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Statutes of the Third Communist International

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In London in 1864 was established the first International Association of Workers, later known as the 1st International. The statute of the International Association of Workers quotes as follows:

That the emancipation of the working class is to be attained by the working class itself.

That the struggle for the emancipation of the working class does not mean a struggle for class privileges and monopolies but a struggle for equal rights and equal obligations, for the abolition of every kind of class-domination.

That the economic subjection of the worker under the monopolists of the means of production, i.e., of the sources of life is the cause of servitude in all its forms, the cause of all social misery, all mental degradation and political dependence.

That the economic-emancipation of the working class is therefore the great aim which every political movement must be subordinate to.

That all endeavors for this great aim have failed as yet because of the lack of solidarity between the various branches of industry in all countries, because of the absence of the fraternal tie of unity between the working classes of the different countries.

That the emancipation is neither a local nor a national problem but a problem of a social character embracing every civilized country, and the solution of which depends on the theoretical and practical co-operation of the most progressive countries.

That the actual simultaneous revival of the workers' movement in the industrial countries of Europe on the one hand awakens new hope whilst on the other hand it is a solemn warning of the danger of relapse into the old errors and an appeal for an immediate union of the hitherto disconnected movement.

The Second International which was established in 1889 at Paris had undertaken to continue the work of the First International. In 1914 at the outbreak of the world slaughter it suffered a complete failure. Undermined by opportunism and damaged by the treason of its leaders who had taken the side of the bourgeoisie—the Second International perished.

The Third Communist International which was established in March 1919 in the capital of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, in the city of Moscow, solemnly proclaims before the entire world that it takes upon itself to continue and to complete the great cause begun by the First International Workers' Association.

The Third Communist International had been formed at a moment when the imperialist slaughter of 1914-1918 in which the imperialist bourgeoisie of the various countries had sacrificed twenty million men, came to an end.

Keep in mind the imperialist war! This the first appeal of the Communist International to every toiler wherever he may live and whatever language he may speak. Keep in mind that owing to the existence of the capitalist system a small group of imperialists had the opportunity during four long years to compel the workers of various countries to cut each other's throats. Keep in mind that the bourgeois war has cast Europe and the entire world into a state of extreme destitution and starvation. Keep in mind that unless the capitalist system is overthrown the repetition of such criminal war is not only possible but inevitable.

The Communist International makes it its aim to put up an armed struggle for the overthrow of the international bourgeoisie and the creation of an international Soviet Republic as a transition stage to the complete abolition of the State. The Communist International considers the dictatorship of the proletariat as the only means for the liberation of humanity from the horrors of capitalism. The Communist International considers the Soviet form of government as the historically evolved form of this dictatorship of the proletariat.

The imperialist war is responsible for the close union of fates of the workers of one country with the fates of the workers of all other countries. The imperialist war emphasizes once more what is emphasized in the statutes of the First International: that the emancipation of labor is neither a local, nor a national task, but one of a social and international character.

The Communist once forever breaks with the traditions of the Second International which

in reality only recognized the white race. The Communist International makes it its task to emancipate the workers of the entire world. The ranks of the Communist International fraternally unite men of all colors: white, yellow and black—the toilers of the entire world.

The Communist International fully and unreservedly upholds the gains of the great proletarian revolution in Russia, the first victorious socialist revolution in the world's history, and calls upon all the workers to follow the same road. The Communist International makes it its duty to support by all the power at its disposal every Soviet Republic wherever it may be formed.

The Communist International is aware that for the purpose of a speedy achievement of victory the International Association of workers which is struggling for the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of Communism should possess a firm and centralized organization. To all intents and purposes the Communist International should represent a single universal Communist Party, of which the parties operating in every country form individual sections. The organized apparatus of the Communist International is to secure to the toilers of every country the possibility at any given moment to obtain the maximum of aid from the organized workers of the other countries.

For this purpose the Communist International confirms the following items of its statute:

Par. 1. The new International Association of workers is established for the purpose of organizing common activity of the workers of various countries who are striving towards a single aim: the overthrow of capitalism, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of the International Soviet Republic the complete abolition of classes and the realization of socialism—this first step to Communist Society.

Par. 2. The new International Association of workers has been given the name of THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL.

