

# Communist Youth

Greetings from the Delegations. — Resolution to Red Army.

The opening of the Second International of Young Communists took place on the 9th of July at 8 p. m. at which 150 delegates took part representing 80,000 young workers from 40 different countries. They represented not only Western European States, but also the peoples of Far and Near East, as well as America.

Comrade MUNZENBERG delivered the opening speech. He said: "Our congress is reckoned as the Second International Congress of young Socialists, but it is the first congress in the history of Comintern, as well as the first in the history of the proletarian young communist movement. Social-Democracy has employed all means to hamper the young communists movement as the latter appeared dangerous to it.

Comrade Munzenberg gave a brief survey of the Young Communists Movement, recalled the congresses of Stuttgart and Copenhagen, which paralysed that movement together with the destruction of the Second International, which guided it into a social patriotic grove.

We observe the first signs of the young Communists movement in 1915, which grew from year to year until in 1919 at the First Congress in Berlin, the foundation was laid of the Comintern of Youth. Even then the organisation could count some 30,000 members from 12 different countries. Our Young Communists organisation distinguishes itself from the others by its activity in the cause of the world revolution. We shall always stick to our guns, give expression to stirring watchwords, never concern ourselves with petty matters, and thus bring the masses on our side. Our organisation must become the preparatory school of Communism which will aim at the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of world communism.

The speech of welcome was made by comrade Schatzkin of the Russian Central Committee of Young Communists.

"I greet the tried fighters of Western European and Eastern organisations in the name of some hundreds of thousands of young workers and peasants of Russia. We know the difficulties which our foreign comrades experience in their struggle against capital and the bourgeoisie. Our task must be to build a mighty organisation in order to educate the 20 million young proletarians of the whole in the spirit of communism, in order to lead it in the struggle for communism, for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Comrade ZETLIN spoke in the name of the Moscow organisation of the Young Communists and stated that the Russian Young Communist Movement proceeds from Moscow and that Moscow will become after the Congress the centre of that movement. Now we have only one watchword "Long live the Communist International".

Comrade LOZOVSKY greeted the meeting in the name of the First Congress of the Red Trade Union International: "Your Congress is not isolated, it forms part of the revolutionary movement, which has also captured the growing generation, the young guard who will take the place of the old. All Hail the young guard which is hastening to relieve the old guard.

Comrade TOM MANN (England) declared that he came from a country which is the most advanced from a capitalist standpoint, but where, although he was 65, he has never seen workers children well fed and well clothed. "My personal affections and those of the English workers will go with you".

Comrade ZINOVIEV conveyed greetings in the name of the Communist International.

"For the first time within the walls of Moscow we see the representatives of nearly a million members of Young Communist organisations. You are the representatives, not only of the most advanced civilized capitalist countries, but also the representatives of the backward, oppressed colonial countries.

A few minutes ago, the Congress of the Third International adopted unanimously the most controversial, the most important resolution on the question of tactics. Now a unanimous decision means something very different from what it

meant before, for the differences so far from being hushed up are being submitted to the most outspoken criticism of the working classes. The sharp fights and sharp speeches had even the effect of discouraging some of our young friends, as comrade Lenin regarded it as his duty to pour cold water on the impatient hot-heads. This was taken to mean a turn to the right, but the clearest heads of the Third International as well as of the Young Communists will be convinced that these measures were in no way dictated by the smallest desire to make peace with the bourgeoisie. On the contrary they were dictated exclusively by the desire to re-organize our ranks. The chief enemy of the Third International as well as of the Young Communists is the bourgeoisie and the socialist, who in fact are their servants.

Comrade Zinoviev made a brief survey of the Young Communists' Movement since its First Congress in 1919. History will never forget that the first struggle against the decayed opportunism was nearly in all countries taken up by the young and that the victories which we have attained are due to the energy of the Young Communists. After the old generation of workers has lost so many of its members in the capitalist war, that it is no longer capable of fulfilling its tasks, the work of the young becomes of the highest importance. Not only does the future belong to them, but the present too, and the immediate fate of Communism lies in their hands. At the present moment the International Young Communists organization counts 800,000 members in a year or two it will count millions. It is a state, which is greater than any capitalist-imperialist State (Stormy cheers).

