

# The Communist International Is Against Mass Emigration to Soviet Russia

By ISRAEL AMTER

The Fourth Congress of the Communist International took a definite stand on the question of emigration to Soviet Russia. The Congress unanimously adopted a resolution on relief for Soviet Russia, which contained the following point (Point 5):

"The emigration of foreign workers to Russia should be confined to individual special workers who are specially needed in industry. But even in these individual cases, the workers should be procured only with the knowledge and approval of the Russian trade unions. At the present stage of Russian economic life, mass emigration of foreign workers to Soviet Russia would mean no support but only a hindrance in the reconstruction of Russia. Under no circumstances, therefore, is it to be encouraged."

This resolution speaks clearly and definitely. There is not the slightest doubt as to its meaning nor does it allow of any interpretation. Soviet Russia is not in a position to accept large numbers of workers. The industries are not yet working in such order that workers of capitalist countries who depend on the use of machinery and are accustomed to a different mode of life, can easily be utilized.

Revolution is revolution. The Russian Revolution has had to suffer as all revolutions suffer—but only to a higher degree. Not only did Soviet Russia have to fight for four years against every kind of counter-revolutionary plot, band and army, fitted out and maintained by the capitalist governments; not only did Soviet Russia have to suffer the hell of the blockade and of the famine; not only were factories and mines destroyed by the "civilized," "Christian" hordes of the counterrevolutionaries; but worst of all, the Proletarian Revolution was sabotaged by the intelligentsia—by the technicians and experts who were highly necessary for the reconstruction of Russia on the new basis. The economic blockade which still exists, and which prevents Soviet Russia from procuring the immense quantities of goods, particularly machinery, which she needs in order to build up economic life, is the last link in the chain of obstruction, with which the capitalist governments, including America, have endeavored to throttle the young Workers' Republic.

The resolution passed by the Fourth Congress of the Third International is of considerable significance to American workers. Up to the present, there has been a great deal of confusion on the question of emigration to Soviet Russia. Large numbers of workers have been filled with the idea that, despite the adverse conditions under which Soviet Russia is trying to rebuild her industries, unlimited numbers of workers

in other countries who are disgusted with capitalist exploitation and seek freedom from it, may emigrate to Russia. This is especially true since the inauguration of the Kuzbas venture. Not only was the truth about conditions not told, but little care was taken in the selection of the proper workers. The result has been, according to information, that Kuzbas has not succeeded and will have to be put on an entirely different basis.

These should have been self-evident truths to any student of revolution and of the primitive industrial conditions obtaining in Soviet Russia. The recent convention of the Workers Party was the first to take cognizance of the actual conditions and to pass a resolution against mass emigration.

The resolution of the Fourth Congress indicates clearly not only that mass emigration and propaganda for mass emigration must cease, but also that technicians, skilled mechanics and experts should be sent over only upon previous agreement with the Russian trade unions, which occupy a very high place in the Soviet Government and best know the economic needs of the industries and of the country.

## An Open Letter from the Communist International

Next week THE WORKER will publish in full the "Open Letter" issued by the Fourth World Congress of the Communist International, speaking in the name of 62 Communist parties in as many countries in Europe, America, Asia and Australia. This "Open Letter" is addressed to the Second International, the Vienna Working Union, to the Trade Unions of All Countries, and to the Hague International Conference of Trade Unions and Co-operatives. Every thinking worker should be given an opportunity to read this "Open Letter". It applies to the United States as well as to every other country. Get a bundle of THE WORKER of this issue and distribute them.