

A Union of Socialist Soviet Republics

By I. AMTER.

(The writer of this article, Israel Amter, is now residing in Moscow and he writes from first hand knowledge of conditions in Russia.)

On July 6 there was created the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, a union that holds out its hands to the working class of the world in co-operation, in class solidarity.

The establishment of this union is an act of tremendous importance not only for Soviet Russia but for the whole world. For Russia it denotes the centralization of the power of the four Soviet republics that up to the present have existed in Russia, viz.: The Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic, the White Russian Socialist Soviet Republic, and the Transcaucasian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, including the Soviet Republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia.

By this act, the power of conducting diplomatic intercourse, of making political and other treaties is placed in the hands of the newly formed central government, which will have its seat in Moscow. The new republic has the sole power to declare war and conclude peace, float foreign and internal loans. It will control the post, transport and telegraph in the various republics, foreign trade, the distribution and use of land, establish the fundamental labor laws, and the general principles of national education, and adjudicate disputes between the contracting republics. The union will adopt a single state budget including the budgets of the contracting republics. Union citizenship now replaces citizenship of the separate republics.

The Union Soviet Congress is the supreme authority of the union and meets annually. Extraordinary congresses may also be convoked by the central executive committee or on the demand of the union council, the council of nationalities or two of the republics. The central executive committee of the union consists of

two chambers: The union council, which has 371 members elected at the congress and apportioned to the contracting republics in ratio to the population of each republic; and the council of nationalities, which is composed of five representatives each of the various republics and one each of the autonomous regions of the Russian Soviet republic. The union central executive committee elects a presidium of 21 members, which is the supreme body between the sessions and has legislative, executive and administrative authority. It is responsible to the central executive committee. It also stands above the Union Council of People's Commissaries, which is its executive and administrative body. The regulations and orders of the Union Council of People's Commissaries may be suspended or rescinded by the central executive committee or its presidium.

The transformation of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic into the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is an act of great significance since the addition of the Ukrainian White Russian, Georgian, Azerbaijan and Armenian republics to the federation has broadened the scope of the union. It opens the way for the addition of other Soviet republics.

What was the reason for the establishment of the U. S. S. R.? The world situation has created the necessity of the Soviet republics consolidating their power in defense of the achievements of the proletarian revolution. The world is divided into two camps—one under the dictatorship of capital, the other under the dictatorship of the working class. In the capitalist camp today, there is hate, distrust with misery, suffering and another war staring the workers in the face. One has but to look at the Ruhr, at the impending penetration and subjugation of China; one need but regard the mad building of airplanes, cruisers and submarines, the manufacture of gas and deadly bombs to realize the proximity of war. The situation of the workers in Germany, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the continued unemployment in England, indicate clearly that capitalism cannot and will not provide, for its miserable slaves. The crushing of the colonial peoples, the subjugation of the colored races, the plundering and looting by capitalist exploiters, are the insignia by which capitalist governments rule.

We are living in the period of the proletarian revolution. Even though great masses of the workers do not yet recognize this fact, the capitalists are fully cognizant of it and have

prepared accordingly. The oppression of the capitalist class is driving the working class to action. The Mussolini dictatorship in Italy, the vile rule of Horthy in Hungary, the recent overthrow of the government in Bulgaria and the establishment of a military dictatorship; the terror in Rumania, and the recent acts of barbarism in Finland, Latvia and Poland, but above all the crushing of the German workers, coupled with the treachery of the Social-Democracy, have opened the eyes of the workers. The Day of the Revolution is approaching in Germany. The establishment of a Soviet Republic in Germany will be accomplished by the entrance of the German Soviet Republic into the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics. This will strengthen the camp of the workers' government against that of the capitalist governments, and encourage the workers and farmers of the other countries to take the steps that will put an end to capitalist tyranny in their own countries.

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The workers and peasants of Russia may still have great difficulties to meet. They may still have years of bitter struggle before they rebuild entirely what capitalism destroyed in the great war. But at least they know that they are no longer going down hill with capitalism as is the rest of Europe but are slowly, painfully fighting their way up hill to the new social order—Communism.