

Workers' Enemies Exposed

For taking an outright anti-Communist, petty-bourgeois nationalist stand, Cecil S. Hope, an active Negro member of New York for the last five years, has been expelled from the Communist Party.

At this time, when the ruling class terror and the rising resistance of the Negro masses is rapidly dividing the Negro people (as indeed, the whole world) into two camps: on one hand the vast mass of Negroes rallying to a relentless fight against their oppressors and for full equality and national liberation; while, on the other hand, certain vacillating, petty-bourgeois nationalist elements inevitably become active, conscious agents of the oppressors against the struggles of the Negro toilers—Cecil Hope has, like George Padmore, chosen the path of compromise and betrayal.

Like Padmore, he joins the imperialist camp in attacking the program of the Communist Party, which is unifying white and black toilers in joint struggle against their common oppressors. Like Padmore, he peddles the unfounded slander that the Communist International has liquidated its work among the colonial Negro peoples, has abandoned the fight for the liberation of the colonial masses. Both Padmore and Hope attempt to cover up the fact that this work is being carried on more energetically than ever, despite Padmore's base treachery.

Precisely in this period, when the correctness of the Communist program on the Negro question is being demonstrated in numerous joint struggles of Negro and white workers in the North and in the South, Hope, in his letter of "resignation," attacks the general Party policy on the Negro question as "being fraught with calamitous consequences for the Negro people and for the entire working class." The political content of this argument is not new. It is the familiar reformist philosophy that, since resistance on the part of the oppressed invites new reprisals from the oppressors, there should be no resistance, but slavish acceptance of oppression, persecution and terror.

Hope writes that he cannot remain in the Party "in cowardly rebellion against its line," but what kind of "rebellion" was his hasty, unauthorized return from the West Indies, some time ago, without carrying out any activities in the one island which he reached, and without making any attempt to reach the destination which was assigned to him. He capitulated to the difficulties placed in the path of all revolutionary workers by the imperialist rulers of the islands. For this he was sharply and correctly criticized.

It is clear now that it was no accident that some letters of Padmore were received through Hope, but that Hope has acted as the liason agent of Padmore in New York and is completely and abjectly aligned with that renegade and traitor.