

# THE NEGRO WORKER



## BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS OF THE R.I.L.U.

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GEORGE PADMORE  
in charge of editing.

## AN APPEAL TO NEGRO WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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The most historic gathering of Negro workers will take place in London, on June 1st, 1930, on the occasion when the first Conference called by the PROVISIONAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS will convene for the purpose of organising a permanent International Movement among the toiling Negro masses of the world.

The Conference will lay the basis for, and work out a revolutionary programme of action for the Negro race in its struggle for liberation from the fetters of imperialist domination.

Plans are being arranged by the Committee elected at the Second World Congress of the League Against Imperialism and for National Liberation, which took place at Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany, last July.

The Committee has already sent out the following call to all Negro mass organisations in the USA, the African Colonies, the West Indies and Latin-America:

"The Provisional International TU Committee of Negro Workers, elected at the Second World Congress of the Anti-Imperialist League, informs of the convening of an International TU Conference of Negro Workers on July 1, 1930, in London, England. We herewith invite all proletarian organisations of Negro workers, trade unions, factory, shop groups and committees, and all sympathizing organisations of all nationalities to send their fraternal delegates to this Conference."

The aim of the International Conference of Toiling Negroes is to create an international fighting organisation for a united and organised struggle against imperialist oppression. The rising wave of rebellion among the Negro masses throughout the world, so sharply manifested in the militant action of the Haitian workers, will occupy the closest attention of the conference. It will discuss all the vital problems of the Negro masses who are brutally exploited, and subjected to every shade of masked slavery by predatory capitalists in Africa, the West Indies, South and North America.

The Conference will also draw up measures for the concerted action of the exploited Negroes all over the world, and will set up firm connections between the various organisations. The conference is of the greatest importance to the international revolutionary toilers.

The following organisations have already decided to participate:

1. The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Toilers of the RILU.
2. The American Negro Labor Congress.
3. League for the Defence of the African Race.
4. The Federation of Non-European Trade Unions, South Africa.
5. Trade Union Congress, South Africa.
6. National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, (USA).
7. Central Association of Kenya, East Africa.
8. Indian National Congress.
9. All-China Trade Union Federation.
10. T. & G.W. (England).
11. C.G.T.U. (France).
12. League Against Imperialism & For National Liberation.

For better information about the Conference, please write:

1. J.W.FORD, c/o Trade Union Unity League,  
2 West 15th Street, New York City, N.Y.
2. C.G.T.U.  
Paris, France.

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The Lenin policy is the Programme of Action for the many millions lined up in the ranks of the revolutionary movement in the colonies. Almost ten years have elapsed since the time when the Second Congress of the Communist International, under the leadership of LENIN established the general line to be adopted for the world revolutionary movement with regard to the Colonial question. In his historical speech at the Second CI Congress, Lenin brought forth, as is well known, the following basic points:

1. The Soviets (as a form for struggle and power) are applicable also for the backward countries with pre-capitalist relations.
2. With the help of the proletariat of the advanced countries the backward (colonial) countries will be able to transfer to the Soviet System, and through various stages of development, to Communism, avoiding the capitalist stage of development.
3. The proletariat of the advanced countries can and should help the backward toiling masses of the colonies.
4. The development of the colonial countries will move forward at a fast rate, when the victorious proletariat of the Soviet Republic will stretch out its helping hand to the working masses of the colonies and will be able to give them the necessary support.

During the course of the past ten years the movement of the oppressed masses of the colonial and semi-colonial countries has taken on colossal and unheard-of dimensions, and has become the most important section of the anti-imperialist front. Particularly the last few years have marked the further extension and sharpening of the struggle. Besides China and India---the two largest countries of the world, inhabited by almost one-half of the human race---also the more backward colonies, scattered over the most distant parts of the globe, are being drawn into the struggle. Of particular significance is the ever-extending movement of the oppressed African masses. During the past year different revolts have occurred in the French Congo, in Kenya, in Sudan, Nigeria, on the Island of Madagascar, besides the strike movements in the South African Union, in South Rhodesia and Gambia. Also in the countries of Latin-America strikes and revolts are continually breaking out. Along with the countries, into which Imperialism had penetrated ages ago, as Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, the uprisings and strike movements are to-day involving such countries like Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, and others, which have comparatively recently become the object of imperialist exploitation.

The great importance which Lenin attached to the movement of the colonial peoples yet at the time when it was only in its initial stages, lacks no proofs to-day, it is clear to all.

Not less clear is the point stressed by Lenin, with regard to the role of the Soviet Union. The victorious struggle waged against the imperialist interventionists, the whole internal and foreign policy of the USSR, the method of solving the national problem inside our own Union, the fact alone of the existence of a Workers' and Peasants' State and of its continuous economic and political growth, stimulates, intensifies, and hastens the tempo of the liberation movement within the colonial and semi-colonial countries. And over there, under the leadership of the proletarian vanguard, this movement, just like in China and India, has gone far ahead; and the Soviet System and the Soviets are to-day that form of government towards which the toiling masses are vigorously driving. It is sufficient to point out that in China, despite all the efforts of world imperialism and the Chinese militarists of all shades, there are scores of regions and districts, inhabited by thirty million people, where already during the course of the last two years, with the defence of the armed revolutionary workers and peasants, the Soviets are in existence and are effecting the Soviet Power of the toiling masses.

In India, banners bearing the slogans "Hail the Soviets", "For the Soviet Power", "Long Live the USSR"--have all become the inseparable

part of all large workers' demonstrations in such centres as Bombay and Calcutta.

Thus, as we see, Lenin's general line was a correct one, it became the Programme of Action for the many millions of the revolutionary colonial movement.

But the most important part of Lenin's Testament, calling upon the proletariat of the advanced capitalist countries to give the necessary help to the uprising oppressed masses of the colonies,---up till now is by far not being carried out.

