

STRUGGLE

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Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

RECONSTITUTE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA ON THE BASIS OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM!

PROLETARIAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!

1. STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE OF THE PROLETARIAN WORLD
REVOLUTION:
- 2.
3. **THE NEW POWER**
4. "The working class must win on the battlefield
the right to its emancipation" - Karl Marx
5. "Without Power, it is all an illusion" - Lenin
6. "Imperialism will not last long because it
always does evil things. In all countries it
persists in grooming and supporting
reactionaries who are against the people; it has
forcibly seized many colonies and semi-colonies
and many military bases, and it threatens the
world with atomic war. Thus, forced by
imperialism to do so, more than 90 per cent of
the people of the world are rising or will rise up
in struggle against it. Yet imperialism is still
alive, still running amuck in Asia, Africa and
Latin America. In the West imperialism is still
oppressing the people at home. This situation
must change. It is the task of the people of the
whole world to put an end to the aggression
and oppression perpetrated by imperialism,
chiefly by U.S. imperialism." - Mao Tse-Tung
7. "Uphold, defend, and principally apply Maoism
as command and guide of the Proletarian World
Revolution". - PCP
8. "The best way to support the People's War is
by making revolution in your own country". -
PCP



The publication, "Conspiracy Against the Australian People" was written in 1953 by the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) : before the CPA swallowed the revisionism of Krushchev's report to the twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), which led ultimately, to the demise of both parties.

The publication explains the Crimes Act already law in Australia. The laws and acts are already there "on the books" for the ruling class to trot out and use , whenever they think it necessary.

It is interesting to note that the "terrorist" legislation proposals cooked up since September 11 are almost a carbon copy of this legislation 50 years old.

At present, the "Terrorist" bills are having rather a difficult time being passed in the Senate, and the people are starting to wake up to the legislation and the tactics employed by the government to get it passed.

We have reprinted this 1953 publication to remind us all that repressive laws exist and a few extras are contemplated, these include-

arrest and detain people for 48 hours..

warrants can be renewed every 24 hours;

detainees no right to a lawyer;visits by friends or family;

face up to 5 years jail for refusing to answer questions;

banning organisations etc.

The best answer to reactionary laws designed to quieten the masses at home while the ruling class plunder abroad, is to organise and fight for socialism.



**ADVANCE VICTORIOUSLY
ALONG CHAIRMAN MAO'S
REVOLUTIONARY LINE**

Apply M-L-M,
principally Maoism!

"Marxism consists of thousands of truths, but they all boil down to the one sentence, 'It is right to rebel!' For thousands of years, it had been said that it was right to oppress, it was right to exploit, and it was wrong to rebel. This old verdict was only reversed with the appearance of Marxism. This is a great contribution. It was through struggle that the proletariat learned this truth, and Marx drew the conclusion. *And from this truth there follows resistance, struggle, the fight for socialism.*"

— Mao Tsetung

CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

CONSPIRACY

There is a conspiracy in Australia—a conspiracy against the interests of the people, a conspiracy in the interests of a foreign power. The conspirators are men in high places: they operate through the Menzies Government. The foreign power is America. Their conspiracy is to attack the rights of the people, to undermine their living standards, to make Australia the 49th State of America, alongside America, to wage aggressive war. When the statements of the spokesmen of this conspiracy are examined, they make the position perfectly clear. The Menzies Minister for the Interior, Mr. Kent-Hughes, openly and unashamedly, said:

"Australia must become the 49th State of America."
(Melbourne Argus, March 24, 1950).

CHIEF CONSPIRATOR—R. G. MENZIES

This conspiracy is personified by R. G. Menzies. Mr. Menzies' career has been one of unreservedly supporting and relying upon the most reactionary forces in the world. He was forthright in his support for Hitler Germany. Listen to what he said in 1938:

"I thought myself it was a great thing for Germany to have arms."

(Sydney Daily Telegraph, December 12, 1938).

and again

"I have a great admiration for the Nazi organisation of Germany. There is a case for Germany against Czechoslovakia. We must not destroy Hitlerism, or talk about shooting Hitler."

(Hansard, April 22, 1940).

HITLER LOVER

He was forthright in his support for the pre-war Japanese military fascist dictatorship. On February 13, 1944, he was described by the Japanese radio as a "clear-eyed soul who understood the problems of Germany and Japan." No one will forget the repressive measures he took to force the export of scrap iron from Australia to Japan: his conception of the defence of Australia by conceding much of it to the Japanese fascists—the Brisbane line. He was an ardent supporter of the policy of appeasement, by which concession after concession was made to Hitler—concessions which rendered World War 2 inevitable. You will remember how in those times he condemned, persecuted and prosecuted those who warned of the terrible danger of the export of iron to Japan, those who demonstrated against the Nazi spy Von Luckner, when he visited Australia in 1938.

