

Committee to Defeat Revision, for Communist Unity

Statement: Leeds - Bradford

Published: *Leaflet 1965*

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the [Creative Commons Common Deed](#). You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proofreaders above.

STATEMENT: LEEDS—BRADFORD

A GREAT debate is at present being waged within the International Communist Movement concerning the entire future perspectives of world-wide struggle against Imperialism and the further advance to Socialism. This struggle is becoming ever sharper and more intense as Modern Revisionism and its representatives, headed by Khrushchev and other leaders of the C.P.S.U., constantly systematise and intensify their line of capitulation to Imperialism, repudiation of revolutionary struggle, and betrayal of the fundamental interests of the working class and all working people. They are flagrantly falsifying and seeking to reverse the revolutionary theses and correct decisions embodied in the Programme Documents of the International Communist Movement commonly agreed upon at the Moscow Meetings of the World Communist Parties in 1957 and 1960, and are seeking to impose their own revisionist line of "peaceful co-existence," "peaceful economic competition" and "peaceful transition" upon the Communist Parties of the whole world.

Analysing the contemporary world situation, the Moscow Declaration and Statement point out that there is now a new balance of class forces on a world scale extremely favourable to the forces opposing Imperialism, and that these forces have now advanced to a point where they embrace a majority of workers and toiling masses of the world. Since World War II, a mighty Camp of Socialist Nations has come into being, a powerful base of revolutionary advance; the National and Colonial Liberation Movement has grown to tremendous proportions, shaking Imperialism to its very foundations and rapidly destroying the last vestiges of old-style colonialism; and the working class and peace movements in the monopoly-capitalist countries themselves have developed into powerful organisations playing an ever-increasing role in curbing the imperialist war plans.

NEW FORCES

As a consequence of the emergence of these mighty new forces of social progress, the camp of Imperialism and war has been severely weakened, to the point where it is progressively losing the initiative in determining the future course of world history. Extremely favourable conditions therefore exist for developing and intensifying the struggle against Imperialism to much greater

heights, and for winning significant further advances in the historic path of the world's peoples towards National Liberation, Socialism and peace.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise to Marxist-Leninists, to revolutionary Communists, and is amply confirmed by past experience of the betrayals of the old-style revisionism of the Second International, that it is at precisely such moments of decisive historical change in the world balance of class forces and the objective conditions for revolutionary advance that the imperialists and reactionaries are compelled to seek allies within the working class and Communist movement within the camp of Socialism, national liberation, democracy and peace. The vanguard of the anti-imperialist forces in all countries is the World Communist Movement and the Communist and Workers' Parties. It is now evident that Imperialism has found the allies it so desperately needs in the persons of Khrushchev and other leaders of the C.P.S.U. and other Communist and Workers' Parties of Eastern Europe. Furthermore, these betrayers have found willing followers in the leaderships of a number of Communist Parties in the capitalist countries of Western Europe, including the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The modern revisionists, headed by

P.T.O.

Khrushchev, maintain that the new favourable world situation renders further struggle against Imperialism unnecessary. They interpret peaceful co-existence between states of different social system to mean "peaceful" relations between oppressed and oppressor classes and nations. In practice, this means abandoning armed struggle against Imperialism for national liberation, abandoning the armed preparedness of the Socialist Camp against Imperialist aggression, and abandoning the working people of the capitalist countries to the sickly-sweet embrace of social democracy and reformism. In particular, since the workers and toiling peasants of the colonial and neo-colonial countries possess no other means of struggle but armed revolt, this revisionist line amounts to abandoning these peoples indefinitely to the yoke of Imperialism. In the advanced capitalist countries, it means condemning the working people to passivity and stifles their class initiative and revolutionary energies.

BETRAYERS

Here in Britain, the revisionist and right-opportunist leadership of the C.P.G.B. has betrayed the fundamental interests of the working class and all working people. Their programme, "The British Road to Socialism," paints a straightforward social-democratic perspective of gaining "allies" within the Labour Party and the Trade Unions, winning a General Election, and thus transforming Parliament into an organ of working class power. This is in direct violation of Marxism-Leninism and the entire experience of the British and world working class and the Communist Parties, the major lesson of which is that power can be won by the workers only by completely destroying in revolution the existing state apparatus of the capitalist class and creating anew its own instrument of power, the State of the proletarian dictatorship. This right-opportunist "leadership" is tailing in the wake of the revisionist policies of Khrushchev and the C.P.S.U. leadership, because their own miserable failure to lead the struggles of the working people in Britain and to promote the long and short-term interests of the working class compels them to rely primarily for their bases of support upon the external prestige attaching to past successes in

the U.S.S.R. and other Socialist countries in Socialist construction.

The entire history of revisionism in the C.P.G.B., typified by such measures as the disbanding of the factory branches by order of the Executive Committee in 1946 and the removal of Communist cadres from work in the National Shop Steward Movement in 1948, found its culmination in the Gollan Statement and E.C. Resolution of Sept. 18th 1963, in which the Marxist-Leninist policies of the Communist Party of China were publicly slandered and misrepresented, bogus votes gathered at Party meetings convened suddenly and without warning and after prior discussion had been denied, and in the subsequent closing of the Party press to all opponents of the revisionist line and policies of the C.P.G.B. leadership. These two features, to wit (a) the foisting on the party of a revisionist programme, "The British Road to Socialism," and (b) the final abandonment of democratic-centralist norms of procedure and organisation in Party life and work, together amount to the fact that the C.P.G.B. has ceased to be a Marxist-Leninist, a Communist Party in anything but name. On every front of struggle, it fails to give a fighting lead to the working people of Britain. All aspects of its activity are subordinated to the social-democratic fetish of electoral struggle and the "Parliamentary Road."

We, the undersigned Communists of Leeds and Bradford, therefore declare our principled opposition to the revisionist programme and policies of the Communist Party of Great Britain. It is now obvious to us that the final abandonment of democratic centralism leaves us no alternative but to declare our firm resolve to work in unity with the Committee to defeat Revisionism, for Communist Unity for the establishment of a new and genuine Communist Party in England, Scotland and Wales, and thus to lay the essential and indispensable basis for the triumphant advance of the British people to Socialism and Communism.

KEITH JENNINGS, joined C.P.G.B. 1958,
GEORGE LANGSTONE, 1957,
IAN FAIREY, 1956,
ANGUS BLACK, 1954,
STAN CATON, 1957.

The Leeds and Bradford Committee to defeat revisionism, for Communist Unity
12 Moorfield Avenue, Thornbury, Bradford, Yorks.