This was also stressed in a most determined way by the last Sixth Session of the RILU Central Council, by a whole number of representatives of the different countries; this was also endorsed in the resolutions of the Central Council. Especially at the present time, when the colonial movement is undergoing a forward surge and is involving all along more and more new countries and territories, a turning point on the part of the revolutionary proletariat of the Metropolitan countries, for intensifying the active assistance and support to the colonial movement, is particularly important and essential. The closing up of the ranks between the movements of the oppressed colonial peoples and the world revolutionary labor movement is already under way; however, it must be realised and widened to a much larger extent, and be more actual and permanent in character. The slogan: "Proletarians and Oppressed Peoples of the World, Unite!" must be transformed into a real Programme of Action, into actual life.

This is one of the principal testaments of Lenin---the chief link in the chain of Lenin's Colonial Programme of Action.

L.H. ...

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## THE NEGRO LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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Notwithstanding the reign of white ruling class terrorism and the ruthless subjugation of the black toiling masses of the world, the revolutionary spirit among Negroes is rapidly exerting itself. Recently we have had manifestations of open revolt against Imperialist Rule in Africa, and the West Indies.

The Negroes in the USA are also rapidly being drawn into the class struggle of the American proletariat, and are demonstrating outstanding militancy, especially in the industries in which they play an important and intricate part.

The colonial struggles are being conducted on the great objective and subjective difficulties. On the one hand, there is a lack of conscious leadership; and on the other, isolation from the more advanced and experienced proletariat of Europe and the United States. Nevertheless, the very conditions under which the Negro peoples throughout the world live, drive them into the orbit of the struggle and prepare them to play an ever-increasing important role in the international revolutionary movement.

It is absolutely necessary for us to link up these spasmodic revolts with its main current, and thereby give leadership and direction to the nascent revolutionary movement of the black toilers.

What are some of the conditions confronting the international Negro working class?

### Revolt in South Africa.

In this land of Anglo-Boer Imperialism, the struggles between the natives and the oppressors are becoming sharper and sharper daily. Several clashes have already occurred between the black workers and their class-conscious white allies against the employers and the South

African Government. These fights, however, are weakened by the disunited situation which presently exists in the trade union movement. In South Africa we have several conflicting trade union elements. On the one hand, unions which bar Negroes outright, and on the other, the Industrial and Commercial Union, a native reformist organisation split into three warring camps, led by Ballinger, and English IILP member, Kadalie and Champion, native reformists, and the Non-European Federation of Trade Unions, affiliated to the RILU.

The last-named organisation, because of its militant program under the leadership of the Communist Party of South Africa, is making tremendous gains among the natives. Alarmed by this, the police recently carried out a series of czarist raids upon native quarters in Durban. Both the Party and the Union organised monster mass demonstrations of the natives against the attempts of the Government to saddle increased taxes upon the workers, and to introduce new legislative which is directed to outlaw the revolutionary movement. Efforts were made by the military to break up these meetings, but the workers fought back and held their own. The natives are also conducting an heroic struggle against the Master and Servants' Act, a capitalist law which makes it a criminal offense for the Negro workers to go out on strike.

The South African bourgeoisie led by Pirow, the Minister of Justice, and backed up by the military forces of the State and Fascists' organisations, have instituted a reign of white terror throughout the Union with the hope of crushing the militancy of the natives; But this has only served to accelerate the struggle by driving the Negroes in larger and larger numbers into the revolutionary trade unions and the Communist Party, the only real champions for a BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS' AND FARMERS' GOVERNMENT.

#### East Africa.

In Kenya, Rhodesia, and Tanganyika, the British imperialists are increasing their attacks upon the natives in order to carry out their scheme of forming a new colonial market for further exploitation by uniting these colonies together under a centralised political administration. In this respect they are sadly disappointed for the natives are already beginning to mobilise their forces to resist further encroachments upon their territories. Strikes are frequently taking place among the semi-proletariat in these regions. In Basutoland, where the population is 498,781, of whom 1,603 are Europeans, a peasant organisation called the Lekhotla La Bafo, has been established in order to mobilise the agrarian and village masses against the Europeans, who have already annexed the most fertile sections of the country.

#### West Africa.

In the past, the agrarian policy in West Africa was not as acute as in the East African Colonies, but recently, big British corporations, such as Lever Brothers, the Nigerian Tin Co., and Elder, Dempster & Co., have increased their investments throughout the West Coast Colonies. This has led to a new land policy, which aims to expropriate the land from the peasantry in order to develop large scale plantations. To facilitate this imperialist design, the Government of Nigeria has introduced a new taxation scheme which aims to drive the natives entirely off the land.

The first application of this new land policy met with militant resistance in the South Eastern Province in the Colonies. On December 11th, 1929, when the British tax collectors appeared in the villages to receive their tolls, the natives led by well organised bands of women staged demonstrations of protest and refused to pay. Troops were called on the scene in order to shoot. Forty-four were killed including 43 women and one man.

In Gambia, the native workers have been deprived of the right to organise into trade unions in Bathurst by the British Colonial Admin-

istrator, acting at the instigation of the foreign capitalists. Shortly after the natives had created a union, the employers issued a manifesto denouncing the organisation, and called upon the Government to suppress it. This the representatives of MacDonald's "Labor" Government quickly did by declaring the Union illegal.

Thus we see the complete collaboration between His Majesty's Social-Fascist Government and the British traders in the colonies.

The bloody massacre in Nigeria together with the every-day outrages perpetrated in other colonies in Africa and the West Indies, shows the extent to which MacDonald and his lackeys will stoop in order to carry out the plans of the British bourgeoisie.

Revolts against forced labor in French Equatorial Africa have also occurred within recent months. These uprisings were put down with tremendous slaughter. French troops massacred hundreds of natives, and in some cases wiped out entire villages with machine guns and aerial bombardments.

The Haitian Revolt.

Haiti, an economic colony of American Imperialism in the West Indies has been the scene of the latest revolt against American occupation. This struggle lasted several days and met with a general onslaught by the United States Marines. The Uprising began with a strike of students of the National University in Port-au Prince, but soon spread among the native clerical staff of the Customs Department, which is under the direct supervision of American Officials. The dock and transport workers also joined the strike. Within few hours after the students had appeared on the streets demonstrating against the Borneo Administration, and the United States Imperialism, the peasants who represent the most exploited section of the population organised battalions and armed with machets, (long knives used for cutting sugar canes) and sticks, marched on Port-au-Prince, bent upon overthrowing the Government and seizing the capital.

