

World Socialism

INTERNATIONAL LABOR UNITY

By HERBERT ZAM

WE have received a number of requests for information regarding the action of the last meeting of the Executive Labor and Socialist International on the question of the united front with the communists.

As at least one Socialist weekly in this country reported that the Executive had definitely rejected the united front, we give below the complete section of the official report dealing with this question:

"The French section of the LSI had proposed that the question of establishing contact between the LSI and the Communist International be placed on the agenda for the Executive with a view to an examination of the conditions for common action in the international sphere in opposition to war and Fascism and in defense of democratic liberties.

"The Executive decided to place the question upon the agenda for its next meeting and instructed the Secretariat of the LSI to submit to it, as soon as the reports and resolutions of the seventh congress of the CI are published in full, a written report on the changes which have occurred in the CI as compared with the attitude expressed in the "Twenty-one Conditions" and especially in regard to the appreciation of the importance of the democratic rights and liberties."

UNITED FRONT IN BELGIUM

THE sentiment for united action between Socialists and communists in the fight against war and fascism continues to grow. The latest addition to the ranks of countries where there is a united front is Belgium.

This is all the more significant in view of the fact that in Belgium the Labor Party (Socialist) is very strong and is participating in a coalition government, while the Communist Party is very weak. The establishment of a united front here shows that numbers alone are no decisive factor. A united front has a political significance quite apart from its numerical strength.

The details of the united front are as follows:

In the beginning of September, the Labor Party organized a series of big mass protest demonstrations in connection with the Italian-Ethiopian conflict. The communists in a whole series of districts approached the local organizations and asked to be included in the demonstrations. They were informed that this was not a local question but had to be decided upon nationally. They thereupon sent a delegation to the Labor Party central committee, which accepted the delegation and listened to its proposals. The delegation was told that all arrangements for the demonstrations had been completed and could not be changed.

In Favor of Unity

However, the central committee declared that it was in favor of common action with the communists and with all workers against war and fascism. It was therefore decided, as a demonstration of unity, that at every Labor Party mass meeting a statement of the Communist Party be read. Each local organization can decide for itself whether this statement be read by the chairman of the meeting or by a representative of the Communist Party. In Brussels arrangements have been made for a representative of the CP to participate in all meetings of the Labor Party.

This is the first time since the

split that any sort of common action between older Socialists and communists have taken place in Belgium. Youth organizations have already participated in common action.

SWISS SUSPEND UNITY CONFERENCES

UNITED front negotiations in Switzerland between Socialists and communists have been temporarily suspended. The Socialist central committee has sent the following letter to the communists:

"We have decided to postpone further negotiations regarding the united front until we see the results of the negotiations between the LSI and the CI. A firm international base will create the possibility of overcoming the fatal results of the split. We hope that in the meanwhile the CP will do nothing which will make it more difficult for us to continue the planned negotiations for liquidating the split..."

A special congress of the Swiss Socialist Party was called for September 22. The main work before the congress was the adoption of a Program of Action.

CZECH SOCIALISTS ON THE COMINTERN

THE central committee of the German Social - Democratic Party in Czechoslovakia adopted the following resolution on the changes in communist tactics adopted at the seventh congress of the CI.

"The world congress of the CI has recognized the necessity of defending bourgeois democracy and to adopt the proletarian tactics in every country to the conditions in that country. The communists have thereby recognized the correctness of Social-Democratic tactics which they fought bitterly for years; they have thereby condemned their own splitting tactics and their struggle against 'social fascism.'"

"The central committee regrets that this recognition, which would in a previous period have avoided much misfortune for the labor movement, has come only (now) when forced by the interests of the diplomacy of the Soviet Union.

"The central committee declares that this change, which now brilliantly confirms the correctness of the Social-Democratic point of view, must now be seriously taken into consideration. Nevertheless, the C. C. cannot gloss over the fact that the communists are not yet ready to draw the necessary consequences in their relations to Social-Democracy. Their recognition of the Republic and of democracy, particularly among the Czech communists, is not free from reservations which are not acceptable to the parties of democratic Socialism.

"The communists have not yet openly declared their readiness to support Social-Democratic policies. They still maintain that Social-Democracy is responsible for the hegemony of the bourgeois parties and for the suffering of the working-class in the economic crisis. They thus continue to spread lack of faith in democratic policies which they claim they are ready to defend..."

"The central committee therefore calls upon all Party organizations to firmly adhere to Party discipline and to reject all separate actions."