

COMMUNISTS OF GERMANY MEET IN SIX-DAY SESSION

Dawes Plan Resulted in Longer Work Day

By MANUEL GOMEZ

ESSEN, Germany, March 8. (By Mail).—With a huge open-air demonstration, in which 60,000 of the half-a-million inhabitants of Essen braved the pouring rain to hear the speeches of Thaelman, Ewert, Pieck and Eberlein, the eleventh national convention of the German Communist party closed here yesterday. The convention lasted six days. It considered as its main political task the struggle against Dawes-Plan "rationalization," which has lengthened the working day, lowered wages and increased unemployment thruout Germany.

The convention was an emphatic endorsement of the policies of the central committee, whose resolutions on every point on the order of business was carried almost unanimously.

Workers Delegations

A feature of the convention was the great number of communications and delegations received from shop, mill and mine committees in different parts of the country. Many of these were from workers having no connection with the Communist party. A delegation of Social Democratic workers appeared at the convention to ask the Communists to take up a struggle against the right-wing leadership in the trade unions. All members of the delegation were expelled from the Social Democratic party the day following.

Special interest attaches to the Essen convention because it was the first one for the German Communist party since receipt of the now famous open letter from the executive committee of the Communist International. That letter declared the chief internal enemy of party progress in Germany to be ultra-leftism, which under the Ruth Fischer-Maslow regime resulted in a suicidal policy towards the trade unions and towards the united front in general.

Ultra-Left Weak

Of the 182 delegates at Essen, representing the 130,000 members of the German Communist party, the ultra-left was at no time able to muster more than 12 in support of its proposals. These twelve votes by no means represent a single homogeneous group. The ultra-left opposition was divided into the Weddingers, the Leipsig-Chemnitz opposition and the Urbahns group. The three delegates of the latter group (Bartels, Slecht and Grillowitz) openly declared their "solidarity with Ruth Fischer, Maslow, Urbahns and all other expelled comrades who stand upon the common political platform." The convention thereupon removed them from all positions of party responsibility for a period of one year and ordered them to immediately give up their seats in Reichstag and Landtag.

Message To Workers Party

The new central committee, elected practically as proposed by Comrade Thaelman in the name of the retiring committee, represents a step toward consolidation of the party leadership on a broader basis than heretofore. Elements formerly in the opposition were included with a view to winning them for the party line of policy.

On the third day of the convention a cablegram was read announcing the death of Comrade Ruthenberg. The entire convention rose in respect as Comrade Remmele described Ruthenberg's contributions to the movement. Following a short address by the fraternal delegate of the Workers (Communist) part of America, it was decided to send a special message to the American party.