As they approached the city, they were met by Marines at Aux Cayes, and ordered to halt. This they refused to do. The soldiers then shot into their ranks killing five and wounding twenty.

President Hoover informed of the uprising immediately despatched the Cruiser GALVESTON, and 500 more Marines with the bombing plane WRIGHT, to ensure victory for Yankee Imperialism.

Haiti is of tremendous importance for American imperialism both economically and strategically. Situated in the Carribean, within short distance from the American mainland, and overlooking the Panama Canal and the proposed Nicaragua Canal, Wall Street is determined to maintain a strangle-hold over the Republic.

Since 1915, American marines and financial advisers have been in control of economic and political affairs of the country. During this period over 2,500 natives, chiefly peasants, have been murdered by the marines. The peasants have been exterminated from the lands in order to provide for the expansion of large-scale coffee, cocoa and cotton plantations, controlled by foreign corporations. Forced labor has also been instituted in order to guarantee the construction of roads and railways. The National Bank of the Republic has become the private property of Wall Street bankers. Freedom of speech and press, as well as all oppositional political parties to the Borneo regime, have been ruthlessly exterminated.

In short, Haiti has been turned into a slave colony under the Dictatorship of a black puppet maintained by the bayonets of the marines as the President of the Republic.

West Indian Federation.

There are also signs of unrest among the natives in the British West Indian colonies of Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados and Grenada, as well as the United States Virgin Islands. In the first named group of Islands, a Nationalist Movement has already crystallised itself around

the Labor Party of Trinidad. Meetings are being held throughout the Island rallying together the workers and poor farmers under the slogan of "THE WEST INDIES FOR THE WEST INDIANS".

On the occasion of the recent visit of Sir Sidney Cliver, now Lord Oliver, one of the leaders of the British "Labor" Party, as Chairman of a Royal Commission to inquire into the sugar industry, the black workers of Barbados staged protest demonstrations in Bridgetown, the capital of the Island, demanding the abolition of their present semi-slave status, and the right to elect their own representative to the Legislative Council.

As to be expected, the reformist Lord, frowned upon these demands; but the natives are becoming more and more politically conscious and are determined to carry on the struggle for colonial freedom.

In Jamaica, a colony of great revolutionary traditions (the Maroon Rebellions), the natives are again showing signs of unrest, Labor and political organisations are springing up among them with such rapidity, that the colonial government has ordered the native regiment disbanded, replacing it by British soldiers because they fear that in the event of an uprising native soldiers would go over to the toilers.

American Imperialism through the United Fruit Co., one of the biggest corporations operating in Latin-America and the West Indies, is dealing a death blow to British interests in the banana industry in Jamaica. This rivalry has had a tremendous effect on worsening the conditions of the Jamaican workers, who, however, are learning to use the strike weapon with much success. A number of political strikes took place among the dock and transport workers last year resulting in many clashes between the workers and the soldiers.

#### The United States.

These militant demonstrations are not confined to the colonial Negroes, but are also evidenced in the various bitter struggles participated in by the colonial workers in the United States within recent months.

The Negro miners in the Southern Illinois coalfields are to-day fighting gallantly alongside their white brothers against the combined efforts of the employers, the treacherous bureaucracy of the United Mine Workers' Union of America, the State and Federal Governments, to break the strike.

A Negro, William Boyce, is the Acting-President of the Revolutionary National Mineworkers' Union, which is leading the struggle.

#### Unifying the International Struggles.

However, this wave of indignation and rebellion of the Negro toilers of the world lacks unification, and because of this these black workers are unable to achieve the maximum results in their rebellions against their imperialist oppressors.

"Being the victims of the capitalist greed and inhuman oppression, the toiling Negroes are widely used by the imperialists as cannon fodder for their plunderous wars and for the struggle against the revolutionary movement. It was thus in the last world war, and it will be thus in the new bloodbath being prepared by the imperialists. Neither are the Negroes to occupy the least place, according to the imperialist plans, in the war being prepared against the USSR, the only Fatherland of the Toilers of All Nations and Races.

"The Negro masses are still disunited, and they have no united organising centre for the struggle, which greatly weakens their resistance to imperialist oppression. This is why the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TOILING NEGROES, scheduled to take place in LONDON, on JULY 1, 1930, will be of vast significance for the emancipatory movement of the Negroes and for the entire international revolutionary movement."

All class-conscious Negroes must make an effort to participate in this historic event, which will be the first time that the broad toiling masses of Negroes in the United States, Africa, the West Indies and Latin America, will come together and organise into a powerful International Movement, on the basis of a genuine revolutionary program in order to carry on the struggle more effectively for the liberation of the brutally oppressed Negro race from the fetters of white capitalist-imperialist domination.

GEORGE PADMORE



SOME SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE COMING NEGRO WORKERS' CONFERENCE



London, (the Labor Government permitting), will be the scene of the first international conference of Negro workers ever held. A Provisional Committee, composed of representatives from Negro working class organisations was created in Frankfurt, Germany, during the sessions of the Second Congress of the Anti-Imperialist League, for the purpose of carrying out the necessary plans. The date of the Conference has been fixed for July 1, 1930.

Such a conference would be of tremendous significance if we were to consider it solely from the viewpoint that it signalises the internationalisation of the Negro problem. But more than that it will very sharply focus the attention of the world of Negro workers upon the class aspects of their problems and made them appreciate the common interests between their struggles and those of other oppressed toiling masses in the colonies as well as the proletariat of the "mother" countries.

Millions of Negroes were ruthlessly torn from their native land, Africa, centuries ago and forced into chattel slavery in the New World. Since then, they have remained separate and apart from each other, and from other peoples whose suffering paralleled their own. The coming conference will put an end to this unfortunate isolation. This is a factor of extremely far-reaching significance.

