

# IN THE R. I. L. U.

## The Results of the III. Congress of the R. I. L. U.

By A. Lozovsky.

The III. Congress of the R. I. L. U. laid down the tasks of the Trade Union movement, worked out the means and methods of the struggle for the Eight Hour Day, adopted decisions over the further struggle for the Factory Councils and defined the limits for the further activity of the International Propaganda Committees. The Congress pronounced itself in favour of dissolving these Propaganda Committees in the event of the unity of the various Professional Internationals being realised. Further, the Congress discussed the tasks of the followers of the R. I. L. U. in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, it considered in detail the question of strike strategy and the mutual relations between the agricultural workers and the international peasants' council. These were drawn up for the revolutionary trade unions in regard to their relations to the co-operatives, and a whole series of organisatory tasks of a practical character laid down. Besides this the Congress adopted special decisions regarding work among the women and the youth, and with regard to the attitude of the trade unions to the workers' sport movement, laid special emphasis upon the necessity of work among the emigrants and issued directions for conducting the struggle against fascism.

The Congress accomplished an important task in giving its judgment upon the situation in the various countries. The Congress adopted a detailed programme of action for the followers of the R. I. L. U. in the United States and in Canada. A series of questions have been solved regarding our future work in Spain, in Latin America, in Holland, in the Balkans, in Scandinavia and in Belgium. The Congress devoted great attention to the task of the followers of the R. I. L. U. in England. Here we have a very unique situation: the old traditional English trade union movement is in a state of great fermentation, as a result of which this movement is assuming the form of a left wing. Within this left wing itself there are several tendencies: the most definite of which is the minority movement, which accepts the platform of the Profintern. In view of the ferment prevailing in the whole labour movement in England we were compelled to specify the future tasks in England and the relations of the followers of the R. I. L. U. towards the as yet indefinite and undecided left wing, which however reflects a profound fermentation within the English working masses. For Czecho-Slovakia, where the revolutionary trade unions work separately from the reformist organisations, we had to arrive at decisions over the form of organisation: industrial unions or one big union with sections according to industry. The Czecho-Slovakian labour movement, which is rent by national, political and religious antagonisms, has reacted upon the workers, who are endeavouring to create one big union. The Congress had to correct the exaggerated schematism of a one big union and to point out to the Czecho-Slovakian comrades that such a form of organisation, at the present stage of the development of the labour movement, can retard the process of winning the majority of the working class by the Communists.

Without doubt the central point of the deliberations of the Congress was the question of establishing the national and international unity of the trade union movement. The Congress of the Comintern had already declared that it is necessary to continue the struggle for capturing the trade unions. The III. Congress of the R. I. L. U. again emphasised the old policy, according to which the struggle for unity is not only to be conducted in those countries where the movement has not yet been split, but particularly in those countries where it has already been split, as in France, Czecho-Slovakia etc. Here the struggle for unity has been rendered extremely difficult owing to the fact that in the best cases the reformists claim a legitimate position by declaring: "We are the rightful workers' organisations, every one should join us". When we take into consideration that in France the revolutionary Confederation (C. G. T. U.) has more members than the reformist, then the absurdity of such a proposal becomes clear. The followers of the R. I. L. U. reply to this proposal in the following manner: "We will convene a congress upon the basis of proportional representation of the members of the two parallel organisations. Whoever has the majority will also have the power. The minority shall submit to discipline in the fight against the bourgeoisie and retain freedom of agitation for its political ends. The reformists have up to the present rejected such a solution of the question which is based upon the principle of proletarian democracy. The III. Congress of the R. I. L. U. emphasised the necessity of continuing the struggle for restoring the national unity of the trade union movement.

