

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT

Resolution of the Young Communist International on Japan.

(Extract.)

Japan is at the present time experiencing an acute economic situation which is expressed in a sharp competition on the world market which compels the Japanese imperialists to re-organise their industry for the purpose of successful competition. The bourgeoisie is trying to utilise the whole machinery of the State and its economic power for the solution of its internal difficulties, the overcoming of which is necessary in order to strengthen its basis for further imperialist expansion in the Far East, especially in China, which increases the possibility of an imperialist war in the Far East.

This state of affairs in Japan serves as a lesson for the advanced proletarians and raises the class consciousness of the workers and will lead to big struggles of the Japanese workers against the bourgeoisie. Foreseeing the menace of mass struggles the Japanese bourgeoisie deliberately encourages the reformist movement and illusions amongst the workers and peasants. By destroying the true organs of the working class it helps the reformists to build their own organisations.

Despite the growth of class consciousness the young workers of Japan have not yet consolidated their advanced political organisation, the **Young Communist League**. Conditions for the development of the Y. C. L. are very favourable, as shown by the development of the **Proletarian Youth League**. The most class conscious elements of the youth were grouped around that League. The appearance of Social Democratic youth organisations last year and the intense governmental repression of the radical youth organisations (dissolution of the P. Y. L.) on the other, show that conditions have matured for a proletarian youth movement.

The Social-Democrats are beginning to devote their attention to the youth movement because it has lately become a serious factor in the political life of Japan. Only the weakness of the Y. C. L. and its big mistakes (political, tactical and organisational) and the intense governmental repression made possible the temporary success of the S. D. Youth organisations.

The main task confronting our Japanese comrades is to make a thorough, all-round study of the causes of our inability to consolidate the Y. C. L. in Japan. The main reason is hidden in the failure to understand the role and character of a Communist Youth Movement. Our Japanese comrades have not yet fully understood the treacherous role of Social Democracy and the necessity to fight against it. The theory, which found adherents in the ranks of our Japanese comrades, that any kind of young workers organisation, even if it be organised under the influence of the Social Democrats, would be an achievement, must be considered wrong. The organisation of the Y. C. L. is impossible without a struggle against the Social Democratic Youth Organisations.

There has been a wrong attitude towards the question of the united front of the young workers and peasants. The Japanese comrades limited themselves to the creation of one all embracing organisation of young workers and peasants. This renders impossible an actual realisation of the united front. The most suitable tactic would be the establishment of the united front of the young workers in youth sections, youth committees etc., on the basis of struggle for the daily interests of the young workers.

The third cause of our failure was the incorrect utilisation of the struggle for restoration of the Proletarian Youth League. The campaign contained elements of adaptation to the existing political regime. The centre of gravity must be an appeal to the youth to fight for the right to organise. The activity of the youth must be directed towards the organisation of the Y. C. L.

Fourthly, was the creation of all kinds of organisations whenever opportunity arose without any serious attempt to consolidate the Y. C. L. The result was that the organisations formed soon collapsed.

The Y. C. L. of Japan must pay chief attention to winning over the young workers, must be the initiator in organising the working youth in the struggle for immediate interests, through youth sections in the trade unions, youth committees in the factories etc. The struggle against the S. D. youth organisations must also have as its aim the winning over of the best elements to our side, on the basis of criticism of the principles of Social reformism and propaganda of communism. The Japanese experience in calling young Workers Conferences was valuable, but must be linked up with the formation of youth committees, etc. The Y. C. L. will have to draw up a general programme of economic struggle.

The "preparatory societies" (for the formation of a new P. Y. L.) must become the centre of struggle against the present government.

The Y. C. L. of Japan will have a great role to play in time of war against the colonial countries and the Soviet Union. More intensive attention will have to be paid to work among the forces and the various military organisations of the youth. In counteracting the military youth societies it will be necessary to advocate the idea of creation of a proletarian defence force. The Y. C. L. must pay utmost attention to the creation of a mass workers sports movement.

It is necessary to develop youth sections in the Peasant Leagues. Attention must be directed towards the young agricultural labourers, who must be organised in the Agricultural Workers Union.