The place selected by the Provisional Committee will be an extremely significant factor in awakening the consciousness of the Negro masses. The international situation, which will have assumed an even more intensely critical character, will have even greater significance.

Perhaps it is no exaggeration to say that more than one-half of the Negroes in the world are subjects of the British Empire. These victims of British Imperialism will assemble in the very citadel of the Empire where they will discuss their problems and lay plans for an effective struggle against their exploiters. What will be the answer of the "Labor" Government to these Negroes?

Recent events in Gambia, Nigeria and Kenya, leave little room for speculation after the nature of the "Labor" Government's answer. The enlightening effect of this answer will be truly tremendous. For this reason the choice of place for the conference was a particularly happy one and the position of the "Labor" Party enhances the value of the choice.

This does not by any means begin to exhaust the significant features arising out of the selection of London as the scene of the conference. But a survey of the world situation and its direct relation to the conference is of tremendous importance. The conference will not only take place in a period of rising revolutionary activity in the working class movement of the world, but during a period when this revolutionary development is paralleled by the rise of a wave of revolutionary activity in the colonies and when the active role played by the Negro masses of the colonies and of the "mother" countries has attained unprecedented momentum and intensity.

A picture the Congress cannot fail to examine presents, the upsurge in South Africa with the Durban dead and wounded in the foreground



the uprising in Kenya, where the black masses, denied access to all land which can be profitably cultivated, are in a position of extreme poverty. The savage attacks upon the workers of Gambia, West Africa, whose only "crime" was that they sought to organise themselves; French Equatorial Africa, a sea of blood from the millions of black men and women done to death by the robber-seeking exploiters and reeking with the stenching of tens of thousands or more who have died of starvation; Nigeria with the bleeding carcasses still lying on the ground; Haiti, groaning under the iron heel of American Imperialism; millions of Negroes in Latin-America, living in virtual slavery; the "independent" Republic of Liberia, forced by American Imperialism to enslave millions of natives. This is the picture which will cover every wall of the hall in which the International Conference of Negro Workers will be held. We cannot measure the significance of this.

But there is more, recent events show that world economy is rapidly entering a period of profound crisis. In the "mother" countries every effort will be made to place the burden of this crisis upon the backs of the most exploited sections of their "own" working class and the already inhumanly exploited and oppressed masses of the colonies. For the Negro masses this will not only mean the passage of "native Bills" in South Africa, which lead directly to an intensification of their exploitation and oppression, a bloody reign of terror in East and West Africa; the ruthless attempt to stamp out every vestige of revolt in Haiti as well as in the Metropolitan centres; and a tremendous worsening of the living conditions. Social-Fascism and the Fascist organisations such as the American Legion, and the Ku Klux Klan, will be made to understand that insofar as Negroes are concerned it is "open season." We will witness an increased utilisation of the theory of inherent inferiority of colored peoples to broaden the base of the exploitation and oppression of the Negro masses and to quash any tendencies which the white class-conscious workers may exhibit to accept the racial struggles of the Negro masses as an integral part of the struggle against World Imperialism. This will be the economic and political situation of the world when the Negro workers are called into session in London.

More and more clearly will "Labor" Governments and Social-Democrats have exposed themselves as the enemies of these black workers. More clearly will the treacherous Negro reformists have proved their alliance with the enemies of the Negro masses. More clearly will imperialism have disclosed the fact that it views war,---war against the Soviet Union, the Fatherland of the toiling masses of the world, regardless of race and color---as a way out of its dilemma. The process of militarisation in the colonies will have shown to the black masses the role to be assigned to them in this gigantic conflict, the necessity for organised, revolutionary leadership will be apparent. The slogan of democracy for all people around which the 1914 imperialist war was fought, and the "rewards" accorded the Negro masses at the conclusion of this blood-bath will be paraded. The use to be made of these and similar slogans in the near future will be made known. These are "signs of the times" which will not be forgotten by those into whose hands the leadership of this conference has been committed. These are but a few of the factors which show that the International Conference of Negro workers will be a gathering of tremendous significance.

William Wilson.

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#### SOUTH AFRICA: A REFORMISTS BETRAY STRIKE

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Although the South African Trade Union Congress is not affiliated to the Amsterdam International, its reformist and treacherous character certainly makes it eligible for a place in this international seab corporation. Completely ignoring the millions of native and colored

workers, the Trade Union Congress embraces only white workers. It upholds the privileged position of the white workers, thus helping the capitalist class to divide the ranks of the working class movement, fostering race hatred and white chauvinism. The true nature of South African Reformism was seen especially during the strike of the colored mattress workers last November.

The Mattress Workers' Union is a militant organisation affiliated to the RILU through the Non-European Trade Union Federation. Like the whole Federation, this organisation has supported a revolutionary class platform since it was organised and has ever since pushed forward the tactics of the united front to fight the employing class. An agreement of Friendship and Mutual Support was soon closed with the Furniture Makers' Union, a reformist organisation of white workers. The class union made clear that it really meant business. When the white workers came out in Johannesburg last October, the colored mattress workers took part in the white workers' meeting and declared from the platform that they were prepared to call a solidarity strike as soon as necessary. This fine demonstration of class solidarity by the workers of another race had its influence and the strike was won after a short bout.

This victory was instrumental in raising the class consciousness of all the workers for it was evident at last that the "color bar" which had always divided them, had been broken down. But these hopes proved all too premature. Far from any class consciousness, the reformists hadn't even the decency or the desire to carry out the obligations they had undertaken. On November 18th, the colored mattress workers called a strike when the employers refused to pay them the rates fixed by the Wages Board. The employers claimed that these wage rates applied only to the white workers. All the strikers were arrested at the first General Meeting, for South African law lays down that it is a criminal offense for any native worker to leave his job before the termination of his contract (strikes being brought under this ruling). One would have expected that the Furniture Makers' Union should have welcomed an opportunity of helping a union which only recently had rendered such invaluable support. As an affiliated body to the Trade Union Congress, it should have raised the question in the TU centre of organising a campaign of protest against the continuance of the present slave laws.

