
Letter No. 13 to the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America in New York from Israel Amter in Moscow, May 16, 1923.

A document in the Comintern Archive f. 515, op. 1, d. 176, l. 31.

LETTER NO. 13

May 16, 1923.

To the CEC.

Dear Comrades:—

Cable was sent to *Elöre* regarding the Hungarian, but no reply has been received. It is necessary to look into this, since it is possible that the US government is suppressing communications. I sent a cable asking, among other things, that credential be cabled to me. No answer as yet. Letter was addressed to C.E.R. [C.E. Ruthenberg].

We have not received any copies of minutes of CEC or important decisions [of the WPA] at the Comintern. This should be done, [as I] want them for my own information, in order also so that I [might] make proper reports to the Comintern. So please send regular reports.

Regarding matter dealt with in my last letter, which was not number but should have been no. 12.† The official formulation of decision was as follows: the Party should raise at least * * * * * -- * * * * * * * and then apply to the proper commission for * * * * *.‡ The understanding, I want to repeat, is *that we will get what I asked for*. In fact acting as interpreter for some English comrades, who wanted the same, the attitude shown was one of support for any such enterprise. What they want is the assurance that the party will make the proper effort to help itself.

So sail in, and make a good job of it. I believe that we will meet with enthusiasm on the part of the comrades, who will be glad to begin the campaign. Even though there may be some unemployment among the comrades, there is no doubt that the economic condition is just right to help the undertaking along. Letter signed by Zinoviev and another from Kuusinen especially to Finnish comrades will be sent immediately.

Have sent a detailed statement to the STO § regarding the whole emigration policy, basing my argument on the decision of the Comintern — the commission that took up the matter — and on reports I have received from the heads of a few [agricultural] communes here and from comrades returning to the US. It will take some time to get the STO into action, but will insist on serious consideration being given this matter.

Saw in *The Worker* that Art Young is official cartoonist for the paper, yet he attends a banquet for [David] Karsner [of the Socialist Party]. There seems to be something wrong there.

Comrade A. Jacobsen, member of Estonian branch [of the WPA], arrived here without credential. Had letter from secretary of the Federation to the Party Secretary. I told him he had no right to come. Stated that he had no time to get his transfer. Would recommend that he be *refused*.

Young Joseph Greenberg was here again. Is attending the Sverdlov University and states that he gave

†- Apparently a reference to a Comintern subsidy to establish an English-language daily newspaper.

‡- Original has "fractions code," *first phrase*: 41/7 1/3 41/7 4/3 9/1 8/4 1/2 -- 4/3 7/1 10/3 7/4 2/3 3/1 1/2 10/6. *Second phrase*: 2/3 7/4 24/6 8/1 3/2 10/6 1/6.

§- *Sovet Truda i Oborony* — the Council of Labor and Defense, the early Soviet central economic planning authority that was a precursor to Gosplan.

his application to [Jacob] Mindel [of the WPA's Jewish language section], who said he should go ahead and he would send it on. He gave Mindel the note he got from his YCL branch and only left, he states, because Mindel positively promised to get it for him. Says he is willing to return if Party demands it. That is all bluff, as he wants to attend the university. Says his branch even promised to send him \$5 a month during his stay. I refer the matter to you once more because he is only a young fellow and hardly knows better.

This last week has been one of great tension. The threat of rupture of relations with Great Britain has produced a tremendous effect. Hundreds of thousands of workers spontaneously protested against the attitude of the British government and the danger of war. And yet, although the Russian workers want peace, there is the greatest determination in case war should result. The demonstrations were even more gigantic than the May Day demonstrations. And these demonstrations show the wonderful power of the Party — they show the enormous influence that the Party wields. The situation is still acute — word has not yet been received about the debate in the House of Commons last night. It would appear, however, as if the thing will blow over for the present. Yet there appears, on the other hand, to be a determination to make another and the last attempt against Soviet Russia. Preparations seem to be in the making for the last... †

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†- The letter abruptly terminates here, the next sheet in the archival folder fairly obviously being page 2 of Amter's (missing) previous letter to the CEC (No. 12), which continues mid-sentence with a discussion about the need to plan for a newspaper. Page 2 of Amter's No. 13 is either missing from the archive or misfiled. I see no sign of it in *delo* 176. This "wrong" page is itself interesting for a short snippet about funding, reading: "As regards installment for second quarter [1923], statement must be made of use of what has been given, before further assistance will be forthcoming. I asked that it be sent at once, but they refused." (f. 515, op. 1, d. 176, l. 31.)

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