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The International Frankfurt Conference to the Workers of the World

The Ruhr Wars has been going on for more than two months. Victims are falling daily. The economic life of France and Germany has suffered incurable wounds which have increased the cost of living; unemployment and the misery of the proletariat.

The longer the Ruhr War is protracted, the nearer approaches the danger that the economic war in the Ruhr basin will turn into a new and frightful war. In France, as well as in Germany, a section of the bourgeoisie is consciously pursuing this aim. Another section of the bourgeoisie, haunted by the spectre of proletarian revolution which a new war inevitably involves, seeks to postpone the armed conflict and to effect a temporary capitalist settlement.

Workers! Such a capitalist understanding cannot bring real and lasting peace. It would merely mean a breathing space, a pause for the further preparation of a new war; and this capitalist understanding is to be effected at the expense of the workers. Higher taxes, the abolition of the eight hour day, wage reductions, abolition of all social legislation—that is the program of capitalist "understanding", that is the Stinnes program, that is the line of rapprochement between Poincaré and Stinnes.

The danger of war is still more intensified by the rise of bloodthirsty Fascism. Fascism aims at the destruction of all labor organizations and the ruthless enslavement of all workers.

Workers! In the struggle against the Ruhr War and the threatening war danger, the leaders of the Social Democracy and of the reformist Trade Unions have failed us miserably. The lavish promises of the Hague Conference to declare the General Strike against the threatening war danger, have not been fulfilled. It was not even attempted to combat war and the Ruhr occupation. All requests and appeals of the Communist Party, the revolutionary Trade Unions and Shop Stewards, to organize an international proletarian fighting front, were absolutely disregarded by the leaders of the Amsterdam, London and Vienna Internationals. As in the World War, so now, these leaders make peace with the bourgeoisie.

The only ones who fought at the head of the working masses, were the Communists, the revolutionary Trade Unions and Shop Stewards, who were also joined by Social Democratic, Independent and Non-Partisan workers, as well as by the Communist and revolutionary proletarian Youth. These militant elements organized the international unity of the working class not in words alone but in deeds, unscared by the prisons of the bourgeoisie; they carried on revolutionary propaganda among the occupation troops and mobilized the broad proletarian masses.

Workers of All Countries! The Frankfurt International Conference which unites all proletarian forces, which has led a real struggle against the Ruhr crime,—calls upon you to carry forth this struggle more intensively and extensively.

In order to co-ordinate this struggle, and to draw ever greater working masses and labor organizations around the already existing nucleus of the international proletarian fighting front, and to make possible a *World Labor Congress*,—the Frankfurt Conference appoints a Committee of Action.

Workers! Unite under the leadership of the *International Committee of Action*; erase all national and party frontiers, and combat the threatening war danger.

In order to bring about the evacuation of the Ruhr basin as well of all other occupied German territory by the imperialist robbers,

in order to liquidate the Versailles robber treaty,
in order to beat back the intensified capitalist offensive against your very existence—you must increase the revolutionary propaganda among the troops which are misled and misused by Imperialism.

You must force the bourgeoisie to liberate all proletarian militants languishing in its prisons!

Create *International Control Committees* which are to control and prevent all transportation of ammunition!

In order to intensify and unify the defensive struggle, the Frankfurt Conference sets the week of April 15-22, 1923, for an *International Propaganda Week*.

Organize mass demonstrations everywhere!
Workers of France and Belgium, of the Big and Little Entente!

Let your answer to the arrest of your revolutionary leaders and to the brutal persecution by your governments be: **Fight!** Intensify the struggle on all fronts where you are opposed by the bourgeoisie or the bourgeois State. Yours is the important task of abolishing the Versailles robber treaty. Shoulder to shoulder with your German proletarian brothers, enlighten your brothers in uniform and tell them not to allow themselves to be misused against your German class comrades.

Away with taxation of the propertyless! Away with the wage tax! Away with Poincaré-la-Ruhr! Down with the pirates of the Comité des Forges!

German Workers! The per cent patriots who have sworn a thousand times that there shall be no negotiations with Poincaré until the Ruhr district is evacuated, are already calmly and cynically preparing the way for an understanding with him, while at the same time they outwardly excite the national hatred to its highest pitch. They are prepared to concur in the occupation of the Ruhr district for an indefinite time, if only French capital will share with them the proceeds derived from the colony of Germany.

Workers of the Ruhr and of the rest of Germany! Continue your struggle against Poincaré with the greatest possible energy! If sacrifices must be made in order to compel the robbers to depart, the German bourgeoisie shall bring them. No Cuno government, no great or little coalition will carry this out. Only a *Revolutionary Workers' Government* can do this. This is the only way to secure real peace, to secure your existence and the existence of Germany. The reparations crisis has arisen through the collapse of capitalism. It can only be finally settled through the abolition of capitalism!

The revolutionary German workers want peace. They are prepared to annul the Versailles peace by the international proletarian struggle, to purchase peace by means of the severest material sacrifices at the expense of the bourgeoisie, in order to gain time for consolidating the forces of the working class.

The alliance with Soviet Russia will enormously strengthen the power of a German revolutionary Workers' Government and be a further guarantee of peace; it will also secure the defence of the workers' state if international capital should refuse to give peace to a revolutionary Germany!

Working men and women of all countries! The conference finally calls upon you to put up a bold front against Fascism. There where it organizes itself in order to seize power set up the most widespread counter-propaganda by word and writing but do not be satisfied with this. At the same time create your workers' organizations which shall destroy it in its beginnings. There where Fascism is triumphant, as in Italy, unite your efforts internationally in order to overthrow it. To the dust with the Fascist monster!

Youthful workers! You, who will be the first victims of the imperialist war should be specially active in the proletarian struggle against war and Fascism, should be the most enthusiastic fighters!

War against imperialist war!
Down with the Versailles robber treaty!
Down with Fascism!
Long live the proletarian united front in all countries transcending all party divisions!

Frankfurt, March 18, 1923.

The International Conference at Frankfurt-on-Main.