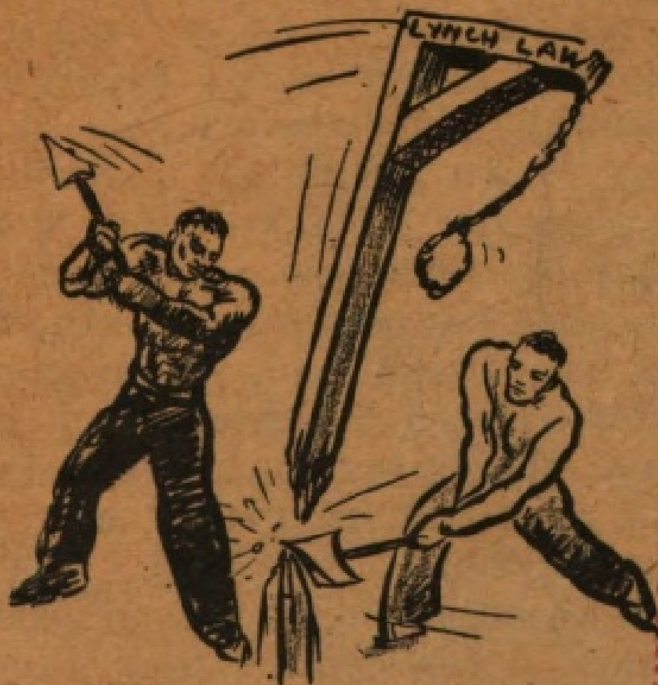


# WORLD PROBLEMS OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE

(A refutation of George Padmore.)



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## FOREWORD

The FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEGRO WORKERS was held at Hamburg, Germany, in 1930. The deliberations of that Conference should have been studied by wide masses of workers, not only by Negro workers and intellectuals, but by white workers and sympathizers of the Negro liberation struggle. The Conference made a thorough analysis of the economic and political situation of the Negro people, and gave a clear picture of capitalist-imperialist oppression. It was a workers' Conference, and therefore, laid down a program of trade union organization. Nevertheless, it took up the problems of the Negro people as a whole and connected up the struggles of the Negro workers with the national liberation struggle. The Conference was not like the petty-bourgeois led conferences, many of which have been held, and which confine their program and activities to the interest of, and lament and whine about, the upper class Negroes; No, this Conference was of a different character, it was of a working class character.

There was representation of eleven trade unions, two national trade union centers, one political party (Nigeria) and two non-trade union international organizations. There were seventeen regular and three fraternal delegates from seven countries (principally Africa, West Indies and the United States), representing 20,000 organized workers. Great difficulties were placed in the way of the delegates by local colonial governments, by prohibiting them passports and by intimidation; delegates were also harassed on their arrival in Europe by detectives of the Brit-

ish Scotland Yards. Because of these difficulties nine duly elected delegates did not arrive at the Conference at all, two of South Africa.

Four years of world-wide economic crisis have increased the burdens and oppression of the Negro people. The resistance to class oppression and better organization of struggles bear witness to the growing political and class consciousness of the Negro toilers throughout the world.

In the United States, the economic crisis has placed heavy burdens on the backs of the masses. Jim-Crow code differentials have beaten down living standards and a barbaric wave of terror has been unleashed against the Negro people. President Roosevelt's "New Deal" program, which provided for plowing under cotton plants in order to cut down production and to raise prices for the benefit of the landlords, and the Bankhead Cotton Bill, threaten the existence of millions of agrarian toilers in the Black Belt of the South. The attacks directed against the Negroes affected the white workers also.

The Negro reformist and petty-bourgeois nationalist leaders sang the praise of the "New Deal" and supported the jim-crow code differentials. But their activities in the interests of themselves and the white ruling class have been unable to prevent the Negro workers from taking militant action against the "benevolent" program of the Roosevelt administration; likewise, the American Federation of Labor leaders have been unable to prevent united action of Negro and white workers. The militant strike in the coal and ore fields of Alabama, involving 21,000 workers, 70% of whom were Negroes; and the mili-

tant fighting of Negro longshoremen in the nationwide longshoremen's strike have shown the brilliancy of the fighting abilities of the Negro workers. The unity of the miners in Alabama was so strong and their determination so great that the bosses became alarmed. Capitalist newspapers tried to stir up race riots by startling stories, "racial strife is imminent," "the Negroes are getting fresh and delvish." Three hundred leading capitalists, in a Chamber of Commerce meeting at Birmingham, Alabama, declared that they would secede from the U.S.A. and go into civil war if necessary, before agreeing to a change in the codes or ceding to the demands of the miners. This is not the first time, however, that Southern bosses have put slave codes on their banners. In 1861 the old slave-holders placed Slavery on the banner of Secession. But today the bombastic slavery declarations of the modern slave barons include white workers along with the Negroes.

