

# THE YOUTH MOVEMENT

## The Tasks of the IV. World Congress of the CYI.

By Otto U n g e r.

The period from the II. to the III. World Congress of the CYI. brought the change of role of the Communist Youth Unions from that of political advance guard to that of leader and representative of the interests of the proletarian youth. This change

took place at a time of political decline and of flagging in the struggle of the international working class. This brought a considerable falling off of the political interest of the working youth. This and also the difficulty of the tasks set by the II. World Congress caused a certain stagnation in our movement, which was partly characterised by a falling off of political activity, a decrease of influence upon the young workers and peasants outside the organization and in some respects a decrease of membership in some unions.

Out of the experiences gained in this period, the III. Congress of the CYI. set its affiliated bodies the main task of developing the Communist Youth Unions into Communist mass organizations of working youth, both as regards their social composition and form of organization, as also the content and methods of their work. Through the creation of factory nuclei, the organization of the unions with the view to gaining access to the mass of the working youth engaged in big industry, through the increase of political activity and of political educational work, through the most active, concretely handled economic trade union activity to gather to itself the whole of the proletarian youth and to draw it into the daily struggle of the working class, and thereby ultimately into the fight for working class emancipation, so it made concrete the way to the fulfilment of its main task.

The past period has given the clearest proof of the correctness and necessity of these resolutions of our III. World Congress. The time between the III. and the IV. World Congress we can rightly characterise as a period of irresistible advance. The causes of this lie naturally in the deep revolutionary crisis which has been shaking the world of the bourgeoisie since the beginning of 1923. The advance of the French troops into the Ruhr, the violent struggle of Bulgarian Fascism for the complete subjugation of the Bulgarian workers and peasants, the sharpening of the inner and outer political situation in Germany in consequence of the Ruhr war of the commencing struggle of the German proletariat and its defeat by means of the setting up of the white dictatorship with Social Democratic help, the great strike waves in Poland, the fall of the Conservative government in England and the taking over of the government by the English Labour Party, the sharpened economic and political crisis in France (fall of the Franc), the elections in Italy, the elections in Germany and France, and the class war newly broken out in such a peaceful country as Norway — all this is symptomatic of this crisis, which provided an excellent foundation for the activity of our unions. The active participation of the youth unions in almost all the struggles of the working class in connection with these events, the taking up of factory nuclei work etc., have brought us extraordinarily important experiences. In like manner the struggles of the working class in the different countries, and the activity of the Communist Parties taught us a number of important lessons. To take to heart and to make use of these lessons is one of the most important tasks of our IV. World Congress. It is known to all comrades that for months past a lively discussion has been conducted in the Communist International in consequence of the struggles of the last few months and of the experiences gained in them — a discussion over a number of important questions of principle and tactics. We refer to the discussion in the Russian CP., the discussion after the October events in Germany, when a whole series of important questions arose (the question of using the tactics of the united front, the attitude of the Communists to the trade unions, the struggle against Fascism etc.), further, the discussion of the June and September struggles in Bulgaria, the attitude of the Communists to the English Labour Government, the question of a third party in America and others. The CYI., which has fought definitely on the side of the Communist International in all these discussions, will take active part in the final solution of all these questions at the V. World Congress of the Comintern which takes place before our Congress. Our IV. Congress will also take up an attitude towards the decisions of the Comintern Congress and, as we all hope, will place itself unreservedly behind its decisions.

In addition to this task, our Congress will have significance in view of its discussion of the future activity of the CYI. and its unions. Stated briefly an examination of the present situation in the CYI. and of the experiences gained during the period to be reviewed gives the following tasks:

1. The political activity of the unions, which has experienced a considerable strengthening since the III. Congress, must be kept up and increased. In the work of all our unions it must be accepted as matter of course that their whole activity shall keep in touch with the political events, with the struggles of the working class, and of the Communist Parties. The political activity must not be regarded as a special part of our activity, but must permeate the whole activity in every section of our work, and must be comprised in it. In closest connection with this all our unions must energetically stand for the carrying out of the decisions of the Communist International.

2. The Congress must also examine the experiences of the last months in the factory nuclei and discuss the new work in this sphere, which will consist chiefly in giving a new impulse to the creation of factory nuclei and the reorganization of the unions. "Complete reorganization before the V. World Congress!" must be the slogan of our IV. World Congress.

3. Great attention must be paid to the discussion of the economic trade union work. Unfortunately it is the fact that in this sphere far too little has been done. The economic trade union work must finally become, instead of mere propaganda, the actual daily conducted work of our groups and units.

4. The Congress has also the task to confer fully on our work in the bourgeois army and to give a detailed deepening and widening to this activity for the new period.

5. Also, in order to spread our influence among the land workers, and poor peasant youth, the work in the country must be attentively and earnestly conferred upon by the Congress. The work in this sphere, which has been most neglected by the separate unions, is a vital question for the proletarian revolution in almost every country. The Communist Youth International must in this sphere, as in various others, act as pioneer.

6. An important task, which has become most pressing during the last period, is the discussion of the tasks and activity of the Communist Youth organizations in the period of the struggle for power. This must be earnestly considered by the World Congress.

7. The Leninist education of the workers must be laid down by the World Congress as an important task for the coming period. The educative work of our movement has hitherto, both nationally and internationally been insufficient and this has to be strengthened.

8. Finally, the World Congress must direct great attention to the work in the Orient and in the colonies. Since within the last period the winning of the Orient could almost have been accomplished, we now have immediately before us the task to form: (a) Communist mass organizations in the Orient; (b) in the colonies of the imperialist states, strong supports for the development of a Communist mass movement, for which the fulcrum in North Africa and the well-developed union in South Africa offer us excellent possibilities. In this connection there is also the important question of work among the negro youth (in America also).

Summarising the various separate tasks we can briefly and comprehensively say: the Congress must set up as the main task of the CYI. and of its affiliated unions: the Communist Youth Unions must continue to proceed definitely along the way indicated by the III. World Congress to the Communist mass organizations of working youth, which brings the whole of the working and peasant youth under its leadership, and enlists them in the struggle of the working class in the proletarian revolutionary front. The Communist Youth Union is the organization of working class youth. All the other organizations which comprise the young workers, from the social democratic to the religious and Fascist organizations, stand on the other side of the barricade. The Communist Youth Union must carry on a tenacious struggle for those young misled workers. The methods to be used will be dealt with by the Congress in a special item of the agenda.

These are, in the main, the tasks which lie before the CYI. for the next period. The IV. World Congress will discuss them thoroughly in detail, and decide upon the lines for their execution. The development during the period just passed gives us surety that it will fulfil its tasks.