Greetings from the International Movement

A Message to the Communist Party of America from the Communists of Great Britain

Comrades:

We congratulate you on the great fight for Communism which you are carrying on in face of persistent coercion and oppression. The bourgeoisie, will answer this call of mercy and spread it among the masses, until capitalism begins. Of course, will answer this call of mercy and spread it among the masses, until capitalism begins. Of course, we observe that the capitalists are practising against you. In America are often copied by British capitalists in their warfare with British labor. No doubt your capitalists also take hints from British capitalists as to how to coerce and mislead the workers.

The fight for Communism is world-wide, and in nothing do we see this more plainly than in the international combination of Capitalism against Capitalism. All the machinery of printing plants smashed, they destroyed the contents of the headquarters of the working class movement? Has it destroyed their organization and made it impossible to continue the work of agitation and organization among the unenlightened workers?

The ruling class of the United States has struck its blow at the revolutionary movement. With a ruthlessness never equaled by autocracy and reaction anywhere, it has filled its prisons with men and women who are to be deported or imprisoned for long terms of years. To strike fear into the hearts of the workers the raids and arrests were carried out with the utmost brutality. Many of the workers arrested were mercilessly beaten by the thugs who call themselves, agents of law and order, after they were helpless in the hands of their enemy. Agents of the Department of Justice tortured workers who refused to answer their questions by methods that equaled those of the Spanish Inquisition. Even the capitalist sacred right of private property was not respected, for wherever the representatives of "law and order" made their appearance they destroyed the contents of the headquarters of the working class movement. Office furniture and records were confiscated or destroyed and the machinery of printing plants smashed. This is the "law and order" of the capitalist class. Thus does the White Terror teach the workers that the capitalists respect no laws when their property interests are at stake and that so of terrorism is too vile for those who uphold the sacred right of the capitalists to rob and exploit the workers.

The courts and immigration officials are now taking in hand the victims of the White Terror, continuing the work which the thugs and gunmen of capitalism began. And what has the ruling class accomplished? Has it struck terror into the hearts of the workers pledged to the revolutionary movement? Has it destroyed their organization and made it impossible to continue the work of agitation and organization among the unenlightened workers?
The Soviet Government Wins

PEACE months ago the imperialist press of the world was heralding the march of Yudenich and Petrograd to the Red. The army of the Soviet Government has practically wiped out the apparatus of the old bourgeoisie with its help. The proletariat of the world now seeks to destroy the proletarian revolution in Europe. But the Red Army of the Soviet Government has left nothing behind it but the ruins of tsarism.

The Allied press has declared that the Red Army is even more cruel and barbarous than the tsarist army. But the tsarist army was able to commit atrocities only because it had the support of the capitalist classes in Europe. The Red Army is supported by the working class and the poor peasants of Russia. It is a revolutionary army, fighting to establish a new society based on the principles of communism.

The Red Army has won a series of victories against the White Army, which is supported by the capitalist classes of Europe and the United States. The Red Army has shown that it is possible to win a revolution against the capitalist ruling class.

The Red Army is marching towards victory, and the world will soon see the triumph of the Soviet Republic over the old tsarist regime.

A Fair Trial

IHOSE who have witnessed the selection of juries in "red" cases, and have been impressed by the emotional pressure put on them, will find it of special interest to examine the trial of the leaders of the Left Wing Manifesto. The trial is now in progress at the United States Court in New York.

The leaders of the Left Wing Manifesto, who were arrested in connection with the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, have been charged with treason and espionage. The trial is being held in New York City, under the supervision of Judge Learned Hand.

The trial is of great importance, not only because it involves questions of law and justice, but also because it will determine the fate of a number of the leaders of the Left Wing Manifesto. If they are convicted, they will be sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. If they are acquitted, they will be set free.

The leaders of the Left Wing Manifesto are charged with having given aid and comfort to the Bolsheviks in Russia. They are accused of having supplied the Bolsheviks with information and money, and of having participated in their propaganda work.

The leaders of the Left Wing Manifesto deny these charges. They say that they were merely giving aid and comfort to a movement which they believed to be a progressive one. They say that they were merely carrying out the principles of international Communist solidarity.

