

THE COMMUNIST

Official Organ of the Communist Party of America.
SECTION OF THE THIRD COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

Vol. II, No. 11

OCTOBER 1st, 1920

PRICE 5 CENTS

Conditions For Affiliation To The Third Communist International

"The first Congress of the Communist International did not lay down exact conditions for acceptance into the Third International. Up to the time of calling the first Congress there existed in most countries merely Communist tendencies or Communist groups.

"The Second Congress of the Communist International assembled under different conditions. At present there exist in most countries, not only Communist tendencies and movements, but also Communist parties and organizations.

Increasing numbers of Parties and Groups, which until recently belonged to the Second International, and which would now like to affiliate to the Third, are applying for affiliation, although they have not become really communistic. The Second International is irrevocably crushed. The intermediary parties and the "centre" groups, seeing their hopeless situation, are forced more strongly every day towards the Communist International, hoping, at the same time, to retain an "autonomy", which will allow them to continue their opportunist or "centrist" policy. The Communist International is to a certain extent the fashion. The wish of certain leading "centrist" groups to affiliate to the Communist International shows indirectly that the Third International has gained the sympathies of the majority of the class-conscious workers throughout the world, and that it constitutes a force which grows from day to day.

Under certain conditions the invasion of the Communist International by undecided and semi-Communist groups, who have not yet broken with the ideology of the Second International, might be a menace to it. Moreover, certain important Parties (Italian and Swedish), in which the majority hold Communist views, still remain amongst them numerous reformist and social-pacifist elements, who are only waiting for an opportunity to raise their heads and to sabotage actively the proletarian revolution, thus helping the bourgeoisie of the Second International. No Communist should forget the lessons of the Hungarian Soviet Republic. The union of the Hungarian Communists with the reformists cost them very dearly. This is why the Second Congress of the Communist International thinks it right to fix quite definitely the conditions for the admission of the parties, and the same time to point out to the Parties already affiliated what their obligations are.

The Second Congress of the Communist International has decided upon the following conditions of admission—

"1. The entire propaganda and agitation must bear a genuinely Communist character and agree with the program and the decision of the Third International. All the press organs of the party must be managed by responsible Communists, who have proved their devotion to the cause of the proletarian revolution.

"The dictatorship of the proletariat must not be talked about as if it were an ordinary formula learned by heart, but it must be propagated for in such a way as to make its necessity apparent to every plain worker soldier and peasant through the facts of daily life, which must be systematically watched by our press and fully utilized from day to day.

Party Must Control Press.

"The periodical and non-periodical press and all party publishing concerns must be under the complete control of the party management, regardless of the fact of the moment legal or illegal. It is inadmissible for the publishing concerns to abuse their autonomy and to follow a policy which does not entirely correspond to the party's policy.

"In the columns of the press, at public meetings, in trade unions, in co-operatives, and in all other places where the supporters of the Third International are admitted, it is necessary systematically and unmercifully to brand, not only the bourgeoisie, but also its accomplices, the reformers of all types.

"2. Every organization that wishes to affiliate with the Communist International must regularly and systematically remove the reformist and centrist elements from all the more

or less important posts in the labor movement (in party organizations, editorial officers, trade unions, parliamentary groups, co-operatives, and municipal administrations) and replace them with well-tried Communists, without taking offense at the fact that, especially in the beginning, the places of 'experienced' opportunists will be filled by plain workers from the masses.

Spurn Bourgeoisie Legality.

"3. In nearly every country of Europe and America the class struggle is entering upon the phase of civil war. Under such circumstances the Communists can have no confidence in bourgeoisie legality.

"It is their duty to create everywhere a parallel illegal organization machine which at the decisive moment will be helpful to the party in fulfilling its duty to the revolution.

"In all countries where the Communists, because of a state of siege and because of exceptional laws directed against them, are unable to carry on their whole work legally, it is absolutely necessary to combine legal with illegal activities.

One Day's Pay

The Second Convention of the Communist Party unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the membership to contribute ONE DAY'S PAY to a national organization fund.

In accordance with the decision of the Convention, the C. E. C. issues this call to all members of the Communist Party to contribute one day's pay for the national organization.

Comrades, the need is great. You know it. We need not waste time and space telling you about it.

The Communist Party is unified and solidified on the basis of principles and tactics as never before in its history.

