

To the Workers and Peasants of India

From the Delegates at the Shanghai Conference of the Pan-Pacific Trade Unions.

DEAR FELLOW WORKERS:

The delegates assembled at the Second Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference in Shanghai greet the struggling workers and peasants of India. We have watched the gallant fights put up by the textile workers of Bombay and Bengal, the railwaymen and the metal workers, as well as the oil workers, etc.

The British imperialists are alarmed at your heroic actions, and therefore have become desperate and try to stop your developing militant movement by attempting to fortify themselves for further suppression by vicious legal measures. They utilize the Public Safety Bill, the anti-Trade Union Act, the anti-Picketing Ordinances, etc. to prevent freedom of speech, press or public meeting. They invade trade union offices, make raids upon the homes of trade union officials, steal documents and funds, arrest India's best fighters and charge them with conspiracy, etc.

These acts all add to the existing tyranny and are all done to prevent the organization of strong trade unions and peasant organizations, which are necessary to fight against the most ruthless exploiters and oppressors of colonial peoples, the British imperialists.

MEERUT—A SYMBOL

The determination and magnificent conduct of your leaders, who defy the British tyrants, many of whom are now on trial in Meerut, we take as a manifestation of the spirit and the bravery of the Indian masses. The defiant attitude of the class war prisoners in the District Court of Meerut the workers and peasants everywhere must emulate, and which constitutes the answer to the British imperialists and their so-called Labor government who persecute the fighting leaders of the Indian labor movement.

Comrades and Fellow Workers: This very British "Labor Government" that continues its violent suppression in India in 1929 shot

down the striking mill workers of Bombay in 1924. The cabinet ministers of MacDonald's government are all officials of the British "Labor Party" and many of them are national officials of important British trade unions. Together with other European traitors they dominate also the Labor and Socialist International and the International Federation of Trade Unions.

Therefore the policy of these political and trade union movements is the policy of the British imperialists. This is why the British Trade Union Council refused direct assistance to the 1,000,000 locked-out British miners and betrayed the workers in the General Strike in 1926, and why Mr. Walter Citrine, Secretary of the British Trade Union Congress, now denounces the Girni Kamgar Union for its gallant and tenacious struggle against British and native mill owners.

TRAITORS IN THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

But unfortunately these British traitors also have supporters in the Indian trade union movement. N. M. Joshi is a collaborator of the imperialists and their treacherous British reformists within the British Labor Party. While recently attending the I. L. O. Conference of the League of Nations, which is also an agency of imperialism, Joshi urged the International Labor Office to extend its influence in India.

He bewailed the fact that Albert Thomas did not visit India during his tour of the Far East, when he conspired with the imperialist agents of the various powers who are executing trade unionists and suppressing the trade unions. He also urged that the ideals of Geneva must be used to oppose "other influences" (the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement) "which is making a strong appeal to the imagination" of the workers and peasants of the East.

This invitation to the imperialists to send their agents to India brands Joshi and his associates to be treacherous traitors. This is why he opposes the tactics and policy of the Girni Kamgar and other militant unions, and no doubt assists Citrine of the British Trade Union Council in his attack upon the loyal

officers of the Girni Kamgar Union. While British imperialists persecute, imprison and attempt to send Comrades Dange, Alivi and thirty others to prison for life, these Government agents and spies in the British and Indian Trade Union Congresses, are together conspiring and trying to destroy the militant Indian unions which your loyal officers are defending in Meerut District Court and for which they are laying down their lives.

JOSHI—A PET OF IMPERIALISM

Comrades: We can see why the Indian Government appoints Joshi to the imperialist I. L. O. Conference while they imprison Dange and his colleagues. We know why the British India Office appointed him a member of the Legislative Assembly. Joshi is appointed as a loyal supporter of British imperialism, British exploitation, British tyranny, and all the anti-imperialist phrases uttered by him are a means of deceiving you. They are used in order that he may remain in your ranks to oppose a militant policy which alone can win against the capitalist offensive, and obtain higher wages, shorter hours, etc.

