

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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DECLARATION

ON THE DISSOLUTION
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
COMMUNIST PARTY AND
THE ENTRY OF ITS
MEMBERS INTO THE
LABOUR PARTY

FOR several months the members of the Revolutionary Communist Party have been discussing the current political situation in Britain; what forms the class struggle would take in the next period, and how best the energies and activities of its members could be utilised to further the cause of Socialism?

These problems were the only items on the agenda of a Special National Conference of the R.C.P. held in London on June 4th, 5th and 6th, 1949.

After a two-days debate, this fully representative Conference decided, by a substantial majority, to dissolve the organisation and call upon the members of the Party to enter the Labour Party—to which the majority already pay the Trade Union political levy—as individual members. Within the Labour Party they would carry on the fight for the overthrow of the capitalist system and for a Socialist Britain.

A Committee was elected for the task of winding up the affairs of the R.C.P. and for informing the supporters and friends of the Party of the political reasons which motivated this step by the publication of this statement in a special and final issue of the "Socialist Appeal."

WHILE the Labour Government has introduced a series of economic and political reforms, we do not believe that these reforms have gone far enough, or that they have basically undermined the capitalist structure of the country. The experience of two years of nationalisations has brought to the forefront the problem of workers control and management of the nationalised industries; of further nationalisations and inroads into capitalist enterprise—key questions for a future Socialist development of the country.

There is dissatisfaction among wide sections of the working class with the policy of the Labour Government. They reflect this, however, not by seeking for a new or more revolutionary organisation, but by striving to exert pressure through their established mass political organisation—the Labour Party. They see no alternative in small Left-wing groupings outside that Party. The perspective for Socialists must therefore be to join the ranks of the politically conscious workers inside the Labour Party and try to orientate its policy along truly Socialist lines.

THE Communist Party offers no alternative to Socialist workers. Its policy is not determined by the needs and interests of the working-class, but by the requirements of Russian foreign policy. In Russia there has come into being a nationalist bureaucracy which utilises its own position, not in the interests of Socialism, but to defend its own privileges. To this end it manipulates the policies of the various Communist Parties, including the British Communist Party, which change their policies to suit the needs of Russian foreign policy. Wherever Stalinism is in power it introduces a police state, deprives the workers of the right to strike, the right to free speech and press, the right to vote for candidates of their own choosing; eliminating political opposition from the working class by means of the firing squad and concentration camp. Labour workers must nevertheless never forget that the Russian Revolution was a working class revolution. It abolished landlordism, financial and industrial capitalism. It created the pre-conditions for a planned economy. Despite the depredations of Stalinism, these fundamental economic conditions still remain. The *economic* base of Russia is historically progressive, and therefore should be defended by Socialist workers from the attacks of capitalism, as well as from the plunder of the Russian bureaucracy, which has battered on this nationalised economy.

While combatting Stalinism and its reactionary methods, we oppose any form of red-baiting. We consider that this fight can only take place by counter-posing to Stalinism a genuine Socialist policy. Only a Socialist movement conducting a vigorous struggle against capitalism can defeat Stalinism, and provide the means of winning the rank and file, many of them fine workers, from the leadership of the Communist Party.

AN offensive against capitalism is above all necessary to secure a decisive victory for Labour at the forthcoming General Election and to effectively combat Tory reaction.

The Cripps's Budget, the set-up in the nationalised industries, the excessive profits in private enterprise, the lack of an overall Socialist plan; all this has produced a mood of uncertainty and apprehension among Labour workers. The need for a bolder anti-capitalist policy becomes daily more evident. A Britain with a predominantly capitalist economy will not be able to counter the effects of the coming world slump which will bring in its wake a capitalist

attack upon the Social Services, the standards of the workers, and millions of unemployed. To prevent this the working class must seek to enforce a bold policy which will eliminate the system which breeds these ills.

Such a policy would call for the extension of nationalisation to cover all industry and the land without compensation; it would call for the institution of an overall Socialist plan with control of production, not in the hands of bureaucratic Boards which have no connection with the workers, but by democratically elected workers' and technicians' committees at all levels. As an essential part of Socialist planning all foreign trade must be concentrated in the hands of the State.

Above all, the right must be granted to the colonial peoples to choose their own form of government and British troops must be withdrawn from colonial and foreign soil. An end to secret diplomacy, a peace without reparations based on the self determination of nations, and a struggle for the fraternal unity of the workers and exploited masses of all lands in their fight to overthrow capitalism; for the establishment of a United Socialist States of Europe and for the victory of world Socialism; this is the essential core of an internationalist policy.

We are convinced that the adoption of such a policy will secure a decisive victory for the Labour movement in the coming General Election and gain it the confidence and support of the international working class.

WE would prefer to have the right to enter the Labour Party as an organised body, affiliated in the same manner as the Fabian Society and other organisations. But this is not possible owing to the 1946 decision of the Labour Party regarding organisations seeking affiliation. We have therefore dissolved our organisation and will fight as individual members, within the framework of the Constitution of the Labour Party, for the policy outlined above. By dissolving the Revolutionary Communist Party and entering the Labour Party as individual members we consider we will best play our part in aiding the British workers to reach their Socialist goal. We appeal to all friends and sympathisers to take this step together with us. Our members are confident that by such a step they ensure their fullest participation in the development of the British working class and that in the common struggle for Socialism together with other members of the Labour Party, the correctness of our ideas can be demonstrated.

J. HASTON,

On behalf of the Committee
of Dissolution.