

Statement of the Executive Committee Of Young Communist International

To the Unemployed and Employed Youth, Young Peasants, Soldiers and Sailors of the World!

Comrades!

Twenty years ago, at the command of the crowned murderers and armament kings, tens of millions of toilers were driven into the trenches of imperialist war.

During the four years of slaughter, twenty millions of the best sons of the people fell on the banks of the Ypres, at the approach to Verdun, on the Carpathian Mountains, on the fields of Alsace and Lorraine.

Though the war brought thousands of millions in profits to the capitalists, it thrust the toilers still deeper into the abyss of poverty and starvation, and increased the oppression and slavery of mankind. The BOURGEOIS "FATHERLAND," in the name of which oceans of blood was shed, in the name of which a whole generation of the flower of the youth perished, can now give to the young workers only the right to die or starvation.

In all the world, there was only one party, THE BOLSHEVIK PARTY, led by the great leader of the proletariat, LENIN, which from the very beginning of the war showed up the true meaning of this war of plunder with all the force of its revolutionary faithfulness to the cause of the working class, and called on the proletariat to struggle against the real enemies of the toilers, to fight against the bourgeoisie.

The proletarian youth, educated in the spirit of the best traditions of the anti-militarist struggle, were the first to join the party of Lenin and together with their KARL LIEBKNECHT they stood on the path of a hard and fierce struggle against imperialist wars and militarism.

The revolutionary organizations of the youth, which remained loyal to the end and to the cause of the working class in 1915, at the Berne Conference adopted an appeal to all the youth to struggle against war, and resolved to organize a single international youth day of anti-war struggle.

Boldly they raised the fighting flag of internationalism over the blood-stained ground of the trenches.

Hundreds of thousands of the youth seized on this fighting call and on October 3, 1915, marched out in demonstrations, organized strikes and presented to the governments their demands for the stopping of the war. Since then 19 years have passed. This year we celebrate the 20th International Youth Day.

The International Youth Day has become a fighting tradition for the revolutionary youth. And we, the Young Communist League, the only inheritors of the revolutionary behests of Stuttgart and Berne throughout all these years, hold high our banner of militant internationalism.

After the war, a new generation of the youth grew up. And those who had been born to the thunder of the cannon in the frightful slaughter of 1914, those who only know from the talk of their parents something of the war, they are the ones who today will have to go to serve in the army, and from them will be made millions of "unknown soldiers," and "valiant defenders" of the fatherlands of the Krupps, Schneiders, Creusots, Pilsudskys and Mussolinis.

COMRADES! YOUNG WORKERS!

Today the danger of a new imperialist war and the threat to the fatherland of the world proletariat is extremely serious.

You yourselves can see how fully the war factories are working. You can see every day parades and army maneuvers. You are driven by force into the military and fascist organizations of the youth. In the schools and universities, the most reactionary and chauvinistic teachings about the right of one nation to oppress another are driven into your heads. In the organizations formed by the bourgeoisie, millions of the youth are trained in the spirit of national hatred and subordination to the bourgeois state. The majority of the youth are militarized and taught military training in some form or another.

WHY IS THIS BEING DONE?

In whose interests are millions of dollars and francs spent on the manufacture of cannons and poison gases?

At whose expense are the huge armies and the armed fascist gangs supported?

The bourgeoisie are preparing for new wars, for an attack on the U.S.S.R., and they are militarizing the whole population and above all the youth, through the most savage plunder of the toiling masses, and they are implanting fascist organizations for the purpose of crushing the growing indignation of the workers and peasants in order to ensure the peacefulness of the rear in time of war.

You are called on to "defend the fatherland"! What fatherland?

The fatherland where the hangmen of the working class—Hitler, Mussolini and Pilsudski rule? The fatherland where you are shot down with or without trial for daring to ask for bread? The fatherland where five times as much is spent on the upkeep of a police dog as on a worker's child? The fatherland which is not able either to feed or educate the youth?

Is it worth dying for, such a fatherland?

We proletarian youth, like all the toilers, love our proletarian Germany, beautiful Italy, France and England, and it is precisely because of this love, because of our right to live, our right to use all the benefits and values created by the hands of our fathers, that WE MUST TAKE IT AWAY FROM THE BOURGEOISIE! We will only defend it when it is really our proletarian fatherland!

In all the countries of capital a frantic attack is being made on the last vestiges of the political rights of the workers, on those democratic liberties which they used to enjoy.

The dying capitalist system is rushing to fascism as its last means of salvation from the strengthening revolutionary storms. Only on the background of the dark decline of capitalism could be born such a system of cynical deception, bloody violence and terror as fascism.

A government maintained only by the power of bayonets held by its deceived slaves cannot exist for long. It must inevitably perish as soon as the masses of the toilers realize their strength and throw off the bonds of deception.

A new and powerful wave of the revolutionary upsurge is growing and widening in all countries. "The idea of an onslaught is ripening in the minds of the masses."

The proletariat are passing ever more determinedly to the counter-attack against fascism.

The heroic fight of the workers of Austria, the mass actions in France, the barricade fighting in Holland, in San Francisco, the strikes in America, Poland, Japan and other countries are thundering like gigantic battering rams against the walls of the capitalist world. The banner of the Soviets is waving over one seventh of China.

Raise higher the banner of struggle! Widen the front of the attack! Do not let the bourgeoisie rest for a moment!

Completely expose fascism which is trying to win the masses by the pseudo-revolutionary lie of "national socialism" and the "defense of the interests of the toilers" and which in Germany is definitely throwing off these gaudy rags of demagogy and standing up before the toilers in its real form of the naked dictatorship of the bankers and factory owners.

Comrades, young toilers!

Imperialist wars, starvation, poverty and slavery can only be ended by the proletarian revolution, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Soviet power.

Apart from the Communist Parties, there are no parties in the world which fight really for the partial and general demands of the workers.

There is no organization of the youth except the Young Communist League which struggles under the leadership of the Communist Party for the liberation of the masses of the toiling youth from capitalist slavery.

And only under the leadership of the Communist Party can the proletarian and the toiling masses overthrow the bloody dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. Our future is in our own hands. It depends on our will to struggle and conquer. No terror can force us to abandon our striving to victory. We have proved this and are proving it every minute of the time. Our Chinese, German, Japanese, Italian, Polish and Bulgarian comrades, in the strict illegality, are carrying on

successful work for the organization of the masses for the struggle against fascism.

The terror can frighten only occasional cowards, but not the working class, not the revolutionary party, not the revolutionary youth. Every bloody crime simply fires our hatred more. Every drop of blood that is shed gives birth to a new warrior. History cannot be stopped by the hangman's noose or the headman's axe, and the more so if this history is created by the most revolutionary class—the proletariat. Comrades! Young workers, peasants, soldiers!

The Executive Committee of the Young Communist International sends you a fighting call to come out on to the streets on September 1st in demonstrations, to organize strikes and revolutionary activity as a protest against the war in preparation, against the militarization and fascisation of the youth! We call on all the toiling youth irrespective of the organizations to which they belong at the present time.

COMRADES! YOUNG SOCIALIST WORKERS!

The Young Communist International calls on you all to act jointly with the Y. C. I. on September 1st against war and fascism, defense of the U. S. S. R., for the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann, Paula Walisch and all other prisoners of international reaction.

We call on you to organize joint demonstrations, actions and strikes on International Youth Day. We call on you to form joint youth committees for the struggle for the release of Comrade Thaelmann and the prisoners of capital. We call on you to form a united front of struggle of the toiling youth against hunger, want, fascism and war.

The Executive Committee of the Y. C. I. states to all the toiling youth that it is prepared to collaborate with any youth organization which is willing to struggle together with us against the exploitation and the enslavement of the youth, against fascism, for socialism.

The Executive Committee of the Y. C. I. instructs all its organizations and every Y. C. L. to make every effort to strengthen the unity of the toiling youth. All those who want to struggle for a brighter future for the youth, not for the sake of hypocrisy but honestly, will always find the warmest support and help from us.

Comrades of the Socialist Youth! Decide who you will march with—with the Welles and Leys or with the thousands of youth who are struggling, together with the Communists, against fascism.

The joint actions of the Y. S. Lers and Y. C. Lers in Austria, Great Britain, France, Spain, their joint struggle in Germany and many other countries has proved the possibility and the usefulness of this work.

Unite around the noble banner of Lenin and Liebknecht! Act together with us on September 1st in the struggle against war and fascism.

COMRADES! YOUNG WORKERS IN THE FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS!

