LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL, THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE
WORLD REVOLUTION!

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The general upsurge in the revolutionary movement throughout the
world draws into the struggle ever-greater numbers of the proletarian
masses. Each day brings fresh news about the struggle going on between
the exploited and exploiters, about this struggle extending in scope,
about the most backward sections of the working class rallying to it,
and about the transfer of the proletariat from the defensive to the of­
fensive.

The movement among the agricultural workers, evidenced lately in
the S.W. Cape Province (South Africa), once again proves the general
awakening of the exploited and oppressed toiling masses.

Everywhere the agricultural workers are that section of the work­
ing class which is most cruelly exploited. Simultaneously, they are the
least class-conscious and most backward strata of the proletariat. In
the colonial and semi-colonial countries the workers are in actual fact
slaves or chattel slaves. They get miserably low wages for their heavy
labours, lasting from early dawn until sunset. The white farmers in
South Africa consider the farm labourers employed by them to be their
own property, however, treating them worse than their working cattle.
The agricultural workers in South Africa are leading a miserable, semi­
starvation existence, without any hope whatever for being able to bet­
ter their conditions under the present rule of Imperialism.

Heavy taxes, laws prohibiting them from going freely from place
to place, brutal punishments and even corporal punishment for the sligh­
test offense—such is the fate of millions and millions of the South
African land workers. The exploiters thought that by means of their
brutal oppression they had succeeded in stamping out every desire in
the hearts of the toilers for struggling to better their lives, and for
complete liberation.

However, the oppressors were mistaken. We are living to-day in the
great age of Revolutionary Struggle. The proletariat and the oppressed
working masses, having been awakened from their long-age sleep, now
took up the determined fight for their liberation, for doing away for­
ever with all exploitation and oppression.

The farm labourers of the Cape Province have now begun to organise
putting up certain demands to the farmers, for bettering their working
conditions and for increasing wages. They also demand that the farmers
stop holding their labourers in a continuous state of intoxication, and
that an end be put to replacing by means of alcohol the lack of energy
of the exhausted workers.

Already from the very beginning the land workers are compelled to
suffer from the violent pressure brought to bear by the united front of
the employers, the police, judges and white chauvinists. The farmers
endeavoured to disperse some of the meetings of the labourers by force,
however, the latter put up due resistance and succeeded in defending
their rights.

And when it was decided by two of the farmers to fire some of their
most active workers, they received a reply which, truly, they had lit­
tle expected: all the workers occupied on their farms declared a sym­
pathy strike. The strikers were subject to terrible persecution. They,
together with their families, driven from the farms; and when they stopped at the nearest village, the police declared them to be vagabonds.
and compelled them to travel on. However, by means of police restrictions it was not possible to prevent the movement of the land workers, and the struggle is developing and extending.

The struggle of the farm labourers in the Cape Province is only the first step towards organising the struggle throughout South Africa. It should be the task of the land workers to establish strong unions, and affiliating with the Federation of Native Unions, to wage the struggle hand in hand with all other class-conscious proletarians of South Africa against the whole capitalist system.

The International Conference of Negro Workers, which will meet in London on July 1st, will even to a greater degree strengthen the will of the millions of Negro toilers to struggle. The Conference will draw up a general programme of action and demands, and will indicate the path along which the Negro working masses should tread in order to finally overthrow the yoke of Imperialism and abolish all capitalist exploitation.

A. GOLD.


The bourbon capitalists of the South have been able to maintain their semi-feudal sway over the millions of brutally oppressed and bitterly exploited Negro and white toilers solely because of their ability to keep these workers unorganised and divided. About this the Southern ruling class has no illusions. It knows that these workers and especially the Negro workers, when organised under the militant leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary trade unions can be but a battering ram for the smashing of the entire capitalist system, breeder of all forms of economic, social and political inequalities.

Thus they will do all in their power, resort to all forms of terror to keep these workers unorganised. This is shown in the bitter attacks upon the National Textile Workers Union and the Communist Party in Gastonia, the International Labour Defense in Charlotte and Norfolk, the NTWU and Communist Party in Atlanta, the Trade Union Unity League, and especially the Negro organiser of the Trade Union Unity League, in Chattanooga.

I, along with four other workers, two of them white organisers for the T.U.U.L., were arrested on March 5, while holding an open-air meeting. This meeting, the final mobilisation of workers for the great March 6 demonstration, was held on the corner where most of the unemployed gather. The police, after a vain attempt to drive the workers from the streets and our meeting, arrested us and charged us with "blocking traffic" and refusing to move on when ordered to do so by a police officer.

Use of Fascist Methods.

From the moment of my arrest until the time of my release open