

## Traveling Salesman and Agents of Trotskyism

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For some months now, Azione Comunista [Communist Action], the organ of the "movement of the Communist Left-Wing" has begun to concern itself about our paper and to worry about the increasingly large support which it is gaining in the ranks of the Italian labor movement. The articles aimed at us have been distinguished by a particularly virulent tone, while, as is customary for the perpetrators of Azione Comunista, the arguments are shrouded in pseudo-theoretical raiment which actually constitute real absurdities, when they are not solemn asininities on the scientific plane.

It is clear that it would hardly be very serious to descend to the level of polemicizing with people who have got to the point of writing, as did Giovanni Ignazi (in the October 1964 issue of AC) of the "formidable bourgeois-democratic expansion" of People's China, or that "China knows that if she wishes to survive, with the rhythm of development which she has begun, she must assure her markets of the future; at the moment at which production exceeds internal needs, at least the greatest Asian markets must already have been freed from American imperialism." Whence it is seen that, according to Ignazi, People's China (which is facing immense problems to fulfill the needs of her gigantic internal market, problems which will take up the span of entire decades), is supposed to be working actively already against the imperialism of the USA to the sole end of eliminating American rivals from the Asian markets, and if it does not wish to take charge today to accomplish its ends...well, tomorrow! Moreover, we must recognize that such a brilliant analysis is entirely consistent with the editorial note contained in the same issue of Azione Comunista, in which the divergence between the PCUS [Partito Comunista dell'Unione Sovietica; Communist Party of the Soviet Union] and the PCC [Partito Comunista Cinese; Chinese Communist Party] is described as "a contrast between an imperialist power and a country which is developing its State and private capital, but which has not yet reached imperialist maturity and thus, both for its development and for its maturity, is in a condition of backwardness."

Aside from the hilarity which these pompous declarations arouse, we would like to ask the editors of Azione Comunista the following: if the

USSR and People's China are nothing but more or less "mature" imperialist countries, who do the workers, the laborers, the Marxist-Leninist Communists of the whole world see a certain difference between these countries and "the other" imperialist countries, on the order of the United States of America, etc.? Perhaps the proletariat of the entire world is wrong while the editors of Azione Comunista and they alone see the whole truth? For the editors of Azione Comunista there exists--or does there--a difference between more or less socialist countries and capitalist and imperialist countries? Or are they in complete agreement with the Titoist revisionists on the "equidistance from the two blocs"? And if there does not exist for them a substantial difference between socialist countries and imperialist countries, what conscientious worker is not free to think that, since all cats are grey, one fine day the editors of Azione Comunista could also end up suggesting to their readers that they ought to support in some fashion the imperialism of the USA, this imperialism which has the merit of being ultra-"mature".

But apart from their ideological jumpings which not infrequently leap into the realm of the humorous, it is necessary to recognize that the editors of Azione Comunista are at least not making any mystery of their more or less recent conversion to Trotskyism. The tone of their attacks on Nuova Unità is becoming enraged, without sparing epithets and insults, when they are forced to decide that our true evaluation of the merits of Stalinist leadership, that our identification of such leadership with the forms assumed by the dictatorship of the proletariat in the USSR, that our denunciation according to which the Trotskyite and revisionist defamation of Stalinist leadership constitutes in actuality a defamation of the dictatorship of the proletariat in concrete terms and in general, that in sum our true ideological and political positions are awakening the conscience of the better part of the Italian proletariat and of the militants of the labor parties.

Naturally the epithets of "Stalinists" of "philo-Chinese" of "leftist fringe of the PCI" [Partito Comunista Italiano; Italian Communist Party] and insults of other sorts aimed at us by the editors of Azione Comunista leave us entirely indifferent and do not shake us from a policy of objectivity which arouses the fury of Azione Comunista, that is the objective of creating a Marxist-Leninist movement and party in our country. If we have been willing to concern ourselves about this subject, it is only to inform our comrades and readers so that they will be adequately prepared to reply on the occasions of repeated offers of "collaboration" advanced here and there by the various agents or traveling salesmen of Trotskyism, among whom can rightly be listed the followers of Azione Comunista and of the varicolored and no better identified Sinistra Comunista [Communist Left].