

LETTER TO THE CC'S OF THE CARIBBEAN PARTIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8.

Dear Comrades:

① *80/c* 1283 * 1 FEB. 1932 *A*

The International Women's Day this year, must be primarily a day of intense mobilization of the working class, and particularly the working women for the liberation of the toiling women against unemployment, wage cuts, against imperialist war and for the defense of the Soviet Union. To that end, the CC's must immediately proceed to prepare and agitate for mass meetings and demonstrations to be held on that day, under the leadership of the Communist Parties and the revolutionary trade unions, bringing sharply to the forefront the special demands of the working class women and aiming to link up the preparations for the International Women's Day with the present campaigns and struggle of the Parties and the revolutionary unions. For this, we propose the following steps to be taken immediately:

1. AGITATION AND PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH 8.

A. In our agitation and preparations for the International Women's Day, we must strive to mobilize the widest masses of workers, particularly the working women in the basic industries and on the plantations. In the course of our agitation, we must point out that through the bourgeois-imperialist offensive against the living conditions of the working class: big wage cuts, lengthening of the working day, monstrous unemployment, the exploitation of the working women is growing, their wages continually reduced, although the gap between men's and women's wage is already considerable, married women with families to keep are being dismissed and their labor replaced by the cheaper labor and younger ~~women~~ women. Apart from this, women workers are subjected to cruel repressions against their organizations. The general worsening of the position of the working ~~women~~ masses hits particularly hard the workmen's wives, housewives, peasant women, women employees and other sections of the working women. ONE OF THE MOST CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE RISING LABOR MOVEMENT ARE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE FEMALE PROLETARIAT, WORKMEN'S WIVES AND PEASANT WOMEN WHO ARE GRADUALLY DRAWN INTO THE GENERAL REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AND BECOME MORE AND MORE REVOLUTIONARY.

The working women are one of the most exploited sections of the working class. This is particularly true in the colonies. They are discriminated against, subjected to special forms of oppression. In Latin America, the semi-feudal conditions of oppression keep the women deeply into subjection more than men. While they are entering more and more in all spheres of industrial production, becoming an integral part of the proletariat they are not considered equal to men. The working women in Latin America feel the heavy burden of capitalist exploitation to which are added all sorts of special discriminations which make their lives increasingly unbearable. In the tobacco industry in Cuba, the Negro working women are subjected to unheard of exploitation. They are the most exploited section of the tobacco proletariat. In all the Latin American countries, the toiling women are subjected to all sorts of political discriminations, being denied also the right of parliamentary suffrage. The Church plays a special oppressing role, striving by all means at hand to keep the working class women in ignorance, making them victims of all kinds of superstitions, exacting from them all kinds of contributions to the Church, the purpose of which is to check their ~~increasingly~~ increasingly active participation in the general class struggle. The influence of the bourgeoisie, the age long oppression of the working women by the landlords and the Church is still strongly embedded among the proletariat, against which we must struggle ruthlessly. This influence is reflected in the grave underestimation in our own ranks of the revolutionary capabilities and the role of the toiling women in the revolutionary movement, the result of which is the almost total absence of ~~the~~ women workers in the Communist Parties and in the revolutionary unions. This is one of the most important reasons for the lack of a serious and active participation of the toiling women in the revolutionary movement against the bourgeois-landlord imperialist exploitation and oppression.

These dark forces of oppression and ignorance operate with particular viciousness in the countryside against the rising revolutionary participation of women peasants. The women peasants share the lot of men in the hard labor on the land besides their