

Message From Comrade Dougher — A VETERAN COMMUNIST

The following letter is from Comrade Joe Dougher who is a great Communist of some 40 years in the Communist movement. Comrade Dougher grew up in the struggle against capitalism as his father, a coal miner, was a member of the famous Molly McGuires. Following in his father's footsteps, Comrade Dougher was very active in mine and steel workers' organizations, especially in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and was a leader in the formation of the steel workers' union.

Comrade Dougher was a member of the CPUSA for 31 years and at one time on the National Committee. During this time he fought valiently in the Spanish Civil War as an officer in the Loyalist Army.

After Stalin's death, Comrade Dougher was one of the first to realize the revisionism into which the CPUSA had fallen, as brought out at the 16th Convention of the CPUSA. He was a founder of the Provisional Organizing Committee to Reconstitute a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party in the USA (POC) and was its first chairman.

We are proud to announce that Comrade Dougher has now joined the Communist League, bringing with him his many years of experience in the Communist movement. In this spirit we are printing excerpts of his letter for membership which follow:

Dear Comrades:

Those of us from the Left and the people of the United States and the World can be thankful for Mao Tse-tung, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese People, because through their struggles and their exposure of revisionism, they have saved the world Communist movement from sinking into the swamp of revisionism, and maybe worse - Social Fascist Imperialism on a world scale. This could have set the Communist movement back many years, causing tremendous misery. Lenin saw that as the Soviet Union gained the benefits of Socialism, the Bolsheviks might become self-satisfied; opportunism might creep into the Party, and the USSR might become a backward country; and another country like China, led by their Communist Party, could become the accepted leaders of the world Communist movement. And that is exactly what has happened.

Mao Tse-tung is the greatest dialectical and historical materialist living today. He and the Communist Party of China have succeeded in establishing a cooperative society with the workers, peasants and

members of the Peoples Army (which is made up of ninety percent workers and peasants) in charge of the country, studying to be dialectical and historical materialists. They have dealt a heavy blow to revisionism and are an example to the rest of the world.

Long live the Dictatorship of the Proletariat!

Mao Tse-tung has stated that without a Communist Party the workers have nothing, and without a Peoples' Army, the people have nothing. And these are the reasons why workers and intellectuals must build a Communist Party in the United States.

At present the conglomeration who call themselves Communists in the USNA is ever-ridden with CIA, FBI agents and stool pidgeons who will play a very bad, misleading, splitting, and compromising role. If necessary, the CIA will organize Santa Clauses to finance them.

It does not require a mass of people to organize a Marxist-Leninist Party. It should be remembered that Mao Tse-tung and twenty-five comrades organized the Communist Party of China which had a population of between 4 and 5 hundred million people at that time. Whoever will be building a Communist Party must be able to withstand the attacks and onslaughts of capitalism, whose representatives will lie, frame you and murder you. When they believe it is necessary, they will, if they can, organize fascism, which is capitalism plus gangsterism - an open dictatorship to enslave the people. Under these circumstances, it is obvious that you cannot afford to have a stool pidgeon amongst the founders. The organization must be based on all the tenets of Leninism, including iron discipline, democratic centralism, criticism, and self-criticism. The more centralized it is, the more democratic it must be and ruled by the membership through majority control at all times along with a dialectical and historical materialist understanding.

The Negro, Puerto Rican, Mexican and Indian national minority workers must be well represented amongst the top leaders of the Party, who because of their extreme exploitation, oppression and their concentration in the semi and unskilled sections of the class are the most class conscious of the proletariat.

The United States came into being through a peoples' revolution and is a revolutionary country. The Revolutionary

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Army grew out of the Peoples Militia, and when the war was won the People retained the right to their militia and organized it whenever and wherever needed. Historically, the American people have earned the name of a truly democratic people. This can be seen in the valiant struggles waged by the working class to build a trade union movement, especially the mine, steel and auto workers and the longshoremen. This culminated in the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) when the Negro workers could no longer be disregarded as they were in the building of the American Federation of Labor (AFL). In World War II the bravery and self-sacrifice shown by the American soldiers in the fight against fascism will never be forgotten.

Based on new conditions which create a new situation we must re-evaluate and consider a new approach to revolution. The whole government from top to bottom, country-wide, state-wide and locally is corrupt, moribund, decaying and rotten to the core, and now people are learning who the real conspirators and subversives are. We cannot believe the President, Vice-President, and with very little exception, Senators and Representatives in Congress. They are demagogues and liars. The Administrators, or so-called watch dogs of the law, set up by the administration in power, after receiving their appointments grow rich by not enforcing the law.

Some of the results of imperialism are: pollution of the air, streams, lakes, and now the oceans and seas; nuclear radio active poisoning, injection of poisons into animals and fowl to make them produce meat faster; using poisonous chemicals as additives, and preservatives in our food that give us cancer; corrupt police forces who protect gangsters and dope pushers; riding rough-shod over the people, violating their rights; and now the Administration is packing the Supreme Court with reactionary, white chauvinist judges; interfering with and striving to control the organizations of the people; forcing permanent arbitration upon the unions, using injunctions to break their strikes, sending CIA agents all over the world to interfere with the developing governments, murdering their leaders, corrupting their armed forces, setting up military dictatorships to control the raw material and the people for USNA imperialism. When a dictatorship cannot be sustained the state of the USNA which acts as their executive sends in armed forces, getting our sons and soon our daughters killed, fighting wars that cannot be won because the developing

people all over the world have learned how to fight peoples' wars using guerrilla tactics.

Our new Party must organize caucuses or fractions in all mass organizations. When there is no fight on important issues, a mass organization must be built. The Party must organize a United Front of the People to save our country from the white chauvinist, rapacious, genocidal imperialists. The working class is over 75 percent of the people and have the democratic right to establish socialism. Socialism must be established under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

When it is said that the dictatorship of the proletariat is necessary to build socialism, that does not mean it is against the masses of people. It is against the bourgeoisie to prevent them from ever again taking power. It is possible for the change to come relatively peacefully. That will depend on how the capitalists and their henchmen act. If they persist in using violence, then they will feel the wrath of the people on their skins. They can have a place in the new society if they can learn to live as decent people in a cooperative society.

As Mao Tse-tung said, the imperialists are paper tigers. They can no longer have effective organization. The youth are no longer willing to volunteer or be drafted into the armed forces, many are using dope, and in Vietnam, some of the soldiers are refusing to fight, sometimes even killing their officers.

Communism or a Marxist-Leninist Party is not a conspiracy. Its organizational structure, policy and program must be taken to the people for their support. When the Party is under attack, it must not expose all its leadership or members, but it must continuously fight for its legality, and constantly cleanse itself of wrong elements, who worm their way into the membership and corrupt the Party. A small minority of the middle class and intellectuals can be members and leaders providing they can understand that to carry the revolution through to the end, the proletarian workers must be the leadership. One of the sicknesses of the Communist Party of the United States was that an organization of professional revolutionaries was never built. The middle class members just called themselves proletarian workers and were the leaders of the Party.

The imperialists are utilizing our country and all its resources for superprofits and the benefit of themselves and their henchmen at the expense of all other people, including all the lesser industrialists, small businessmen, professionals, scientists, educators and public administrators. Under these

write these lines, the proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces; it is mobilized for the first time as One army, under One flag, and fighting One immediate aim; an eight hour working day, established by legal enactment...The spectacle we are now witnessing will make the capitalist and landowners of all lands realize that today the proletarians of all lands are, in very truth, united. If only Marx were with me to see it with his own eyes!"(3)

Upon examining the situation of the workers and oppressed people around the world today, we see that they are no longer mobilized as "one army, under one flag and fighting one immediate aim." But on the other hand, conscious forces are developing and are given powerful support by the socialist countries of China, Albania, North Vietnam and North Korea and the national liberation struggles and revolutionary movements around the world. The call for proletarian internationalism, for unity of the workers and oppressed peoples of the world in the struggle against imperialism is being heard more and more.

Speaking to May Day and the need for proletarian internationalism, Lenin wrote in 1904: "Comrade workers! May day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle; the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom."(4)

The international struggle against imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism will not be without hardships and setbacks. But as class conscious leaders of the working class we understand that it is inevitable that the working class will smash the bourgeois state and attain political power, establish socialist relations of production and do away with all exploitation and oppression.

There are many battles yet to be waged by the international proletariat. In regards to the 8 hour day, there are many countries where the working day is still 12-16 hours,

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conditions the Party should have many allies and be able to organize a gigantic United Front to sweep all the imperialists out of power.