But the reformists had no intention of doing this for they were all too busy scabbing at the factories involved in the dispute. Of course, this piece of treachery only embittered the colored workers and unfortunately increased racial antagonism. We cannot pass over the blunders committed by the "South African Worker", the paper of the CP, in an article exposing the treachery of the reformists. The whole article speaks about the white workers and not about the reformists, which simply gives emphasis to racial distinctions, completely ignoring the ideological side of the question. This can only play into the hands of the employers who will continue to keep the white and the colored workers at loggerheads simply to be able to exploit both. It is high time that things were made clear in the ranks of the class conscious workers. We must make clear that the present treachery of working class interests has its roots in reformism, and not because the workers happen to be white, for we see the reformists betraying their fellow-workers in all parts of the world, in Europe, Africa, and Asia, wherever you have class conscious and reformist workers belonging to the same place and even to the same nation. To bring home the true situation to the workers will be all the easier since there are many white workers in South Africa who are struggling jointly with the colored workers.

Why, the recent piece of treachery even prompted several officials to leave their jobs in the Furniture Makers' Union. The Mattress Workers' Union, and, indeed, all the organisations affiliated to the Trade Union Federation must now raise the question of organising class unions which would unite all the workers irrespective of color, face or religion.

The Federation as a whole and each one of its affiliated unions should now push forward educational activities to raise the class consciousness of the members and familiarise them better with the international labor movement. Our Negro comrades will then realise that no matter where you look the class conscious workers are struggling against the reformists. Everywhere the reformist leaders are becoming the open agents of the capitalists; the reformist unions are turning into fascist organisations. In South Africa the racial problem overshadows the class struggle and it is up to our unions to clear the atmosphere. Every native worker should realise that the Kadalies, the Andrews and the Ballingers, for example are working against the working class interests, that they are directly supporting the capitalist class although they use different methods to achieve this. South Africa stands on the eve of a serious wave of class struggles, and a correct lead can only be given if we have a clear working class policy.

J. REED.

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### HOW THE INFLUENCE OF THE AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL IS PENETRATING INTO INDONESIA

Every revolutionary worker knows exactly the basic differences between the Amsterdam International and the RILU. The first advocates class-collaboration; the second upholds the class struggle. The RILU being the true supporter and guide of the oppressed and colonised workers, enjoys the warmest sympathy of the revolutionary trade unions in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, as it is shown by the fact that revolutionary trade unions of most of the colonial countries are affiliated to that revolutionary world workers' organisation.

The Indonesian Red Labor Secretariat was affiliated to the RILU from the beginning of 1921, and under the leadership of the RILU it extended its influence rapidly among the Indonesian workers and overwhelmed considerably the influence of other unions, which were led by nationalist parties and the Social-Democratic Party.

The difference between the Amsterdam International and the RILU is seen in that the RILU comes to the aid of the colonial workers when they are engaged in the hottest fight against their oppressors the imperialists, while the A.I. acts always to the contrary. Its "help" consists in bringing the organisations of the colonised workers under the influence of its masters, the imperialists. It pretends to act on behalf of the colonised workers, when their revolutionary organisations are already destroyed and the leaders already massacred by the imperialists or by the counter-revolutionary native bourgeoisie.

In China the Amsterdam International refused to give any support to the struggling Chinese toiling masses, but when the Kuomintang generals had massacred the militant workers and replaced their unions with the counter-revolutionary Kuomintang Unions, the Amsterdam International began to flirt with the Kuomintang trade unions, which were established by Chiang Kai-shek at the point of the bayonet.

At the present moment the same tactic is applied by the Amsterdam International to pacify the Indonesian workers organisations, but with the difference that this time the lackeys of Imperialism are acting very cunningly.

For more than a decade in Indonesia the social-imperialists had tried to get a foothold among the native working class, but all attempts were fruitless due to the activities of the Communist Party of Indonesia, which ruthlessly unmasked the treacherous intentions of the reformists.

Before the uprising in 1926 it could but attract the thin upper strata of the Indonesia working class of which most are white workers. But after the uprising it succeeded with the help of the authorities also to organise a small part of the native railroad workers. This

new union could not make any progress, however, due to the fact that the native railroad workers had also another union (the Sarekat Kaum Buruh-Indonesia) which fought against the reformist policy of the Social-Democratic native union. Even after the suppression of the S.K.B.I., the Social-Democratic native union remained undeveloped.

In short, regardless of the broad scope and the entire freedom of the Social-Democrats, to extend their influence among the unorganised working class, they failed totally to start from below well-developed native trade unions. Therefore another policy must be applied. The leaders of the existing native trade unions have to be bribed and corrupted.

Since the Uprising, after the suppression of the Red trade unions the hunting of adherents of the RILU and the suppression of the Sarekat Kaum Buruh Indonesia, there remain in Indonesia at the present time only native organisations which are under the leadership of the religious nationalist party, the Sarekat Islam. The leaders of these unions are deadly enemies of the Communists and revolutionary workers. Regardless of the fact that they are also pursuing the collaboration policy, they have hitherto had nothing whatever to do with Social-Democracy, in fact the attitude of the Sarekat-Islam trade unions was more or less hostile to the native Social-Democratic railroad workers' union.

August Salim, the Vice-President of the Sarekat-Islam, who is marked by the Communists as a secret agent of the Dutch Government, regardless of the Party-discipline of the Sarekat-Islam, which forbids its members at the same time to be members of other parties, has remained up to now, behind the back of the S.I. also a member of the Indonesian Social-Democratic Party.

Recently at the hand of the Indonesian Dutch Social-Democrats Salim was appointed adviser of the Dutch workers' delegation to the Geneva Labor Conference. At the Government expense Salim went to Europe, but before he started to Geneva he did not forget to complete his treacherous mission. He influenced SURYOPRONOTO, the leader of the Union of the Government pawnshop monopoly, and WONDOSUDIRIJO, the leader of the Chauffeurs' Union of Indonesia, who are also leaders of the Sarekat Islam; and both in the name of their respective unions handed over a mandate to Salim to establish connections with International Workers' Organisations.