The Negro workers in Alabama have rejected the policies of the Negro reformist leaders who try to make them passive and submissive to the capitalist bosses and bitter and antagonistic towards their white working class brothers; meanwhile white workers are breaking away from the jim-crow, race hating policies of the leaders of the American Federation of Labor who try to maintain the age-old ruling class policy of "divide and rule."

In Negro colonies and in colonies where there is a large Negro population, great struggles also have taken place. These struggles, involving thousands of Negro toilers, have reached very high levels. In Cuba, for example, a great revolutionary upsurge has taken place. The order of the day in Cuba is a

Workers' and Farmers' Government, to replace the rule of landlords and capitalists and to throw off the yoke of the foreign imperialist domination of United States capitalists. Negroes constitute over one third of the population of Cuba, and they have taken an important part in the overthrow of the butcher Machado, in the seizure of municipal governments, and are fighting for self-determination for the Negroes in the Province of Oriente where one-half of the population is Negro. The struggle in Cuba is a brilliant example for the Negro toilers in the West Indies to study and emulate. Already the revolutionary struggles in Cuba are influencing the emancipatory movements in Haiti, Jamaica, Virgin Islands and Trinidad.

The British French and American imperialists are doing all they can to prevent the development of revolutionary movements in these colonies. The British authorities have prohibited the circulation of the "Negro Worker" and banned militant trade unions and peasant leagues. Likewise, they are trying to prevent the organization and the development of revolutionary movements in Africa. The appearance of the "Negro Worker" on the West Coast of Africa caused an uproar in the British Parliament, and in West Africa also they prohibited the "Negro Worker" and banned militant trade unions. Throughout all of the African colonies there are reports of rebellion and revolt of the native people against imperialist domination.

Therefore, we can record a very high degree of development of class consciousness among the Negro people since the First International Conference of Negro Workers.

With the rise of struggle of the Negro workers there has been also the rise of reaction, not only the reaction of terror, but the organized reaction of petty-bourgeois nationalists. Among those who lead this reaction are people who have deserted the revolutionary movement, either because of their petty-bourgeois background, or because they did not rise to an understanding of the character of the emancipatory movement, or both. Among such people is George Padmore, who has been expelled from the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers because of his petty-bourgeois nationalist and anti-working class activities. The statement of the Committee on Padmore's expulsion reads as follows:

George Padmore, former Secretary of the I.T.U.C. of N. W. and Editor of *The Negro Worker* has been expelled from the ranks of the Revolutionary movement. The charges upon which the action of the International Control Commission is based, are very serious charges. Such people as Padmore, who maintain relations with provocateurs, who associate themselves with National Reformist and Anti-working class organizations, and who, under the guise of "helping" Liberia, collect funds in order to "buy off" the Imperialists to whom Liberia is indebted (an obvious swindle scheme) cannot be tolerated within the ranks of the working class movement. The actions of Padmore could have but one result: to undermine the unity of the Liberian workers in their struggles against exploitation and oppression by the Imperialists and the Americo-Liberian ruling class; to weaken the working class movement under the slogan of race unity instead of class unity, thereby strengthening the hands of the Imperialist oppressors and their Negro allies.

After his removal from the post of secretary of the I.T.C.U. of N.W., Padmore failed to hand over the contacts and other properties of the Committee. The reasons for this, is no doubt, his intention of using these for his disruptive activities and for his private purposes.

Because of his disruptive activities and on the basis of the above stated decision, the I.T.C.U. of N.W. decides to expel Padmore from its ranks and calls upon all members of the Executive Committee, supporters of the I. T. U. C. of N. W. and The Negro Worker, to break off all relationship with him, as such continued relationship will only mean giving aid and support to his Anti-working class activities.

