

# Workers of All Races, of All Nationalities Rally Under the Banner of the Red International of Labor Unions!

## FORWARD TO THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEGRO TOILERS!

On July 1st in London will be convened the first International Conference of Negro toilers. The Conference will meet in a historic moment in the development of Negro liberation struggles, in a period of rising mass struggles of Negro toilers in all parts of the world against the brutal yoke of imperialist oppression.

The millions of downtrodden and inhumanly oppressed Negro toilers in both Africa and the Americas have been definitely drawn into the maelstrom of revolutionary ferment at present embracing the toiling masses of all countries and which is manifested with particular sharpness in the colonies.

In Africa this period has been accompanied by a series of mass revolts breaking out in Congo, Nigeria, Lower Sudan, the strike of the militant workers in Gambia, the tremendous upsurge of revolutionary national and class struggles in South Africa, revealed in the growing strike wave among the Negro workers, mass political demonstrations, revolutionary violation of slave laws imposed by the government of arch reactionary Boers and British imperialists, and in the development of widespread revolutionary boycott movement. In the West Indies we witnessed the heroic uprising of the toilers and students of Haiti against the predatory policy of American imperialism, strikes in Martinique, Porto Rico and Cuba. In the USA is to be noted an increased political awakening of Negro toilers as manifested in their active participation in economic strikes and political demonstrations along with the white workers, the influx of Negro workers into the revolutionary trade unions, etc. The Negro toilers goaded to desperation by the increased encroachments of the imperialists upon their already unbearable conditions are everywhere rising in revolutionary struggle.

Such is the general environment in which the London Conference will take place.

1. Of tremendous importance at the present time is the question of leadership, i. e., conscious direction of these struggles. The struggles of the Negro toilers are in the main of a spontaneous and unorganised character. In many cases the Negro movement is in the hands of the reformists who betray the masses at every step. The Conference must lay the bases for the formation of an international fighting organisation capable of organising, uniting and conducting the struggles of the Negro toilers in all parts of the world against imperialism.

2. Of paramount importance is the question of linking up the struggles of the Negro toilers with those of the toilers of other nationalities and races. At the present time the struggles of the Negro toilers are taking place in the main outside of the influence of and with little or no connection with the international revolutionary labour movement. In this manner the Negro workers are deprived of the assistance of the more advanced and experienced workers of Europe and America. The Negro workers must become conscious of the fact that their struggles are not the struggles of the Negroes alone, but that they are an integral part of the revolutionary upsurge of the toiling masses of all nations taking place in the present period as a result of the ever deepening crisis of world capitalism and the consequent efforts of the imperialists to place the main burden of the crisis upon the toilers in general. The struggles of the Negro masses are therefore inseparably connected with the deepening revolutionary ferment among the Indian toilers as manifested in recent strikes of the Indian textile and railroad workers, the tremendous revival of the

Chinese Revolution, the heroic revolt of the Arabian masses in Palestine and finally, with the growing revolutionary offensive of the toilers in the advanced capitalist countries of Europe and America. All of these struggles are directed against the common foe - imperialism. It is obvious that the struggles of the Negro toilers cannot be effective, they cannot achieve the maximum results unless consciously linked up with those of the toilers of other nations. The united front of imperialist reaction must be opposed by the united front of revolutionary struggles. Therefore, one of the chief tasks of the conference must be the working out of measures for concerted action of Negro toilers with the oppressed and exploited toilers of other races and nations.

3. The Conference must devote particular attention to the economic struggles of the Negro toilers. It must work out plans for the coordination of these struggles. It must wrest the leadership of these struggles from the reformists whose role is to conduct them into channels of legality and agreement with the bosses. The reformist slogan of industrial peace must be opposed by the slogan of revolutionary struggle for better living conditions, against rationalisation and speed-up, against unemployment and mass lockouts, for increased wages and the shortening of the working day, for equal pay for equal work regardless of race, nation or sex. These struggles must be linked up with the struggle against all forms of political oppression and against all forms of slave exploitation such as forced labour, peonage, etc. The Conference must work out definite plans for the connecting of the struggles of the workers up with those of the revolutionary peasantry.

The struggles of the Negro masses cannot be conducted properly as long as the Negro toilers remain in their present unorganised state. In all countries they are in the main unorganised and therefore at the mercy of their exploiters. A large percentage of the few unions and workers' organisations existing among them, are in the hands of reformist lackeys of imperialism. Therefore, the Conference must seriously approach the question of the organisation of revolutionary trade unions, and peasant organisations among the Negro toilers and the organisational linking of these up with similar organisations of workers and peasants of other nations. The carrying out of this task is at the same time an essential step towards consistent leadership of the Negro liberation struggles.

4. The Conference must devote serious attention to the question of combatting the influence of national reformism among the Negro toilers. Reformism as represented in the imperialist countries by the Social-Democratic parties, including the British Labour Party and its "Left" shield the Independent Labour Party, as well as the Amsterdam International, A.F. of L., etc, has its counterpart in Negro reformism, which latter presents one of the greatest obstacles in the development of the Negro liberation struggle.

The carriers of reformism among Negroes in all countries are those sections of the Negro middle classes and intelligentsia who corrupted by imperialist bribes and frightened by the growing militancy and class consciousness of the Negro workers have deserted the Negro liberation struggles. In this connection suffice it to mention the base treachery of Kadeli who sold out the Industrial Commercial Union of the native toilers of South Africa to the imperialists and the dastardly betrayal of the union of Sleeping Car Porters in the United States by Randolph,

However, the most subtle and therefore the most dangerous type of reformism is Garveyism. Garveyism utilises the feelings of mutual sympathy which exist between Negro toilers in all parts of the world by virtue of their common exploitation and oppression, not in the interest

to the Negro toilers, but for the purpose of promoting reactionary utopias of the Negro bourgeoisie. "Back to Africa" means the substitution of revolutionary struggles of the Negroes all over the world by the utopian illusion of a "peaceful return to Africa" and the establishment of a "free" Negro nation under imperialism. The continued rise of the Negro liberation movement will serve to drive the representatives of the above tendencies more and more into the camp of reaction and against the Negro masses. The Conference must carry out the relentless exposure of these elements. Only the Negro workers in cooperation and alliance with the workers of other nations and races can furnish consistent revolutionary leadership to the struggles of the Negro masses for immediate demands and for final liberation.

5. The question of the war danger and the defence of the Soviet Union assumes particular importance in the present period. The deepening world crisis sharpens the danger of war among the imperialist powers and particularly against the Soviet Union the fatherland of the world's exploited and oppressed.

War to the Negro masses can only mean the tightening of the shackles of imperialism upon them.

Therefore, the Conference must give serious attention to this question. It must lay the basis for the widest propaganda among the Negro toilers directed towards exposing the sinister war plans of the imperialists.

The present period is one of tremendous historic importance for the Negro masses all over the world. Therefore, the London Conference must mark a new era in the development of Negro liberation struggles. The Negro workers must give the fullest support to this conference. **All proletarian organisations, trade unions, shop groups and committees, must immediately select delegates to participate in this historic event. All sympathetic organisations should send their fraternal delegates.**

Negro workers forward to the London Conference !

For further information regarding the International Negro Labor Conference apply to :

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