Salim, after having participated in the Geneva Conference, went to Holland knowing among which elements he had to move. He was cordially accepted by the Left Dutch Socialists (the Fimmen Group) and delivered hot speeches here and there. Being considered as the pioneer in recording the miserable condition of the working class in Indonesia, before the Dutch workers, Salim in Holland demanded the abolition of the forced labor; the Statute Labor, the Anti-Strike Jaw, etc. He was very prodigal in using revolutionary phrases, he called the Sarekat-Islam the party of the workers and the peasants. In short, Salim endeavoured to convince the Dutch workers that he is at present the man who truly defends the Indonesian proletariat.

Meanwhile, when Salim in Holland was supposed to be busily fighting for the freedom of his fatherland, there happened in Indonesia events, which could be linked up with the activities of Salim in the mother country. The independent trade union, the S.K.B.I., was suppressed, the Government severely attacked the Left Nationalist Movement, the Nationalist Party of Indonesia, the native jurist Sumantri was arrested and the union of the pawnshop officials was affiliated to the Amsterdam International.

The road between the Indonesian pawnshop union and the Amsterdam International passed through the Indonesian Social-Democratic Party, which had introduced Salim to the Social-Democratic Party of Holland. The SD Party arranged with the Dutch Government for the trip of Salim to Europe, and in Holland Salim had his audience with the gentlemen of the Amsterdam International. Thus the Indonesian Government was the main promoter of the affiliation of the Indonesian movements to Amsterdam Reformism.

It is clear that through the respective Governments, the Amsterdam International is attempting to penetrate its influence among the organisations of the colonised workers.

But what is the present attitude of the Indonesian Government towards the RILU?

A new law was recently enacted, which prohibits the maintenance of contacts with organisations abroad, which are aiming at the overthrow of the imperialist governments. The affiliation of the Indonesian workers' organisations with the RILU or other revolutionary world organisations, is punishable with imprisonments up to a maximum of 6 years, so that for Indonesia one more difference has arisen between the two Internationals: i.e., the door is opened by the Dutch Government for the Indonesian trade unions to be connected with Amsterdam, but the door is closed for Moscow and locked by the new law.

In such a corrupt and sordid manner, has the Amsterdam International been enabled to penetrate its influence among the Indonesian workers. Side by side with the imperialists and the treacherous national bourgeoisie it is endeavouring to subdue the revolutionary trade unions and to destroy the influence of the RILU.

But it can be assured, that the Indonesian proletariat, which is overburdened by the inhuman exploitation of the imperialists, understands the treachery of the national reformist leaders of the Amsterdam International.

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#### BUSHMEN AND BISONS

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Bushmen is the name given one of the South African tribes now under the suzerainty of the British Empire. Bisons are wild animals to be found in the U.S.A. and Canada.

One may well ask what comparison can there be between these people living in the South African wastes and the wild beasts of North America. Well, the fact is the cultured civilizers who have shouldered the "white man's burden" of educating and enlightening the backward peoples regard both the bushmen and the bisons as exceedingly rare but interesting types of animal life. When the Europeans colonised America in the early days, the Bisons were exterminated in their thousands. It was only at the end of the Nineteenth Century that somebody woke up to the fact that the number of bisons in the country had been depleted to about a thousand in all. Urgent steps were taken to prevent their complete extermination and special breeding grounds were set aside for them where hunting was prohibited. Since that time there has been a gradual increase in the number of bisons and to-day there are already several thousands.

The Bushmen too were persecuted by the European civilizers and their numbers rapidly diminished. The Boers took the lead in cutting down this defenceless race; regular hunts of the Bushmen were organised. They were driven far into the deserts of South Africa where there is little food or water to be had. At times they can only eke out a miserable existence feeding on wild-plant roots. No wonder there are only a few thousand Bushmen left. But the anthropologists assert that the Bushmen are the last descendents of the stone-age people and bourgeois scientific thought believes that their preservation is extremely important.

So we find the "Cape Times"(o) writing: "As this race(Bushmen)

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(o) "The Cape Times" is a daily newspaper controlled by the Big Bourgeoisie of South Africa.

is extremely interesting historically and ethnographically, many believe they should be preserved. The Government has been urged to enact the same measures for their protection as are used to prevent the complete extermination of wild animals," and the Government heeded the voice of its citizens who are always so anxious to preserve anything of educational value. That enlightened gentleman, Mr. GRIBLER, Minister for Agriculture, made it known that he was very sympathetic to the idea of preserving the Bushmen and was prepared to arrange for their habitation in a segregated area of the Kalahari Desert. "I feel sure," declared the learned Minister, "that the Bushmen should be preserved as we preserve game."

In South Africa, by the way, not only the Bushmen, but all the natives are regarded more like cattle than like people. All sexual intercourse between whites and blacks is considered a criminal offense and delinquents of both races are punished for "such an unnatural act". It was only at the end of 1929 that a judge in Pretoria, the capital of the South African Union, dealt with the case of a farmer who had been living with a Negro woman, declaring that the defendant was a sexual pervert and that had he only the power he would castrate a man of that type. The farmer was bound over to be forcibly cured of sexual perversion so that society would be safeguarded against the spread of such a hideous evil.

The "monkey" trial in America, the treatment of colored peoples as if they were no better than cattle and the merciless extermination of entire races and tribes, are all examples of modern bourgeois civilisation. In fact, it is bourgeois culture at its height. Only in Soviet Russia, in the land of the Proletarian Dictatorship, has science and culture been given their rightful place as the handmaidens of the Great Work undertaken to build up a new Social Order for all the peoples, irrespective of race, color or stage of cultural development.

S. VICTOR.

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#### CULTURAL CONSTRUCTION IN SOVIET RUSSIA

In the year 1913 out of 100 persons in Russia 76.5 were illiterate. Up to the year 1928-29 we have made a great stride forward. Out of 100 persons 46 are illiterate. At the end of the Five-Year Plan there will only be 18 illiterates out of 100 persons. Illiteracy will be completely liquidated in the most important districts of the country. The illiteracy of the youth (12 to 15 years) will be liquidated to 100%. (At the present 3 million youths are being taught to read and write). In the towns 93% of the population will be able to read and write.