International Trade Union Committee  
of Negro Workers,

Charles Woodson, Secretary.

I make this foreword as the chief organizer of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers in 1930. I can testify to the growing movement among the Negro people throughout the world. My recent trip to Cuba, as a delegate of the Trade Union Unity League, to the Fourth Congress of the National Confederation of Labor, where there were over 2,000 delegates present, representing over one-half of the working class of Cuba, shows to what high levels the movement is developing there. In Cuba, Negro workers have shown themselves to be not only most courageous fighters but some of the outstanding leaders. In Cuba also, one runs across renegades. Junco, a Negro, formerly active in the Communist Party of Cuba, turned renegade just as Padmore did. But, Junco has been expelled from the Communist Party of Cuba, discredited and isolated from the revolutionary movement.

Although four years have passed, the problems raised at the First International Conference of Negro Workers are still pertinent, and the tasks laid down, still useful for us today. Misunderstandings that are arising can be cleared up by a restatement of the historical background of the Conference.

# WORLD PROBLEMS OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE

*Report of James W. Ford, at the First International Conference of Negro Workers, Hamburg, Germany.*

Comrades:

This Conference is meeting at a time of acute crisis of capitalism, which has reached throughout the world, most seriously affecting colonial lands. We have before us very big tasks. We must face the serious problems that face the Negro workers and the Negro race under capitalist exploitation and oppression in the various parts of the world. We are gathered here at this Conference for that purpose.

This Conference must make a broad political demonstration and broadcast to the widest possible masses of Negro toilers the results of our discussions. We must take up organizational questions relating to the economic situation and working conditions of the Negro people—industrial and agricultural workers; we must discuss lynching, terrorism, police and soldier massacres, pass-laws and restrictions, racial discriminations, forced labor, the coming imperialist war and a number of other questions and problems.

We are of many political faiths here, to discuss openly and frankly the situation of the Negro workers as it actually is in the world today, and to study the effects of capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression upon the Negro masses—and I think we can all agree, despite what others may say, that the deplorable conditions of Negroes grow out of the capitalist system of exploitation.



We are here to discuss the role of the **Negro workers** in the international labor movement and in the liberation struggle of the Negro people. It is under these conditions, comrades, that I bring greetings to the representatives of the Negro workers (as well as to the fraternal representatives of the other races here) from the Provisional International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers that has convened this **First International Conference of Negro Workers**.

In order to get down to these problems I would say that we must discuss the present world situation and the past which is also heavy upon the memory of the Negro toilers. What in general outline are the questions that we must take up? (1) Briefly, the economic and political situation through which the capitalist world has been passing during recent years. (2) The position and condition of the Negro workers and the Negro race under capitalism and how to free the Negro people from capitalist-imperialist oppression. In discussing these questions we will naturally come to the significance and importance of this conference of workers. I assure you comrades that the capitalists are looking with very great concern upon our efforts and the Negro workers expect much from us.

## **Decay of the Capitalist System**

Insofar as we can deal with dates I will start with the period beginning around 1928. At that time rivalries between the leading imperialist powers (and in the first place between the USA and Great Britain) were very acute and strained. Why? First, there was the question of the redivision, by the big capitalist

nations, of the world in order for them to make greater profits and to divide colonial and foreign markets, where they might sell their goods and send their money for investment and inhuman exploitation. As there can be no "gentlemanly" agreements about such things these rivalries led the USA and Great Britain, as well as the other imperialist nations into a race of war preparations, military alliance, etc. Imperialist war is how they try to settle such matters. And as I have said the USA is pushing Great Britain hard for financial supremacy, German capitalists want back their lost colonies, France and Japan, too, want more world markets and colonial lands.

Secondly, in order to make financial and economic preparations for redividing the world and profits, these imperialist nations created powerful centralized financial combines, international trusts, etc. They began at the expense of the workers in the capitalist countries—by speeding them up, by introducing new machinery, both of which made it possible to increase the production of goods. This threw thousands of workers out of jobs. They began to slash wages right and left. The super-abundance of goods had to find a market, because the workers could not buy them, so, therefore, the bitter struggle for foreign markets and colonial lands.

