

FOR WORLD TRADE UNION UNITY!

To the Bureau of the International Trade Union Federation

Paris.

Dear Sirs,

The bourgeoisie, taking advantage of the split in the trade union movement, succeeded during the five years of the crisis in depriving the workers of capitalist countries, completely or partially, of their political rights and economic achievements. The condition of the working class in all the capitalist and colonial countries is ever worsening and becoming more and more insufferable. The toilers are bearing the burden of the crisis. In a number of countries (Germany, Austria and Spain) Fascism achieved a temporary victory and did away with all the legal workers' organisations, workers' press and the institutions built by the working class. Fascism is threatening the labour movement of other countries. At the same time the relations between the different countries are becoming more and more strained. German Fascism is openly preparing for aggressive wars. Japanese imperialism is continuing its aggressive actions in the Far East, seizing one Chinese province after another. Italian imperialism is sending its troops to Abyssinia. At any moment some local conflict can give rise to a new world butchery which will bring unheard-of calamities to toiling mankind.

The working class has sufficient forces in order to repulse an attack to protect its interests and to prevent a new world slaughter. But this necessitates the joint efforts of the working class in the struggle against the common enemy, this makes it necessary that all the trade union organisations come out together, in a united front, against the bourgeoisie and for the achievement of the immediate and general aims of the labour movement; this makes it necessary that the unity of the split trade union movement be restored.

If the trade union organisations of the world would on May First this year come out shoulder to shoulder in united ranks against Fascism, the offensive of capital and war danger, such action

would be of enormous significance. It would be of particular importance to carry out successfully in the near future an amalgamation of the trade unions of France and Spain, where serious steps have already been taken in this direction, and to restore by joint action the free trade unions in Germany, whose mass character is necessary for resistance to the attacks of the capitalists and for the overthrow of the fascist régime.

Considering this, the Executive Bureau of the Red International of Labour Unions proposes that a conference be organised of the representatives of the Red International of Labour Unions and of the International Trade Union Federation for the discussion of the following questions:

(1) Joint actions of the trade unions affiliated to the Red International of Labour Unions and to the International Trade Union Federation on May First, against Fascism, the offensive of capital and against war.

(2) Assistance in the amalgamation of the trade unions in France and Spain.

(3) Assistance in the restoration of the free trade unions in Germany.

We believe at the same time that it would be of great importance to discuss at this conference the question which is of vital significance to the working class of the world, namely, THE FORMS, METHODS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RESTORATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION UNITY.

It is understood that we are ready to discuss any proposals of yours concerning the agenda of this conference. We authorise comrades Racamond and Monmousseau to lead negotiations with you on this question.

Sincerely yours,

EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE RED INTERNATIONAL
OF LABOUR UNIONS.

March 7th, 1935.