You have been tricked with the promises of a good life. It is hammered into your heads that the Communists are your enemies. You are persuaded that a new war and an attack on the U. S. S. R. are the only "salvation for the nation!" But you must understand that you are being slavishly exploited, that you are being made into strikebreakers and murderers of the working class who are fighting against fascism. The German fascists promised work but now they are driving all young workers under the age of 25 out of the factories, forcing them by violence into the camps, deporting them to the countryside to be at the disposal of the big landlords. The wonderful "Nine Commandments of Goering," like the entire economic program of fascism, are directed most strongly of all against the youth, dooming them to hunger and want and depriving them of all rights to get jobs. We call on you, young workers in the fascist organizations, to struggle along with us against fascism.

Organize strikes in the forced labor camps, join the Y. C. L. Help the Y. C. Lers to carry on anti-fascist activity. Struggle against those who deceived you, who take advantage of your simplicity and inexperience to strengthen the power of the factory owners and bankers, against the working class and you yourselves.

COMRADES! SOLDIERS! SAILORS!

Come out together with the working youth against war and an attack on the U. S. S. R. Fight for your demands. Refuse to act as executioners of the working class and the peasants. Fraternalize with striking workers. Come over with your arms to the side of the rebellious people. Only the proletariat can liberate you from the yoke of the barracks, and unbridled license of the officers and the fascist terror. If war breaks out, you must turn your bayonets against the organizers of war!

YOUNG TOILERS!

For about two years the German fascists have kept in a dungeon the best fighter of the working class, the leader of the German proletariat, Comrade Ernst Thaelmann. The fascists cannot make any charge against him except that he is a Communist. Fearing an even more despicable failure than in the trial of Dimitroff, Hitler and Goering are keeping Comrade Thaelmann in prison and torturing him.

We call on the toiling youth of all countries to rise in defense of Thaelmann.

Organize protest strikes, form committees of defense, call meetings, organize demonstrations. Demand the immediate liberation of Thaelmann! Demand the liberation of all the imprisoned anti-fascists.

The struggle for the freedom of Comrade Thaelmann is a matter of honor for every young proletarian!

German fascism and the world bourgeoisie are preparing the trial of Thaelmann, are preparing a new blow against the entire revolutionary movement of the proletariat!

For us Thaelmann is a banner of the anti-fascist struggle. Rally in the united front of struggle of the youth against fascism and in defense of Thaelmann.

We send the warmest greetings to our Thaelmann, the noble revolutionary, the bold fighter, the tried warrior for the liberation of the toiling youth from the yoke of fascism.

YOUNG WORKERS AND COLLECTIVE FARMERS IN THE U. S. S. R.!

The Executive Committee of the Y. C. I. calls on you to exert your creative forces still more to strengthen the power and strength and independence of the U. S. S. R. The youth of the whole world are watching your struggle and labor with admiration. They know that the Soviet Union is their only fatherland, the bulwark of the revolutionary forces of the entire proletariat. They are learning from you how to fight and to win. And the stronger the U. S. S. R., the stronger the power of the proletariat and the more it is convinced of its victory. Strengthen the defenses of our fatherland, mobilize all your creative enthusiasm, your strength and knowledge for the successful fulfillment of the Second Five-Year Plan. Strengthen the power of the Red Army! Rally more closely around the Leninist Bolshevik Party and the leader of the world proletariat, Comrade Stalin, the great helmsman of the world revolution!

Throughout the world, there is only one country where there is no capitalist slavery, fascist terror, starvation and poverty, where the bony hands of hunger do not stretch out to grip the throat of the worker and where the terrible spectre of unemployment does not stand behind his back.

There is only one country that is truly and consistently fighting for peace between peoples, which is not trying to seize the land and colonies of others. This country is our great fatherland, the U. S. S. R. Our proletarian fatherland, at the will of the millions of the toilers of the U. S. S. R., led by the Party of Lenin and with the most direct support of the proletariat of all countries, has become the strongest and most powerful country in the world.

We have the right to be proud of this fatherland of the most advanced technique, Socialist culture and free labor, the fatherland of the Chelyuskinites, the aviator-heroes, the talents of new technical thought, of the great leaders of the proletariat.

And in the face of the growing danger of an attack on the U. S. S. R., we swear to defend to the last drop of our blood this fatherland which belongs equally to the Russian proletariat, the fighters on the barricades of Vienna and the oppressed peoples of the colonies.

September 1st must be a day of powerful demonstrations of the working and toiling youth against war and fascism. We shall demonstrate our readiness to struggle, our hatred toward fascism.

Long live the fighting unity of the working youth!

Down with imperialist war!

Down with fascist terror!

We demand the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann and all the anti-fascists who have been thrown into prison, concentration camps and military camps.

Long live the proletarian revolution!

Long live Soviets throughout the world!