Naturally there began a more intense struggle of the workers against capitalist exploitation.

Thirdly. I could name you a whole series of evidences of how the capitalists began to reduce the standards of the workers in every country; reduce wages, increase the hours of work, throw thousands of workers on the streets, and how with the aid of

their police, soldiers and capitalist courts they beat back the workers; and last but not the least of significance, how the reformist trade union officials and organizations helped the bosses against the workers—the American Federation of Labor, the Amsterdam International and so on. But I will not take your time to point out one by one these cases. I merely want to point out the leading facts.

It was natural that the workers would become rebellious against these conditions in order to protect themselves and their standards and would turn away from the reformist trade unions in great numbers and begin aggressive battles against the capitalists.

## **Imperialism In Africa and West Indies**

Fourthly. Now let us take a look at the other side of the world—the colonial world, here capitalism is doing its best to perpetuate slavery. In order to help their attack against the workers at home and to make super profits the capitalists send their capital to colonial countries. And when you, especially you from the colonial lands of Africa and the West Indies who know the condition of slavery under which the toilers there on every hand are working and living, their already low standards of living, the racial abuse and so on, you can readily understand how the capitalists manipulate things in order to get cheap labor to compete with the workers at home and to make for them super profits. They took their up-to-date machinery and their new standards of production and this combined with the already cheap standard of labor they produce goods at a very low rate—take China, take India, take Indonesia, take Korea and

Latin America, take the forcible industrialization of the African masses who through poll and hut taxes and other forms of taxation are forced off their lands to become industrial slaves for the imperialists, and take the United States where the capitalists have an internal army of millions of Negro toilers who are no less exploited and on whose labor billions in profits are piled up for the white capitalist rulers.

Now take the role of the reformist organizations (AFL Amsterdam, the General Council, the Independent Labor Party and the British Labor Party of England) who as they do in the imperialist countries, the same they do in the colonies—help the imperialists in the exploitation of the colonial workers.

## **Red International of Labor Unions**

I started out by saying that this was the situation at the beginning of 1928. In March of 1928, the Fourth Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions (RILU) took place at Moscow. I was a delegate at this Congress from the Trade Union Educational League of the USA. (Now Trade Union Unity League), and for three weeks heard and participated in discussing the problems which I have already related to, and saw the tasks outlined for the workers' struggles. I could not help being tremendously impressed with how the problems of the workers were handled, especially how directly they were in interest of the workers, workers from every land and every trade. The question of Negro workers was taken up in some detail. But before I take up this question I want to tell you briefly how the Congress worked. This may be of some help to us here in our

deliberations. I have already touched on some of these questions. Now I want to touch on how the discussion centered around what to fight for and how to fight for it.

## **A Program for Action of the R.I.L.U.**

(1) In the first place for the 7 hour-day and against the taking away of the 8 hour-day where it has been gained; for higher wages; against overtime; for a minimum two week holiday with full pay and a month's holiday for workers in heavy and dangerous work; special demands for young workers and women workers.

(2) That the most stubborn struggle must be made against the reformist trade union officials of whatever stripe (and we shall see that this will apply to the Negro reformist fakers equally as much); that in the course of the struggles new strike methods must be applied—such as day to day participation and organization of the working masses for struggle, the participation of the widest mass of workers in the drawing up of strike demands; the forming of broad strike committees to lead strikes; and the extension of the economic fight for wages and working conditions, etc., into a fight against the repressive measures and the state apparatus of the bosses—a political struggle against the whole capitalist system.

(3) The tremendous difference in the situation of the workers in the Workers' and Peasants' State, the Soviet Union, was pointed out and contrasted with the deplorable situation of the workers in the capitalist countries as a result of the capitalist system,

and the inhuman exploitation and treatment of the oppressed colonial peoples under imperialism—how in the USSR rationalization means the reduction of the hours of work of the workers, increase in wages, better working conditions, the reduction of unemployment to nothing, the raising of the cultural level of the workers and the broad freedom and self-determination of the oppressed (under the Czar) nationalities and minorities and finally the fact that the Workers' state is ruling over one-sixth of the earth, and that its very existence divides the world into two camps—on the one hand the capitalist world and on the other hand the Workers' State, the ardent friend and ally of the workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world. That is why there is such great hatred by the capitalists for the USSR and why war is being prepared against it.

