

S O C I A L I S T S A N D F A S C I S M

FASCISM is a movement, basing itself on racist and national prejudices, which offers its services to Big Business to suppress by force the working-class and socialist movements which threaten profits.

Because the socialist movement in Britain is at present weak and disorganised, there is no need at present for Big Business to finance the fascist movement on the scale of Germany in the early 1930s. But because capitalist society is in decay, the growth of the socialist movement is inevitable so that eventually an attempt to replace the present system of "parliamentary democracy" by some kind of fascist dictatorship is inevitable.

Such an attempt will be made when the socialist movement has developed to the stage where it is making "parliamentary democracy", with the democratic liberties associated with it, an unsuitable form of state power for Big Business, but before it has developed to the stage where it is capable of overthrowing that state power.

For this reason, because the attempt to impose a fascist dictatorship represents a pre-emptive strike against the socialist movement, the socialist movement, on its own, is not capable of defeating the attempt to impose a fascist dictatorship.

THE DEFEAT OF THE EVENTUALLY INEVITABLE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY THE ORGANISATION OF A MUCH BROADER UNITED FRONT THAN THAT FORMED BY THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, that is, BY THE ORGANISATION OF THE BROADEST POSSIBLE ANTI-FASCIST UNITED FRONT EMBRACING, SO FAR AS IS POSSIBLE, ALL PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS WHICH, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR CURRENT ATTITUDE TO SOCIALISM OR INDEED TO ANY OTHER QUESTION, ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN RESISTANCE TO FASCISM.

Such an anti-fascist united front must be built primarily on the working class in the localities, and from these developing local anti-fascist bodies a democratic national organisation will eventually be created.

Of course, socialists understand that the mere retention of the democratic rights associated with "parliamentary democracy" will not solve the problems of the working people -- the problems of poverty in the midst of the destruction of commodities, the problem of unemployment, the problem of racial prejudice and discrimination. These problems are caused by capitalist society, and they can be solved only by the establishment of a socialist society.

But the building of an anti-fascist united front is not a diversion from the task of building the socialist movement. Successful resistance to fascism maintains the most favourable conditions for the building of the socialist movement. And when Big Business makes its actual attempt to impose a fascist dictatorship, the anti-fascist movement can, if correctly led, become transformed from a defensive movement against fascism into an offensive movement against Big Business, so that the anti-fascist united front merges with the socialist movement.

SOCIALISTS MUST, THEREFORE, TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BUILDING THE ANTI-FASCIST UNITED FRONT AND, AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF POLITICAL AWARENESS, THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

Now that the Communist Party of Great Britain has abandoned Marxism-Leninism in order to spread the dangerous illusion of "a peaceful, parliamentary road to socialism", the illusion which led to the fascist bloodbath in Chile, it is necessary for socialists who understand that the only road to socialism is that of revolution to build a new Marxist-Leninist party freed of all revisionist trends such as trotskyism and maoism.

THE AIM OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE IS TO BUILD SUCH A PARTY.

If you are interested in attending an elementary course in Marxism-Leninism, in reading our literature or in joining us in the task of rebuilding the revolutionary socialist movement in Britain, please contact us at the address overleaf.

The COMMUNIST LEAGUE at present publishes:

COMbat (its political journal);

COMpass (its theoretical journal); and

InterCOM (its journal of international news).

Details of subscriptions obtainable from the address below:

Printed and published by:

Bernard Charnley,
26, Cambridge Road,
Ilford, Essex.

For THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE.