

# TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

## Open Letter from the P. P. T. U. S. to the Indian Proletariat.

The Trade Union Congress in Bombay is taking place at a critical stage in the development of the national-  
emancipation and revolutionary movement of India. At this stage, the true role and nature of all class forces, both revolutionary and counter-revolutionary, stand out crystal-clear, serving as the unmistakable guides for organisation and action by the Indian proletariat, which together with the Indian peasantry constitute the main driving force of the Indian revolution, and the only two classes capable of organising and leading a consistent and uncompromising struggle against British Imperialism for the complete independence of India, and for the liberation of the working class from the yoke of capitalism.

The phenomenal extension and intensification of the revolutionary emancipation movement in India has unmasked all the counter-revolutionary elements and forces working with British Imperialism and against the Indian Revolution, both nationally and internationally.

It suffices to point to the recent sessions of the Executive of the Second International at Zuerich, where the social-fascist representatives of all countries without a word of criticism approved the blood-and-iron policy of the MacDonald Government in India, and where the "left" social-fascists of the I.L.P. (Messrs. Brockwey & Co.) silently acquiesced. Like the Chinese Revolution, and the revolutionary movements in Indo-China, Indonesia, Korea, etc. so the Indian revolutionary and anti-imperialist movement has revealed to the whole world the counter-revolutionary nature and activities of the Second and Amsterdam Internationals (beginning with their open struggle against the First Workers Republic of the USSR, and ending with their open cooperation with the counter-revolutionary Kuomintang in China and with the British Imperialists in India).

It is at this stage of development of revolutionary events in India and on the occasion of the forthcoming Trade Union

Congress in Bombay that the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat once more takes the opportunity of addressing itself to the Indian working class and of expressing in the first place, the international revolutionary solidarity of the toiling masses of the Pacific with the revolutionary emancipation movement of India and with its organised vanguard — the revolutionary Trade Unions of India.

At this very moment the **Chinese workers and peasants**, under the leadership of the All-China Labour Federation, are engaged in a life and death struggle with the Chinese counter-revolution which, like the Indian bourgeoisie and feudal lords, are also in alliance with the imperialists against the working class and peasants. At this very moment, dozens of districts in Central and Southern China are occupied by the Workers' and Peasants' Red Armies; the Soviets, the Workers' and Peasants' own organs of power and government, have displaced the old rotten militarist and feudal system in these districts, and the struggle is on for the reinforcement of the existing Soviet Bases and for their extension to the whole of China. The agrarian revolution, the confiscation of the Landowners' land and its distribution among the peasantry, is an accomplished fact in the Soviet Districts; the Eight Hour Day, Workers' Control and Social and Labour Legislation are also facts; delegates are being elected by the workers and peasants throughout China to the forthcoming All-China Soviet Congress. It is in the name of these real, living and growing and unvanquishable forces of the Chinese Revolution that we are sending you our proletarian greetings and expression of international revolutionary solidarity.

At this very moment the workers and peasants of **Indo-China** are also engaged in a life and death struggle against French imperialism. Whole districts and provinces have risen in revolt against the bloody regime of the French imperialists and the native oppressors and blood-suckers. There too the revolutionary peasant masses are beginning to form Soviets, and under the leadership of the proletariat is bringing the Indo-Chinese anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement to a higher phase of development. It is in their name that we send you revolutionary greetings and expressions of solidarity. Also in the name of the **Korean**, and **Formosan** revolutionary working class fighting ceaselessly against Japanese Imperialism. Also in the name of the militant **Filipino** proletariat and peasants who under the banner of the Pan-Pacific TU Secretariat and of the RILU are carrying on the revolutionary struggle against American Imperialism and against their native bourgeoisie.

In the struggle against Imperialism, against capitalism, for the liberation and complete independence of India and for the liberation of the Indian workers and peasants from both foreign and native oppression and exploitation, two conditions are absolutely essential for success: 1) a clear-cut working class programme and policy based on the uncompromising class struggle; and 2) international proletarian solidarity and joint action by the toiling masses of the colonial and semi-colonial countries in alliance with the revolutionary proletariat of the capitalist and imperialist countries.