The elementary education will be arranged in such a way that by the end of the five years all children of the Soviet Union from 8 to 11 will attend the elementary schools. Only in the most backward districts where there are particularly great difficulties will this plan not be completely fulfilled. As a result at the end of the five years the elementary schools will be attended by 17 million children as against 9.5 million in 1927-28 and 7 million in 1914.

The Soviet Union needs 85,000 engineers as against the existing 30,000; 110,000 technicians as against the existing 40,000. In order to realise this huge programme, ten to twelve new technical high schools and 175 technical schools are being established. The number of the scholars will be increased to 64,000 and 90% of the students will receive scholarships.

During the last decade 1,5 million workers have been trained, 400,000 in the factory schools, trade union schools, etc. Five million peasants will attend short courses in order to raise the level of the cultivation of the soil.

The Five-Year Plan provides for an increase in the number of reading-huts from 22,000 to 38,000, i.e., by 75 per cent. This means 5,5 reading huts per district. The number of libraries is to be increased from 23,000 to 34,000. In addition, 40,000 new travelling libraries are being organised. The number of the clubs, people's houses, etc., is being augmented by 25 per cent.

With regard to the press it is intended to increase it threefold in the course of the five years. That is eight times the pre-war level. The circulation of the newspapers will be increased from 1,700,000 in the year 1927/28 to 5 million in the year 1932/33. The publication of books is to be increased from 1,850 million leaves to 4,000 million in the year 1932/33. The publication of mass literature will be increased five to sixfold.

The number of cinemas will be increased from 8,520 to 50,000 (of which 14,000 will be school cinemas); that is a sixfold growth. The Five Year Plan provides for the installation of cinemas in at least 80 per cent of all clubs and the establishment of at least 3 cinemas in every district.

The wireless is to be increased twentyfold, from 350,000 sets in 1927-28 to 7 million in the year 1932/33.

It is intended to supply with wireless sets at least half of all workers' dwellings and 3 million peasant houses, all the workers' clubs people's houses, reading huts, schools, barracks, collective and Soviet farms and Red Corners.

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#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS.

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#### United States of America.

##### Miners' Strike in Illinois.

Thousands of Negro miners are fighting along with their white brothers in the strike in the Southern Illinois coalfields. The strike is under the leadership of the Revolutionary National Mine Workers' Union, of which William Boyce, a Negro, is acting President. The Company controlled United Mine Workers' Union, together with the coal barons, and the State and Federal Governments are mobilised against the miners, who are nevertheless spreading the strike over large areas and mobilising thousands of brutally exploited workers into their ranks.

##### International Labor Defence Conference.

The most successful Conference of the International Labor Defence was recently held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For the first time in the history of the American labor movement, Negro and white workers from both the North and South gathered at a major convention to discuss their common problems.

That the slogans issued by the International Labor Defence and made part of the conference and the organisation were not mere words but intended clear and decisive action was shown by the demonstration Sunday night at the Monongahela Hotel. Three hundred and fifty delegates present at the convention, 30 of whom are Negroes, marched in a body to the Hotel when they learned that the management would not permit the Negro delegates to remain with the white. When the manager refused admission to Negro delegates, a mass meeting was held in the hotel lobby, denouncing the whole system of race barriers and calling for the solidarity of white and Negro workers to overthrow this system of persecution. The delegates then declared a boycott of not only that hotel, but of every other hotel and restaurant discriminating against Negroes.

One of the principal resolutions adopted at this conference

pledged the delegates and the workers they represented (about 200,000), to carry on an untiring fight against race discrimination and persecution of Negro workers. Resolutions calling for the organization of armed defence committees composed of both white and Negro workers to combat lynching mobs were adopted. Such committees have already been formed in the South where the International Labor Defence has branches. A resolution also was adopted calling for the immediate withdrawal of United States marines from Haiti and for the support of the Haitian masses fighting for their independence.

Among the delegates were Negro workers from all parts of the country, including dock workers from Wilmington, a laborer from Charlotte, N.C., miners from Ohio and Pennsylvania and textile workers. There were two women Negro delegates.

This conference held in the heart of the regions controlled by Andy Mellon, Secretary of the United States Treasury, and his powerful interests, denounced the brutality of his coal and iron police and the persecutions carried on against militant workers.

In special conferences and in discussion periods the delegates worked out plans for broadening the organization into a mass movement including as many Negro workers as possible. It determined to increase its stride for the release of the seven Gastonia textile union organizers who have been sentenced to 117 years for defending themselves against a bosses' lynching mob. Special attention was paid to planning an intensive drive against the increase in persecutions throughout the country against workers, black and white, who are forming strong unions of their own.

Coal Barons Inflame White Miners Against Negro.

Northern West Virginia coal operators are doing all in their power to break the solidarity of Negro and white miners which has been steadily growing since the appearance in these parts of the new National Miners' Union.

In Everettville, West Virginia, the New England Fuel and Transportation Co. hired Negroes and white miners alike during the strike. All were living in the same camp then. But now, since the fakery of the United Mine Workers of America helped to break the strike, the New England Fuel Co. is moving all the Negro miners to separate quarters.

At Scotts Run, W. Va., the mine foremen are going to the miners below and saying: "If you don't want to work with the Negroes, I'll take them out and we won't hire any more."

The miners said nothing, because they knew that taking the Negroes out of the mines would do them no good---these miners are organized in the N.M.U.

Next day the foreman said to the Negro miners: "I must change you to some other place, because the white miners, especially the Hunkies, won't work with you here." And he gave them the worst place in the mine. The white miners---especially the so-called "Hunkies"---knew nothing about those boss lies.

Outside the mine a Negro miner asked the foreman for a job. The foreman looked him over and said: "I'd give you a job but the white miners here won't work with Negro miners". Again the white miners had nothing to do with the lying statement.