Comrade LUNATCHARSKY was asked to speak next. He said: "The main task, the main importance of your work lies in preparing for the future. At a time when nearly all the parties and tendencies seek refuge in the past, which they try to defend and to preserve, when other anarchic elements wish simply to do away with that past, we are the only party which gives proper appreciation to the past. You take active part in the work being done now by the working class. You will complete the construction of the future, and you will be of far greater importance for the future than we, for the future is of immense value to us and it is only in the future that our activity will be shown. The present time is a fleeting moment, the morrow is the beginning of the future. And even if to-morrow you will have the most terrible fights yet you will be the builders, who on a gray cyclopic foundation, which we lay down for you, will erect lofty pillars supporting the palaces of human happiness and of the future harmonious commonwealth.

Long live the Party of the Future, the International Communist Party and its group, which stands nearest to the future—the Young Communists: (loud applause).

Comrade SCHÖNHAAR spoke of the great sufferings to which the Young Communists' Party was exposed in Germany and of the fights which it fought with the bourgeoisie and militarism on the path marked out for it by Liebknecht. The Young Communists are the best part of the workers for they bear the stamp of the best traditions of fallen heroes.

Further speeches were made by comrade YAROSLAVSKY of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party, and by a representative of Persia.

Comrade LAPPORTE (France) greeted the Congress in the name of the French soldiers, who rebelled against their officers, when they were ordered to fight against the Russian Revolution. Comrade Lapporte then proposed the following resolution to the Congress:

## A. Greeting of the International of Young Communists to the Red Army.

"The representatives of young proletarians of 40 countries, assembled in Moscow to the Second Congress of the Young Communists International send you, dear comrades, their fraternal greetings.

The Young Workers' Organisations have always been "shock" troops in the fight against bourgeois militarism. They have learned memorable lessons from the

heroic struggles of the working class of Russia and of its Red Army, lessons on the conquest and the defence of the workers' rule and they have extended their action against bourgeois militarism. They are not satisfied with disintegrating the armies of capitalist States by a revolutionary propaganda, they fight for arming the workers.

The Young Communists know now that it is not with empty social-compromising words that they have to fight. They must only fight with arms in their hands and it is civil war which will secure the triumph of Communism.

The Young Communists of all countries regard you with admiration and see in you the first proletarian army which during three years of painful struggles has in spite of cold and hunger utterly defeated all the mercenary armies, which imperialism has launched against Soviet Russia. In doing this you have not only saved Soviet Russia but also the cause of the World Revolution.

The matchless courage, enthusiasm ready to sacrifice everything with which you brought all those terrible struggles to a happy end, gives great encouragement to Young Communists in their actions against the powers of capitalism and the bourgeois State: Your battles and your victories give them brilliant examples, which they will follow when the hour of the decisive struggle will sound for them.

"Long live the Red Army of Soviet Russia!"

"Long live the Communist International, the guide of the revolutionary proletariat!"

"Long live the International of Young Communists!"

## Review of Press.

### The League of the Rights of Man Against the Bill of Bonnivaux.

The Central Committee of the League of the Rights of Man at its meeting of June the 27th has unanimously voted a resolution of protest of which the following are the essential parts:

If this bill is made law, it will mean the end of the liberty of the press and the liberty of speech as the laws of 1893 and 1894 and even to a greater extent does this bill bear the hateful mark of reaction.

The liberty to think and to express one's thought by word of mouth and in writing should be judged irrespective of the ideas expounded: this liberty is an aim in itself; the republican justice punishes the act of which it is a result, but abstains from suppressing the idea, which inspired it, would open wide the doors to most terrible arbitrariness.

The League of the Rights of Man condemns the objectionable vagueness with which the law confuses the excitement to violent acts which it condemns to repression and the legitimate necessary criticism of military institutions.

The League of the Rights of Man condemns as a permanent cause of anti-militarism, the assured impunity which since the war has been enjoyed by the military chiefs guilty of shooting without trial or of judicial murders. The rehabilitation of the victims is not sufficient to wipe off the crime; we must also punish the criminals.

### Protest of War Victims,

The Committee of Action of the group of war victims, of the province of Seine protests against the government bill which is professedly directed against anti-militarist activity, but the principal object of which is to hush up military errors and the crimes of certain officers: the Committee demands on the contrary to institute immediate proceedings against the officers responsible for the execution of innocent comrades. The Committee calls on deputies who took part in the fights and were mutilated to vote against such bills out of respect to the "rights of combatants" and for the liberty of opinions, which we have not lost in the victory bought dearly by our blood and our sacrifices.

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