

Special Number.

English Edition.

Unpublished Manuscripts - Please reprint

- INTERNATIONAL - PRESS CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. 4 No. 17

29th February 1924

Editorial Offices: Langeasse 26/12, Vienna VIII. — Central Despatching Department: Berggasse 31, Vienna IX.
— Postal Address, to which all remittances should be sent by registered mail: Postamt 64, Schliessfach 29, Vienna VIII.
— Telegraphic Address: Inprecorr, Vienna.

Manifesto of the Communist International on the Occasion of its Fifth Anniversary

To all Communist Parties and to all the working and exploited masses.

Comrades, Proletarians, Colonial Slaves!

Five years have elapsed since the Communist International, the Great International Workers' Association, was founded in the capital of the State of the Working Proletariat.

Founded by revolutionary fighters, who are devoted to the death to the emancipatory struggle of the working masses, it has grown to be a tremendous power, under the banner of which proletarians of all the five Continents of our Planet are marching, and under the leadership of which the colonial peoples, crucified by European and American capital, are striving for their emancipation.

The Communist International was born amidst the tempest of the World war which devoured by conflagration towns and villages of Europe and poured streams of blood over the soil of Europe and Asia. It was born amidst the thundering of the monster guns, amidst the patriotic howls of the bourgeoisie, amidst the chauvinist chants of the socialist traitors, amidst the rattling of the chains of the working class flung in fetters by militarism. It was born as the storm petrel of the civil war of all the disinherited, as the staff of that tremendous Army of Labour which will sweep away the capitalist slavery obtaining on our Earth.

Five years have since elapsed, years during which History has proceeded at hurricane speed. In the period when the waves of revolution were bursting with tremendous force, as well as in the period of ebb tide of the revolution, the Communist International stood firm and unshaken at its post of command, as the proletarian outpost, as the vanguard of the proletarian world

army. For the first time in the history of the Labour Movement, we witnessed how the working masses were shaping for themselves an international organization which is awakening, organizing, consolidating and leading into the struggle the revolutionary workers of the towns and the exploited toilers of the countryside in the industrial and semi-industrial states, as well as the coloured colonial peoples possessing no rights. For the first time in history, we see the emergence of a firm fighting alliance between the decisive masses of the revolutionary proletariat and the down-trodden, disinherited but insurgent poor peasantry. For the first time in history, the proletarian West unites with the suppressed East. For the first time we see the international proletariat subordinating a vast country to its dictatorship, to a dictatorship which, in the obstinate heroic fight of the workers and peasants in the course of a civil war of unheard-of severity, was wrested from capital clinging desperately to its domination.

Today it has become clear to the eyes of all the world that Mankind is on the threshold of a new period of world history, and is about to turn a new page in the book of its historical destiny.

Out of the blind alley, choked with blood and filth and filled with the shattered fragments of destroyed culture, out of the labyrinth of conflicts and antagonisms and out of the chaos created by war, away from the continuous menace of fresh annihilating wars, which are brewing as the result of the greed of the imperialist bourgeoisie, the working class is leading Mankind forth to a new path, pointing out to it fresh routes. But the

leader of the working class, the organizer of its collective forces, is the Communist International.

Numerous battles, numerous trials still await us. It is not only the bourgeoisie which has entrenched itself on the other side of the barricades. We also see on its side, those renegades and betrayers of the working class who are being corrupted, bribed and dazzled by the power of capital. Still, the Social Democracy, the Second International, this agency of the bourgeoisie within the Labour Movement, is continuing the work of disintegrating the working class, of poisoning the proletarian organism. It still continues to sell and to betray the cause of the workers. Social Democracy, which protected the imperialist governments during the world war, which beat down the uprisings of the proletarian vanguards, which participated in the signing of the Versailles peace, which assassinated Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg — the Socialist International of Noske, Wels, Vandervelde and Chernov still lives. It is still able to betray the proletariat, although its rule is beginning to totter and is already revealing palpable fissures. To conquer this enemy, to overcome opportunism, to teach the backward masses how to vanquish the last remnants of pious veneration for the all-powerful ones of the earth, to gather around itself everywhere the majority of the workers — this constitutes at present the chief task of the Communist International. The Communist International has proved by deeds, that it is the only power in the world which is able to set up a front against imperialist violence. It was the sole body which raised a protest against the infamous Ver-

sailles Treaty, one of the authors of which is Vandervelde. It alone has led a real fight against the dismemberment of Germany, against the occupation of the Ruhr, against the atrocities in India, Ireland and Egypt. It alone has mobilized all forces for the struggle against the threatening new wars. It alone has unmasked the fraudulent acts of the Second International and the treachery of its leaders. The Communist International alone has the right to speak in the name of that section of the working class which is resolved to fight for the welfare of Mankind, which knows how to fight and which will fight unceasingly.

Our organization may indeed have lost its Leading Genius, its best Comrade in Arms and Teacher, but it will in spite of all, march firm and unshaken to further great victories, because its voice is the voice of millions.

The spectre of Communism has assumed flesh and blood in the form of the proletarian dictatorship. It now not merely stalks through Europe. The sound of its thundering steps resounds throughout the world. Everywhere, even in the remotest corners of our planet, the suppressed are unfurling the red banner of the Communist Revolution. The victory of the Communist International is inevitable, because the Communist International is marching under the flag upon which, in letters of fire there blaze forth the words: Proletarians of all Countries Unite!

Moscow, 27. February 1924.

**The Executive Committee
of the Communist International.**