MENZIES THE HERESY HUNTER

Parallel with all this (just as in America today) he sought, after Hitler's accession to power in 1933, to have the Communist Party declared illegal under the Crimes Act—by issuing a writ against it. He attacked the Trade Unions and attacked any person who dared to criticise the policies he was pursuing.

Were the Communists wrong in condemning this policy? Were the great trade unions wrong in condemning this disastrous policy? History proved, in a terrible war, the correctness of the stand that they took, a stand in the real interests of Australia, a genuine patriotic stand, in striking contrast to Menzies—then agent of the Hitlerites and Japanese military fascists.

MENZIES—LOVER OF AMERICAN FASCISM

Today, he occupies an exactly similar position, because he is extolling the virtues of the American millionaires, and busy selling our country to them. Just as he praised Nazi Germany, Mussolini's Italy and Hirohito's Japan, let's hear him on Eisenhower's America:

"I become very resentful when I hear people affecting to sneer at American imperialism. The benevolent commands (note that he acknowledges them as commands. E.F.H.) of a great nation should be good for mankind. If that is American imperialism, let us have more of it."

(Christian Science Monitor, September 24, 1952).

Has he not eliminated the Australian end of what is called double taxation, i.e., the taxation of the profits of American companies both in Australia and in America—just so that the whole process of the American domination of our country can be speeded up? Does his Government not boast of the £138 million of American capital that has been invested in Australia? (Figures from American Department of Commerce and Australian Minister for National Development, Spooner). And does he not wholeheartedly support every foul measure that the American ruling class takes, including the sacrificing of Australian lives on foreign battlefields? Through it all, does he not admit that Australia is not in danger of any aggression whatever? Indeed, in September, 1950, he said:

"An Australian army raised only for service in Australia would in all probability be raised for no service at all."

And have not his Ministers repeatedly said that Australia is in no danger from an aggressor?

MENZIES REARMS JAPAN

But the parallel is even stronger. Does not the Menzies Government fully support the American policy of rearming Japan and are they not, at this very moment, exporting, just as they did in the '30's, metal to the Japanese Government? And if Mr. Menzies was proved so devastatingly wrong by the events of history after his support of Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese, is it likely that now he has had remarkable inspiration and embarked upon a correct policy? We say to you that there is an exactly similar danger from the policy of the Menzies Government today, as there was before World War 2.

HYPOCRITES' USE OF PATRIOTISM

Though these people speak in the name of Australia, they are a true conspiracy because in fact they are a handful of the monopoly owners of industry pitted against the interests of the people. They will stop at nothing to get their way. They identify their narrow exploiting interests with the word "Australia." Australia to them is the Australia of the monopolies, an Australia which demands just such a policy as we have outlined, the building up and rearmament of fascist Japan, the ruthless

exploitation of the majority of Australian people by a handful of monopolies. Patriotism, they call it, but patriotism to them does not mean the ownership of Australia by the Australian people, the running of our country by the ordinary common people, does not mean a decent life for Australians. It means the very reverse.

5th COLUMN FOR AMERICA

Australians are aware that Mr. Menzies always goes to London via Washington—from Washington come his instructions. Everyone of the Menzies Cabinet Ministers wholeheartedly extols the virtues of the "American way of life." There is an endless procession of American diplomats, generals, admirals, businessmen and journalists, (even ordinary criminals), visiting our country. The National radio stations abound with American spokesmen. The daily newspapers are full of praise for the Americans. Any critic of America is quickly silenced. Witness the fate of the radio broadcast on May 24, 1953, by Professor McMahon Ball, which contained mild criticism of America, but immediately brought forth unrestrained and hysterical abuse from the Menzies Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey—(McCarthy use of the red bogey.) Said Mr. Casey:

"Mr. McMahon Ball shows himself only too ready to embrace the cause of the Communists and to condemn our friends, the Americans."
(Melbourne Sun, May 25, 1953).

AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

It is well to examine just what is involved in the American way of life. There is extreme wealth for a small minority, intense poverty and exploitation for the great majority: a constant attack on wages: social services are deplorable, illiteracy is rampant. To maintain all this, freedom of thought, of speech, of the press, has been suppressed. Two perfectly innocent citizens, whose sole offence was their ardent desire for peace, have just been callously executed — as President Eisenhower said, "as a disciplinary measure." Daily, bands of hooligans lynch innocent citizens. Books have been burned (shades of Hitler) and here, in our own country, the American Embassy indulged in book burning. The ravages of McCarthyism—wild use of the red bogey to stifle any critic of American big business—are too well known to need repetition.

The American millionaires have goaled the leaders of the American Communist Party. While you may think that this is none of your concern, remind yourselves of what is happening along with the goaling of the American Communist leaders—those things of which we have just spoken.

