

POLITICS

Open Letter of the C. P. of India to the Delegates of the Annual Conference of the Independent Labour Party

York, England.

Fellow-Workers:

One year ago, in the London Conference of the Independent Labour Party, a Resolution on Internationalism and Imperialism was adopted, which defined the attitude of your Party as follows:

The I. L. P., as an integral part of the International Movement for the world-wide spreading of Socialism, recognizes:

1. *That the interests of the workers throughout the world are one.*

2. *That the International Socialist Commonwealth can only be secured by a World Organization of Free Peoples, cooperating in the production and distribution of the world's goods.*

3. *That towards this end, the I. L. P. works for the most effective action of the International Socialist Movement to prevent war, abolish conscription and militarism, and to liberate Subject Peoples.*

4. *That the I. L. P. opposes the exploitation of economically backward peoples by the more advanced, and declares for a relationship with the less-developed races to prepare them as speedily as possible for Self-Government.*

5. *That as a method to attain these ends, the I. L. P. takes its part in the struggle of the workers to win freedom from the economic tyranny imposed by the Capitalist class and the Capitalist State. It holds that the best way of effecting a peaceful change to Socialism is by the Organization of the Workers, politically, to capture the State Power, and, industrially, to take over the Control and Management of the Industrial Machine.*

6. *The I. L. P. recognizes that circumstances may arise when a government or reactionary class might attempt to suppress the liberty or thwart the national will, and it holds that to defeat such attempts, Democracy must use to the utmost extent its political and industrial power.*

In view of the fact that in India today, a reactionary government and class is attempting to suppress the liberty and thwart the national will of the people as expressed through peaceful constitutional action, by certifying measures rejected by the elected representatives to the so-called National Legislatures; by shooting down unarmed men and women who assemble together to demonstrate peacefully against social, economic and political suppression; and by wholesale arrests and imprisonment without charge, trial or evidence, of respectable citizens arbitrarily accused of conspiring against the authority of the State, the Communist Party of India calls upon this Annual Conference of the Independent Labour Party to uphold and give force to its Resolution of the Conference of 1923, by taking energetic action against these deeds on the part of irresponsible authority. In view of your position as the supreme governing power in Great

Britain today, we call upon you to use to the utmost extent, your political and industrial power to put an end to these intolerable conditions prevailing in British India.

The Communist Party of India calls the attention of the assembled delegates to the Annual Conference of the I. L. P. in particular, to the flagrant attempt now being made on the part of the Indian Government to suppress the right of political organization for economic and social ends, on the part of the Indian working-class, by seeking to damn it in the eyes of the law as "conspiracy to overthrow the sovereignty of His Majesty, the King-Emperor", and to make such action on the part of the Indian working-class punishable under Section 121 and 121A of the Indian Penal Code with **death or life-imprisonment!**

The Communist Party of India desires to emphasize the fact that the real object behind this attempt to crush the legitimate right of Indian labour to organize itself for political and economic ends, is threefold:

1. To prevent the emancipation of the Indian masses through their own political and industrial action aimed to secure improvement in their present miserable condition, and to bind them perpetually to the chains of Imperial and Native Exploitation.

2. To maintain the present isolation of the Indian people from all contact or cooperation with the World International Movement of Labour towards full social, economic and political Emancipation from Capitalist Slavery.

3. To prejudice the organization of a working-class party in India, by damning it in the eyes of the law as "Bolshevik Conspiracy and Propaganda", thereby deliberately and at the same time seeking to prejudice the negotiations now proceeding between the British Labour Government and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics to re-establish friendly relations.

We seize this occasion to repudiate once more and emphatically, the unfounded allegations of "conspiracy" brought against the Communist Party of India as the basis of the present trial now proceeding at Cawnpore, against some of its members, and we call upon the Independent Labour Party and the Labour Government, as well as upon the British proletariat, to vindicate the full Constitutional Right for Communist, Socialist and Working-Class Parties to exist and to function in India, maintaining their appropriate international affiliations, to the same measure and the same degree, as this Right exists in all other parts of the British Empire and throughout the Civilized World.

To this end, the Communist Party of India calls upon the delegates to the York Conference of the I. L. P. to protest against the present attempt being made by a reactionary government and class to suppress the liberty of Indian citizens, and in consonance with the Resolution on Internationalism and Imperialism passed in your London Conference in 1923, to recommend:

1. That the government ban on Socialist, Communist and Working-Class organizations and propaganda in India be lifted, and

2. That those now suffering from governmental prosecution and persecution for their activities on behalf of the Indian working-class be permitted henceforth full freedom of action to organize a political Party of the Indian Workers and Peasants for their social, economic and political Emancipation.

On behalf of the Communist Party of India

(signed): **Manabendra Nath Roy.**

April 20 1924.

Post Box 348, Zurich, Switzerland