

The Second Congress of the Young Communist International.

Immediately after the Third Congress of the Communist International the Second Congress of the Young Communists' International will open in Moscow. The object of the present article is to deal briefly with the fundamental tasks of the Young Communists' International and, consequently, of its Second Congress. These tasks emanate from the general political situation and from the position of the International Young Communist movement itself.

4. The next highly important task of the Congress is to establish a rigid line on the question of the inter-relations between the Communist Parties and the Young Communist Leagues.

The bitter dregs of the pre-war period of social-democratic guardianship over the young movement has remained in the rank of the latter. During the war the revolutionary organisations of youth finally broke with the social-traitor parties, and owing to the absence of Communist parties were objectively forced to carry out the functions of the latter. This still more deepened the distrust among the revolutionary youth of the organisations of their elders and of the idea of the independence of the young workers movement.

The Berlin Congress made a step forward from this idea, which, never revolutionary, has now, under the altered circumstances resulting from the establishment of Communist parties, become counter revolutionary. The Congress recognised it as obligatory for the young workers organisations to have a communist program and the necessity of organisational contact between the young communist Leagues and the Parties.

The theses adopted by the Executive Committee of the Communist International concerning this question has placed it on a sound foundation.

Nevertheless they did not react sufficiently concretely on the actual inter-relations in separate countries. There must be a new authoritative resolution of the Second Congress of the Young Communists' International on this point. The precise inter relations between the party and the league in each country of course, depends on the local conditions. But the International of Youth should take up a correct stand on this question and should:

- 1) extirpate the ideology of the movement of the youth for absolute independence and change it to political subordination (by no means excluding the discussion of political question) and organisational contact, without infringing the self-activity of the movement, and with the parties,
- 2) exercise greater influence, during everyday work, in effecting closer relations between the Party and the League in each country.

5. Of great importance in the political activities of the Young Communist International, and perhaps of decisive importance, is the relations between the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International and that of the Third Communist International. The political leadership of the latter is not being carried out in sufficient measure. The Young Communist International up till now does not have any well-regulated contact with the Communist International, whereas the leadership of the latter is indispensable to the Young Communist International, as an *international* organisation much greater than any communist party.

It is quite understood that, parallel with the five points formulated above, the agenda of the Congress contains many other not less important questions, such as: the peasant youth, the intelligensia, educational work of the young organisations, work among the colonial peoples, work among the children, and a number of minor organisational questions, to deal with which in detail would occupy too much space.

In any case the II Congress of the Young Communist International is faced with great tasks, the proper solution of which will signify the turning point in the history of the International young workers movement.

We hope that the Second congress of the Young Communist International, which is gathering in one of the most difficult moments in the development of the world revolution and in the life of the Russian Soviet Republic, will consider the political circumstances, carefully verify the experience of the preceding activities of the Young International and indicate the correct path for the further development of the Young International movement.

The importance of the Congress and the complexity of the tasks confronting it should induce the Communist International and all the delegates of Communist Parties to pay special attention to the World Congress of their vanguard and their future relief force.

L. Shatskin.

1. The remnants of the centrist young peoples organisations are now endeavoring to establish a two and a half young socialist international. It is hardly likely that the latter will have much influence among the broad masses of young workers in the various countries (Austria excepted). At the same time social-patriotic organisations of youth still enjoy a certain influence in a few countries (especially in Germany, Holland and Belgium). They are now setting up their Yellow International of Youth which they say, unites about 120,000 members of various organisations. Of this number 60,000 belong to the German organisation "Young Labour". It should be stated that the members of these organisations (at any rate in the above mentioned countries) could not be called conscious social-patriots, for they can be pulled out of the mud if they are released from the organisational fetters of the social-patriotic leagues. The fight against the Yellow International is the most important task of the Young International in the immediate future. Success in this field can be attained, first of all through a vigorous economic struggle (especially in view of the influence wielded by the social-patriots over the young workers through the reactionary trade unions), more of which will be said below. But all methods of political struggle as well should be set going to destroy this, at present the chief enemy of the Young Communist International.

2. Until recently the young communist organisations were carrying on, almost exclusively, political work in the narrow sense of the word. While continuing to carry on their work for attaining definite political results, they should now take up the economic struggle as well.

The Second Congress should work out in detail the clause of the program adopted at the Berlin Congress, which deals with the economic position of the working youth and adopt a precise economic program, the basic principles of which should be the reorganisation of young labour on socialist lines. The watchwords for the moment should be worked out concretely and in detail. Of utmost importance is the question of using them for revolutionary advantage. This constitutes the fundamental task of the 'Young Communists' International on this question.

3 In view of the new tasks that the labouring youth are taking upon themselves, the establishment of special economic organisations would undoubtedly be unnecessary and unprofitable from the point of view of the young communist movement.

The mere aping of the position in the labour movement should be opposed by converting the young communist leagues into mass organisations of the working youth. Up till now our organisations in no way differed (politically) from party organisations, whereas their role in the proletarian revolution is different from that of party.

They are schools of communism (schools where the chief method of teaching is that of revolutionary struggle) educational organisations. The young communist leagues can carry out the task of educating the young generation of the workers in the communist spirit only by attracting the broad masses of the working youth into their ranks. Of course, in times of acute struggle it is necessary to act cautiously in this direction, limiting the acceptance of new members with the possibility of their re-education, and so forth. The Congress, however, should take a hard and fast line with regard to the mass character of the young movement.

At the same time, with a view to establishing closer contact with the masses of the unorganised youth and to effecting a more expedient carrying out of political work and of the leadership of the economic struggle of the working youth, it is necessary to reconstruct the young communist organisations at the places of employment (fractions) and not at places of residence, as is being practised at the present time.