The American judicial system has sunk quite as low as the Nazi "judicial system." All but a handful of courageous and notable judges have embraced McCarthyism, and servilely toe the line drawn by the American millionaires. No less an authority than Lord Jowitt, ex-Lord Chancellor of Great Britain (the highest judicial position in the Empire) has severely criticised "trials" in American courts. (Melbourne Herald, April 25, 1953.)

In short, the "American way of life," dictated by American millionaires, while loudly shouting about democracy, has shown the American people of all democratic liberties.

EXPORT OF AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

The American millionaires are determined to export "their way of life" to all other countries, including our own. They do this in order to augment the huge profits that the gigantic monopoly corporations of America are already making. In 1951-52, on our own soil, the off-shoot of the great American monopoly of Du Pont—General Motors Holden—made the all time Australian record profit for a joint stock company, of £3½ million. To do this, and to ensure its continuance, the last vestiges of democratic liberty and trade union independence in Australia must be stamped out. Wages must be kept low: conditions worsened: exploitation intensified. Anyone who speaks out for higher wages, who criticises the present social system which at one pole concentrates tremendous wealth for a very few and at the other extreme poverty for the vast majority, must be silenced. It would never do, to have that sacred £3½ million profit (and the millions more of other monopolies) cut down, or even criticised.

MENZIES ATTACKS AUSTRALIAN LIBERTIES

The Menzies Government serves the American millionaires and serves the great Australian monopolies like B.H.P. (with its £2½ million profit for 1952-3). Under the slogan of democracy, even under the slogan of peace, defence of our country, the rights of our people are being attacked. A whole mass of repressive laws have been passed, the rights of trade unionists have been attacked. Over recent years the Arbitration Act has been stringently amended. These amendments make it an offence for a trade union official even to suggest that the wages of the members of his union are not adequate. They confer rights on Labour Party Industrial Group leaders (who are really agents of the Security Police), to instal themselves as leaders of the trade unions. They streamline the machinery whereby wages and living conditions can be attacked. There has been imposed a system of military conscription under which young people are at the whim of military men and the Government. There has been an attempt to impose upon the people the so-called Communist Party Dissolution Act, which not only aimed at dissolving the Communist Party, but at destroying, at one blow, the independence of the trade unions.

THE CRIMES ACT

Behind all of these measures, there has stood, and stands, the Commonwealth Crimes Act. We are not here concerned with those provisions of the Act which deal with ordinary crimes, such as offences against the coinage, forgery, etc. But within the Crimes Act are provisions which have no relation whatever to crimes such as this. These are political provisions, the sole purpose of which is to enable the Government, on behalf of the monopoly owners of industry, to deal with the working people.

SEDITION

Let us refer, for example, to Section 24D of the Crimes Act, which says:

"(1) Any person who writes, prints, utters or publishes any seditious words shall be guilty of an indictable offence. Penalty: Imprisonment for three years."

"Seditious words are words expressive of a seditious intention."
(Section 24B (2)).

A seditious intention is "an intention to effect any of the following purposes, that is to say—

- (a) to bring the Sovereign into hatred or contempt;
- (b) to excite disaffection against the Sovereign or the Government or Constitution of the United Kingdom or against either House of the Parliament of the United Kingdom;
- (c) to excite disaffection against the Government or Constitution of any of the King's Dominions;
- (d) to excite disaffection against the Government or Constitution of the Commonwealth or against either House of the Parliament of the Commonwealth;
- (e) to excite disaffection against the connexion of the King's Dominions under the Crown;
- (f) to excite His Majesty's subjects to attempt to procure the alteration, otherwise than by lawful means, of any matter in the Commonwealth established by law of the Commonwealth; or
- (g) to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of His Majesty's subjects so as to endanger the peace, order or good government of the Commonwealth."
(Section 24A).

The mere reading of these provisions is sufficient to show you how extremely wide the repressive powers under this Act are. It has been well said that any statement which displeases the government in power, is seditious.

TRADE UNIONS

But then, there is a whole group of sections in Part 2A of this Act which carry the matter much further. We do not propose to weary you with a repetition of these sections. Suffice it to draw your attention to a few—firstly to those which directly attack the trade unions, the right to organise for better conditions, the right to strike. Let these 2 sections speak for themselves.

"(1) If at any time the Governor-General is of opinion that there exists in Australia a serious industrial disturbance prejudicing or threatening trade or commerce with other countries or among the States, he may make a Proclamation to that effect, which Proclamation shall be and remain in operation for the purposes of this section until it is revoked.

