

PROLETARIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

Ten Years of the Young Communist International.

Moscow, November 1929.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International issued an appeal to all sections of the C. I., to the working youth all over the world and to the workers of the world in connection with the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Young Communist International on the 20th November:

Ten years ago the Berlin conference of the Socialist Youth International decided to constitute itself as the first congress of the Young Communist International and to affiliate to the C. I. This decision was only the logical continuation of the activity of the revolutionary socialist youth during the world war. The Young Communist International was the first international proletarian organisation to raise the standard of the class struggle during the world war. This organisation was the first to answer the call of Lenin and Liebknecht to break through the wall of class harmony and to take up the struggle against imperialist war. The socialist youth organisations which created the Young Communist International in Berlin had played a prominent part in the preparations during the war for the foundation of a new, communist, international.

The ten years of activity of the Y. C. I. have been one of unflinching and self-sacrificing struggle for the proletarian revolution shoulder to shoulder with the Communist Parties under the leadership of the C. I. The communist youth led by the Bolshevik Party in Soviet Russia defended the land of the Soviets with their lives during the years of the civil war. The communist youth were in the front ranks of the bloody revolutionary struggles in Germany, Vienna, Shanghai, Warsaw, Leningrad, Canton and Athens. To-day the communist youth all over the world are carrying on an energetic struggle against fascism and white terror.

On the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Y. C. I. we declare before the whole revolutionary working class that the youth of the revolution have completely fulfilled their duty during the last ten years, despite tremendous sacrifices and brutal suppression and persecution.

The Y. C. I. was and is a loyal supporter of the C. I. From the moment of its foundation it has conducted a merciless struggle against all unbolshevist, social-democratic and petty bourgeois elements which have sought to lead the communist movement away from its Leninist path. The Y. C. I. was the main support of the C. I. in the struggle against the Trozkyists, the right-wingers and the unprincipled conciliators. The activity of the Y. C. I. was one of those factors which has enabled the C. I. not only to overcome all deviations, but to consolidate its ranks internally.

The tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Y. C. I. falls in a period of rising class struggle. The events of the 1st and 2nd of May in Berlin, the 1st August all over the world, the powerful strike movements in all capitalist countries and in the colonies, the intensification of the class struggle all over the world and the successful offensive of socialism in the Soviet Union, all these factors are signs of the new revolutionary wave.

In all class struggles the important role of the youth was evident as one of the most exploited sections of the proletariat. The proletarian youth are taking a prominent part in the new revolutionary wave and represent one of the most active factors in the proletarian front. As a consequence of the capitalist rationalisation in recent years the role of the youth has increased in the process of production, as has also their role in connection with the intensification of the danger of imperialist war and in particular in connection with the imperialist attack upon the Soviet Union. Therefore the bourgeoisie in all capitalist countries is doing its utmost to bring the masses of the proletarian youth under its influence. A well-organised network of bourgeois youth organisations, supported by the State, aims at suppressing the revolutionary struggle of the young communist advance guard. The socialist youth organisations play a particularly counter-revolutionary role in this connection. These organisa-

tions split away from the revolutionary youth international during the war and to-day they march together with the Second International along the path of social-fascism.

In the capitalist countries the bourgeois, with the assistance of their social fascist agents, strive to suppress the revolutionary mass struggle of the working class youth, whilst in the Soviet Union everything is done to ensure the broadest possible development of the revolutionary initiative of the young workers under the leadership of the Young Communist League.

The working youth in the Soviet Union, like the working class in general, is enthusiastic for the building up of socialism. The working youth takes the initiative in the organisation of the socialist competitive scheme in the factories and workshops, for the raising of working discipline and for the struggle against slackness and careerism. The two million army of young communists in the Soviet Union is conducting an energetic struggle against the opium of religious superstition, against old and reactionary forms of life and for the creation of a new humanity, a new communist society.

Recently the bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries has subjected the working class youth and their organisations to a furious campaign of persecution, because it knows what a danger for the dominance of capitalism is the radicalisation of the working youth and the increasing communist influence. These persecutions cannot prevent the continued development of the Y. C. I. Under the conditions created by the intensification of the class struggle the Y. C. I. will place itself at the head of the fighting masses of the working class youth.

The Y. C. I. was born in the great class struggles which developed in the period of the first imperialist world war, and it will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its existence in a period of a new intensification of the war danger. The Y. C. I. must therefore carry out its main task, the winning of the majority of the working class youth, in the closest possible connection with the struggle against the danger of war.

The ten years of the existence of the Y. C. I. has proved that it is the only revolutionary organisation of the young workers in the world. In view of the open class treachery of the Socialist Youth International, the tenth anniversary of the existence of the Y. C. I. must be a tremendous appeal to the working class youth of all countries to strengthen the ranks of the Y. C. I. as the only organisation which defends the interests of the working youth and organises the struggle for the world dictatorship of the proletariat.

During the ten years of its existence the Y. C. I. has upheld the banner of the proletarian class struggle. Great new struggles are facing it. In order to carry out its tasks the Y. C. I. must strengthen its mass work and carry out a change in its methods which will enable it to become the real leader of the working youth in a period of the intensification of the class struggle. Only in this way will the Y. C. I. be able to fulfil its historical task.

The winning of the broad masses of the working youth is only possible through the factory, the workshops and the proletarian tenements. The problem of young worker shop stewards in the factories, the problem of penetrating into the shop councils, the formation of young worker factory groups, the strengthening of the work amongst the young girl workers, the penetration of all mass organisations, and in particular of the trade unions and the sport organisations, the strengthened work in the imperialist armies, the struggle against the militarisation of the youth, all these are tasks which face the Y. C. I.

In order to lead the mass movement of the youth and in order to make the Y. C. I.'s into mass organisations, the Communist Parties must pay the greatest attention to the work of the leagues. It is the duty of the parties to pay far more attention to the leagues than has previously been the case. The cause of the working youth is the cause of the whole working class, the cause of the Communist International.

The tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Y. C. I. must be conducted in the spirit of an intensified struggle against the increased exploitation of the working youth and against

the capitalist rationalisation. The young workers must raise the banner of the Y. C. I. for a struggle against capitalism under the slogan of "Equal pay for equal work!" The tenth anniversary of the formation of the Y. C. I. must become a new milestone in the history of the communist youth. For the broad masses of the working class youth become acquainted with the splendid history of the Y. C. I. this will mean their influx into the leagues. Broad self-criticism in the ranks of the leagues will facilitate their path to the masses.

The Y. C. I. therefore appeals to all its sections, to all revolutionary workers and to all mass organisations which stand upon the basis of the irreconcilable class struggle to join the masses of the working class youth on the 20th November in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Y. C. I. under the banner of the C. I.

Working men and working women! Young communists of both sexes! Demonstrate on the 20th November for the revolutionary class struggle of the young workers of the world, against social fascism and against the social fascist youth international, against the fascist terror and against the political oppression of the working class youth, against capitalist rationalisation and for the economic demands of the working youth, for the mobilisation of the broad masses of the working youth in the struggle against the danger of war, for the revolutionary solidarity of the working youth with the workers and peasants State which is successfully carrying out the Five-Year Plan of socialist construction!

Long live the revolutionary class struggle of the young workers all over the world!

Long live the struggle for the world dictatorship of the proletariat!

Long live the leader of the working class youth all over the world, the Young Communist International!

"Without drawing the women into social service, without drawing them into political life, without tearing the women from the stupefying domestic and kitchen atmosphere in which it is possible to secure real freedom, it is impossible to secure democracy, let alone Socialism."

Lenin: "Letters from Afar."

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