

Letter from the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Youth to the First Congress of Communist Students.

Comrades!

The International proletarian Youth, who believe in the class struggle and have lately united into a "Communist International of Youth", hail with much joy the meeting of the International Congress of Communist

Students of both sexes, who boldly speak out in favour of an International of the Working Class and of world revolution.

As Executive Committee of a body which has already perfected its organisation, the "International of Youth", we have sent our

delegates to your Congress; but besides that, we now address you by means of this letter, in order to acquaint you with the position we assume on principle with regard to the work which stands on our order of the day.

As we see from the invitation to your congress, you have no doubt concerning the fact that nothing but a revolutionary conflict and the victory of the proletariat can save the world from complete ruin.

We are convinced that you will decline all attempts to organise a Student International on any basis of social patriotism, and that you will repudiate all elements containing any such tendencies. Also we believe that no intelligent young people, with their clear thinking, can build their union on the misty ideology of the Socialist "centre". This, however, is not sufficient to help solve the question as to the forms which the students—fortunate possessors of spiritual treasure—are to give to their participation in the struggle of the proletariat for the social revolution. To find that solution is the primary object of your congress. In accordance with the decision you arrive at your united organisation will either stand or fall.

The experience of the Russian and Hungarian revolutions has shown us the immense importance of the fact that the forces of the "intellectuals" and the learned specialists have to the widest extent helped in the conquest, defence and strengthening of the proletarian state. From this point of view we can only joyfully welcome the collaboration in the work of liberation of the proletariat, spontaneously offered us by the "intellectuals", themselves carried away by the revolutionary spirit. Still, however, the same experience also shows that this collaboration can be of real enduring value only if wholly subordinated to the external and internal laws of the proletariat's political and economic struggle. Such subordination is absolutely necessary even in the spiritual domain, since the intellectual revolutionist must become steeped in the proletarian psychology, as only by complete adherence to the proletarian spirit of collectivism can the dangers of the "intellectuals" individualistic psychology be avoided. And lastly the experience of the Russian revolution has confirmed the fact that the nearer the working class, in its struggle, approaches the stage of open revolutionary action, the more rapidly approaches the decisive moment, the more must the organised proletariat concentrate all its forces on one object—the conquest, defense and strengthening

of its political and economic power. Before this demand all others are thrust to the background—to emerge once more after the proletarian rule has been securely established.

Starting from this conviction, the last congress of proletarian organisations of Youth adopted the following decision, as enunciated in its political programme and in the Constitution of the "Communist International of Youth".

12. "The Communist International of Youth" considers the existence of separate Socialist organisations of intellectuals as superfluous. Sincere revolutionists among the intellectual youth must become members of the proletarian organisations of Youth, as equals among equals, as comrades among comrades. The creation of groups of intellectual Youth within common organisations of Youth must be regulated in accordance with the conditions of each separate country".

Thus the question concerning the form of the Socialist students' participation in the revolutionary conflict appears to us to be settled. And this decision we offer to your consideration. It demands of you the same step which has already been taken by the organisations of youthful workers when they placed in the background all the special demands and aims of the young people, for the sake of forming a solid front, and thus won the right of asserting that they took up a position at the head of the entire proletarian revolutionary conflict.

Just as we went united into the political battle, not taking our stand alongside the Third International, but becoming merged in it, so we request you, as a youthful revolutionary organisation, to enter into our International of Youth.

Just as we, within the limits of this common corporation, took into account the conditions of independent youthful organisations in their union with the International central organ, so we point out to you the possibility of intellectual work within the Party and the organisations of Youth, the creation of a central bureau of international information whose activity will correspond to the special conditions of intellectual work.

We hope that because of the fact, which you express so well, that society is entering a period of decisive and final conflict, and that the greatest possible union of forces is absolutely necessary—we hope, as we have said, that from this fact you will draw all practical conclusions.

Follow the comrades who are calling you; look to the East, look to the Russian student-revolutionists, who, through scores of years of

strenuous struggle, with unexampled self-sacrifice, gave their blood to the last drop for the struggles and victory of the working class. And those who did not fall victims to the Tsar's hangmen, and did not perish in the night of exile, now see that they took the right way when they did not allow themselves to be fooled by the siren songs of democratic justice, reconciliation of the classes, and the unclassed intellectuals who pretended to unite them; and renouncing all that was nearest and dearest, unconditionally joined the proletariat's struggle.

And you too, comrades, will have to face this decision. On you lies a great responsibility and you know the law that at a period of acute class countercurrents, every decision which is

not sufficiently sharply defined, not sufficiently uncompromising for an epoch of proletarian world revolution, causes confusion in the ranks of the fighters and leads straightway to counter-revolution.

Comrades!

We believe in the force of historical evolution, which, if not to-day, then to-morrow, will open the eyes of those among you whose sight is not yet cleared. We believe that, assisted by that soaring of the spirit which prompted your invitation to us, you will walk the right path. We are waiting for you to take your stand at our side for the last gigantic struggle for the establishment of a Communist society.