(2) Any person who, during the operation of such Proclamation, takes part in or continues, or incites to, urges, aids or encourages the taking part in, or continuance of, a lock-out or strike—

- (a) in relation to employment in or in connexion with the transport of goods or the conveyance of passengers in trade or commerce with other countries or among the States; or
- (b) in relation to employment in, or in connexion with, the provision of any public service by the Commonwealth or by any Department or public authority under the Commonwealth, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for any period not exceeding one year, and in

addition (if he was not born in Australia) to deportation by order of the Attorney-General as provided in this Act." (Section 30J).

- "Whoever, by violence to the person or property of another person, or by spoken or written threats or intimidation of any kind to whomsoever directed, or, without reasonable cause or excuse, by boycott or threat of boycott of person or property—
- (d) obstructs or hinders the transport of goods or the conveyance of passengers in trade or commerce with other countries or among the States;
 - (e) compels or induces any person employed in or in connexion with the transport of goods or the conveyance of passengers in trade or commerce with other countries or among the States to surrender or depart from his employment; or
 - (f) prevents any person from offering or accepting employment in or in connexion with the transport of goods or the conveyance of passengers in trade or commerce with other countries or among the States,

shall be guilty of an offence. Penalty: Imprisonment for one year." (Section 30K).

Under these, the distinguished Australian trade union leader, Mr. J. Healy, was convicted in 1951 because his union, the Waterside Workers' Federation, supported a strike in New Zealand. Other Australian trade union leaders were prosecuted.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Now let us turn to further political sections. (No question of any genuine crime.)

"(1) The following are hereby declared to be unlawful associations, namely:—

- (a) any body of persons, incorporated or unincorporated, which by its constitution or propaganda or otherwise advocates or encourages—
 - (i) the overthrow of the Constitution of the Commonwealth by revolution or sabotage;
 - (ii) the overthrow by force or violence of the established government of the Commonwealth or of a State or of any other civilised country or of organised government; or
 - (iii) the destruction or injury of property of the Commonwealth or of property used in trade or commerce with other countries or among the States, or which is, or purports to be, affiliated with any organisation which advocates or encourages any of the doctrines or practices specified in this paragraph;
- (b) any body of persons, incorporated or unincorporated, which by its constitution or propaganda or otherwise advocates or encourages the doing of any act having or purporting to have as an object the carrying out of a seditious intention as defined in section twenty-four A of this Act."
(Section 30A).

To belong to such an organisation, is an offence punishable by imprisonment (Section 30B) or personally to advocate any of these things, is a similar offence punishable by imprisonment and deportation (if not born in Australia).

You can see that there are persons in high places, including the Ministers of the Menzies Government, who are guilty of offences under this Section, if the Section is given an honest meaning. How often do they not call upon the people of the Soviet Union, of the countries of Eastern Europe, of China, to revolt against their government and does this not clearly fall within the words of this Section? Do they not subscribe to the American 100,000,000 dollars expenditure on sabotage in the countries of Eastern Europe? But is any action ever taken against them or even thought of? Merely to mention it, is to show how ridiculous such a suggestion is. That is not the direction of the Crimes Act, at all. The very purpose of the Crimes Act has been and is directed against the working people.

REVERSE ONUS OF PROOF

Let us also draw your attention to Section 30R which has been described as "the finest flower of the genius of the framers of the Act." Section 30R reads: .

"(1) In any prosecution for an offence under this Part, or for an offence to which any provision of this Part is material, the averments of the prosecutor contained in the information or indictment shall be prima facie evidence of the matter or matters averred."

It is the notorious section which reverses what is called the onus of proof. A cardinal (and much boasted of) principle of the British system of law, is that the prosecution must carry the burden of proving beyond reasonable doubt that a person accused of an offence, has committed all the ingredients of the offence. But not so in this Act. In less than 50 words, that time honored right is swept away.

The effect of these provisions, to summarise, is:

1. To presume a person guilty of the offence with which he is charged.
2. To deny him the right to know and cross examine his accusers (a provision to safeguard the precious secret police, and the "liars, perjurers and pimps" of whom Mr. Chifley spoke);
3. To deny him trial by jury.

CRIMES ACT USED—JULY 17, 1953

On July 17th, 1953, purporting to suggest that there had been breaches of the Crimes Act by the Communist Party of Australia, the Commonwealth authorities raided the offices of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Sydney. They did so, relying upon a warrant issued under Section 10 of the Act. Section 10 says:

"If a Justice of the Peace is satisfied by information on oath that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that there is in any house, vessel, or place—

- (a) anything with respect to which any offence against any law of the Commonwealth has been, or is suspected on reasonable grounds to have been, committed;
- (b) anything as to which there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will afford evidence as to the commission of any such offence; or

(c) anything as to which there is reasonable ground for believing that it is intended to be used for the purpose of committing any such offence;

he may grant a search warrant authorising any constable named therein, with such assistance as he thinks necessary, to enter at any time any house, vessel, or place named or described in the warrant, if necessary by force, and to seize any such thing which he may find in the house, vessel, or place."

