

WHAT must determine the content, the life and the activity of the youth organization? Not politics pure and simple, but the activity which is necessary to secure the vital interests of the toiling young generation and give satisfaction to the most diverse healthy aspirations. In studying, in organizing and in struggling for the vital interests of the toilers, the youth will educate itself in the spirit of the struggle for liberty, for Socialism, against reaction, against fascism and against imperialist war.

—From the concluding speech of Raymond Guyot, Secretary of the Young Communist International at the close of the Sixth Congress.

The next issue of the Communist International and also the International of Youth will contain the full text of the resolution adopted by the Sixth Congress of the Young Communist International.

A pamphlet written by Gil Green, secretary of the Y.C.I. of the U. S., and based on his speech at the open membership meeting in New York, on the Congress decisions, will be off the press shortly.

WE ARE BUILDING A BIG UNITED Youth League

O. Kusinen, member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, reported for the Comintern at the Sixth Congress of the Y.C.I.

QUESTION: You say that the proposed broadening of the Y.C.I. does not imply a dissolution of the Y.C.I. From your description of the new organization, it appears that the Y.C.I. would go on existing in name only, for the most important of our principles, Marxist principles, those of how we achieve socialist power would practically be abandoned. Is this not so?

ANSWER: No. Such an interpretation of the organization we propose to build has nothing in common with our actual aims. We have no intention whatsoever of revising the principles upon which our movement is based. The experiences of the working class youth in the last few years have abundantly proved that these principles are correct, that they are the only principles on which it is possible to build an effective youth league. It would indeed be beyond comprehension if we spoke of abandoning these principles at the very moment when ever greater masses of youth, including the Socialist youth, are beginning more and more to adopt these principles as their own.

The resolution of the Sixth World Congress (which will be printed in the "Communist International" as well as the next issue of the "International Youth"—Editors), states very clearly and unambiguously:

"The cause of the toiling youth imperatively demands their unification in genuine class, non-party organizations, consisting not only of Communist but also Socialist and non-party, national revolutionary, pacifist, religious and other sections of the youth, organizations which would, together with the daily attention towards economic, political and cultural interests and rights of the toiling youth, educate their members in the spirit of the class struggle, proletarian internationalism, Marxism-Leninism."

It is clear from this that we do not propose to abandon our Marxist-Leninist principles. And most certainly we do not propose to build a reformist organization which will spread illusions among the youth concerning utopian methods of achieving socialism through policies of class collaboration.

QUESTION: Will membership in the League be on a class basis, that is, on an individual and organizational basis? Will it become a federated organization?

ANSWER: We will have a very flexible approach to the form of our organization, not hesitating to use forms of organization which, up to the present, have not been used. It is therefore quite likely that the membership basis of the League will not be of a uniform character. Certainly, if a club or circle of youth group finds itself in agreement with our program and wishes to affiliate itself with our League, we will welcome such a decision and do everything in our power to speed up such affiliation. We will even encourage such affiliated groups to maintain their existing form of organization and field of activity. Thus, for example, if there is a Marxist Study Club which wishes to affiliate itself to the League, we will issue it a charter to indicate that it has become a branch of our League and work out all other details of its relationship on an affiliated basis— dues, activities, etc. We will have the same approach to any local youth club which wishes to affiliate to the League.

QUESTION: Since the League is to become a mass, non-party youth organization, what will be its attitude towards the question of discipline?

ANSWER: Our attitude towards discipline in the League will necessarily differ from the attitude of the Communist Party. Since the League is a "school of Communism" it cannot have the same form of discipline as the Communist Party which is based on the principles of democratic centralism. We will have to rely on the self-imposed discipline of those who understand the importance and correctness of certain decisions and policies. We certainly cannot require those non-party youth who have entered our ranks for the first time to carry out certain decisions which they do not understand and with which they may even disagree. To do this would be to defeat our own purposes.

There will have to be a greater degree of autonomy on the part of local branches of the League which is impossible in the Communist Party where all decisions must be carried out, once they are made, by all units, sections and districts of the Party. Of course, the Communists in the League will, as before, be subject to Communist Party discipline. A discipline which will be even more exacting than now precisely because these Communists will be working in a non-party organization.

QUESTION: What effect will the reconstruction of the League have on the League members who work in mass organizations? On the League units in the mass organizations?

ANSWER: The reconstruction of the League does not mean that the Young Communists will stop working in mass organizations. But not all those who are members of the League are already Young Communists. Therefore, we will have to differentiate between those who are already politically developed enough to understand the importance of working in mass organizations and those who are not. Those who are developed enough to understand the importance of this task will certainly continue work in the mass organizations. They will continue to function through the units and frac-

tions in the mass organizations. The others will function in the general branches, circles or other groups of the League. As they carry on activity in the branches and learn more about the principles of Communism, about its tactics, these youth will also be encouraged to carry on work in the mass organizations either through a unit or a fraction.

But even the branches, the majority of whose members will not be theoretically developed enough to understand the importance of working in the mass organizations through units or fractions, will carry on work with the youth in the mass organizations. This work, however, will take the form of collaborative joint activity with the mass organizations. This collaboration can be of a varied character—joint lectures, debates, symposiums, ornaments, etc.

QUESTION: Will the United Youth League you mentioned exist as a separate organization from the Y.C.I. in which we would work as a fraction?

ANSWER: No. Once the United Youth League is formed by the organic unity of the Y.C.I. and the Y.P.S.L., there will be neither a Young Communist League nor a Young Peoples Socialist League. There will be only one united youth league.

QUESTION: What would be the organizational affiliation of young Communists who accept the full program of the Communist Party and who have proven themselves willing and able to accept Communist Party discipline?

ANSWER: We will endeavor to recruit such young Communists into the



Young Socialists of Spain, who are about to form organic unity with their Communist brothers, joined hands with the Communist Youth of the World at the International Congress, to honor Aida La Fuente (above) of the Spanish Y.C.I. She was shot in the Revolution in Asturias province, Spain.

Communist Party. The main task of such young Communist would be to carry on their Communist work among the youth, particularly in the united youth league.

QUESTION: How could a united youth league have organizational relations with both the Socialist Party and Communist Party?

ANSWER: There is a difference between maintaining connections of such a united youth league with those political parties and maintaining organizational relations with them. It is clear that organizationally the united youth league will have to be independent of either or of both parties. It will have to be a non-party organization. But such a league can maintain political connections with either or with parties which it believes in across with its program and in the best interests of the youth. The basis for securing such contacts and activities, as well as for determining other forms of connection will be decided democratically by both organizations in carrying through their amalgamation. The concrete application of the general principles which must guide the maintenance of such connections will be decided by the membership and the leading bodies of the united youth league as the various occasions arise.

QUESTION: Will organic unity with the Y.P.S.L. mean the dissolution of the Y.C.I.?

ANSWER: When organic unity is arranged between the Y.C.I. and the Y.P.S.L. will cease to exist. Instead there their separate identity and merge into a single organization. The Y.C.I. and the Y.P.S.L. will cease to exist. Instead there will be a single united youth league.



Sorting the questions being answered on this page are (from left to right): John Little, Dist. Organizer Y.C.I. of N.Y.C.; May Himoff, Organizer in Connecticut; Jack Kling, member of the Executive Committee of the Y.C.I.; Gil Green, Secretary of the Y.C.I. of the U.S.; Mae Weiss, member of the Executive of the Y.C.I.; John Marks, Dist. Organizer of the Chicago Y.C.I.