

Italian Confederation of Labour Joins the R. I. L. U.

The Italian delegation submitted the following declaration to the Congress:

Comrades! The III. Conference of the Italian Federation of Labour resolved unanimously to join the R.I.L.U. officially and unconditionally. With proletarian pride and glowing enthusiasm, our delegation brings the Congress the official notice that the old class organisation, representing the whole Italian proletariat, joins the R.I.L.U. This step is the result of long years of struggle on the part of the Italian proletariat against the reformist trade union bureaucrats, who, supported by the bourgeoisie and aided by Fascist Terror, forced the Federation to join the Amsterdam International against the will of the Italian workers. D'Aragona, Rigola, and other renegades and former leaders of our Federation have now gone over openly into the service of Fascism, whilst others (Buozzi and his consorts) are abroad combating our Federation and therewith the Italian working class, and are seeking to create reserves for Italian capitalism. All of them boast cynically of the defeat caused to the Italian proletariat by their treachery. The different phases of the struggle of capitalism and social democracy against the Italian proletariat teach valuable lessons to the workers of all countries. When the whole Italian proletariat faced great revolutionary struggles, the former reformist leaders pretended willingness to join the R.I.L.U., but maintained communications with their worthy counterparts from Amsterdam. When we workers from town and country took possession of the factories and the land, the former reformist leaders pretended to take part in this revolutionary action. But at the same time they collaborated in secret with the bourgeoisie and the government

towards the capitulation of the workers. And when we were fighting the Fascist bands with weapons in our hands, the social democratic leaders signed the disgraceful peace agreement with Fascism. As soon as the Italian proletariat had been defeated, the reformist leaders went over openly to Fascism, and abandoned the working class to the unrestricted exploitation and the bloody dictatorship of capitalism. This is the goal towards which social democracy is anxious to lead the proletariat all over the world.

Now that the Italian proletariat is once more taking up an energetic struggle against the Fascist regime of blood and terror, we see the social democratic leaders on the other side of the barricade, side by side with the capitalists. Our Federation, led by the revolutionary proletariat, joins the R.I.L.U.

All Italian workers—including those who till recently were under the influence of the social democrats—have declared themselves, unanimously and enthusiastically, in favour of immediate and unconditional affiliation to the R.I.L.U. The separation of our Federation from the R.I.L.U., forced upon us by the former reformist leaders in 1921 was the beginning of the defeat of the Italian proletariat. The enthusiastic affiliation to the R.I.L.U. on the desire of the whole of the Italian workers, determined to continue the struggle against the employers and against Fascism under any circumstances, is the beginning of the decisive struggle for the overthrow of Fascism and the triumph of the cause of the proletariat

Long live the Italian Confederation of Labour! Long live the Red International of Labour Unions!