

# World Socialism

## THE FORWARD MARCH OF UNITY; THE COMINTERN CONGRESS

By HERBERT ZAM

In spite of all obstacles, the drive toward revolutionary unity is becoming stronger, and extending into ever new territory. Gradually the organizations which over a long period of years were at each others' throats are beginning to realize that continuation of this situation would only make it possible for the modern jackal-fascism to snatch the victory. And with the growth of this realization, the fear and enmity which had developed among the workers' organizations in these years of civil war is beginning to pale and disappear.

True, suspicions and distrust are still rife. They cannot be overcome so suddenly. Here and there is still manifested the sort of antagonism which has developed almost into a mania in some countries, which resulted in mutual anti-Socialist and anti-communist campaigns, almost to the exclusion of anti-capitalist activities. But on the whole the idea of the need for united action of the workers, for a united revolutionary party, is making headway.

### In Switzerland

From Switzerland comes the news that the Communist Party (Opposition), formerly affiliated with the Brandler-Lovestone international group, has decided to liquidate and join the Socialist Party. The resolution declares that the comrades are convinced that it is the will of the entire working class once more to re-establish a united fighting party.

The strength of the Communist Party (Opposition) of Switzerland was concentrated in the important industrial center of Schaffhausen, where it was in control of the municipal administration, published a daily newspaper, the Arbeiterzeitung, and from which it succeeded in electing Bringolf as a member of Parliament.

### In Spain

In Spain, a new party, The Workers' Party of Marxian Unity, has been formed through the amalgamation of the Iberian Communist Federation (generally known as the Workers' and Peasants Bloc) and the Communist Left. The latter was led by Andres Nin, one of the founders of the Communist International and former adherent of Trotsky. The Workers' and Peasants' Bloc was under the leadership of Jacquin, one of the outstanding figures in the labor movement of Spain.

Both groups had their main strength in Catalonia where the labor movement is legal, the Workers' and Peasants' Bloc being probably the strongest working class political organization in that part of Spain. The new party, in its resolutions, declares that it does not consider itself as the final form of revolutionary unity, but only as a step toward unity. It looks toward an eventual amalgamation of all Marxian groups and parties, both nationally and internationally, and declares its main task to be to promote such amalgamation.

The point of view of the new party is thoroughly revolutionary. On the international front it rejects all ideas of support of military alliance, or of supporting any war, no matter which side Spain might be on.

### In Italy

In Italy, also, the news indicates that the unity breeze is blowing. Recently the emigre sec-

tions of the Italian movement, located in Paris, began negotiations regarding possible unity. The Socialists and the maximalists expressed themselves in favor of general unity. The communists, however, refused to commit themselves. The Socialists thereupon proposed to the maximalists to unite the two organizations and continue to work for more general unity. This the latter refused, saying they did not wish to be swallowed. Negotiations have not been broken off, however, and it is hoped that they will end successfully.

These three cases are in themselves not very important. But they are welcome indications of the trend of developments and the growing pressure of the revolutionary workers.

## The CI Meets

Quietly and without the usual fanfare, the Seventh Congress of the Communist International got under way last week, a little more than five years later than the statutory requirements.

So far only meager information as to its proceedings are available, but they are sufficient to indicate that the new turn in policy, begun with the Franco-Soviet Pact, will be extended on an international scale. The main reporter, Wilhelm Pieck, made this clear when he declared in favor of supporting the government in democratic countries in a war with fascist countries.

"A defensive war by the national bourgeoisie of these countries will be a fair war, in which Communists must take part," he is quoted as having said.

This statement merely confirms the analysis that the Communist International is using the same arguments in preparation for doing what some social-democratic parties had done in 1914. This argument of "defensive war" or "national defense" sounds no sweeter in Pieck's mouth than it did in Noske's.

Another result of this Congress is likely to be the further liquidation of the "red unions," the Red International of Labor Unions and the entire policy of dual unionism. Already the liquidation of the strongest trade unions, the CGTU in France, has been agreed to. Dual unionism will follow "social fascism" into the discard. Now the American Communists are being criticized for having been too harsh in criticism of the American Federation of Labor, for having used the terms "fascist" and "social fascist" indiscriminately. Of course, the CI itself is not responsible—just the bad Americans.

### Look to Socialists

The Congress will probably also lay the ground for a rapprochement with the Socialists and a more extensive use of the latest fad, "peoples front," with or without reason. It is rumored that on Vandervelde's last visit to Paris he discussed with Russian representatives the question of the unification of the two internationals. It is reported even more definitely that Comintern representative appeared before the Prague Central Committee of the German Social Democratic party and proposed a plan for united action and eventual unity.

Like all "new turns," this one also had its scape-goats. Manuil-

## Guards Break French Pay Cut Protest



Squads of mounted guards marched through crowds of French workers and government employees in an attempt to break up a demonstration against forthcoming wage cuts and relief slashes.

## Letters Of A Socialist To His Son—III

By David P. Berenberg

This the third of a series of eight articles by David P. Bernberg, a member of The CALL Editorial Board and an editor of the American Socialist Quarterly.

Dear Karl,

YOU say that life is a struggle for survival, and that the strongest come out on top. Does it occur to you that, even if this is true, the evolution of man is not ended, and that those on top today because of their so-called ability and strength may be toppled from their places by men with other abilities, with other ideas, and with another strength?

You say that the capitalists have reached their places of power by virtue of their qualities. You point out that they had to fight their way to power, that the feudal lords of four and five hundreds years ago stood in their way, and resisted them with all their might. That is true. Socialists never tire of pointing out that fact.

Capitalism is not eternal. It came into power only after a five hundred year struggle with the knights and barons. Why did the capitalists win in that struggle? Was it not because the capitalists represented a higher stage of society than did the aristocrats, the kings of the middle ages?

Was not the society of trade and manufacture, and of commercial agriculture, better fitted to feed and clothe men, than the serf society against which capitalists fought? In their long struggle for power the capitalists re-discovered freedom of speech, freedom of assemblage, democracy in government. Were not these things stronger than the perpetual wars and feuds of the middle ages?

Capitalism built up the big cities, it increased the power of money, it made the palaces of the feudal lords look dingy and cheap. Of course it won. And we Socialists applaud that victory.

### THE OTHER SIDE

BUT now look at the other side of the picture. Capitalism is coming to the end of its usefulness. It produces goods senselessly, and does not know what to do with what it produces. It creates depressions, in which

sky, until recently head of the Comintern, did not make the main report. Together with Kausinen and Lazovsky, he was a little slow in adopting the new orientation and was "erledgit." In Russia the entire Central Committee was removed for resisting the new line and replaced by a specially appointed bureau. Other victims will be found, but the real culprits, the ones who are responsible for everything, will remain at the head and continue their work.

men starve, while pigs are slaughtered to keep up the price of pork, and while corn is allowed to rot in the fields. It goes from depression to depression, and does not see a way out.

It has inaugurated a new period of wars—wars made necessary because the capitalists of all lands want markets, and raw materials, and cheap labor. Those wars are worse than the perpetual wars of feudalism—because they kill off millions, involve the whole world, and have no end. Worse, because the capitalist war machine is a much better killer than the sword and spear of five hundred years ago.

Capitalists created the machine world. It has grown too big for them. They cannot manage it. In their attempt to handle it, they are now trying to destroy the freedom, the democracy which they brought into the world in their rise to power.

Just as the capitalist once challenged the aristocrats, so now the workers challenge the capitalists. The workers say: "You have come to the end of your rope. You are through. Make way for the new society—the society of the workers, in which there will be no slavery of any sort."

### THE CLASS WAR

AND just as the feudal aristocrats fought the capitalists, so the owners of the machine fight the workers. But the workers represent today the higher form of society. Therein lies their strength. Victory did not come to the capitalists without a struggle, nor will it come without a struggle to the workers. But time fights on the side of the workers. The depressions, the wars, which capitalism cannot prevent, the fascist slaveries that it sets up to save its power, these too fight on the side of the workers.

This war that the workers are waging may be won in this generation—or it may be postponed a while. But no effort put forth in it is lost. In the end the workers will everywhere set up their own society.