There are difficult tasks ahead of us—education, organization, propaganda and agitation.

The spirit, the will, the determination, the energy exist to carry on this highly important work.

BUT WITHOUT FUNDS WE CANNOT CARRY ON!

Comrades! Rally to the support of the Communist Party!

GIVE ONE DAY'S PAY TO MAKE THE PARTY A PARTY OF ACTION.

"4. The duty of spreading Communist ideas includes the special obligation to carry on a vigorous and systematic propaganda in the army. A Communist nucleus must be formed in every unit. Where this agitation is forbidden by laws of exception it is to be carried on illegally. Renunciation of such activities would be the same as treason to revolutionary duty and would be incompatible with membership in the Third International.

Systematic Agitation Urged.

"5. It is necessary to carry on a systematic and well planned agitation in the country districts. The working class cannot triumph unless its policy will have insured it the support of the country proletariat and at least a part of the poorer farmers, and the neutrality of part of the rest of the village population. The Communist work in the country is gaining greatly in importance at the present time.

"It must principally be carried on with the help of the revolutionary Communist workers of the city and the country. Renunciation of this work or its transfer to unreliable semi-reformist hands is equal to renunciation of the proletarian revolution.

"6. Every party wishing to belong to the Third International is obligated to unmask not only open social-patriotism, but also the dishonesty and hypocrisy of social-pacifism, and systematically bring to the attention of

the workers the fact that, without the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, no kind of an international court of arbitration, no kind of an agreement regarding the limitation of armaments, no kind of a 'democratic' renovation of the League of Nations will be able to prevent fresh imperialistic wars.

Must Break With Reformism.

"7. The parties wishing to belong to the Communist International are obligated to proclaim a clean break with the reformism and with the policy of the 'centre' and to propagate this break throughout the ranks of the entire party membership. Without this a logical Communist policy is impossible.

"The Communist International demands unconditionally and in the form of an ultimatum the execution of this break within a very brief period. The Communist International cannot reconcile itself to a condition that would allow notorious opportunists, such as are now represented by Turati, Kautsky, Hilferding, Hillquit, Jonguet, MacDonald et al., to have the right to be counted as members of the Third International. That could only lead to the Third International resembling to a high degree the dead Second International.

"8. In the matter of colonies and oppressed nations a particularly clear-cut stand by the parties is necessary in those countries whose bourgeoisie is in possession of colonies and oppresses other nations.

"Every party wishing to belong to the Communist International is obligated to unmask the tricks of 'its' own imperialists in the colonies, to support every movement for freedom in the colonies, not only with words but with deeds, to demand the expulsion of its native imperialists from those colonies, to create in the hearts of the workers of its own country a genuine fraternal feeling for the working population of the colonies and for the oppressed nations and to carry on a systematic agitation among the troops of its own country against all oppression of the colonial peoples.

"9. Every party wishing to belong to the Communist International must systematically and persistently develop a Communist agitation within the trade unions, the workers' and shop-councils, the co-operatives of consumption and other mass organization of the workers.

"Within these organizations it is necessary to organize Communist nuclei which, through continuous and persistent work, are to win over the trade unions, etc. for the cause of Communism. These nuclei are obligated in their daily work everywhere to expose the treason of social patriots and the instability of the 'centre'. The Communist nuclei must be completely under the control of the party as a whole.

"10. Every party belonging to the Communist International is obligated to carry on a stubborn struggle against the Amsterdam 'International' of the yellow trade unions. It must carry on a most emphatic propaganda among the workers organized in trade unions for a break with the yellow Amsterdam International. With all its means it must support the rising international association of the Red trade unions which affiliate with the Communist International.

Must Watch Parliamentarians.

"11. Parties wishing to belong to the Third International are obligated to subject the personnel of the parliamentary groups to a revision, to cleanse these groups of all unreliable elements, and to make these groups subject to the party executives, not only in form but in fact, by demanding that each Communist member of Parliament subordinate his entire activities to the interests of genuinely revolutionary propaganda and agitation.

"12. The parties belonging to the Communist International must be built upon the principle of democratic centralization. In the present epoch of acute civil war the Communist Party will only be in a position to do its duty if it is organized along extremely centralized lines, if it is controlled by iron discipline.

(Continued on Page 8)