In regard to the first task — a clear-cut working class programme and action based on the uncompromising and consistent class struggle: — This means: — Recognising the leading role of the working class in the Indian Revolution, it is necessary to break loose the trade union and political organisations of the working class from the organisations and influence of the national bourgeoisie; the special class interests of the Indian proletariat in the revolution demand not only the recognition of the treacherous, anti-proletarian and therefore counter-revolutionary nature and role of the Indian National Congress, but especially the treacherous role and for us most dangerous "left" elements of the Congress whose function it is to deceive and mislead the working class into serving the class interests of the bourgeoisie and to prevent independent class action by the proletariat, but also the active struggle against these our class enemies. It means that the class-conscious Indian workers must fight to the death all those labour traitors who split or attempt to split the ranks of the working class and the trade unions (Joshi, Chommu Pan, Pathak, Shree, Das) who in their struggle against the Left Wing allied themselves with the British "Labour" imperialists and with the Amsterdam International. It means also that the Indian workers must combat and get rid of all those in their ranks who in any way oppose or hinder the carrying out of an independent class policy with independent

working class organisation and action (to remove and get rid of such traitors as Kandalkara of the revolutionary and hence Ginni Kamgar). Instead of being misled and misled by the national bourgeoisie and national reformists in their own class interests, the Indian proletariat must, through independent class action and organisation completely isolate the national reformists from the revolutionary mass movement, and must take over complete leadership of workers' and peasants' mass movements and struggles against imperialism and the native oppressors and exploiters.

It is in the process of organised struggle for the interests of the working masses that the Trade Unions and independent political organisations of the working class are created and strengthened. The widest masses must be mobilised for the struggle for increased wages, the Eight Hour Day, for social legislation, Unemployment insurance (solely at the cost of the State and Employers), the protection of Women and Youth Workers (Equal pay for equal work, and safeguarding the special interests of the young and female workers). The systematic development of economic struggles for the vital, daily interests of the toiling masses must be linked with the political demands and slogans and the general class demands of the working class (struggle against imperialism, complete independence, the right to organise, freedom of speech press and assembly for the revolutionary organisations of the working class, the liberation of the working class prisoners — Meerut — etc.). This struggle should culminate in a **General Strike** of all the workers in the most important industries and enterprises. This General Strike, if well prepared and if made the persistent slogan of the Trade Unions, will show and make felt the mighty force of the proletariat as a class force, and will be a great step forward in the development of the Indian Revolution. This struggle of the industrial proletariat and of the city toilers must be closely coordinated with the struggle of the millions of poor peasantry to carry out the agrarian revolution on the land. Only in close alliance with the peasantry, and leading the peasantry, will the Indian proletariat fulfill its historic revolutionary functions successfully.

The establishment of **Revolutionary Trade Unions** is of extreme importance. The **Ginni Kamgar** bears evidence to the fact that the establishment of Red class unions founded on the Factory and Shop Committees, meets with the support of the working masses. The necessity of their establishment becomes still more obvious in view of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the Indian proletariat are still unorganised. (The Miners are outside of any organisation, the plantation labourers and agricultural workers are unorganised, the majority of the workers in the other industries — metal and textile — are also unorganised). The Red Trade Unions must be built up on the industrial principle (One Industry — One Union), and based on the Factory or Shop Committee elected by all the workers of any given enterprise. The Red Trade Unions will affiliate with the All-Indian Trade Union Congress after it will have been purged of all extreme Right elements. In alliance with the revolutionary oppositions within the national-reformist unions, the Red trade unions should strive for the transformation of the T.U. Congress into a militant class centre independent of the national bourgeoisie and under the leadership of the revolutionary Trade Unions. All national or race prejudices which until now have been deliberately fostered by the imperialists and their agents, must be overcome and the Red Unions should unite the workers irrespective of creed or race.

A very serious problem is that of leadership and cadres. The trade unions must be systematically purged of all anti-proletarian elements and the best and most active workers from the shops and factories trained and placed at the head of the trade unions and other proletarian organisations.

It is in the spirit of international class solidarity, in the interest of the successful struggle against imperialism and the native exploiters and oppressors, that the Pan-Pacific T.U. Secretariat calls upon the workers of India and their militant trade union organisations to join up in one united revolutionary front with the millions of toilers in the other colonial and semi-colonial countries, and with the revolutionary proletariat of the capitalist and imperialist countries. To do this by declarations alone is obviously insufficient. Against our common class enemy we must

rganise and fight jointly. We therefore appeal once more to you to have your trade unions join up with the Pan-Pacific Workers' U. Secretariat for joint action against imperialism and against capitalism and their agents within our own ranks. The growing danger of new imperialist war especially the danger of an imperialist attack on the First Workers' Republic of the USSR, which in contrast to the deep world crisis of the capitalist world is actually building up socialism and improving the conditions of the working class — which is the ruling class — the need for a united proletarian front of the toilers of the Pacific is ever more urgent. Recent revelations by counter-revolutionary agents of the French and British governments show clearly that the imperialist powers are actively and constantly preparing an armed attack on Soviet Russia, the only fatherland of the international proletariat. This must be averted by a united revolutionary anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist front of the workers of the Pacific and of all countries. Only the class war can and will prevent another bloody imperialist war.