

November 27, 1920.

COMMUNIST UNITY.

Dear Comrade,—At its meeting in Moscow, on August 10th, the Central Executive Committee of the Communist International made the following decision respecting the amalgamation of the existing Communist groups in Britain in a united Communist Party :—

“The E.C. resolves : In Britain a single Communist Party must be organised on the basis of the decisions of the Second World Congress of the Communist International.

“To achieve this, in the space of four months a general Congress of the Communist groups and organisations of all Britain and Ireland must be summoned. In this Congress there must participate : (1) The United Communist Party ; (2) the Communist Party ; (3) the Shop Stewards ; (4) the Scottish Communist groups ; (5) the Welsh groups ; (6) the Irish Communists (on a federal basis) ; (7) the Socialist Labour Party ; (8) the Left Wing I.L.P.

“For the summoning of this general Congress, and to pave the way for unity, a general Committee of Action is appointed, into which there enters one representative of each group, under the presidency of a representative of the E.C.”

As a supplement to this resolution, the C.E.C. decided, on August 20th, as follows :—

“The E.C. recommends to the British comrades the following basis of representation for the Unity Congress : parties and political groups must be represented in proportion to their membership, with a minimum of three delegates per organisation.

“As for the Shop Stewards, the E.C. recommends that the Committee of Action gives them representation on the basis of their organised membership, in connection with which it is desirable that there should appear as delegates not merely the leaders already belonging to political parties, but also true exponents of the views and wishes of the widest possible masses.”

Arising out of this matter, and resulting from an informal meeting held in London, the enclosed letter has been issued to the various organisations mentioned. I shall be glad if you can give publicity to this letter in the next issue of your paper.

Yours fraternally,

ALBERT INKPIN

(Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain),

Dear Comrade,—As you are doubtless aware, the Central Executive of the Third International recently decided that a further unity conference must be held in this country of all organisations that accept the statutes, theses and conditions of affiliation to the Third International, for the purpose of combining them in one united Communist Party. This decision was an instruction to the bodies concerned to appoint representatives to a joint committee which, under the guidance of a chairman directly appointed by the Moscow Executive, would be charged with making the arrangements for the congress, compiling the agenda and determining the basis of representation according to the membership of the various bodies concerned.

For reasons which are known, the chairman appointed by the Moscow Executive is unable to enter this country, and consequently no steps have so far been taken to carry the foregoing decision into effect. The undersigned members of the organisations mentioned—acting, as they believe, in conformity with the wishes of the Moscow Executive in these new circumstances—have therefore decided to approach the Executives of the various organisations concerned, and to suggest the immediate formation of a joint committee, which shall carry out the instruction of the Moscow Executive and arrange the unity convention at an early date.

Your Executive Committee is therefore invited and urged to send two representatives to attend a meeting for this purpose, which it is suggested should be held at Manchester on Saturday, December 11th. This invitation is being issued to the following organisations : Communist Party of Great Britain, Communist Labour Party, Communist Party, Socialist Labour Party, National Shop Stewards and Workers' Committee, and Scottish Workers' Committee.

We shall be glad if you will bring this letter under the immediate consideration of your Executive and let us know their decision with the least possible delay.

Yours fraternally,

ALBERT INKPIN, Communist Party of Great Britain.

JACK V. LECKIE, Communist Labour Party.

GEORGE PEET, National Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees.

E. T. WHITEHEAD, Communist Party (British Section of the Third International).