

THE RED TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL

The Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Red Trade Union International.

The following is a report on the course of the Second Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the R.T.U.I. which took place on the 17th of February in Moscow.

34 representatives from various countries, having a full vote and 5 guests with an advisory voice took part. The following countries were represented: Russia, Austria, England, Bul-

garia, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Luxemburg, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia and France; the non-European countries represented were North America, Japan, China, Australia, Dutch East Indies, Korea and the Far Eastern Republic.

After a detailed report by the General Secretary, Comrade Lozovsky, dealing with the activities of the Executive Bureau during the last six months, and after an exhaustive debate in which the representatives of the following countries and organizations took part: Switzerland, Germany ("Union" and Trade Union Opposition), Holland (Syndicalists), Upper Silesia (Union), India, Spain, Austria (Youth International), Poland, Russia and Czechoslovakia, several resolutions dealing with the past and future activities of the R.T.U.I. were passed.

In its resolution on the report of the Executive Bureau, the Central Committee voiced its approval of the activity of the Bureau. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the fact that in spite of the many difficulties that had to be overcome, it succeeded in approaching its main goal, namely, that of revolutionizing the trade-union organizations of the whole world and of making the Red Trade Union International the central force in the revolutionary class-struggle of the proletariat. The Central Committee furthermore approved all the measures taken by the Executive Bureau for the creation of a united proletarian front; it also approved of the proposals made by the Executive Bureau to the Amsterdam International Trade Union Federation.

The Central Committee also approved of the Executive Bureau's policy concerning the entrance of the single revolutionary trade-unions into their respective international trade and industrial organizations. The Central Committee put the sections of the various countries under the obligation to work for the R.T.U.I. with still greater energy than heretofore at every step and at every meeting, and to maintain the closest connection with the Executive Bureau in their work. Particular attention is to be paid to the East which is very rapidly becoming industrialized, and where the danger of national division and of the transformation of the trade-unions in a reformist-imperialistic spirit should be very carefully guarded against. The measures taken by the Executive Bureau for the creation of a closer contact between the Red Trade Union International and the Youth International were also approved. The resolution deals finally with the question of agitation and propaganda by the R.T.U.I., in which many suggestions and recommendations made by the representatives of the Youth International, the Swiss Trade Union Opposition and of the Union of Hand and Brain Workers of Germany, were taken into consideration.

On the second question on the order of the day—*The Capitalistic Offensive and the United Proletarian Front*—theses were presented by comrades Lozovsky and Brandler, and after a discussion accepted. These theses agree in general with the past policy of the Executive Bureau on this question.

Comrade Rosmer reported on the *Splitting Policy of Amsterdam*. In the introduction to the resolution covering this question it is pointed out that the reformist trade-union leaders still attempt to carry on their pre- and post-war policy of cooperation with the bourgeoisie, even in the present period of the most acute world-crisis and the general capitalist offensive. They are not only abandoning the revolutionary aims of the proletariat, but are also opposing the working-class even in questions which are wage struggles pure and simple. This throws the reformist leaders into an ever-growing conflict with the working masses. In order to deaden the influence of the revolutionary vanguard, in order to prevent the organization of an united defensive front which the workers demand against the ever-growing insolence of the bourgeoisie, and in order to be able to maintain their cooperation with the exploiters, the Amsterdamers quite unscrupulously resort to splitting and destroying the trade-union mass-organizations. In doing this they are guilty of the most flagrant violation of the principles of democracy, of which they are the loudest defenders when the question is one of sharing political power with the bourgeoisie. These tactics of the Amsterdam trade-union leaders are pregnant with the most fatal consequences for the trade-union movement. The Central Council of the Red Trade Union International appeals to the class-conscious members of the trade-unions in all countries, to remain in their respective trade-union organizations, to carry on their revolutionary activities within them, and to work persistently for the transformation of these organizations into actual fighting organs. Where the reformist bureaucrats proceed to expel individual members or to dissolve sections, locals or groups, it is the duty of the revolutionary members of all trade-unions to start an immediate protest movement against the splitters, and categorically demand the recall of the various expulsions and dissolutions. The ex-

pelled members as well as the dissolved locals must seize upon all the means at their disposal to effect their readmission into the main organization. In the meantime the expelled locals are to fulfill the obligations prescribed for the whole organization. If more than one local is expelled from a union or more than one union in a country, it is the duty of the R.T.U.I. adherents to unite the expelled locals or unions and to establish the closest contact between the groups expelled and those organizations that are already part of the Red Trade Union International. They again, the revolutionary unions of other trades and industries are to admit the expelled sections and groups into their organization, of course at the same time safeguarding the rights of the old union members. In cases where whole unions are expelled from the national organization, or where the readmission of the expelled locals by their respective unions cannot be effected, the national headquarters should be appealed to. Where the tactics of Amsterdam have effected splits all along the line, the revolutionary organizations are still not to abandon the struggle for reunion, but are to carry it on on the basis of free discussion and through proportional representation in all instances. But the broad masses should be drawn into this struggle for unity in the trade-union movement, and the Amsterdamers must all the time be challenged to show their colors. In regard to the slanders and calumnies spread by Amsterdam, the Central Committee of the R.T.U.I. emphatically declared that the adherents of the Red Trade Union International within the trade-union organizations will always respect and voice the majority will of the working-class, and will never resort to force against it.

On the question of relations between the Revolutionary Syndicalists and the Red Trade Union International, the Central Committee, after a discussion by comrades Nin and Andrejitchine, realised that in certain Syndicalistic circles, the resolution of the First Congress of the R.T.U.I. concerning relations with the Communist International has created a misunderstanding and even caused considerable confusion.

On this point the Central Committee of the Red Trade Union International expressly declared that the resolution in question in no way means the subordination of the trade-unions to the Communist Parties or the subordination of the R.T.U.I. to the Communist International; it means nothing but the concentration of all organized forces of the working-class for the purpose of overthrowing the capitalist regime.

As to the fact that the German Syndicalists at their Congress in Düsseldorf, attempted to found a "Syndicalist" International, the Central Committee of the Red Trade Union International was compelled to warn revolutionary organizations against such a splitting-step and to protest against this stab-in-the-back to proletarian unity. It furthermore pointed out that such a sectional international would be doomed to impotence from the very beginning.

In the conviction that the attempt to lay a sound foundation upon which the structure of all revolutionary forces of the world can be solidly built, will meet with success, the Central Committee addressed an urgent appeal to all revolutionary trade-unions, including those which have already declared against joining the Red Trade Union International, to take part in the Second Congress of the R.T.U.I.

RELIEF FOR RUSSIA

500,000,000 Marks Collected by Foreign Committee for the Famine Stricken in Russia.

** Up to the 1st of April, the Workers' Relief Committees affiliated to the Foreign Committee (Berlin) for the Organisation of Workers Relief for the Famine Stricken in Russia had collected 447,787,000 Marks in cash and goods. To this there is to be added 150 to 180 million Marks granted by trade-unions, cooperative societies, and private and parliamentary donations upon the motions of Workers' Relief Committees, Communist groups and fractions. This latter sum is not included in the 447,787,000 Marks because this money has not been placed at the disposal of the Foreign Committee, but sent to the International Trade Union Federation, various Red Cross organizations or to the Nansen Committee. All in all there has been brought in up to the 1st April last through the activity of the organisations of the Foreign Committee for the starving workers and peasants in Russia the very respectable sum of over 500,000,000 Marks. To this total the various countries have contributed as follows: