

Y.C.I. Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Lenin Fought Attempts To Belittle Need of Youth Movement

THE 20th of November, 1934, completed the 15th anniversary from the opening day of the first congress of the Young Communist International. The date of the creation of the Y. C. I. meant the crowning of a long and stubborn struggle of Lenin inside of the workers' movement against the opportunist policies of the parties of the Second International on the questions of the estimation of the role of the youth in the class struggle.

The many years of the struggle of Lenin for the formation of a revolutionary youth organization ended with success. Lenin estimated very highly the significance of the participation of the youth in the political struggle of the working class and he viewed the youth movement as an inseparable part of the general workers' movement. Because of this it is not surprising that Lenin, at the very foundation of our Party called the attention of the Party organizations to the necessity of involving the youth in the political struggle.

At the Second Convention of the Russian Social-Democratic Party, where the Bolshevik Party was created in the bitter struggle, Lenin brought in a special draft resolution on the youth, which recommended all Party organs to help the youth organize. This was at the period when a few western parties of the Second International were preparing to disband their youth organization. During the period of 15 years after this, Lenin struggled with exceptional consistency against the attempts of the reformists to draw the youth away from revolutionary struggle into the swamp of non-political and "cultural" activity.

In many speeches, Lenin taught the youth to recognize their friends and enemies, and helped it build their organizations of revolutionary struggle.

The result of the struggle by Lenin was that many left Socialist youth organizations soon after the October Revolution decisively tore away from social democratic parties and took the road of Communism. With the creation of the Y. C. I., the international youth movement began a new revolutionary step in

its development. It received a program which is based on the principles of Leninism. A clear revolutionary aim and understanding of the Bolshevik methods of applying it turned the youth organizations abroad into a great force.

Terror Against Youth

The young, small Young Communist Leagues were surrounded by a wave of repression and unheard of terror of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie saw symptoms of the coming revolutionary storm in the Y. C. I. pin on the chest of a young proletarian. The bourgeoisie met the appearance of Communist organizations in their countries with court martials, tribunals, with storms of death sentences and hard labor. And only this proves what a dangerous force the Y. C. I. is for the capitalist world.

In the grim struggle, the Young Communist Leagues grew and strengthened. In place of those who are tortured in the torture chambers and police jails, there rise hundreds and thousands of new strugglers, who were filled with the spirit of heroic examples of their brave comrades.

The bourgeoisie, with all their means, were not able to break the spirit of the toiling youth in the struggle for their freedom. Persecution, terror, only hardened the ranks of the Communist Youth.

In Vienna Battles

The best example of this is given by the Austrian Y. C. I. A small sectarian organization until the February, 1934, struggles, it doubled its membership several times after February when it was attacked by the fascist terror.

The Y. C. I. of Germany sturdily withstanding the wave of Medieval terror of the beastly fascists, are showing much more activity than they did before the fascists came into power.

Courage, sturdiness, supreme fidelity to the proletarian revolution—these are the characteristics of the Y. C. I. heroes abroad, who continually raise the authority of the Y. C. I. amongst the broad masses of toiling youth. Even the bourgeois press has not the power to cover up their admiration of the young heroes of the Vienna barricades, the young rebels of Asturias and Catalonia, legendary commanders—Y. C. I.ers, of the Chinese Red Army.

All of this growing authority of the Y. C. I. in capitalist countries is the predecessor of great successes, which were gained in many sections

Youth Necessary Part of Fight Against War and Fascism

of the Y. C. I. in the struggles for the united front.

The heroic Spanish Y. C. I., which showed such an amazing example of revolutionary activity in the uprising, is going on the way of joining all revolutionary youth under the banners of Communism. The Y. C. I. of France in the February struggle continually kept on growing and was able to involve in the united front the majority of the Socialist youth organizations of France.

The American Y. C. I. gained on the basis of the united front great successes in the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of toilers and petty-bourgeois youth in the struggle against capitalism. There are many such examples.

The successes of the sections of the Y. C. I. in the struggle for the united front of the toiling youth is the best proof of the growing might of the Communist youth movement. These successes were gained, thanks to the stubborn struggles of the sections of the Y. C. I. for the line of the Party, for the line of the Comintern.

A living example, by which the Y. C. I.ers of capitalist countries can carry on their work in the winning over of the masses of youth and preparing it for the decisive class struggle, is the Leninist Y. C. I. of the Soviet Union, the closest helper of the Party of Lenin-Stalin, which is loyally fighting for the building of Socialism.

The great interest which is shown by the youth of the Soviet Union to the history of the international youth movement, has its roots in the deep internationalism of the Leninist Y. C. I., as well as in the masses of the toilers of our great country. The 15th anniversary of the Y. C. I. will serve as a new stimulus in the studying of the conditions of the life and the struggles of the Y. C. I. and its history much more deeply.

The best leadership and material in the studying of the history of the international youth movement are the works of Lenin, Stalin, History of the Bolshevik Party, since only they fully and correctly enlighten the question of the history of the workers' movement, of which our youth movement is an inseparable part.