The N.M.U. called a mass meeting of Negro and white miners to denounce these lies of the bosses, and have the white miners join with the Negroes in protesting all discrimination.

Negro Workers Welcomed at Unemployed Meeting.

When unemployed Negro workers took the floor at the Detroit, Michigan Conference of Unemployed Workers, called jointly by the Trade Union Unity League and the Auto Workers' Union, they were greeted with stormy applause. Prior to the taking of the floor by the Negro workers, enthusiastic approval had greeted the statements of speakers that the Council welcomed all workers, regardless of race, color, creed or nationality. Many workers spoke, urging the need for greater solidarity



and organisation in the struggle against the bosses, the boss courts, the AF of L bureaucrats, "Socialists" and all others opposed to the Left Wing labor movement. A Provisional Committee which included Negro and Youth representatives, was elected to prepare leaflets and a program of action.

#### Mob Rule in America.

According to the report compiled in the Department of Records and Research in the Tuskegee Institute there were 121 persons lynched in 1929. Six of the victims were taken from the hands of the law, five from jail and one from officers of the law outside of the jails. The States in which these lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows:

Florida---4, Kentucky---1, Mississippi---1, Tennessee---1, Texas---3.

#### Communists Protest Lynchings.

The police of Chester, Pennsylvania, attempted to break up a mass meeting called by the Communist Party of America to protest against the lynching spirit stirred up in this town by the editorials and articles of "THE CHESTER TIMES," a white chauvinist newspaper, which threatened a Negro worker that unless he moves out from the "Lily White" Section of the town, he will be lynched.

The Communist Party is taking the lead in fighting against white ruling class terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Under the clumsy pretext that the meeting, which <sup>was</sup> held in the Benn Theatre, had no permit, the police drove out three hundred Negro workers together with some hundred white workers who had come out to demonstrate their solidarity with the Negroes against the effort to intimidate them.

Instead of being terrorised, however, by the uniformed thugs of the capitalists, the workers marched to the Communist Party Headquarters where a successful meeting was held.

In Chester, where attempts are being made to confine Negro workers to segregated ghettos where they are robbed and exploited at the will of landlords and denied even the most elementary sanitary protection, was denounced by both white and Negro speakers.

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### The Caribbean and Latin-America.

#### West-Indian Workers Barred from Venezuela.

Because of the militant struggles carried on by West Indians against the oppressive labor laws enacted by Gomez, the Dictator of Venezuela, in order to protect the oil interests of American imperialists, a new law has been introduced prohibiting the immigration of foreign-born Negroes into Venezuela. Those already resident in the country will not be permitted to return once they leave. Nor will the wives and children of Negro workers who are resident in Venezuela be permitted to enter the country to join their husbands and fathers.

There are about 10,000 Negro workers in the oilfields of the Standard Oil Company in Maracaibo. Most of these are from Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada.

#### West-Indian Federation.

The movement for a Federated West Indies and the abolition of the Crown Colony system through which British imperialism at present functions in its exploitation and oppression of the majority of the West Indian colonies, is rapidly crystallising among the middle class leaders of the Islands. How extensive the movement already is may be judged from the following remarks of the "Jamaica Critic", one of the most open exponents of the idea:

"There's unrest in the West Indies and it is general, not local, which is a very pleasing aspect of the situation. It is a political

unrest centered upon forms of government and constitutions."

After assuring the British oppressors, in typical middle class cowardice and treachery, that the movement is not calculated to break the shackles of the bitterly exploited peasants and workers of the Islands, but merely to assure the native middle class a share in the exploitation of those masses, the Jamaica "Critic" goes on to show how extensive the movement has already become:

"Trinidad, which has every right to be dissatisfied with the constitution given her not so very long ago; Granada, which is groaning under a sort of civilised despotism; Demerara, whose wounds are still gaping wide, are all active. Barbados and Jamaica are in a peculiar position; the former has full Representative Government and the latter though a semi-Crown Colony, is at the present time blessed with so enlightened an administrator that they enjoy all the advantages of Representative institution. But even in those colonies there's unrest."

So far the hegemony of the movement is in the hands of the middle class, which is the only class that enjoys the so-called "representative institutions" which the "Critic" says exist in Barbados and, by grace of an "enlightened administrator" in Jamaica. According to the plans of the middle class, the working class is to be simply a pawn in the game. But there are many indications that the terribly oppressed workers and farmers of the Islands are awaking to the merits of organisation and militant working class leadership, and upon these indications must rest the hope that the workers will be able to seize the movement and turn it to their own advantage in a relentless struggle against both native and foreign exploiters and to its logical conclusion for a FREE INDEPENDENT FEDERATED WEST INDIES!

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## H a i t i .

Although crushed by the overwhelming military forces of the most powerful imperialist country in the world, in their recent attempt to break their fetters, the Haitian masses are nevertheless seething with discontent and dissatisfaction. This undercurrent spirit of revolt will soon express itself in another armed rising against both the native and foreign oppressors.

In the Northern part of the country the oppressive alcohol and tobacco taxes are rankling the peasants. In the coffee-producing territory around Jacmel, the recently adopted coffee standardisation law is an added grievance. Complaints are heard everywhere against grating communal officials and corrupt courts.

In order to strengthen the revolutionary position for new attacks the peasants are organising under the leadership of the newly formed Workers' Party. This Party, however, is dominated by middle-class politicians who cannot be depended upon to conduct a relentless struggle against the native bourgeoisie and foreign capitalists. The Haitian workers must realise this danger and immediately take steps to provide their own proletarian revolutionary leaders in order to guarantee a successful struggle against Imperialism.

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## N o r t h A f r i c a .

### Negroes Forced Into Military Service of Spanish Imperialists

How ten West Indians were lured into the Spanish Foreign Legion and tricked into fighting against the heroic Moroccans, whose long struggle for freedom has thrilled the colored masses throughout the world, was revealed through the story of Richard Benn, one of the ten.

Benn told how he and nine others had applied to a Spanish firm in Cuba when they heard that men were wanted for building operations in Morocco.

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