

The Young Communist International, Only Successor of the First Youth International

Manifesto of the E. C. of the Y. C. I. on the 20th Anniversary of
the Founding of the Youth International.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Beginning with this issue, and continuing for an entire week, The DAILY WORKER will print a number of articles on the Youth Movement by many of its well-known leaders. These articles are printed in connection with the Twentieth Anniversary of the Founding of the International of Youth, and the Thirteenth International Youth Day, which are celebrated jointly, by the revolutionary movement in the entire world, in the first two weeks of September.

The Socialist Youth International was founded in August, 1907, at a conference at Stuttgart. Karl Liebknecht was the initiator of this conference and the leading figure at it. Other comrades who are now well-known figures in the Communist Movement today participated. The Socialist Youth International always threw its strength to the militants in the Socialist movement and against the reformists. It was not for nothing that Liebknecht declared in later years, "The youth is the purest flame in the revolutionary movement." When the war came, and the international Socialist movement betrayed the working class, the Youth movement remained loyal to its revolutionary ideals. In September, 1915, in the midst of the bloody war, the Socialist Youth International held a conference in Berne and issued a ringing call to the youth to fight against the war. The first week in September was set aside as a period during which the youth are to rally to the struggle against imperialism and against war.

The Communist Youth International is proud to consider itself the inheritor of the traditions of the Socialist Youth International. Today, in the celebration of International Youth Day, it considers that it can best carry on these traditions, it can best follow the teachings of Liebknecht and of Lenin by marshalling all its forces in the struggle against militarism, against imperialist war, and for the defence of the Soviet Union.

All to the Mass Struggle Against the Imperialist Danger of War!

All to the Demonstration for the International Young Workers!

Young Workers, Soldiers and Sailors!

At the end of August for the 20th time we celebrate the foundation of the Youth International.

In August 1907 (24-26) for the first time representatives of young workers' organizations of different countries met in Stuttgart at an international conference. At this conference the First International Alliance of Youth organizations was formed.

The great question at the Stuttgart Conference was the struggle against imperialism, against imperialist war. It was the stormy revolutionary spirit of Liebknecht that inspired this conference!

The proletarian youth organizations which had been formed spontaneously towards the close of the century in most European countries were the result of struggles against militarism and against capitalist exploitation of young workers and apprentices. They had to fight not only against the bourgeoisie, the officials and police, but also against reformist leaders in the Social Democratic Parties and trade unions who put all obstacles in their way. Rosa Luxemburg and Clara Zetkin were alone in the revolutionary Left wing of the II. International. The Bolsheviks and especially Karl Liebknecht supported from the very beginning proletarian youth organizations.

Karl Liebknecht, the dauntless fighter in the anti-militarist struggle was also President of the Stuttgart Conference. Under the leadership of Karl Liebknecht the first Youth International and its revolutionary program came into being.

Karl Liebknecht, the brave fighter against imperialist war and Socialist treachery, the originator of the slogan: "not class peace but civil war," the leader of the Spartacus and the founder of the Communist Party of Germany at that time issued a clear call to the youth for struggle. The proletarian youth accepted the call for struggle with enthusiasm. During the dark days that ensued, the Youth International remained faithful to Liebknecht's commands and was the brightest star in the fighting revolutionary movement.

It is to the memorable historical credit of the proletarian youth movement that in the days of blackest treachery, the deepest disgrace of the international labor movement, it held aloft the flag of internationalism, of irreconcilable class struggle and many took the lead in the struggle against war.

Proletarian youth organizations learnt the lessons of their struggle against war and reformism at the IV. International Youth Conference in Berlin, 1919. The representatives of a large majority of all youth organizations which had remained together during the most difficult years of the war decided unanimously there to transform the international Union of Socialist Youth Organizations into the Young Communist International.

The Young Communist International, which is the immediate development of the first youth international, works and struggles today in the spirit of the Stuttgart Conference, in the spirit of Karl Liebknecht, the memorable leader of the international youth movement.

Today this struggle is more pressing than ever.

Just today on the anniversary of the Stuttgart conference it is more necessary than ever to remind young workers of the teachings of the world war and to hold aloft the revolutionary tradition of the international proletarian youth movement.

The danger of a new world war is nearer than ever. For months imperialists have been and are carrying on intervention in China. British imperialism is preparing war against the Soviet Union, it leads and supports white guard attacks on Soviet Russia, organizes an economic blockade against the Soviet Union and is working perseveringly for the creation of an imperialist war front against the only workers' State in the world. Preparations for war are being carried on feverishly. Capitalists are

preparing the complete subjection of the labor movement in future wars by the new reactionary laws.

War Is the Order of the Day.

Young Social Democrats just like the old deny the great danger of war. They even continue their agitation and campaign of lies against the Soviet Union more intensely and thus help the bourgeoisie to surprise the workers with the new war and to mobilize against their Russian brothers.

They Prepare a Second 1914.

This time their inactivity is still more criminal, their treachery more disgraceful. Now it is a question of the Soviet Union, the fatherland of the workers of all countries, the liberation struggle of the Chinese people is at stake.

Young workers, comrades!

Do you want to participate in this treachery?

Never!

They know today that you are not to be deceived so easily. Therefore the Social Democratic leaders, those same people who were fought during and after the war like a pestilence by Liebknecht and the Youth International, who have ever kept away from international class and the youth international, who have betrayed a hundred times proletarian internationalism and the principles of the Stuttgart Conference, these people today under an appearance of joy celebrate the Stuttgart Conference as the descendants of the Youth International.

How ridiculous and incredible is such a pretension? Ask the Social Democratic Youth leaders where they were in 1914-1918 when the Youth International of Stuttgart was fighting, ask them what they did in 1919 when the same International joined the Communist International, ask them what they did with Liebknecht, how they carried out the decisions of Stuttgart and what they are doing today against imperialist war and for the demands of the youth workers! Make them answer you why they today, who are celebrating the Youth International which is effective throughout the whole world under the title of the "Young Communist International," why they are besmirching it and reject any kind of joint struggle with it!

These are the people who never have had anything in common with our Youth International and the spirit which inspires it, who on the contrary are its greatest opponents,—reformists.

The Young Communist International calls on you on the occasion of the anniversary of the Stuttgart conference and the XIII. International Youth Day—inaugurated during the war as the international day of struggle of young workers—to strengthen your struggle against imperialist war and the attacks of capitalism. It calls on you to celebrate these days by demonstrations, manifestos against war preparations and on behalf of the Soviet Union.

Celebrate with us the international struggle week August 28-Sept. 8 and the XIII. International Youth Day, Sept. 4.

Come to the international demonstration of the Y. C. I. on August 28 in Stuttgart! Demonstrate for struggle under the banner of Karl Liebknecht, under the Communist International!

We do not believe that with the celebration of such days everything is attained, but we believe that they serve to rouse the young workers for mass struggle and to fidelity to the teachings of Lenin and Liebknecht:

For the economic and political demands of young workers!

Against reaction and Fascism!

Against imperialist war preparations!

For the Chinese revolution!

For the defence of the Soviet Union!

For the fraternization of soldiers!

For the overthrow of our imperialist governments and victory of our Socialist fatherland, the Soviet Union!

For the transformation of imperialist war into victorious revolution!

For the Young Communist International!

Executive Committee of the Young Communist International.