THE RAIDS

The gentlemen concerned in the raid certainly came prepared to use force: they were armed with a full set of housebreaking implements. Not only did they raid the headquarters of the Communist Party, but they raided the private homes of a number of individuals—they ransacked the bedrooms of children, the private belongings of women: nothing was beyond them. They could not seize documents or articles relating to any offence against the Crimes Act, because neither the Communist Party nor any of its members commit any such crime, but they seized personal photographs, tapestries, income tax returns and documents and all sorts of other material—indeed the Press gloated over the great stack of documents that these gentlemen had taken away. None of the material had any thing whatever to do with crimes or possible crimes for the simple reason that neither the Communist Party nor Communists commit crimes.

The only possible crime with which they could have any connection was the crime the Menzies Government and its loathsome secret police are about to commit — a framed up charge of conspiracy against the Communists.

ITS IMPORTANCE TO YOU

You may think that it is of no consequence that the Communist Party offices, and even the homes of individual Communists, were raided in this arbitrary fashion. You may think that it is of no concern to you. But history provides a terrible lesson for those who think in this way. The first act taken by the Hitlerite fascists in Germany, was the suppression of the German Communist Party—raids just such as this, the invasion of private homes, just like this. There were many Germans, who believed it was of no consequence that the German Communist Party suffered this fate. But Hitler did not wait long before he attacked his next victim. He suppressed the German Social Democratic Party, which is akin to our Labor Party. He suppressed the trade unions and created his Labor front—"trade unions" led by agents of the Gestapo. He then turned his attack to the churches, suppressed the churches, Roman Catholic and Protestant alike. The story of the horrible concentration camps, the exploitation and impoverishment of the German people is only too well known.

But if you think it is of no concern to you that this has happened to the Communist Party of Australia, think, too, of contemporary America. The leaders of the American Communist Party have now been in gaol for about two years. But as has been said above, following the attack upon the American Communist Party, have come all sorts of other terrible consequences, consequences such as to arouse world wide protest

from the working people (from the valliant working people of America itself) and from citizens in every walk of life—clergy-men, judges, scientists, artists, writers, and including such world renowned figures as Professor Einstein and such conservative men as the ex-Lord Chancellor, Lord Jowitt.

COMMUNISTS—REAL PATRIOTS

There is indeed a very sound reason why fascists, the world over, have singled out the Communist Party for their first attack and then followed it up with attacks on all democratic organisations and persons. The Communist Party does truly represent the true interests of the great majority of people. The growing recognition is seen in the vote of 140,000 for Communist Senate candidates in 1953. And even though some people may revile the Communist Party, in fact they accept, without being conscious of it, a great part of the policy of Communism. The Communist Party is indeed "the mind, the heart, the conscience of our era." Have not the Communists been the main-spring, the inspirer of all patriotic struggles here in Australia? Have they not been in the forefront of the fight for the improvement of wages and conditions of the working people? Indeed even the Victorian Judge, Sir Charles Lowe, given the specific assignment of finding against Communism, said:

"When strikes have occurred under Communist leadership or influence, the purpose has really been, in the first place, to gain the advantages sought in the men's demands. There is much evidence to show that the strikers have at times secured substantial gains by their action."

(Report of Royal Commission, 1950, p. 97).

Have the Communists not championed peace and who can say that the championing of peace is not the most patriotic action of any citizen? And have not the Communists battled for houses, for schools, for hospitals? Is it not a fact that the community, even the top sections of the employers (the conspirators themselves), set the Communists upon a moral pedestal? And in the rare cases when Communists do depart from the highest possible standard of human conduct, do you not read in the daily press, the mouthpiece of the great monopolies, the gloating of the ruling class? Corruption and crime are quite accepted by the great monopolists. But in the rare cases a Communist goes wrong, then you know how the story is different. The Communist Party exists to serve the people, and it says unashamedly that it is determined to prevent the Australian people from suffering a fate similar to the German people or the American people—it is determined to lead the people in the preservation of our national independence and democratic liberty.

STOP THIEF TECHNIQUE

But because the real conspirators, headed by the Menzies Government, wish to conceal their conspiracy, they proclaim in a thousand different keys that the Communist Party is a conspiracy.

Long ago the founders of Communism, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, said "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims." (Manifesto of the Communist Party, 1848). The Communist Party of Australia openly publishes its pro-

gram, in its press, and strives to the utmost to see that its message gets the greatest possible publicity—it seeks the widest possible mass support. As to conspiracy, Engels spoke of the "fantasy of overturning an entire society through a small conspiracy." (April 23, 1885). The great Russian revolutionary Lenin said . . . "This fight (for socialism) must be waged not by conspirators but by a revolutionary party that is based on the labor movement." (Sel. Works, Vol. 1, p. 509, 12 volume edition).