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Statement of the Central Executive Committee on the Nuorteva Charges

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America has been asked to make the following statement published in the capitalist press by Santeer Nuorteva:

“There also appears to be another reason for the desire to depose us. We have conclusive evidence that agents of the Department of Justice have actively participated in the organization of the Communist Party of America and that, while very much in the program of the party, which now forms the basis of the prosecution of thousands of people, have been instrumental in drawing up the program by such governments agencies.”

The implications in this charge are, that there are in our program clauses which have been particularly framed to lay us open to attack, and secondly, that agents of the Department of Justice were among our program committee.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party is convinced that it is only necessary to point to the method by which its program was framed and adopted to demonstrate that the first charge is untrue, and is the effort of an enemy of the Communist Party to discredit it before the working people of this country.

Our convention elected a program committee of nine members, being those delegates which the convention considered best grounded in Communist principles. This committee took days to study every phrase in the program which it finally presented to the convention. The convention of 125 delegates carefully scrutinized the program recommended for adoption. Word by word and line by line it was weighed by the convention. The convention made many changes both in language and principle of the program, before it gave its final approval.

No one has studied the program thus adopted has dared challenge it. No one has dared say that it is not a Communist Program in entire harmony with the principles of the Communist International. Even Nuorteva denies not that it. It is admitted that our convention of 125 delegates after careful scrutiny and study adopted a truly Communist Program, what remains of Nuorteva’s charge?

The Central Executive Committee of the party is also able to throw light on the second point in this charge. Some six or eight weeks ago the charge that a treason official of our organization was an agent of the Department of Justice, was brought before a section of the Central Executive Committee. After every opportunity to present evidence, of which a stratigraphic report was made, it was the unanimous decision of the members of the Central Executive Committee present, that the charge in question has been completely and finally destroyed. An attack of this character is a betrayal of the interest of the working class movement.

The integrity of our party remains unchallenged in spite of this stab in the back. No party member will leave us because of this charge and we are certain that the test of our past and future action will convince the Workers of America that our party represents the revolutionary interests of the workers, who will rally to its support.

Long Live Communism! Long Live the Communist International!

The Party Organization

In 1919

The end of the year 1919 closed a definite period in the history of the Communist Party of America. The party was organized on Sept. 1, 1919.

The machinery of its national organization was established about two weeks later. It was committed to maintain its open existence for a period of three and a half months, when the party was liquidated. This decision was later confirmed in by the members of the Executive Council, who read the stratigraphic report.

The charge made by Nuorteva was carefully calculated so that it would reach the workers of America at a time when our party organization was obliged to meet the full weight of an attack by black reactionists, with its press suppressed and the channels for reaching its membership temporarily blocked.

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The Victims of the Raids

Deportation

About 3,000 members of the Communist Party are being held at Ellis Island, New York City; Deer Island, Boston, and in other places in this country. These men and women are charged with being members of the Communist Party, and because of such membership are threatened with deportation.

Although the capitalist government threw all its power into the effort to destroy our party, it has failed. In spite of the wholesale attacks on our organization, it is functioning. The government has taken three or four thousand of our workers, but there are tens of thousands left who stand in their places and who have assumed their work.

The first duty of the party is to organize the defense of those comrades who are the victims of the ruling class attack upon us.

We must see that not one of our members is needlessly sacrificed. We must fight their battles against deportation and imprisonment. We must take advantage of every phase of capitalist laws to return them to our ranks and the service of the party.

To carry on this work a Central Defense Bureau has been organized.

This Bureau will have general charge of the defense of the party members everywhere. It will immediately give aid to those in localities where the defense organization is not functioning properly and as quickly as possible establish branches throughout the country to take over all defense work.

Every party unit should at once send its contributions for this defense work. Circulate the Defense Fund list and Defense Fund Stamps.

The emergency is great, comrades, and you must make your contributions as great as the emergency. Never before has a working class organization been compelled to defend more than 3,000 of its members at the same time.

Let us show an unbroken front in spite of this attack. Let us show the power of Communism by performing this task quickly and well.

We Must Show an Unbroken Front to Our Enemy

The capitalist class of the United States threw all the power of the government against the Communist Party of America during the first week in January.

Raids and arrests were carried out on a scale never before undertaken by any government against the working class movement. Even the Czar was outdone by the agents of American capitalism.

