

Trade Union Propaganda And Cultural Activities of the P.P.T.U.S.

Adopted by the Secretariat of the P.P.T.U.S., Just After the Vladivostok Conference

1. In view of the growth of the class trade union movement in the Pacific countries, with the intensification of the struggle against colonial and national oppression of the imperialist powers, against the capitalist offensive and rabid reaction, certain specific tasks must be kept in view in pressing forward our trade union agitational, propaganda and cultural activities. The varying economic and political conditions to be found in the countries embraced by the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, which include highly industrialized countries like Japan and Australia, and countries where industry is a source of profit for foreign capital (like India, Formosa and Philippines) and where the development of the revolutionary labor movement differs, making a special and individual approach to agitational and propaganda activities in each country imperative.

2. The ways and means of running trade union agitational, propaganda and cultural activities must be adapted to the political and cultural level of the workers in the given country. Elementary forms of running activities (meetings, posters, gatherings) should gradually give way to more complicated forms (schools, clubs) to correspond with the general development of the trade union movement. This should always be kept in view. In those cases where the militant trade unions are forced to work illegally, like, for example, in China, every loophole must be used to run agitational, propaganda and cultural activities, turning to good account all legal possibilities, such as various cultural institutions (schools, libraries, courses, and even universities) to promote revolutionary trade union propaganda.

3. All our agitational propaganda and cultural educational work should be conducted from a working class standpoint. In running agitation and propaganda we should carefully note the actual conditions obtaining in the given country or at the given enterprise as well as the conditions of the struggle and be able to link up these activities with the general tasks confronting the revolutionary trade union movement. That is why it is vital that we popularize for the broad masses of men and women workers the true significance of the trade unions and their role in the general struggle against exploitation and capitalist oppression. Our chief attention must be given to explain and elucidate the tactics we must use during strikes in accordance with the Second Conference decisions. The experience already gained in this connection in countries where the trade union movement is more developed should therefore be noted. Ways and means of running agitational activities during strikes should be constantly improved so that they could be used and applied by the broadest circles of our active trade union workers. Meanwhile educational activities must be advanced to free the workers ideologically from religious superstitions, national and racial antagonisms, which are fostered by the bourgeoisie and their agents—the missionaries and reformists. It is therefore essential to educate the broad masses of the workers in an international spirit.

Mass Forms of Agitation and Propaganda and Cultural Educational Activities.

4. One of the chief tasks the class unions should keep in view is to arrange for class agitational activities and to cater to the cul-

tural needs of the working masses. All these activities should aim primarily at catering to the most backward sections of the working class and be adapted to the conditions of the struggle and development of the movement in the given countries. During strikes and during the maturing of strikes our agitation and propaganda should aim at explaining: (1) the forms and methods of organizing and guiding the strike movement, (2) the demands and slogans of the workers, (3) the necessity of drawing unorganized workers into the struggle and into the trade union movement, (4) the condition of the enterprise and the industry affected by the dispute, (5) the correlation of forces between labor and capital, (6) the true character of anti-labor laws, repressions, etc., (7) the fact that the present day struggle of the working class is offensive in character, (8) the strike movement and the position of the struggle in other countries, etc. Simultaneously, during strikes and lockouts, we should organize the education of the workers in an international spirit, and set up international connections.

5. In view of the fact that there are large numbers completely illiterate workers (India, China) the trade unions are also faced with the stupendous work of raising the cultural and political level of the working class. It is therefore important that all our agitational and cultural work be easily understood and readily grasped even by those workers who are unable to read. We should therefore recommend that striking posters and slogans be hung up in prominent places, mass meetings and demonstrations should be organized as well as the reading of papers and books, evenings of questions and answers as well as simple talks on all questions vitally affecting the interests of the working class.

6. Experience gained in several countries (like in China) shows distinctly that workers' clubs did some good work in furthering the activities of the class trade unions. In our trade union cultural activities we should therefore aim first of all at establishing workers' clubs, which should be organized not only if premises are available, but also by making use of the enterprises and the street,

in a word, wherever we can get a place for the men to gather. It is imperative that group and individual propaganda activities be organized among the workers in the enterprises and streets. Talks, flying meetings, distribution of literature and issuance of factory papers, etc., should all be arranged. Good use should be made of various slogans, posters, leaflets, factory and wall papers. Steps must also be taken at the same time to organize workers' sport organizations, this applying especially to Japan and China, where the ground has already been prepared, these organizations to be put in touch with the Red Sport International.

7. The carrying out of the tremendous tasks confronting the young revolutionary trade union movement of the Pacific countries depends in a large measure on a well-organized and regular trade union press service. The trade union papers published in Japan and China today are being suppressed and confiscated. Nevertheless, we should keep on publishing them. On the other hand, the existing trade union papers in India and the Philippines, cannot cope with the growing needs of the working class. Further, we must extend the practice of publishing daily bulletin sheets and leaflets, especially during economic and political events. In those localities where the workers speak in various vernacular languages, we must, from time to time, issue special sheets and leaflets in the native languages. We should remember that the trade union press must always be the mouthpiece and the organizer of the working class struggles.

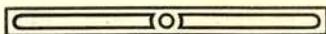
8. To guarantee the success of the political and cultural educational activities among the masses, a special trade union committee should be appointed for this work by the respective trade unions. This committee should be charged to make arrangements and carry out campaigns in the trade unions, guide cultural activities, work out measures of training active trade union workers, always taking into consideration the experience gained in this field in the given country. In order to draw in the large masses of workers to our agitational and propaganda work, in

order to make them interested in this work, special propagandists and organizers should be appointed for the various enterprises, mines and plantations. During strikes special propaganda committees must be organized under the strike committees or militant committees.

9. Collections should be made among the

workers to organize cultural and educational activities, to organize schools and to purchase literature, etc. In the independent cultural educational organizations and the workers' clubs, membership fees should be fixed in accordance with the decisions of the general meetings of the members.

September 1, 1929.



Resolution on The Role of the Trade Unions and Socialist Construction

Adopted at the Vladivostok Conference of the P.P.T.U.S.

HAVING heard Comrade Avdeyeva's report on the part played by the trade unions in Socialist Construction in the Soviet Union, the Second Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference notes with satisfaction the speedy tempo of the development of Socialist economy in the U.S.S.R., and the raising on this basis of the material and cultural level of the many millions of workers. The steady progress in all branches of economy, social and cultural life is the best proof that the working class — freed from land-owners, bourgeoisie, church, bourgeois science and yellow press, is fast approaching its aim of the real brotherhood of nations, real labor democracy created by the workers for their own interests. The workers along the coasts

of the Pacific Ocean are with untiring attention and deep sympathy watching the tremendous and creative work in the U.S.S.R. The workers' and peasants' masses and the trade unions of the U.S.S.R. may be assured that all the exploited classes and oppressed nations are on their side. The union between the working class of the country where Revolution was victorious, and the working class along the Pacific Coast is of utmost importance for the victorious struggle with Imperialism, for the national and social liberation of the working masses in the colonies and semi-colonies.

Our greetings to the Builders of Socialism
in the Soviet Union!