During the recent I. L. O. Conference at Geneva, Messrs. Joshi, Matsoka Komakichi (the latter being the Government agent for Japan in the Trade Union movement), and other reformists held meetings to develop plans to split the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement. They hope to realize their Asiatic Labor Conference which was also agreed to by Chaman Lal. This scheme to isolate the Asiatic workers from the P. P. T. U. movement will not succeed if the Indian workers join the Chinese, Javan, Malaysians, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, Formosans, etc. who are all strenuously resisting this imperialist maneuver.

This attack upon the Pan-Pacific trade union movement is part of the attack made upon the Girni Kamgar and other Indian unions. You will note the same united front against the Pan-Pacific trade union movement as exists against you; the imperialists, the British trade union and Labor Party officials, the "Amsterdam" and I. L. O. renegades,

the reactionary native and bourgeois "leaders" of the Indian Trade Union Council. Therefore it is clear that every militant organization in India must join the P. P. T. U. Movement.

You must also rally your forces for the next Indian Trade Union Congress. Every militant organization must send its delegates to the Trade Union Congress, instructed to vote for affiliation to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. You can stop the attempt to isolate the Asiatic workers by joining with us in the only real fighting organization in the Pacific area.

A MIGHTY ARMY OF LABOR

The P. P. T. U. S. has obtained affiliation of almost every important trade union movement around the Pacific. Our movement embodies more than fourteen million organized workers and peasants with an ever-extending influence. This is why we are attacked, and also a reason why the Indian trade unions should join the P. P. T. U. S. immediately. Don't wait for the affiliation of the Indian Trade Union Congress; individual unions in India are invited to join.

The policy of the P. P. T. U. movement is based upon a straight fight against all native and imperialist exploiters. We aim to develop a power strong enough to obtain a higher standard of living for all, especially the colonial workers and peasants. This cannot be done unless we at the same time strengthen the trade unions and with a militant policy fight for complete independence of all colonial peoples, which implies driving every imperialist power from all colonial and semi-colonial countries.

This is why we must also oppose acceptance for India of a Dominion status within the British Empire. Nothing short of complete independence can bring relief to the Indian masses. We therefore see in this Dominion status a compromise with British imperialism because the bourgeois leaders of the Congress Party and the Indian Trade Union Congress are not prepared to fight for complete national independence. They are content with minor reforms that will give nothing to the

masses, and at most only a few minor positions to the bourgeois reformists as a bribe to them for their treason to the independence movement.

LEARN FROM THE LESSON OF CHINA

The leading Indian reformists are traveling the road the Chinese have trod. They are also afraid of the mass movement and their vacillations lead them into the camp of British imperialism. We also see already by the actions of Joshi and others that they are prepared to assist the British imperialists in suppressing the masses and the militant trade unions.

These same types in Japan, Indonesia, China, Malay Peninsula, etc. have already assisted in or directly executed, imprisoned, and deported thousands of the best leaders. If the Indian workers and peasants are to save themselves from the tortures the workers of these other countries have gone through and are still suffering, you, the Indian workers, must assume the leadership of the workers and peasants and struggle for complete independence and against imperialist exploitation.

We, the delegates from Sumatra, Java, Malay States, Philippines, China, Japan, are in Conference in Shanghai because we have been prevented from reaching Vladivostok where the main part of the Second P. P. T. U. S. Conference is taking place. But although we know the delegates at Vladivostok will pay much attention to India, we nevertheless appeal to you to join us in a united struggle with our common oppressors.

We have made decisions to strengthen the militant unions; to build up factory committees; fight to release your arrested leaders; organize the unorganized workers; to pay special attention to organizing the youth, women and children; organize the unemployed; to fight for national independence; to fight imperialist war danger; to defend the Workers' and Peasants' Republic of the Soviet Union; to strengthen the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement and to fight every reformist attempt to create an imperialistic Asiatic

movement controlled by bourgeois reformists and imperialist agents.

Down with all splitters and disrupters of the trade union movement!

Down with British intriguers in India and their agents!

Long live the militant Indian trade unions!

Long live the struggle for complete independence in India!

Long live Pan-Pacific trade union unity!

Long live World trade union unity!

