

# PROLETARIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

## Open Letter of the E. C. Y. C. I. to all Members of the Y. C. L. of Great Britain.

Dear Comrades,

We consider the results of your Congress **unsatisfactory** because it did not mobilise all the League members around the new tasks and their attention was not concentrated sharply on the conditions in the League and its relation to the young workers. The preparation for this Congress did not correspond with the necessity of mobilising the attention of all League members on the situation. The Congress was not preceded by discussions in the lower organisations by League members with the participation of sympathising young workers. Your task now is to discuss boldly the situation and find ways of remedying it.

In our letter we want to bring all questions to the notice of our British comrades and the British working youth. The situation in the British Y. C. L. must be **changed** with the least possible delay. The Y. C. L. G. B. is faced with the necessity of making a change in its methods as is the Y. C. I. as a whole, but the situation in Great Britain demands this change more urgently than any other section of the Y. C. I.

Great Britain plays an important and outstanding role in the imperialist chain and the tasks imposed upon you by the revolutionary movement are very great, but your League is yet isolated from the young workers and is lagging behind the awakening of the young workers. If the British Y. C. L. remains an isolated sect, not connected with the working youth.

in this epoch of ever growing struggles of the working youth and the working class as a whole, it will not deserve the name of section of the Y. C. I.

The tasks of the Y. C. L. can be understood only in the light of the political situation in Great Britain. The **MacDonald Government** is a government of capitalist rationalisation and war preparation in the interests of imperialism. The **Labour Government** and the trade union bureaucracy are carrying out the will of the capitalists by every possible means. The British working class has to choose: either industrial peace, i. e. a further lowering of the standard of living of the working class imperialist wars against the U. S. S. R. and colonial revolutions, or struggle against capitalism, for the most pressing interests of the working class, for the establishment of a genuine revolutionary Workers Government. This struggle is already going on on the part of the advanced British proletariat. The struggle of the cotton operatives and the miners is a struggle against the Labour Party and its policy. This struggle will increase from day to day. The British League must give its support to the **Indian Revolution** at the present time bearing in mind the great lessons, namely the help given by the English workers to Soviet Russia in the time of the Soviet-Polish war.

The British Young Communist League must do real work in the army and navy, as well as in all organisations where training is going on for future wars. All promises to convert the imperialist war into a civil war and to help the U. S. S. R. are nothing but deceit and treachery without even a modicum of practical work now in the forces of the armies of imperialism. The working youth has played and will play an important role in this struggle. The most serious defect of the struggle of the working youth is the absence of a mass fighting organisation of its own — a fighting Young Communist League.

The struggle of the working youth can only be successful in so far as the Communist Party and the Young Communist League develop and gain strength. Every young worker must be interested in the state and situation in the Communist League.

The life and activity of the Young Communist League concern not only its own members, but the entire working youth of Great Britain. The Y. C. L. of Great Britain is going through a crisis at present. The reasons of this crisis are namely: the fact that the British Young Communist League has not been able to establish close contact with the mass of the working youth, on the basis of the C. I. line, that it has not been able to discard the old traditions of the "Guild of Youth" and other Social Democratic youth organisations whose aims were not organisation of the struggle of the working youth, but the diverting of its attention from the class struggle.

Clear characteristics of the remnants of Social-Democratic methods in your work are — isolation from the struggles, sectarian approach to the young workers, non-participation in the struggle and contradiction between your resolutions and your activities, passivity of all members of the League and only activity of a few functionaries, bureaucratic relations between Committees and Locals, lack of self-criticism, etc.

The best means of quickly remedying the crisis in the Y. C. L. is to help in its efforts to re-adjust itself to the struggle of the young workers. The main tasks fall on the members of the British Young Communist League who must declare war on the **Right tendencies** in the activities of their organisation.

The British Young Communist League, helping the Communist Party to build a Party organisation, must really fight for the C. I. line in every sphere of activity, but above all you have to combat the Right tendency in the ranks of your own organisation. The Right tendency in the British Young Communist League takes the form of an incorrect attitude to the working youth in its struggle and in an opposition to extending the new tactics laid down by the C. I. on the Youth Policy. It is necessary to carry on a **youth policy** to gain the interests of the youth in all spheres on the basis of applying the line of the Party and C. I. to the problems of young workers. It means you have to find ways and means to carry out the C. I. policy among the young workers, for defence of the Soviet Union, for an independent role of the Communist Party, help for the Indian Revolution, for struggle against the war danger, and against capitalist rationalisation. These tasks the Y. C. L. can carry out provided it places itself at the head of the struggling working youth and overcomes its isolation from the masses of the working youth.

To overcome this isolation, to get out of the crisis of the British Y. C. L. it is essential to learn how to carry out the

uth policy. Your League must organise a wide recruiting campaign, above all in districts where the working youth has already participated in the economic and political struggles. The British Young Communist League must set itself the task of enormously increasing its membership in the course of the next years, and this requires the re-organisation of the League on a factory nuclei basis, secondly, the consolidation and improvement of the weekly League paper, making it a real, genuine collective agitator and propagandist among the working youth. For this purpose a Penny Fund in aid of the paper should be established by means of an energetic political campaign for the development of the British Young Communist League into a mass Bolshevik League. Thirdly, all the League forces should be concentrated in the enterprises in order to win over the working youth in every factory by means of struggle for their every-day interests and by taking a leading initiative part in the struggle of the working youth against oppression and all forms of exploitation. Fourthly, we must work where the working youth congregates, in sport organisations, Sunday schools, places where unemployed young workers are re-qualified etc. The place of the Y. C. L. and every Young Communist must be where the masses of young workers are to be found.

Now is the time for the British Young Communist League to prove its agreement with the resolutions of the Comintern deeds. The recent Congress of the Y. C. L. G. B. laid down a series of tasks, but there is a danger that even these decisions will not be carried out, as has happened in the past. The only guarantee is the activity of the rank and file of the Y. C. L. and the control by this rank and file over the activity of all its elected organisations through methods of self-criticism.

Self-criticism is on a very low level in the British Young Communist League. There have been cases in the League where leading organs have put obstacles in the way of self-criticism. This state of affairs must be put an end to. It is only by listening to the criticism of the masses and by studying the initiative and experiences of the masses that it will be possible to lead and to find new forms of the struggle commensurate with the new period.

The British League still has no big success in different auxiliary organisations. The Workers Sport League is not developing quickly. You have not yet found forms of different auxiliary youth organisations for different spheres of activity especially in enterprises and trade unions and also the armed forces. It would be impossible without such organisations to build up a mass Young Communist League in Great Britain and lead the young workers in the struggle.

We request our British comrades to discuss this letter in every nuclei and every local and determine the tasks imposed on every League committee, League nucleus and League member and the necessity of change and the carrying it out in the practice of every day work. Your League has the possibility from the situation that has arisen to take advantage of the experience and initiative of the masses of the working youth and to do active work to build up a real fighting mass Young Communist League in Great Britain, taking its place in the front ranks in the struggle of the working class.

Executive Committee of the Young Communist International.

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