these fellows is pretty sloppy if they do not immediately approach the ditor of the paper concerned about the matter.

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