

IN THE R. I. L. U.

Resolution on the Sabotage of the United Front by the Amsterdam International

Adopted by the Executive Bureau of the Red International of Labor Unions at its Session of August 20, 1923.

After discussing the resolution adopted on August 3, and 4, by the Executive Committee of the International Trade Union Federation, the Executive Bureau of the Red International of Labor Unions points out that, despite the important events taking place in Europe at the present time, events demanding more urgently than ever the adoption of the united front tactics, the International Trade Union Federation continues to reject these tactics, and to sabotage the first successes of the International Federation of Transport Workers.

At this precise moment when the fate of the world revolution and of the international working class is at stake in Germany, and when the struggle now raging may end with the

triumph of either Fascism or of the proletariat, at this moment the leaders of the International Trade Union Federation take a grave responsibility upon themselves before history and the proletariat, in rejecting on the flimsiest pretexts a united front of the workers against Fascism and war danger.

The International Trade Union Federation deems it to be an absolute prerequisite for the unity of the trade union movement that every hostility to and attack on the International Trade Union Federation, its organizations, and members, cease, and that the Russian workers declare themselves ready to fight in Russia too against war danger and reaction.

These two conditions are perfectly ridiculous. The critical attitude taken by the revolutionists to the leaders of the Amsterdam International is justified by the relations of the latter to the international bourgeoisie, and by its cooperation with international capitalism. Let the Amsterdam International first cease this cooperation and break off these relations; then we too shall cease our "criticisms" and "attacks". Let it once more employ the methods of class struggle; and the "atmosphere of mutual respect and mutual confidence" will be restored. But even should these conditions be fulfilled, trade union unity does not exclude the right of criticism.

At the present time, when reaction is raging in every country, the refusal of the Amsterdam leaders to form the united front proves that these leaders share the views of the bourgeoisie, and this fact completely justifies our criticisms and attacks.

The second condition made by the International Trade Union Federation is simply ridiculous in the eyes of all those who know that the Russian workers have successfully combatted every expression of reaction and counter-revolution, that they are continuing the struggle thus begun, and are relentlessly frustrating every machination of the reactionaries. This condition is ridiculous for another reason as well, for the competent authority of Edo Fimmen, secretary of the International Trade Union Federation, has pronounced Soviet Russia to be the strongest bulwark against Fascism.

The endeavors of the Russian proletariat and its government in the struggle for universal peace, and for the cessation of the world war, are known to all. The Red International of Labor Unions cherishes the hope that the leaders of the Amsterdam International will not confuse the defence of the Russian Revolution against the attacks of international capitalism with such wars as break out through the fault of capitalist governments, and inevitably end in the repression of the proletariat. The Russian workers have carried the revolution through—are they not to defend it?

The leaders of the Amsterdam International are very well aware of all this, but as they are equally well aware that the broad masses of the proletariat join us in demanding a united front and common action on the part of the trade unions, they attempt to cloak their refusal by demagogic arguments, and by making conditions whose absurdity it is not difficult to demonstrate.

The Red International of Labor Unions is firmly convinced that international reaction can only be conquered when a proletarian united front has been established. It declares that, despite the efforts being made by the leaders of the International Trade Union Federation, it will continue its propaganda in favor of the united front, and will realize this, if need be, against the will of those leaders who have again proved themselves to be conscious agents of capitalism.

Executive Bureau
of the Red International of Labor Unions.