

"Padmore Belly Crawls", Says Angelo Herndon

Mr. George Padmore, who has been expelled from the Communist Party as an agent provocateur in the hands of the American Imperialists, has and still is spreading poisonous and vicious attacks against our party and the Negro people.

In his open letter to the Communist Party of USA, which has been placed in the hands of our enemies and the Negro people, he wishes to convey the understanding that the Communist International has fallen into disintegration and that the fight for the right of self-determination for the Negro people is only political rag-tag. But we know that as the economic crisis of capitalism deepens, and the influence and strength of the C.P. grows, there will be calumny and slander from our enemies of all shades.

Mr. Padmore's Position

There is only one way to regard the actions of Mr. Padmore, and that is in the light of one who has fallen into political corruption, wishing to crawl out of this at the expense of the Negro workers. Mr. Padmore could only find refuge in the arms of the imperialist exploiters. The lynchers and klansmen have found in him, one that they can take to their hearts with zealous joy. We know that when Mr. Padmore charges the desertion of the struggle for the freedom of the Negro people, he is only trying to conceal and cover up his own treacherous deeds in order to mislead the Negro people in the fight for their freedom.

Communist Party's Position

How can it be possible for the Communist Party to desert the struggle of self-determination for the Negro people and all national minority groups when the question of Negro liberation is inextricably bound up with the fight for the emancipation of the entire class? Has not the truth of this been shown in the Soviet Union where all national groups are now enjoying the right of self-determination? Had not these oppressed groups been organized by the Communist Party understanding clearly what they were fighting for, there would be no Soviet Union today. And now that this is true, Mr. Padmore charges all leading Negroes in the

Communist Party, such as James W. Ford, Wm. L. Patterson, Harry Haywood and Otto Huiswood, as being "Uncle Toms."

There is no question but that it is impossible for Mr. Padmore to conceive of an organization in which there are loyal, sincere Negro and white workers—in contradiction to every accepted rule of capitalist society.

Who Is An Uncle Tom?

The 5,000 Negro sharecroppers in the black belt, the Negro workers of Liberia and other colonial countries are not "sycophants and Uncle Toms." But it is you, Mr. Padmore who is now serving the agents of American Firestone-Rule in Liberia, and who is also busy engaged in placing weapons in the hands of the klansmen and lynchings against our Party. Mr. Padmore, you have fallen even lower than the Alabama and Georgia lynchers in their efforts to legally lynch me and the innocent Scottsboro boys, when you threatened to take legal action against comrade Otto Huiswood, a Negro Communist, who exposed your role as an agent in the hands of the rulers.

A frog could not put his belly any closer to the ground than this.

I want to point out that had it not been for the militant fight of the American Communist Party, the Scottsboro boys would have long ago been fixed in the electric chair and I would have been done to death on the murderous Georgia chain-gang. To use your own vicious and slanderous words Mr. Padmore, I want to say that Negroes are not just grown up children and for this reason I and millions of other Negro workers will know exactly how to deal with such people as you. We will not take these measures against you in capitalist courts, we will not go belly crawling and whining to the same slave drivers who oppress us and ask them for "justice."

We have nothing in common with the capitalist class and their machinery of oppression. Therefore the Negro and white workers will be the ones to pass judgment upon your treacherous deeds. And we are very confident that they will not be long in doing this, Mr. Padmore.