(4) Then came the question of international solidarity and the strengthening of the world international trade union movement. Unlike Amsterdam International and its Congresses—the world for the RILU did not consist alone of America and Europe and of only the upper strata of the working class in these countries—the world for the RILU extended throughout the whole geographical area of the earth into the colonial lands, and not only of the upper strata of workers, but to the lowest strata, the unorganized who are betrayed by the reformists and whom they refuse to organize even of white workers in Europe and America.

The RILU pointed out how the capitalists use the colonial workers against the workers in the capitalist countries, how they used the unorganized against

the organized and therefore how the reformists betray the workers by their attitude to the colonial workers and the unorganized workers, how the reformists are weakening the struggle of the workers against the capitalists. The RILU had already established contact with the colonial workers through the Pan-Pacific Secretariat and the Latin American Secretariat and had made direct contact with the Negro workers of South Africa. The RILU did not look down upon Negro and colored workers as despicable people as the Amsterdam International does. This was how the RILU was creating the real International and establishing International solidarity.

## **Preparations for Conference of Negro Workers**

And now comrades this brings me directly to the Negro question as taken up at the fourth Congress of the RILU. While discussing the activities of sections in the USA, France, Britain and South Africa and their tasks amongst the Negro workers, special attention was paid to the Negro workers. It was found however, that there had been many weaknesses in these sections in their work amongst Negroes. But long before the Fourth Congress, the Negro question had received serious attention in the Executive Bureau of the RILU.

In 1929 I was a delegate at the Second World Congress of the League Against Imperialism, held at Frankfort, Germany, and while there took the opportunity to call a few meetings in the name of our committee, of all the Negro delegates who had come for the Congress of the League Against Imperialism (from USA, West Indies and Africa). Aside from the special

questions taken up at the Congress of the League, we discussed the problems and the question of trade union organization amongst the Negro workers. We decided that an International Conference of Negro workers for this purpose should be called. A Provisional Committee was elected for this purpose. This Conference today is the result of our work. I will not go into the details of how we carried on our work, of the difficulties encountered, these are already well known to many of you here and other facts will come out later. I want to go comrades, to the second part of my report, and that is how the Negro people fare under capitalism.

## **Capitalist Oppression of the Negro Masses**

Now comrades we Negroes cannot forget the result of the effects of the past upon us—the fact that for over 300 years over 100,000,000 Negroes were torn from the shores of Africa to be brought into the slave markets of the new world, America and the West Indies by the capitalists and their agents, and that on the basis of Negro slavery and slave labor they built up their capitalist power and wealth—and we must ask, during these 300 years or during these last 100 years or during this day and time, what has it brought us? Not only during this period of slave traffic did it bring untold misery, this is a question we are familiar with, but it left us everywhere in ignorance and degradation, and despite the boast of a small upper strata of Negroes in the USA and other places, the facts are that the great masses of Negroes the world over were brought up in ignorance, were left in ignorance and degradation by deliberate



persecutions and limitations designed to perpetuate and keep them pawns and slaves to capitalist exploitation. The greatest misery and most inhuman forms of exploitation exist.

Today our disguised slavery is forced labor in all parts of Africa, peonage and forced labor in the USA and the West Indies; chain-gangism, compound life, enforced by pass laws, curfew regulations, discriminations and racial restrictions of every kind, superimposed and made more "disguised" by religion and other dope through missionaries, preachers, YMCA men and other dope peddlers.

Not satisfied with this they have drowned thousands of natives in blood with their colonial troops and police wherever there has been the least resistance to this system. In the USA during the last thirty-five years over 3,000 Negroes have been alone lynched by burning and other means. Comrades, these are the facts. Are there more? Yes. Remember the bloody reign of King Leopold of Belgium in the Belgian Congo, the French imperialists in Central Africa and the Congo, and destruction of the Zulus in South Africa by the combined British and Boers, the shooting down of natives in Haiti by the USA marines, the transportation by Portuguese of natives from East Africa to South Africa as forced laborers, many dying on the way.