BLINDNESS OF RULING CLASS

But the gentlemen of the ruling class cannot understand how people (such as Communists) can selflessly devote themselves to the cause of mankind. They see "practically only one side of Communism, namely insurrection, violence, terror" (Lenin) and we may add—conspiracy.

These gentlemen have a fixation about the Communists being conspirators and agents of a foreign power. That is the sheerest nonsense and humbug. It comes very ill from people, who are, indeed, the agents of a foreign power. Certainly, we Communists do not conceal our admiration for the Soviet Union, and the other countries that are establishing socialism. And certainly we would like to see in this country a social system from which want and war have been abolished forever. Certainly, we will fight for, and win mass support, for just that. Our Program, "Australia's Path to Socialism" outlines the way in which we believe that such a system can be established in our own country. We do not believe in the export from Soviet Russia of revolution. The leader of the Russian working class, Joseph Stalin, himself said "The export of revolution is nonsense."

WHY THE COMMUNISTS TAKE PRECAUTIONS

You may say that the Communists take special precautions about their internal party correspondence and general internal Party negotiations. You may say that they take care in using telephones, or in conversation between Party members in public places, and that is perfectly true. And why? It is not at all because the Communists desire to do it. It is because the ruling class has just this fixation about the conspiratorial character of the Communist Party and its agency for a foreign power—just because it victimises individual Communists—brands them as criminals. Determined to frame the Communists on false charges of conspiracy and espionage, they read into our documents meanings which are not there. They use our documents to distort the facts, they tear them out of their context. They even fabricate entire documents.

It is, therefore, the bounden duty of the Communist Party, of the Communist leaders, to prevent from getting into the hands of such utterly unscrupulous people, any evidence that they could use to damage the Communist Party, and thereby the Australian people. These gentlemen conducted the raid on July 17, 1953, with just such a mission in mind—to seize documents which they would subsequently misconstrue. Where that was not possible, they would fabricate entire forgeries (and do not forget that the whole history of the working class has been studded with forgeries and framed-up charges against working class leaders—to name a few—the I.W.W. leaders in 1916, in

Sydney, on a framed-up charge of conspiracy—sentenced to 15 years gaol—released after a Royal Commission could no longer conceal the false character of the evidence against them; the attempted frame-up of K. C. Miller in 1949 on a charge of rape; the execution in America of Sacco and Vanzetti, the Rosenbergs, and so it goes on). In the name of the struggle against the working class there has been forgery, murder, bribery, perjury and every foul crime in the calendar.

Consequently the Communist Party does regard it as extremely bad for internal party documents to fall into the hands of these enemies of the people. Furthermore, it takes, and will take even more stringently, the maximum precautions to ensure that its documents do not fall into the hands of these utter villains. In addition to that, because the attack is not at all limited to the Communist Party, and as the attack on the Communist Party presages attacks on wider sections of the people, it is necessary that all citizens be fully aware of their rights when they are questioned by policemen of any kind, or during a raid.

THE POLICE STATE

This is the more so, when it is remembered that the Menzies Government has deliberately and systematically built up a police state, equipped with a great net work of spies, who pass under the name of Security Service. Do not be misled by such a high sounding name. The misguided persons who belong to such an organisation are no whit different in principle from the notorious Gestapo (whose crimes included the most unbelievable torture, murder and even the killing of children before the eyes of their mothers, let alone ordinary forgery, burglary, perjury). The Australian secret police, trained by the notorious American F.B.I., are there to serve the very same purpose that the Hitler Gestapo served. Some of the people who entered it may have done so believing that they were doing a patriotic duty, but let them make no error, inevitably they are being called upon, and will be increasingly called upon, to commit the foulest crimes against humanity.

Not only has this body of Secret Police in Australia been strengthened, but every other repressive machine has been perfected. We have already referred to the Arbitration Act; the whole state machinery has far more openly come out on the side of the class it really serves, namely the gigantic employers. The ordinary police forces have been greatly strengthened in numbers and power. There has been a tremendous increase in the violence (ordinary beating up) used by the police force in the "administration" of its duties. None of these things is fortuitous. All of them have the common origin of the great weakness of the employing class. No longer are the employing class able to command the confidence of the people, to beguile the people that they serve the people's interests. There is a great gap becoming ever more open between the vast mass of people, and the extreme minority of gigantic employers. In short, they have lost their mass support. Hence, they must increasingly resort to intimidation, police forces, the law courts, the gaols, the army. It is not a sign of their strength but of their desperate weakness. Desperate men do desperate things. Because these desperate men have formidable

weapons, every decent human being should be armed with every aspect of knowledge to defeat the crimes of these real conspirators.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN POLICE QUESTIONING

Therefore, it is imperative that every person should know that he is not obliged to answer any question whatever asked by a policeman, whether the policeman be security agent, detective, uniformed policeman or anything else. The question sometimes arises as to whether one is obliged to give one's name to a policeman. The answer is no, but what commonly happens is that the person affected is faced with the alternative of either giving his name or being arrested. Faced with that alternative, it is wise to give one's name and address, but no more.