The Congress however did not restrict itself to these tasks, it proceeded further and indicated as a partical every-day task: **The struggle for unity of the international trade union movement.** We have never denied that the existence of two Internationals weakens the fighting capacity of the proletariat, as a divided trade union movement can never exercise sufficient tenacity in the struggle against the capitalist offensive. The Congress of the R. I. L. U. had to consider the decision of the Vienna Congress of the Amsterdam International, which expresses the wish to include the Russian trade unions in the Amsterdamer International, provided that the dignity (?) of the Amsterdam International is preserved, and subject to the condition that the Russian Unions recognise the statutes and regulations of this International. Precisely during the discussion of the question of the unity of the International Trade Union Movement, the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions received a letter, in which the "dignity" and the unconditional recognition of the statutes were again emphasised and which stated, that they — the Amsterdamers — are prepared to meet a Russian delegation consisting of five members. The leaders of the Amsterdam Inter-

national are very strange people with their "dignity" and with their statutes and programmes. They propose negotiations with the Russian Unions, but demand beforehand the recognition of their regulations and statutes without understanding or at least indicating that they understand, that negotiations are usually carried on for the purpose of drawing up new regulations, and not for the purpose of recognising statutes and programme, in the drawing up of which the All-Russian Trade Union Council had no part whatever. The right wing of the Amsterdam International is carrying out a manoeuvre — in fact a very bad manoeuvre.

The III. Congress of the R. I. L. U., instead of wasting its time over vague and meaningless formulas regarding "dignity", faced the question of uniting the two Internationals by means of convening an International Unity Congress on the basis of proportional representation. The III. Congress, right from the first moment, perceived quite clearly that most bitter struggles will have to be waged in order to solve this problem. The revolutionary workers of all countries, who propose the unity of the two internationals, are sincerely desirous of re-establishing the unity of the international trade union movement. Here however we encounter the resistance of the reformists with their "dignity". The Amsterdamers are in the habit of saying that they are the "only" organisation and that they have the "overwhelming" majority of the workers. Assuming this be the case, what have they to lose if it should come to an International Unity Congress? They would obtain the majority and control the new International. If we found ourselves in the minority, we would observe discipline and continue to struggle for our ideas. One would think that the Amsterdamers, if they are so firmly convinced of their overwhelming majority, would gladly collaborate in the unity Congress. But we have heard nothing of this. All signs indicate that the reformists will reply to our sincere proposal to set up the unity of the whole international trade union movement by evading the question and, instead of bringing forward definite arguments, will stand on their "dignity". What would the rejection of the congress, which we honestly and sincerely propose for the purpose of uniting both internationals, mean? In any case it would mean that they are not so very sure of their majority after all; that they do not trust their own forces. We believe that many workers will be found in the Amsterdam International who grasp the exceedingly great historical importance of the setting up of a real unity in the international trade union movement. They will perceive this and bring appropriate pressure to bear upon their leaders.

The III. Congress of the R. I. L. U. has openly raised the question of the unity of the whole international trade union movement before ten million workers. That is undoubtedly a great gain. At this Congress the revolutionary trade union movement of all countries made a fresh step forwards on the way to uniting and rallying all forces for the organising of the social revolution. At the congress a report was submitted on the conference of the transport workers of the Pacific, which was held in Canton. This constitutes a proof of the gigantic organisational force and power of expansion of the Profintern. We still have much to achieve in the revolutionary trade union movement, but the greater the number of tasks confronting us, the greater the energy and self-sacrifice which the revolutionary workers of all countries will devote to the work.

The work of the III congress of the Profintern kept to the communist path, as there is and can be no other path for the revolutionary trade union movement than the communist path.

## IN THE INTERNATIONAL

### The VII. Conference of the Balkan Communist Federation.

By G. Dimitrov.

The Balkan Communist Federation, which was originally founded in 1910 as the Balkan Social Democratic Federation and which consists of the Communist parties of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Greece, has just held its VII. Conference in Moscow. The VI. Conference had declared the fundamental tasks of the Communist parties of the Balkan countries and laid down their line of tactics, especially in regard to the national and the peasant question — the two chief problems of every policy in the