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34th Anniversary of The Communist Party of Australia

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On October 30, 1920, there was formed the Communist Party of Australia.

The role that has been played by the Communist Party 'between that date and its present 34th birthday clearly indicates that the foundation of the Communist Party was a decisive event in the development of the Australian Labor Movement.

Socialist-minded groups dating far back into the last century can be traced and these small parties and groups conducted a vigorous propaganda for Socialism.

Their propaganda was often narrow or sectarian, however, and was never clear-cut because the great teaching of Maxism-Leninism was unknown to these forerunners of the Communist Party.

Following the great strikes of the 1890s, and undoubtedly also influenced by the demand of the early Socialists for a workers' party, there was founded the Australian Labor Party.

This party, though mainly based on the trade unions; was never a true workers' Socialist party.

It has many times been the governing party but has never made any effort to put an end to capitalist ownership of the means of production.

To the contrary, it has done much to build up the capitalist system in Australia. Many of the measures introduced by Labor governments generally had the aim of strengthening capitalist society.

The penetrating gaze of Lenin saw the true character of the ALP as far back as 1913. In a few succinct paragraphs Lenin showed that it was in essence a liberal-capitalist party with the mission of building an independent capitalism in our country.

Today, after more than fifty years of the Labor Party, capitalism has changed from small-scale to largescale, from small, "free enterprises" to monopoly capitalism.

That is to say a more oppressive form, with a higher degree of exploitation of the working masses, to a more violent and warmongering form; when it sells our national independence to US imperialism and strives to destroy the democratic rights of the people.

This is the measure of the failure of the ALP to realise the ideals of the founders of the Labor Movement.

As a result of the failure of the ALP, side by side with the Socialist sects, there flourished for a time the anarcho-syndicalist trend, in the form of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

The IWW rejected what it called “political action,” called for a general strike to end capitalism, and used Individualist and sabotage tactics.

Then came the greatest event in history, the Great October Socialist Revolution.

At its head stood the genius, Lenin, who had restored the teaching of Marx and Engels, which the reformists of all countries believed they had safely buried.

Lenin further developed and clarified for the workers the Marxist principles.

This Leninist teaching found fertile soil among the Socialists of Australia. It cleared up many misconceptions.

The experience of the ALP and the IWW, of the great strike and political struggles of the Australian masses had prepared the ground for the acceptance of Leninism.

So it was that on October 30, 1920, a party of the Leninist type was formed in Australia and affiliated to the Communist International.

It was not an easy matter to build a true Communist Party.

It has meant a consistent struggle against those who demanded the liquidation of the party (1925-1926), the right-wing opportunists (1928-1930), those who would have imposed anti-Leninist, Trotskyite treacherous views on our Party. It has involved a lengthy battle against sectarian views, against Left adventurism.

Above all, it demands an incessant struggle for the mastery of Marxist-Leninist theory.

The Communist Party has played an important part in the life, and has profoundly influenced, the Australian people.

It has played a leading part in all election campaigns, and a decisive part in the Referendum which defeated the plan of the Menzies government to fascise our country.

It has taken a prominent part in the industrial battles of the working class for the defence and improvement of living standards.

When Menzies and Co., and some ALP leaders, were praising Japanese militarism, the Communists were pointing to the deadly menace of Japanese militarism to Australia and advocating economic (trade boycott, ban on export iron, etc.) and other measures against Japanese militarism.

The Communists spared no effort in mobilising our people to resist Japanese militarism when war broke out; 4000 members of our small party were in the fighting forces.

Similarly, the Communists were pointing out the true character of Hitlerism at a time when Menzies was prating nonsense about the good things he alleged Hitler had achieved for the Germans.

The Communist Party, alone of Australian political parties, supported the struggle of the Soviet Union for collective security which could have prevented the horror of the Second World War.

These are a few of the highlights of the Party's consistent work on behalf of the Australian masses.

Today, the Party fights relentlessly for peaceful co-existence between the capitalist and Socialist countries, against a Third World War.

It bitterly opposes the revival of German and Japanese militarism.

Our policy demands the outlawing of atomic and other horror weapons.

It defends our national independence against Menzies and Wall St.

It is in the forefront of the fight for democracy.

It at all times supports the strivings of our people for improved living standards.

Our Party has become united, strong and more mature.

The new Party and Farm programs indicate the political growth of the [Communist Party of Australia].

Socialism today embraces more than one-third of mankind.

Reports indicate the further growth of the Communist movement in all capitalist countries despite terror, persecution and oceans of lies and slanders poured out by treacherous enemies of the toiling people.

Our Party, too, is growing, is full of confidence in the future, as it marches proudly forward under the invincible banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin.