

International Bulletin

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SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH WORKERS

As we go to press, reports from Spain indicate that the strike of miners, etc. is continuing and is evoking various sympathy actions all over Spain. The struggle of the Portuguese anti fascists is continuing and there are reports of large numbers of arrests of students. Fascism owing to its very nature cannot tolerate any form of prolonged resistance and for this reason, Franco, in particular, will be forced to smash the miners' movement or recognise the beginning of the end for his regime. We must, therefore, expect the struggle in Spain to be very bitter and savage indeed. Spanish and Portuguese reaction are propped up by British and American imperialism and have, therefore, a high level of responsibility to do all we can to support our Spanish and Portuguese brothers. We ask all readers of the Bulletin to consider very seriously how they can act on the call to action in the following statement of the I.S.

STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

The International Secretariat of the Fourth International salutes the heroic and great struggle undertaken by the workers, students, intellectuals and anti fascists of Spain and Portugal against the bloody dictatorships of Franco and Salazar. For the first time since the seizure of power in Spain by Franco, there is a struggle in process throughout the Iberian peninsula against Fascism.

This combined struggle will join and support the struggle of the Angolan and Mozambiquan people, oppressed and tortured by Portuguese imperialism. Everything must be done by the workers of Europe and the world, and by their political and trade union organisations to crush Spanish and Portuguese fascism so that the heroic Spanish and Portuguese fighters and their oppressed African brothers triumph over their tormentors.

The international workers revolutionary movement must support with all its might the Iberian revolution which is beginning.

The fall of Franco and Salazar, the liberation of the Angolan and Mozambiquan peoples will constitute an important advance of world revolution.

- these events will shake up the reactionary regimes throughout Europe and the relative stability of the Atlantic bourgeoisie;
- they will reinforce the struggle in France against Gaullism and the fascist menace;
- they will intensify the reawakening of the struggle in Greece against the reactionary dictatorship;
- they will strike a hard blow at imperialism in its anti Soviet preparations for war;
- they will bring about an intensification of the anti imperialist and socialist revolution in Africa, Latin America and in the whole world;
- they will be a decisive step towards the establishment in the whole of the Iberian peninsula of a socialist regime in the interests of the workers.

The Fourth International expresses its unconditional solidarity with the Spanish and Portuguese workers as it has already done so towards the Angolan and Mozambiquan fighters. It calls upon all the trade union and political organisations of the workers' movement of Europe and the world to demonstrate their solidarity with the gigantic struggle taken up against fascism in the Iberian peninsula.

International Secretariat of the Fourth International
10th of May, 1962.

THE BULLETIN AND THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Bulletin has not been appearing so regularly in the last month. This is because of the taking up of time caused by our comrades' participation in the local elections. Comrades who help to produce and write for the Bulletin have been very active in election work at all levels. A number were candidates and held ^{others} posts in the election machinery. From now on the Bulletin will come out approx ~~once~~ a week and the steps to improve its content and format are underway.

YOUNG SOCIALIST RESOLUTIONS

Herewith the full text of some of the most important resolutions passed at the Young Socialist Annual Conference at Easter.

(1) Commonwealth Immigrants Bill and Racialism

This Conference condemns and rejects the Tory immigration bill as a measure designed to increase racialist and anti-colour prejudices in an attempt to divide and divert the working class from the true source of the problems that cause and are caused by immigration namely the social and economic policies of the Tory Government.

Accepting that moral condemnation alone is not enough Conference proposes the following measures:

(a) Pledges its full support for Fenner Brockway's bill to make racial discrimination and incitement illegal and urges all members of Parliament to support the bill;

(b) that the National Committee of the Young Socialists organise a campaign at all levels of the Young Socialists organisation with the Movement for Colonial Freedom against the immigration bill, the inadequate housing situation, the racketeering of slum landlords, all forms of racialism and fascist propaganda and to expose the relationships of racialism and capitalism;

(c) the production of more propaganda material for the fight against racialism;

(d) a campaign to integrate immigrants, particularly young immigrants, into our movement.

Carried unanimously.

(7) "NEW ADVANCE"

This Conference reaffirms its belief that complete democracy in the Young Socialist movement is essential to its continued healthy growth. It therefore places on record its regret that no steps have been taken to bring the official Young Socialist newspaper, "New Advance", under the full democratic control of the Young Socialists and demands specifically the following points that:

(a) an editorial board consisting of Young Socialists be elected on the basis of one delegate per two adjacent regions, no later than 30th June, 1962;

(b) an editor be elected by this board at its first meeting who is a Young Socialist and not a full time official of the Labour Party;

(c) the editorial policy of 'New Advance' shall reflect the decisions of the Young Socialists' Annual Conference;

(d) editorial board meetings be held at least once a month;

(e) the board inaugurates a page of branch news in "New Advance" each month.

This Conference also instructs the National Committee not to work on any arrangement other than these for the democratic control of "New Advance".

Carried by a substantial majority.

(12) FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE

This Conference believing that Socialism is the only safeguard of lasting peace, and that war is ^{the} inevitable outcome of the capitalist system, calls upon the Labour Party to adopt the following policy in the interests of mankind:

(a) Britain's complete renunciation of all nuclear weapons;

(b) Britain's withdrawal from the military alliances;

(c) withdrawal of all foreign military bases from Britain;

(d) withdrawal of all British troops from overseas; and

(e) the pursuit of world peace through co-operation with other working class movements throughout the world.

Conference instructs its National Committee to take immediate steps to popularise these demands.

On acceptance of these, Conference wishes to send a message of goodwill and solidarity to those marching for peace this Easter, and to those six members of the Committee of 100 at present in prison. While congratulating the Committee of 100 and C.N.D. for their increasing struggle against nuclear strategy, Conference calls upon their members to fight against war through the political movement of the working class, the Labour Party, as this is the only organisation which can achieve effective resistance and ultimate victory over militarism and the threat of annihilation.

This Conference regrets the Parliamentary Labour Party's failure to uphold Annual Conference decisions in not attacking the Government's decision to allow the use of Christmas Island for possible American nuclear tests, and calls upon Mr. Gaitskell, as leader of the Labour Party, to withdraw completely all statements made by him on his recent visit to the U.S.A., which supported the American decision to resume nuclear tests.

continued over/

Amendment (to resolution 12)

Add: and failing this calls upon him to resign the Leadership of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Amendment carried 180 to 141
Amended resolution carried 222 to 97

(15) This Conference calls upon the Labour Party to organize demonstrations and protest meetings on the Polaris issue and German bases, as laid down by Party policy at Blackpool Annual Conference, 1961.

Carried 221 to 42

(18) This Conference mourns the tragic murder of Patrice Lumumba of the Congo. It believes that the United Nations Organisation, which arranged for his transfer to the Province of Katanga, where he was murdered by Tshombe mercenaries must share a responsibility for this action. This is only one way the United Nations Organisation is used in the interests of Imperialism.

Carried 130 to 125

(20) This Conference views with dismay the Trades Union Congress and Labour Party's lack of a policy independent of the capitalist class in relation to European unity. Conference declares that the present attempts to unify Europe, i.e., economic unification accomplished from above through agreements by capitalist governments cannot succeed and are designed for the benefit of the monopolists and the financiers of Europe and will create a reactionary political block.

Conference recognising the historic and organic necessity of European unity declares that it can only be achieved on the basis of a Socialist economy. It therefore calls upon the Labour Party of Britain and Europe to take the lead in organising the working class in the struggle for a Socialist united Europe. As a first step to this, convening a general Congress of European Labour into which should be invited all the sections of the Labour Movement.

It believes that only such a policy can bring about a real unity, permit the planning of resources and industries, and the aid of underdeveloped countries, and lay the foundations of peace and lasting prosperity. Conference restates the fundamental Socialist belief that economic crises and war are an inherent part of the capitalist mode of production.

Conference is against the policies of declining world capitalism and the Common Market is one of these and Conference is for an independent working class programme of International Socialism.

Carried overwhelmingly

(23) The Pay Pause

This Conference completely condemns the Government's pay pause policies and opposes their interference in wage negotiations.

It considers that the White Paper published in February, 1962, stating that wage restraint must continue throughout the year and that no increase above 2½% in the pound can be given, are part of the Tory plans to drive down the standard of living of the working class.

It fully supports the actions of the Trade Union Movement in resisting this attack and pledges the wholehearted support of the Young Socialists to any industrial action which the Trade Unions take.

It also believes that the Economic Development Council is a clever proposal by the Tories, and Conference, therefore, calls upon the National Executive of the Labour Party and the T.U.C. to sever all connections with the National Economic Development Council and to put forward a clear-cut Socialist policy.

Carried with 3 dissentients

(25) Horsham C.L.P. and Ernest Roberts

This Conference of Young Socialists deplores the action of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in refusing to endorse the nomination of Comrade Ernest Roberts as Parliamentary Candidate for Horsham. Conference calls upon all sections of the Labour movement to use all possible means to make the National Executive Committee change this undemocratic decision. Conference sends its support to Comrade Roberts and the Horsham Constituency Labour Party in this struggle.

Carried by substantial majority.

HYDE PARK AND THE WITCHHUNTERS

It appears that we are in first throws of a witchhunt inside the Labour Party. The press has been preparing public opinion for this and will no doubt hear more after the meetings of the Organisational sub committee and the National Executive. The exact form of fight against this will depend upon the scope and form of the witchhunt the right wing decide upon. In the meantime we have here for the information of the comrades a report written for the Bulletin by one of the participants in the Hyde Park clash. Ed. Note.

The May-Day demonstration started quietly, even boringly. The Young Socialists were placed as usual towards the rear of the procession. Last year Harold Wilson had timed his speech to end just as the Young Socialists' banners were seen entering Hyde Park, and we confidently expected the procedure to be repeated by George Brown this year. The march started off good humouredly; sporadic chanting of anti-bomb slogans and singing of socialist songs but without tension. The mood changed abruptly on entering Hyde Park, when stewards descended on the straggling columns of Young Socialists.

One particularly aggressive steward persisted in trying to pull down the South Paddington Young Socialist banner and pushing at the banner carriers. Eventually he snapped one of the banner poles. Another steward struggled with a member of the Young Socialists' National Committee, attempting to smash his banner. Fights broke out. Perhaps the stewards had been goaded beyond endurance by the crowds jeering the platform and had therefore turned on us. Perhaps they were simply out to provoke the Young Socialists.

PERU - COMRADE FRIAS SPEAKS AT MEETING 35,000 STRONG

The following is based upon a report appearing the I.S. Information Bulletin. Ed. Note.

An important meeting took place in Lima, capital of Peru, on March 9th. Its aim was to protest against the massacre of peasants in the Cerro de Pasco region in which 22 peasants were killed by Government militia. 35,000 took part in the meeting. It was convened by the General Secretary of the Federation of Communes of Pasco, comrade Adam Ponce and supported by a number of left wing groups and parties including the left wing of A.P.R.A. (the nationalist party which originally took power - the left wing has split off), representatives of the peasants' organisations, the anti imperialist front, the Communist Party (Leninist) (a left wing break away), the Workers Party, and the Workers Party (Trotskyist) which supports the Fourth International being unable to be a section owing the laws of Peru.

In the manifesto convening the meeting, the above parties and groups drew attention to the fact that the latest massacre was one of a series perpetrated by the Government in which over 85 workers and peasants had died. These actions showed that the Government had no respect for the lives of the Peruvian poor and that it is nothing more than 'the repressive organ of the dominant classes of Peru and of foreign imperialism.'

The manifesto says that this state of affairs cannot continue and that the left wing groups must unite to create a single front for struggle and united action on a national scale against these crimes. It declared unconditional solidarity for the peasants in their struggle to keep their land, for the removal and punishment of the ministry and prefects of the governor responsible for the massacre, for the withdrawal of the forces of repression in Pasco, for the immediate freeing of all peasants imprisoned for their actions in taking over land and for the freeing of political prisoners generally and for compensation for the relatives and victims of the forces of repression.

After the meeting legal proceedings were taken against the speakers on charges of disturbing public order. Reporting this La Prensa of the 21st of March says that of the 10 extremists accused of disturbing public order only the Trotskyist Ismael Frias appeared yesterday before the summary court.

Continuing its report La Prensa says that "the extremists had met at around 11.00 in the morning on the pavement in front of the Palace of Justice. . . they made inflammatory statements, denouncing the Prime Minister, the army chiefs and acclaiming Fidel Castro"

We hope to publish further and more up to date reports on the activity of our comrades in Peru soon in the Bulletin.

ROSA'S MURDERER STILL AT LARGE

The following is extracted from the East German handout the so-called Democratic German Report, Ed. Note:

"Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were pioneers in the left-wing of German Social Democracy before World War One; as leaders of the Spartakus League they led the fight, from inside and outside prison, to end the war and get rid of the Kaiser. In November 1918, when the German soldiers, sailors and workers finally did revolt, overthrow Kaiser Wilhelm and stop the slaughter at the battlefronts, Liebknecht and Luxemburg took the lead in the movement to oust the militarists and establish a socialist Germany. On January 1st 1919 they were co-founders of the German Communist Party. On January 15th 1919 they were arrested in Berlin by officers of a "Free Corps" formation, a pre-nazi fascist body, and brutally murdered. The officer who gave the order for their arrest and "execution", a Major Waldemar Pabst, later played a prominent part in various right-wing putshces and murders, and later fled to Austria, where he organised a fascist militia. He is now an arms dealer in West Germany, and has recently begun to write articles boasting about the murder. Writing in the West German magazine "Der Stern" in 1960 he stated: "I gained the impression that Liebknecht and Luxemburg were the brains of the revolution, and decided to have them liquidated. On my orders, the two were seized." Major Pabst continued his reminiscences in an article in the right-wing West German student magazine "Deutsche Studentenanzeiger" on January 15th, 1962, in which he stated: "Consciously weighing the circumstances, I took the decision to depart from the path of legality. The execution carried out by my subordinates took a considerably different form from that which I had ordered. It therefore raised more dust than was really necessary."

This article might perhaps have been disregarded as the boastings of a retired thug, who today plays no part in public affairs; but the official West German Government organ, the 'Bulletin', reprinted Major Pabst's article on February 8th, adding an editorial note stating: "Pabst was a well known leader of the Free Corps, which successfully prevented the bolshevizing of Germany. In cooperation with Government troops, and often after bloody conflicts, the Free Corps dealt with this first communist aggression."

This official accolade for political assassination is, in the opinion of legal circles in Berlin, a clear offence against article 140 of the German Penal Code, which forbids "acts glorifying murder". Acting on legal advice, Karl Liebknecht's widow, Sophie Liebknecht, who lives today in Berlin has filed charges with the Bonn Prosecutor's Office against State Secretary Felix Von Eckardt, former nazi propagandist who is now head of the Information Office of the West German Government, and therefore responsible for the publication of the "Bulletin."

UNITED STATES - JUSTICE IN MONROE N.C.

The following is extracted from Workers World of April 27th:

On March 28th, J.B. Eller, a prison guard, entered Covington's cell, provoked a fight and shot him "while attempting to escape."

Covington was held on a charge of "secret assault" Actually, he appears to have been involved in a gunfight with the Ku Klux Klan. He is no more guilty of assault than Mae Mallory is guilty of the phoney and ridiculous charge of kidnapping.

The jimcrow justice of the South has moved against Jay Van Covington - almost as fast as it acted against his 15-year-old brother, Richard, who was sent to the reformatory after a five minute conference of an all-white jury.

The brother's "crime": he rescued an English girl from a white mob during last summer's violence against the Afro-American people in Monroe. A policeman was wounded during the scuffle, and the blame for it was pinned on Richard.

Monroe is the same town where two Afro-American children, one seven, the other nine, were sent to the reformatory for unlimited terms for the "crime" of kissing - or being kissed by - a little white girl - age eight. (A protest movement of international proportions finally freed them.)

Monroe is the town where a white man was declared innocent by a court of his "peers" after he had kicked a pregnant hotel chambermaid down a flight of stairs because she had disturbed his slumbers. The chambermaid was Afro-American.

Monroe is the town where Afro-American girls have been raped in broad daylight. The identity of the rapists is generally known. The rapists are white.

ITALY - FOURTH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING IN HELSINKI
YOUTH FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

The Youth organisation of the Italian section of the Fourth International is officially represented in the Italian committee which is organising for the Helsinki festival. This news was published by the paper of the Italian Communist Youth League, "New Generation", in an article headed "8th World Festival of Youth" where it states:

"The 8th World Festival of Youth will take place in Helsinki from the 27th of July to the 5th August, 1962. The following are represented in the Italian preparatory committee: the Italian Students' Union, the Anti Colonial Youth Movement, the Federation of Young Socialists, the Youth Commission of the C.G.I.L. (main T.U. centre)", the Young Communist Federation, the Italian Architectural Students, the Youth Commission of the Co-operative movement, the Peace Committee, the European Anti Fascist movement, the Fourth International Youth..."

"The date of the Festival was announced at a press conference held in Rome on April 6th, present were: Motta for the U.G.I. (students), Scarrone, for the F.G.S. (socialists), Ochetto for the F.G.C.I. (communists) Chiarelli for the Fourth International Youth and the Anti Colonial Youth movement, and Professor Santangelo for the Peace Committee..."

The Youth Festivals are attended by thousands of youth from nearly every country in the world. They are especially important to our movement because of the large participation of youth from the colonial and semi colonial countries and the workers' states.

(Based on I.S. information bulletin report)

"COMMUNIST MANIFESTO TODAY" SELLS WELL

There has been a good sale for the pamphlet "Communist Manifesto Today" announced in the last issue of the Bulletin. Orders have been received, again, from pretty well all over the country. Many of those on receiving the pamphlet have placed further orders including subscriptions to the "Fourth International"

"CLASS NATURE OF THE SOVIET UNION" now available

Held up for some time because of the large outlay necessary for paper, this pamphlet, written by Trotsky to answer ultra left "theoreticians" who disputed his analysis of the Soviet Union, is now ready and selling. Owing to a number of special circumstances groups and tendencies holding "state cap." positions have survived, and even in a limited sense flourished, in Britain. This pamphlet, which demolishes in a very brilliant way these theories, will be very useful to combat the influence of such groups.

HACKNEY PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR 'REORGANISING' LONDON EDUCATION

Comrades will have read about the decision of the Government, in face of tremendous opposition, decision to postpone the operation of its plans for reorganising London's educational system. We reproduce here a report sent in by a comrade from London which gives some idea of the scope of this opposition.

"A general meeting" (of the Hackney Teachers' Association) "attended by some 800 parents and teachers was held on Wednesday April 11th at Hackney Town Hall to protest against the Government's proposals.

The Chairman was Mr. E.L. Fereday.

Speakers were:

Mr. C.A. Pyle, President of the London Teachers' Association;

Mr. Ellis Hillman, L.C.C.;

Mr. P. Holman, M.P.; Mr. D. Weitzman, M.P.;

Alderman L. Sherman, Mayor of Hackney.

At the end of the meeting the following motion was carried unanimously:

"This meeting of parents and teachers of children attending schools in the Boroughs of Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington is confident that the education service at present administered by the London County Council is capable of expansion to meet all the needs of the foreseeable future and would deplore fragmentation of this service by new local government planning."

Copies of this motion are being sent to the Prime Minister, Sir David Eccles, Mr. Henry Brooke, Dr. Charles Hill, Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, London County Council, London Teachers' Association and the Hackney Borough Council.

The Officers and General Committee of the Hackney Teachers' Association wish to thank all who helped to make this meeting such a success."