

ADOPT STAND ON RELATIONS BETWEEN MARXIST PARTIES

Following is the report adopted by the Communist Party convention on "Relations between Marxist parties." The report was made by Nenny Sparks, co-chairman of the Party's resolution subcommittee:

With the emergence of socialism as a world system, it has become necessary to recognize, besides the contradiction between the forces of imperialism and the people, a new type of contradiction: a contradiction between socialist countries, or between the Communist parties of different countries.

In the early days before World War I, it was generally thought that national boundaries and national consciousness would disappear with the coming of socialism, but Lenin insisted even before World War I on the continuing importance of the national question.

As it happened, the socialist revolution was not world-wide in 1917, but succeeded in only one country. Since then, socialism has developed within national lines and in a world where national consciousness is stronger than ever. This greatly complicates the problems of proletarian internationalism.

Thus today, despite their common aims and outlook, we find that the unity of the socialist world is by no means automatic. It was chiefly to the solution of this question that the Chinese Communist Party recently devoted their excellent article, and the visits of Chou En-lai to the Soviet Union and the Peoples Democracies.

The method of solution of this contradiction between socialist countries is the method of criticism and struggle, but that criticism must be within the framework of recognition that the fundamental conflict is between the forces of the peoples and the forces of imperialism. It must be admitted that in dealing with this new type of contradiction recently, we made many errors, either confusing the two contradictions, or failing to maintain the primacy of the fundamental contradiction. Undoubtedly it will take some time and further experience for all of us to learn how to handle this new type of question correctly, through all the maze of historical events that characterize the period we live in.

The failure to recognize the complications of the historical development of socialism led also to our uncritical acceptance of the developments in the Soviet Union, and our tendency to accept uncritically the views of Marxists of other countries. We exaggerated the possibilities of a single world view, not recognizing that it can provide only a general guide. This resulted in strengthening doctrinarism on our part, led us to mistrust the observations of our own members working in the field, and hindered the normal development of our theoretical work.

As long ago as July, 1943, the Communist International gave as one of the main reasons for its decision to dissolve, the following judgment:

"The profound difference in the

historical roads of development of each country of the world, the diverse character and even the contradictions in the social order, the difference in level and rate of their social development, and finally the difference in the degree of consciousness and organization of the workers, have also conditioned the various problems which face the working class of each individual country."

How much more true is this today with the vastly greater complications of the situation! Therefore, more than ever, must we be, as Comrade Dennis placed it in his keynote "not only organizationally independent, but ideologically independent."

We should carefully study all criticism and opinions, as we, in a fully responsible way, criticize others, but no opinions from elsewhere can determine our policy.

Only those policies which arise out of our own interpretation and application of our Marxist-Leninist scientific principles to the needs and interests of the American working class and people can be valid for us.

Therefore your committee proposes the adoption of this section of the Draft Resolution, page 57 through the top of Page 59 with only one amendment. This amendment is based on a Resolution by the Illinois State Convention and was adopted unanimously by your committee.

It reads as follows:

"New problems of relations have arisen as a result of the emergence of socialism as a world system comprising a number of national states in place of one encircled socialist country. Serious mistakes and shortcomings in the relations between the USSR and other socialist states—as in the examples of Poland and Hungary—have been revealed. Efforts are being made to correct these mistakes and certain important corrections have been made on the basis of a further development of the Marxist-Leninist principles of proletarian internationalism, national independence and equality. Correction of errors in relationships between socialist states is facilitated by the fact that the fundamental basis of such relations is common ideology, common aims, mutual assistance and cooperation.

International working-class solidarity include the right and responsibility to friendly criticism of brother parties or the actions of socialist governments. At the same time it requires that such criticism shall be within the framework of recognition that the fundamental conflict of all peoples is with the forces of imperialism.