## **Negroes In the World War**

During the Imperialist World War, France, England, Germany, USA used hundreds of thousands of Negro troops in their imperialist armies, and thousands were slaughtered on the altar of imperialism. Despite the hypocritical promise of "Equality, Fra-

ternity and Liberty," "make the world safe for small minorities" "God Save the Kings' Land" and so on, since that war, we see, our exploitation and oppression goes on in a more intensified manner and form under every imperialist power.

But during the war we learned some things. Many of us first of all learned the class nature of the imperialist war, that the war was fought for the imperialist powers, that they fought among other things to subjugate colonial lands, to further exploit colonial peoples. That the white workers too were murdered (by each other) for the imperialists, we saw during the course of this war that the revolutionary workers overthrow capitalism in one country—in Russia—and that a Workers' and Peasant's state was set up and rules today. We have learned comrades, that in order for us to gain our freedom we must also organize our forces for a struggle against imperialism and capitalism.

We are at this moment in a position to do this and have the forces in which we can base our work. The war created a big army of Negro workers, in South Africa, in West Africa, in the West Indies, in the USA—millions of Negro proletarians. It is the Negro workers, brought up in capitalist industry (just as the white workers have been brought up), who find from bitter experience the need for struggle against capitalism, who have the stability, the courage, the discipline and that are class conscious, on which to effectively organize their forces for the liberation of the Negro people as a whole.

It is on the basis of the class consciousness of the Negro workers in the industrial centers who

jointly with the agricultural workers, (whom they must assist in organization), that contact must be made with the villages and peasant farms, and lead a combined struggle against their oppressors. It is only these forces, comrades, that can lead the struggle for the liberation of the whole Negro race.

### **Influence of Negro Reformism**

The Negro Middle class, intellectual and petty bourgeoisie leaders have shown and will further show that they, by making a pretense of racial interest, will actually combine their forces with the growing Negro bourgeoisie for Negro capitalist aims, Negro capitalism, and that they all will betray the Negro workers, the majority of the Negro race, how the Professors and doctors like G. E. Haynes, William Pickens, Du Bois and a host of others betray the natives into the hands of the imperialists, especially in Central Africa; and also of how Garveyism, is not only designed to build up a black capitalist group, but actually to betray the rank and file masses of Negro workers to the imperialists. Comrades, I only touch on these points because they will be discussed in detail later.

### **Negro Toilers, Fighters!**

Now what are the prospects, what are the evidences of the growing class-consciousness of the Negro workers throughout the world and their capacity to lead the struggles of the Negro people?

Everywhere comrades we see capitalism the world over, in the grips of a several crisis—we see the capitalists reducing the wages of the workers, their standards of living, speeding them up in order to

place the burden of the crisis on the backs of the workers, see unemployment increasing throughout the world, we find that alone in the USA, of the six or more millions of unemployed workers at least 500,000 are Negro workers who are faced with starvation, the same in South Africa, in the West Indies and so on. The imperialists are trying to place the burden of this crisis especially on the backs of the colonial people and on the backs of the natives of Africa—in all the parliaments the Socialist leaders are helping the capitalists by voting special measures and bills for the more intense exploitation of the workers in these lands.

In every capitalist country the workers are fighting against this capitalist crisis by street fighting and by mass demonstrations. There is a militant struggle of workers everywhere. The Indian Revolution is rising, the Chinese workers are building a Red Army and have established a Soviet of workers and peasants in a large section of China. To this, notice must be taken of the struggles of the Negro workers. Big and serious struggles of the Negro working masses have taken place against capitalist exploitation in different parts of Africa, the West Indies and the USA during the last period, of which you will report on here. But let me review briefly these struggles.

## **French Equatorial Africa**

This colony, owing to its wealth, is especially exploited by the French militarists. The system of concessions made the native population practically the slaves of the French companies and the impossible

conditions of living and of work led to the extinction of the natives. The population decreased by almost 75% during the French rule. The construction of a railway running from Brazzaville, the capital of the colony, to the sea shore, was an exceptionally heavy burden on the natives. The greed of the concessionaires who undertook the construction of the railway resulted in the death of about 20,000 natives during the eight years of construction (1921-1928). A revolt, setting on fire almost the whole country, broke out in November, 1928, in connection with the new draft of workers for the construction of the railway. The revolt continued for more than three months and considerable military forces had to be sent out to suppress it. The result of this was that the construction was very small and that attempts were made to substitute "coolies" imported from Indo-China for the natives workers.

