

Letter to Executive Council of All - India TUC from the PPTUS

Shanghai, January 8th 1930.

Dear Comrades:

On behalf of our Secretariat, I am instructed to inform you that they note with regret that the All-India Trade Union Congress convened at Nagpur, again decided to postpone affiliation to the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat until 1930. This decision, together with others declaring for complete independence for India and to boycott the Whitley Commission of Inquiry are highly important decisions for the British imperialists; therefore much space was allotted them in the pages of the imperialist press generally, through which we obtained our information.

However, notwithstanding that our Secretariat has not yet learned what Congress did regarding other international relations, we congratulate the AITUC upon its decisiveness in the aforementioned last two decisions. But our Secretariat cannot quite fully understand why Congress should again postpone affiliation when the spirit of these last mentioned decisions are in absolute harmony with the decisions of the first and last Conferences of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement bearing upon these fundamental questions.

Dealing with international relations, our Secretariat has noted some outstanding inconsistencies in decisions of former Con-

gress of the AITUC. We have pointed them out to our affiliated organizations in our official bulletins which are broadly circulated to the workers' press. It is the elementary duty of an international body to collate all accumulated experience, draw conclusions, and give them to its membership for their guidance in making decisions aimed to strengthen the trade union movement. We also hope, by this method to assist our Indian fellow trade unionists to eliminate all weaknesses as well as aiding them to fight against all tendencies that are inconsistent with national and international trade union unity.

Our Secretariat especially desires to mention the decisions of the Jharia Congress to endorse the calling of an Asiatic Labor Conference, the indecisiveness of the AITUC towards the International Federation of Trade Unions, and finally the decisions to take a seat at the ILO Conference. It does seem that these decisions are contrary to the spirit which resulted in decisions to boycott British Royal Commissions and that favor complete independence for India; the latter rejecting a status within the British Empire upon the base of a Dominion Constitution. Therefore, while we are doubtful because of your hesitancy to take your logical place within the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement, we do hope that the Nagpur Congress will have ended these anomalous facts.

The Pan-Pacific TUS pledges its wholehearted support to the struggle for complete independence for India. But we are not reluctant to warn the AITUC of the dangers involved in the policy of international reformism. No one now seriously believes the proposed Asiatic Labor Conference can obtain a mass following: (1) because throughout Asia, with the exception of Japan, the economic situation produces a wide reformist movement and (2) because imperialist nations, in order to arrest the general decline of capitalism and to obtain individually a favorable position in the world's limited market, more and more endeavour to deepen exploitation in colonial and semi-colonial countries which simultaneously intensify the class struggle. There-

fore it is only by mobilizing the masses in the trade unions around the political as well as economic demands, preparing them for a strenuous struggle with imperialism on all fronts, that the trade unions of Asia can advance the interests of the masses.

The imperialists planned the Asiatic Labor Conference, (1) in an attempt to destroy the growing influence of unity of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement, and (2) to develop an Asiatic chauvinism which objectively not only destroys the international unity of labor but assists the imperialists to keep their strong strangle-hold upon colonial and semi-colonial peoples. Japan is especially interested in this development as the only Asiatic imperialist power. Japan hopes to utilize such a conference: (1) to create a labor movement in Asia they can control, (2) to spread and deepen its ideology in all Asiatic countries, and (3) to assist them in competing with other imperialist powers.

In short: Japanese imperialists hope to get, under control of Suzuki and Co., an organized trade union bureaucracy parallel to that of the European bureaucracy at whose head stands the social fascists of the International Federation of Trade Unions, and whose ideology is that of the imperialist ILO. On the other hand the European imperialists are also attempting to arrest, by obtaining control through their Asiatic agents, the developing labor movement in colonial and semi-colonial countries. They know the trade unions cannot remain reformist within these countries, therefore their aim is to isolate the Asiatic labor movement from the militant Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement. Thus we see that while the motives are different because of the different interests of the various imperialist powers, nevertheless they all have one common aim, and that is to control the Asiatic labor movement, stifle its development and destroy the national and international trade union unity.

Our Secretariat is convinced that many Indian trade union leaders can see this treacherous perspective of the different imperialists who have their agents in the labor movement everywhere in Asia. But those who do not, run the risk of falling into this

imperialist trap deliberately set for them. This can make for much confusion but while it can not stop the development of the militant labor movement, it may temporarily effect the development of the respective trade union movements whose leaders fall into this trap, and to some extent, generally delay the coming of the day when the oppressed peoples shall obtain their national independence. Our Secretariat hopes the Nagpur Congress therefore took a definite position towards the Asiatic Labor Conference, the IFTU, and the ILO as well as the General Council of the British TU's, all of which are instruments for oppressing the Indian and other colonial peoples.

If Congress was not decisive our Secretariat ventures to suggest to the EC of the AITUC that your affiliated trade unions be notified of the anomalies herein pointed out. It would also be good if they were simultaneously shown that the only logical direction in the international relations of the All-India TUC in view of the many of its own decision, is towards the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement. This, of course, would be a step to bring Indian labor in line with the class struggle and to link it with militant labor affiliated with the PPTUS in China, Japan, Korea, U.S.S.R., Philippines, Java, Sumatra, Malay States, Australia, USA, Canada, England and France. We feel sure if the EC would take this action, the next All-India Trade Union Congress will affiliate to the PPTUS and thus lead the Indian Labor movement in the historic role it is bound to play. We are also glad to inform you we are awaiting decisions of five national trade union bodies situated in Central and South American countries, whose representatives have already in a joint conference, decided to recommend affiliation.

The PPTUS desires me to once more assure the AITUC that our affiliated membership is being kept informed of all eco-

nomic and political struggles and tendencies in the Indian Labor movement, for the purpose of aiding them in their preparations to give every assistance at decisive moments when our struggling Indian fellow workers need help. The great trouble is, however, that a large amount of our membership are also living in oppressed countries and cannot assist financially but this is an added reason why the Indian TUC should be united with them in the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement.

I assure the members of the EC of the AITUC that whatever information you can give as to the reason Congress delays affiliation to the PPTUS will receive every consideration by our Secretariat, which, we hope, will enable us to arrive at an agreement which will eliminate any misunderstanding that may exist, and enable the All-India Trade Union Congress to take its rightful place within the PPTUS.

Regarding the other points of policy not touched upon in this letter, our Secretariat refers you to the resolutions passed by our II Congress last August, copies of which were sent direct to you earlier. Please notify us if you received them, as our post is constantly interfered with by the British authorities in India as at Shanghai.

With fraternal greetings,

(Signed) J. Davies, Asst. Gen. Secretary,
PPTUS.

NOTE: The above letter was drafted and sent to the AITUC purely upon the scanty information given in the capitalist press and before the Secretariat knew the reactionaries had split the Congress and formed a new organization. Subsequent information proved our estimation was correct and our attempts to maintain unity and progress stated in the above letter, only serve to emphasize who are the splitters.