Quite often one of these individuals will introduce his questions by saying for example, "You are Tom Smith, Secretary of X Union." Such questions are extremely dangerous, because they involve not only the admission of one's name but an admission that the person concerned is the official suggested. Though you may think your name and occupation are well known and need not be denied, the correct reply is "My name is Smith, and as I have done nothing wrong, I have nothing further to say to you." The correct answer to all police questioning is "I have done nothing wrong and I have nothing to say to you." Even though one may have to repeat that formula 200 times, or even 1,000 times, it still remains the correct answer. If one of these individuals, in the course of questioning, says to you "It is a fine day," the correct thing to say, still, is "I have done nothing wrong and I have nothing to say to you." It is part of the technique of these people, to engage their victims in apparently innocent conversation, such as about the weather, sporting events, children, etc., and in the course of it, to interlace the questions designed to get admissions relating to some alleged offence. Therefore, let us repeat, whatever they say, the answer is a never varying one—"I have done nothing wrong and I have nothing to say to you." (It is important to insist that you have done nothing wrong because the mere assertion of "I have nothing to say" may be used to spell out an admission.) This attitude to questioning remains the same whether one has been arrested or not, and both before and after arrest.

It is notorious that the technique of police officers varies. They have a division of labor—the basher type, the smooth type, the friendly type, and between those, all manner of variations. Do not be led astray by any such variations. Politely, but firmly, insist that you have your rights as a citizen, that you have done nothing wrong and you have nothing to say. In all questionings, try to have a reliable witness present, but if you cannot, do not worry about it.

DON'T GO WITH POLICE UNLESS ARRESTED

It is a common demand by policemen that the victim come along to the police station. It should be clearly understood that no one is obliged to go to a police station, or any other place, for the purpose of police questioning, unless the person concerned, has been arrested. Precisely because they have the backing of the State authorities, the police take the most

high-handed action, break every conceivable law, and get away with it. But undoubtedly a contributing factor is the perfectly understandable ignorance of the people of their rights. In such a case as the present, many people quite genuinely believe that they are obliged to go to the police station or other place of questioning, but it is simply not so. Therefore, unless you are arrested, politely but firmly refuse to go to the police station or anywhere else.

IF ARRESTED

If a policeman comes to arrest you, make it clear that he is arresting you against your will, but if he insists that he is arresting you, other than making it clear that it is against your will, do not resist. In many cases, he is not bound to have a warrant for your arrest, because there are wide powers of summary arrest, under all sorts of Acts of Parliament. But in all cases, he is bound to inform you of the charge upon which he is arresting you. Even if he has a warrant for your arrest, make it clear that he is taking you away, and detaining you, against your will.

SEARCH

Faced with a warrant to search your premises, you should carefully examine the warrant, secure, if possible, a copy, and politely but firmly insist that any search conducted goes on against your will. Be sure to be present during the search and if possible have someone else there, too. There are thousands of recorded cases where evidence has been planted by persons purporting to execute a search warrant.

Though you may feel helpless, and alone, in any of these circumstances, remember that you are not helpless, and you are not alone. There is no need for fear or panic. There is a vast mass movement for your protection, which will come into operation as soon as the facts are known. (Report them as soon as possible.) Remember the epic courage of the Rosenbergs, who in face of death itself said:

"We told the truth. We are innocent. The truth does not change. If we are executed, the guilt will be America's and the shame will dishonor this generation."

Remember the many other victims of fascism—whose confidence in the truth, in the people, never wavered.

Knowledge of your rights will assist you in face of these increasing attacks.

WEAKNESS OF THE RULING CLASS

But these attacks of the Menzies Government as the agent of the great employers, demonstrate, as we have said, its acute weakness. They are symptoms of the death throes of a society which has long since outlived its usefulness. For who can deny that the eternal threat of war, the constantly recurring economic crises, mark the collapse and decay of a social system? A society which has the capacity to produce all the goods the people require, but does not do so because it is not profitable for a handful of people, has forfeited its right to exist—the more so when you remember its production is centred on means of destruction. But the persons who have a vested interest in the maintenance of that society, will take any desperate action to keep that society alive. (Witness Hitler on behalf of

the great German monopolies.) They always resort to force: their gaols, their army, their police force, their security police, all demonstrate that fact.

