

# THE YOUTH MOVEMENT

## Resolution of the V. World Congress of the Y. C. I. on the Report of the Executive Committee.

1. The V. International Congress of the Y. C. I. fully concurs with the directives pursued by the Executive Committee since the VI. Congress and approves of its practical activity.

2. The juvenile question is undoubtedly one of the most important questions of the present time. The present period is characterised by the growing participation of the young workers in the social production and in the class struggle on the one hand and by the extremely keen fight between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie for the control of the young workers upon the other. The increasing significance of the young workers is occasioned by two factors, viz.

a) Capitalist rationalisation, which frequently entails the substitution of juvenile for adult workers and leads to an increase of the juvenile share in production (e. g. in connection with the conveyor system); and

b) The increased preparation on the part of the bourgeoisie for new wars and class struggles, which force them to pay increased attention to the young generation as the decisive factor in the approaching inevitable conflict both between the individual imperialist Powers and between the imperialists on the one hand and the Soviet Union, together with the emancipation-movement of the oppressed colonial peoples, on the other. These preparations bear a more pronounced class character than ever before.

The position of the workers in general and of all the juvenile workers in particular has undoubtedly deteriorated during the last few years. In none of the capitalist countries have new achievements recently been recorded in the direction of juvenile and child welfare. On the other hand we may witness a common attack of the employers and other reactionary elements, tending towards a general deterioration in the standard-of-living of the juvenile workers (especially in connection with rationalisation) and towards an ever greater deprivation of rights. The reactionary laws in Great Britain, Germany, and other countries, the terrorism exercised by the employers in the Fascist countries and in the colonies, and the general strengthening of repression are instances in point.

This pressure on the part of the employers and on that of the reaction rouses the activity of the masses of juvenile workers, spurning more and more of them to fight and thus effecting their radicalisation. The patent proofs of this growing activity are to be seen in a whole series of spontaneous juvenile strikes during the last twelvemonth in quite a number of countries, in the active participation of juvenile workers in the strikes of the adults, in disturbances in the bourgeois armies of a number of countries, in the undeniable fact that a great number of juvenile votes have been given to the Communist Party at the elections, in the existence of frequently serious oppositional currents in the ranks of the Social Democratic and even of the bourgeois youth organisations, and finally in the decline of the Young "Socialist" International.

In its fight against the growing radicalisation of the juvenile masses, the bourgeoisie makes use of two means, viz. an increased pressure on the revolutionary youth movement, a pressure heightened to the stage of a regular white terror, and an increased ideological assault on the younger generation. These means embody a Fascist and militarist training of the youth and a reaction in school and culture. Particular importance attaches to the attempt of the Fascists to gag the young workers by all possible means. The most tried weapon of the bourgeoisie in its attack on the young workers is the widespread system of bourgeois youth organisations, which are constantly improving their methods and attempt under the most varied masks (ranging from Fascism to Social pacifism) to inveigle the young workers into the bourgeois ideology. The last few years have been characterised by an unprecedented increase in the activity of these organisations, which enjoy the greatest measure of support on the part of the capitalists

and their Governments. In this connection there is an obvious tendency towards uniting these organisations under the general lead of the bourgeois State.

In this fight for the youth, the so-called Young "Socialist" International plays the rôle of an aider and abettor of the bourgeoisie. The leaders of the Y. S. I., who have long since renounced the class struggle, have now definitely assumed the farthest possible Right position within the Second International and are engaged exclusively in propaganda for class peace and co-operation with the bourgeoisie.

In connection with the growing rôle played by the young generation and with the constantly developing fight for control over the young workers, the tasks of the Y. C. I. and its responsibility for one of the most important sections of the revolutionary front are naturally augmented.

3. Since the occasion of the IV. Congress, the Y. C. I. can record a series of considerable achievements and successes in various realms of activity. The most important of these achievements are the following:

a) The political activity of the Y. C. I. in its entirety and in its individual sections, which finds expression in its active participation in all the campaigns and actions of the Communist Parties (the Chinese revolution, the armed fight in Indo-China, Esthonia, Greece, Poland, and Vienna, the fight against war and the war menace, especially as regards the war in Morocco and Syria and the intervention in China, the strike in Great Britain, the anti-Fascist fight, etc.); in the widespread anti-militarist activity, which comprises an ever growing number of associations and also embodies the fight for the partial demands of the soldiers; in the participation of the Y. C. I. in all Party campaigns, whether international or appertaining to particular countries (electioneering campaigns, the sending of workers' delegations to the Soviet Union, etc.) and in the independent execution of such campaigns; in the active fight for the realisation of Comintern directives, especially against the opportunist deviations in individual parties (China, France, etc.); and in the decisive opposition to Trotskyism, which has suffered a complete defeat in the Young Communist movement of the whole world.

b) The first successes of the widespread mass-activity of the organisations, which are passing from words in a general to deeds in a particular sense. We make special mention of the commencement of a serious economic and trade-union activity in a number of countries, of a united-front campaign and attempts towards the disintegration of the hostile ranks, and of the employment of means towards the organisation of the young workers ("youth front", youth commissions, and youth sections in the trade unions, sports-organisations, etc.).

c) The development of the Young Chinese League, which has developed out of a small organisation of revolutionary students into a mass-organisation of the young workers and peasants and which throughout the entire Chinese revolution has played the part of a decisive political factor.

d) The further development of the Y. C. I. into a world-organisation by the creation of a number of new leagues (Corea, Palestine, Australia, a number of leagues in Latin America).

e) The heroic fight put up by the illegal organisations, working under conditions of an infamous White terror and yet developing a mass-activity (Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, etc.) and in part also increasing in numbers.

f) A pronounced internal consolidation of the Y. C. I., improvement of the connection between the Executive Committee and the sections and international leadership, recruitment of new cadres in a number of countries, ideologic consolidation of the organisations, ideologic growth of the programme of the Y. C. I., a more critical treatment of its problems, a search for new ways in its activity, improvement of the methods and new forms of work in a whole number of branches of activity. These new forms bring our working system ever nearer to the type of work appertaining to a mass movement of the Communist Youth:

g) The work of the Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union, one of the most powerful props of the proletarian dictatorship in the Soviet Union, drawing millions of young workers into active participation in the construction of Socialism.

(To be continued.)