International News

For a New International Communist Movement

Los Angeles, Calif.

In an effort to promote proletarian internationalism, communists from three countries held a cordial and friendly exchange of views here at the end of January. The meeting was attended by the leading members of the central committees of the Canadian Party of Labor, the U.S. Progressive Labor Party, and the Mexican Communist Party.

Out of the wreckage of the old international communist movement a new communist international must be built. This meeting was a small step in that direction. The representatives of 3 parties were authorized to approve a set of principles that all communists could agree on. These principles (see below) are the basis of our revolutionary unity.

The comrades from the U.S. and Canada were greatly encouraged by the steps taken in Mexico to rebuild the working class vanguard out of the wreckage caused by the anarchists and revisionists. They believed that the Mexican comrades appreciated that the revolutionary growth of the PLP and CPL would be a big help in the defeat of our common enemy, the U.S. imperialism. We all agreed that a great deal of activity and action in the style of Marx is essential to a healthy communist movement.

The meeting unanimously agreed to found a common theoretical journal. This journal will be used to exchange views amongst the three parties. Theoretical training of communists in other countries. It will be edited in San Francisco and the first edition will appear Sept. 1. (A subscription, four issues for $4.00, can be obtained by sending a check to the money to Box 42422, San Francisco, Calif. 94101).

On the initiative of the comrades from Canada, it was decided to declare here a day of international solidarity with Dan Vered and the other imprisoned communists in Israel. Demonstrations at all major Israeli consulates in Canada, U.S., Mexico, will be planned for that day.

Out of debate, study and united action against the class enemy, and fighting all the opportunism and bourgeois ideas inside the working class, a new international will come into being.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNION!

12 THESES OF COMMUNISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND MEXICO


1. More and more the world is being divided into two classes, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. All other classes are disappearing: the proletariat, the special product of capitalism, is the only revolutionary class.

2. The basis of the class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat leads to the replacement of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie by the dictatorship of the proletariat. This historical change can only come about through armed revolution. The proletariat will thoroughly destroy the bourgeois military and bureaucratic machine and establish its own armed dictatorship as part of the capitalist class in order to preserve the final liquidation of the bourgeoisie as a class.

3. Workers have no country, no nationality. The proletariat recognizes no borders, no frontiers. The workers of the world must unite and never support their own bourgeoisie or succumb to the false promises of capitalism.

4. In the Western Hemisphere and elsewhere, the U.S. monopoly capitalist class has established a bloody system of imperialism. This system has become stronger more strongly the chains of enslavement on the American proletariat. All the American governments, ruling classes, military, media and even trade unions are increasingly under the control of the U.S. imperialists. The destruction of the U.S. imperialist system would be an immense help for proletarian revolution in the Western Hemisphere.

5. The capitalist ruling classes are preparing imperialist war.

6. In order to march the population in cadence to an imperialist slaughter and to destroy the working class movement, the ruling classes are imposing the bloody system of fascism on the working class. Fascism can only be defeated by communism. We fight not to restore bourgeois democracy but to win dictatorship of the proletariat.

7. The movement against U.S. imperialism and local fascism must never unite with the national bourgeoisie or sections of it. The goal of the struggle against U.S. imperialism is socialism, not “national liberation.” National liberation is a trap of the oppressors designed to crush the communist movement.

8. The revisionist groups, such as the Soviet imperialists, the Maoists, the Falashas, the Trotskyists, the Social-Democrats and the anarchists, are the most formidable enemies of the proletariat. Their opportunism has restored capitalism in the USSR, China and other places and has sabotaged countless revolutions and working class movements. Revolutionary communists can never unite with these renegades from revolutionary Marxism.

9. In order to organize the revolution a voluntary revolutionary party is necessary. This party must be illegal and operate under the principles of democratic centralism. The core of the party are trained professional revolutionaries. The party combines legal and illegal, secret and public, revolutionary activity and other work in a flexible way in order to achieve revolution.

10. The reform struggle, unless it leads to the growth of communist ideas among the masses, fortifies capitalism. The duty of communists is to bring the ideas of revolution, internationalism and the dictatorship of the proletariat into the reform movement, recruit and train professional revolutionaries and propagate communist ideas to the masses. Communists, wherever they work in the trade-unions, in the military, among the peasants and others, where the masses are to be found.

11. Communists oppose the bourgeois ideas of pacifism and humanism. On the question of war our position is simple: One we are opposed to imperialist war, two we are not afraid of such wars. War can be a great school for the proletariat and great opportunity for the revolutionary party to seize power in the hour of the enemy’s weakness.

12. Racism is the number one tool of the bourgeoisie in building anti-communism and in mortally dividing the working class. All communists must devote special attention to the defeat of racist ideas. WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Manley Blocks Socialism in Jamaica

(The following article is reprinted from The Worker, newspaper of the Canadian Party of Labor.)

The Jamaican working class is steeped in a militant class-conscious tradition as witnessed through the 84-day Kirkville strike of bauxite miners in 1953, the great sugar strike of workers at the Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation in 1964 and the election of Manley, reflecting a desire for socialism.

But Manley and the People’s National Party will not bring socialism to Jamaica. The handwriting was on the wall when Manley explained in his New Year’s address that his “just society” under “democratic socialism” meant that “the entire nation will be called on to make great sacrifices for the goals of national progress.” A wage and price freeze is one of the “sacrifices” the working class will have to live with at a time when 20–30 per cent inflation rates have already eaten much of the real wages earned. And in the same breath there will be increases of 57 per cent on gasoline prices, 35 cent (domestic calls) on telephone bills, and 33 one third percent on motor vehicle and drivers’ licenses.

To appear “fair and just” a super-tax has been levied on incomes of over $20,000 a year and over. But there is no reason to doubt that the same bigots who were able to avoid taxes, before receiving most of their income, will be forced to pay the full tax. This is simply another way to avoid tax and to escape with a 25 per cent tax rate, which is what will be levied in some allowances now. In any case, as Finance Minister D. Gooe was quick to point out to an anxious Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ)—the national bourgeoisie, the measures may only be of a short term nature and are to be under constant review.

All in all, the main beneficiary of Manley’s economic program is the Jamaican capitalist class. The call for increased productivity, the restriction on imports with the “target of 20 per cent replacement of imported goods by 1960” and the elimination of the Task Force to increase exports are all in the interest of Jamaican businessmen. Manley’s assurances that he is not a communist, his democratic socialism for the whole people, his appeal to Jamaican nationalism and his “just society” in Jamaica, is neither unique nor socialism. The nationalization of the banks, the CN (in Canada) and some banks has been tried before and has never gained the working class. The question will be whether the government serve, the capitalist class or the working class? The stakes are high.

The industrial working class can see what type of “democratic socialism” this means. At the asset sale Manley was presenting his budget on Jan. 19, 250 workers at Jamaica