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COMMUNIST DEFENSE COMMITTEE

C. E. RUTHENBERG, Sec.
I. E. FERGUSON, Treas.
ROSE PASTOR STOKES
JAY LOVESTONE
CHARLES DIRBA

Send all contributions to: I. E. FERGUSON, 138 West 13th Street, New York City

(Use this address for defense fund contributions only)
The organization began with an indebtedness of about $2,000, taken over from the National Organizing Committee and the Left Wing Council, and closed this period with assets of $11,705.48. In the same period the party issued five proclamations dealing with important issues which arose in the working class movement. Four of these were circulated to the extent of a million and a half copies. Leaflet No. 4, "Your Shop," attained the largest circulation. Three editions, totaling over half a million, were printed.

Two pamphlets were printed, the Manifesto, Program and Constitution, in an edition of 25,000, which were practically all sold, and Radek's "The Development of Socialism from Science to Action." A third pamphlet was in the hands of the printer.

This record of achievement during a period of three and a half months was possible only as a membership ready to actually participate in the struggle to build up a strong and effective party in the country. The membership was not a membership in name only, but a membership of organized workers in the revolutionary struggle.

In 1920 With the year 1920 the party begins a new existence. Through the decision of the Secretary of Labor in the deportation cases and the action of state authorities in indicting the party officials for their Communist activities, the program of the party has been declared illegal and the party organization is under police and prison mail.

Our program states the fundamental principles of the Communist International as were indicated in the discussions of the Executive Committee at its last meeting, and states that it is under the ban of the federal government when on the press and before new arrangements for publication could be perfected the crisis had passed. Leaflet No. 3, "Your Shop," attained the largest circulation. Three editions, totaling over half a million, were printed.

The Question of Unity with the C.L.P.

The question of unity between the Communist Labor Party and the Communist Party came before a recent meeting of the Central Executive Committee in the form of a report by the Executive Secretary, stating that the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party had requested a joint meeting and that it was his impression that such an unity could be achieved on the following basis.

Acceptance by the C.L.P. of the Manifesto, Program and Constitution of the Communist Party, with such modifications in the constitution as are made necessary by the new form of organization.

Combination of the Executive Committees of five of the C.L.P. with the Central Executive Committee of 15 of the Communist Party as the joint Central Executive Committee of the combined organization.

All other problems to worked out by the combined committee after unity is achieved.

The Executive Secretary recommended that the Central Executive Committee enter into a joint meeting for the purpose of bringing about unity on this basis.

This recommendation was rejected and the following proposal adopted: that the Communist Labor Party National Executive Committee instruct three of its members to inform the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party National Executive Committee that the basis for a call for a joint convention, we agree to the proposal for this purpose, upon receipt of its agreement, we are prepared to elect a joint convention committee. (Our manifesto, program and constitution to be effective for the C.L.P. only as the basis for a joint call, the form of organization, in so far as it means the reorganization and the basis of admitting membership, to go into effect at the same time.

The statement made by the National Executive Committee of the C.L.P. in reply is not available for this issue, but the proposal made, however, was as follows:

1. The National Executive of the C.L.P. stated its view that there were no fundamental differences of principle between the two parties. It pointed out that the two organizations must work together under the new conditions, that it is left to the convention to work out a new constitution.

2. That it agreed to accept the Manifesto and Program of the Communist Party, but suggested that inasmuch as the constitution of the latter organization was not ready for the present party units will be the parties to work on the basis of the present party units will be the parties to work on the basis of the present.

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3. A motion to accept the Manifesto and Program was adopted, the question of constitution having been deferred until the convention has a chance to study the new conditions under the new organization.

The results were of such a character that they had a right to be proud of them.

The new conditions of the existence of our organization will mean a harder test of our membership. Each party member who engages in the activities of the organization must do so with the understanding that he is risking deportation or imprisonment. This may mean a smaller party membership, but it will mean a stronger party.

The We Must Organize Shop Branches

The form of organization adopted by the Communist Party was initiated from the Socialist Party, as far as the new form of organization is concerned. Most of the organization existed in the form of branches which were expanded from or had left the Socialist Party.

It was necessary to use these units of organization as the basis for the present organization. The reason is that they are already existing, not because they were the best form for the new organization.

Branches made up of members of the same nationality or members living in the same section, are the best form of organization for a party which seeks to organize the masses for the revolutionary program of Communism.

These branches still exist in the Communist Party. Even though some modification has been necessary to reduce the size of the unit, the branch is still the most important task that lies before the organization. Each branch must be proud of conscious that no matter what our activity.