### **Madagascar**

A serious movement of the natives exists also in Madagascar; the movement in May, 1929 grew into a tremendous demonstration under the leadership of the Communist Party. Many demonstrators were arrested and brought before court which treated two of the Communist leaders especially harsh. One of them—Black—was sentenced to five and a half years, and the other one to three and a half years.

### **Guadeloupe**

The most important branch of the industry of Guadeloupe, one of the West Indian Islands, belonging to France, is the sugar industry. In connection with the fall of prices on the world sugar market

the capitalists intensified the exploitation of the workers in order to shift onto their shoulders the whole burden of the crisis. The workers answered with a big strike in February, 1930. The strikers and the police fought pitched battles. Several workers were killed and many wounded. The revolutionary movement gained new forces after the death of these workers. The French Administration was obliged to call for police from the neighboring Island of Martinique in order to suppress the revolt.

## **Nigeria**

Serious disturbances took place in Nigeria in December, 1929, women workers playing a very important part in them. During the suppression of the disturbances by the soldiery sent there by the Socialist labor government of England, 83 women were among the total number killed. The disturbance was a protest against the introduction of a head tax among the women. This new tax burden is a further step to confiscate the land of the natives. Though the administration very quickly settled the affair and even compelled the population to pay a very high contribution in compensation for (pretended) losses suffered by the Europeans, the situation is still dangerous and the tribal chiefs are obliged to ask for defense against their own tribesmen who understand quite well that their headmen had sold themselves to the enemy and were agents of imperialism.

## **Gambia**

The principal wealth of Gambia situated on the Western Coast of Africa, is peanuts and oil palms. As oil produced from both these plants is very im-

portant for the margarine and soap industries, it is quite easily to be understood why the colony is entirely in the hands of an international margarine concern, which is the undisputed boss of the whole territory. The workers of this colony are organized in trade unions and when the manager of the company demanded their leaving them, a general strike was declared. The strikers, in spite of the terror practiced by very strong military detachments that had been concentrated in Bathrust, the capital of the colony and center of the strike, did not surrender and the administration was obliged to recognize the workers' right for organization.

### Haiti

A very strong anti-imperialist movement exists in Haiti, the formally independent Negro republic which is practically a colony of the USA. Owing to the acute agrarian crisis and directed against the American puppet-President Borno, a revolt broke out in the country in 1929. The U. S. sent large detachments of marine forces, airplanes, and cruisers to aid in suppressing the revolt. Though they succeeded, President Hoover thought it necessary to make some concessions. A special commission was created to investigate the causes of the revolt and at the same time the resignation of the President was promised. It is quite obvious that these concession will not satisfy the workers of Haiti who will have to fight again and again until they at last throw off the yoke of imperialism.

In South Africa serious struggles of the workers have been conducted. In the U. S. the Negro workers are fast joining the Trade Union Unity League.

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## Negro Trade Union Reformist Leaders

In all these places the Negro trade union reformist fakers have shown their true colors of betrayal. In South Africa, Kadalie has betrayed the native workers by joining them up with the Amsterdam International—the chauvinist organization and tool of international capitalism. In the United States A. P. Randolph brought the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters into the Jim-Crow American Federation of Labor.

Comrades, capitalism is in a severe crisis. The next steps are to organize the battles of the workers, we must here give consideration to all these questions. We must raise the signal of REVOLT. We must point out how to organize to fight against class exploitation and race oppression, we must make it clear and declare that our struggles are a part of the international struggle against capitalism, we must organize our forces to this end, drawing from the experiences and lessons of our class brothers in China and India, in the capitalist countries and from the workers and peasants in the Soviet Union. We must give special attention to the question of the new imperialist war especially being designed against the USSR, and the use that the capitaists intend to make of Negro soldiers in this war. Our conference must give active leadership and support to the struggles of the Negro workers throughout the world and to do this we must indicate practical organizational steps and tasks. Comrades, if we do this, we will have gone a long way towards justifying our efforts and towards winning the Negro workers for the international class struggle against capitalism. Our battle cry must be "DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!"