Par. 3. All the parties and organizations comprising the Communist International bear the name of the Communist Party of the given country, (section of the Communist International).

Par. 4. The World Congress of all parties and organizations which form part of the Communist International is the supreme organ of this International. The World Congress as a rule convenes not less than once a year. The World Congress confirms the programmes of the various parties comprising the Communist International. The World Congress discusses and decides the more important questions of programme and tactics, which are connected with the activity of the Communist International. The number of decisive votes at the World Congress for every party and organization is decided upon by a special regulation of the Congress; it is found necessary to strive for a speedy establishment of a standard of representation on the basis of the actual number of the members of the organization and the real influence of the party in question.

Par. 5. The World Congress elects an Executive Committee of the Communist International which serves as the leading organ of the Communist International in the intervals between the convention of World Congresses and is responsible only to the World Congress.

Par. 6. The residence of the Executive Committee of the Communist International is decided each time at the World Congress of the Communist International.

Par. 7. A special World Congress of the Communist International may be convened either by regulation of the Executive Committee, or at the demand of one half of the number of parties which were part of the Communist International at the last World Congress.

Par. 8. The chief bulk of the work and most responsibility in the Executive Committee of the Communist International lays with the party of that country where, in keeping with the regulation of the World Congress, the Executive Committee finds its residence for the time being. The party of the country in question sends to the Executive Committee not less than five members with a decisive vote. In addition to this, one representative with a decisive vote is sent to the Communist International from ten or twelve of the largest of the Communist parties. The list of these

representatives is to be confirmed by the Universal Congress of the Communist International. The remaining parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International enjoy the right of sending to the Executive Committee one representative each with a consultative vote.

Par. 9. The Executive Committee is the leading organ of the Communist International during the conventions; the Executive Committee publishes in no less than four languages the central organ of the Communist International (the periodical "The Communist International"). The Executive Committee makes the necessary appeals on behalf of the Communist International, and issues instructions obligatory to all the parties and organizations which form part of the Communist International. The Executive Committee of the Communist International enjoys the right to demand from the affiliated parties the expulsion of groups or members who are guilty of the infringement of international proletarian discipline, as well as the exclusion from the Communist International of such parties guilty of the infringement of the regulations of the World Congress. In the event of necessity the Executive Committee organizes in various countries its technical and auxiliary bureaus, which are entirely under the control of the Executive Committee.

Par. 10. The Executive Committee of the Communist International enjoys the right to, include in its ranks representatives of organizations and parties not accepted in the Communist International but which are sympathetic towards communism; these are to have a consultative vote only.

Par. 11. The organs of all parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International as well as of those who are recognized sympathizers of the Communist International are obliged to publish all official regulations of the Communist International and of its Executive Committee.

Par. 12. The general state of things in the whole of Europe and of America makes necessary for the communists of the whole world an obligatory formation of illegal communist organizations along with those existing legally. The Executive Committee shall take charge of the universal application of this rule.

Par. 13. All most important political relations between the individual parties forming part of the Communist International are customarily carried on through the medium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. In cases of exigency direct relations are established, with provision, however, that the Executive Committee of the Communist International is informed of same at the same time.

Par. 14. The Trade Unions which have accepted the Communist platform and are united on an international scale under the control of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, form Trade Union Sections of the Communist International. The Communist Trade Unions send their representatives to the World Congresses of the Communist International through the medium of the Communist parties of their respective countries. The Trade Union section of the Communist International shall delegate a representative with a decisive vote to the Executive Committee of the Communist International. The Executive Committee of the Communist International enjoys the right of sending a representative with decisive vote, to the Trade Union section of the Communist International.

Par. 15. The International League of Communist Youth is subject to the Communist International and its Executive Committee. One representative of the Executive Committee of the Communist International is delegated to the Executive Committee of the Communist International. The Executive Committee of the Communist International on the other hand enjoys the right of sending a representative with a decisive vote to the Executive organ of the International League of Communist Youth. Organizations relations between the League of Youth and the Communist party are basically defined in every country after the same system.

Par. 16. The Executive Committee of the Communist International confirms, the International Secretary of the Communist Women's movement and organizes a women's section of the Communist International.

Par. 17. In the event of a member of the Communist International coming to another country he is to have the fraternal support of the local members of the Third International.