PREVIOUS DEFEATS FOR MENZIES

The attempts of the Menzies Government at open suppression, have suffered disaster. The acute weakness of their position, has been demonstrated in the defeat of their original Communist Party Dissolution Act in 1950-51 and in the resounding "No" vote in the referendum on that Bill (September 22, 1951). When this narrow clique of conspirators came out from their closed doors, and made an open assault on the people they were repelled: ignominiously defeated. They were defeated because of the enormous strength of an aroused people: action of the people is invincible.

NEW FORMS OF ATTACK

Defeated in open combat, these guilty conspirators resorted to more cunning measures. They set their secret police to work in so-called Labor Party Industrial Groups—to take over the trade unions, through amendments to the Arbitration Act. They enormously strengthened many repressive acts of Parliament. They deliberately set out to avoid a head on collision with the workingclass, with the people. They deliberately decided to "deal with" each trade union—one by one. They "balloted" the genuine trade union leaders out of some unions, under fraudulent ballot laws. Where that was no good, they passed a special Act to deal with such unions as the Seamen and the Waterside Workers—they did this by drastic penal amendments to the Navigation Act. With the Miners' Federation, they used yet another set of laws. With individuals, they set out to deal with them as individuals. Yes, they said, having been defeated on the holus bolus provisions of the Communist Party Dissolution Act, we will deal with those people we call "Communists", one by one. In addition to the extraordinary Crimes Act, we will take our stand on the old principle that everyone is equal before the law (the law does equal justice to the rich and the poor), and we will charge these people with ordinary offences—conspiracy, sedition and so on. Then no one can say that they have been discriminated against. All the accused will receive a fair trial for an offence against the law—nothing arbitrary or extraordinary about that.

RAIDS AND A "FAIR TRIAL"

The purpose of their raid on July 17, 1953, was to obtain evidence for a "charge" of conspiracy against the Communist leaders. They are desperately plotting, conspiring, manufacturing charges against innocent people whose sole crime is their championing of the interests of the people. The Communist Party, at the head of the workingclass, is a firm barrier to the criminal plans of the Menzies conspirators against Australia. Having failed in their Communist Party Dissolution Act, their referendum, they fly in the face of the people's verdict and frame-up these charges of "conspiracy." On the framed-up charges—they will grant one of these "fair trials."

But day in and day out, in their newspapers, on the radio, in their picture theatres, they will tell you the Communists

are criminals, that the workers are loafers, anybody who protests in any way is a Communist. (Lord Jowitt himself said of just such an American trial: "There had grown up at the time of the trial a climate of opinion which was inimical to a calm dispassionate hearing." Melbourne Herald, April 5, 1953). They openly tell the Courts that they must convict, and inflict the most severe penalties upon the victims, and if these courts take the unlikely course of rejecting that advice, then they in turn will be upbraided and reproached and brought to book. Read any of the Australian daily newspapers and see if our statement is not correct. (Few will forget the experience of the great American Judge, William Douglas, who after granting a stay of execution to the Rosenbergs, was immediately threatened with impeachment.) These people, the great monopolists, the newspapers, can commit contempt of court, libel, slander, forgery, incitement to violence, with complete impunity, and in that atmosphere they conduct a fair trial of the persons they dub "Communists." They say in effect that unless the appropriate authorities deal with the Communists (read: honest patriots), those authorities in turn will be dealt with.

UNITE TO DEFEAT THE CONSPIRACY

There is a complete answer to the attacks of the conspirators—that is the might of the people. Every section of the Labor movement stands opposed to the Crimes Act. It is a plank of the platform of the Australian Labor Party that the political and industrial sections of the Crimes Act be repealed. That plank has been reaffirmed by Labor Party Conference after conference.

The 1951 All Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne (September 3 to 7) reaffirmed the traditional Australian trade union demand, for the repeal of this infamous Act.

The Communist Party is unequivocally opposed to the Crimes Act and all it means. Democrats, of all shades of political opinion, are opposed to it.

There you have a body of united opinion, capable of dealing a death blow to the legislation.

Unfortunately, while the Labor leaders carry such resolutions in the recognition of the united demand for them, they do nothing about it—even when in office. Indeed to their eternal shame they have used these very provisions. Their basic position is that they are at one with the policy of Menzies.

Hence redoubled efforts are necessary for all A.L.P. members, all trade unionists, all Communists to give teeth to these resolutions—tear the Crimes Act, and all that goes with it, out of the grasp of the reaction. Carry resolutions demanding its repeal, protest against its use, make its iniquitous provisions known, know your own rights.

The resort to it shows the weakness of the beast—he is down. "Acting thus, the capitalists act as all classes, doomed by history have acted"—that is the time to redouble the blows—redouble the fight for peace, for national independence, for democratic liberty. "Life will assert itself."