

Swiss Group breaks with Peking

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The Swiss Communist party, which split from the pro-Moscow Labor party and declared itself strongly in favor of Maoism, recently took a new step of considerable interest. It has declared its independence from Peking and has called on "all the revolutionary Marxists" to organize a new "revolutionary International" to bring together all the parties and groups desirous of struggling against imperialism.

As reported by Agence France Press in a July 20 dispatch from Geneva, the appeal was strongly directed against the "superiority complexes of Moscow as well as Peking" and rejected the idea of a "pro-Chinese" International.

"In fact," the central secretariat of the party declared, "it is not right for Moscow or Peking to show superiority complexes and under different guises, more or less interested or egocentric, to seize the position of dominators of the Communist world. The two brother enemies are too anxious to maintain and to deepen their dif-

ferences to have the right to dominate anyone and to give advice and orders which they do not follow themselves."

With regard to Moscow, the declaration said, "We think that a revolution cannot be made along the peaceful road and that peaceful coexistence is a betrayal and a demobilization of the peoples, a slackening of vigilance, as well as a very grave error."

As for Peking, the call said that "imperialism is not a paper tiger and to spread this belief is a very grave error."

Without directly mentioning the Chinese Communist party leaders, the document criticized those who issue warnings to aggressors, and held that it would be better "to demonstrate what they are capable of doing."

Concerning Vietnam, the Swiss Communists said: "Hanoi has not hastened to ask for volunteers, Chinese or otherwise. The reasons are known and they are correct. Would Vietnam excite such greed if it were only an unproductive desert?"

The Paris daily Le Monde (July 21) devoted a half column to the declaration of the Swiss Communist party, noting that this was the first time that a European Communist party had "so violently attacked both Moscow and Peking" and that it was notable that it proposed "the creation of a new International on a still harder basis than that advocated by Peking."

Eliane Perrin, a sociology student in Geneva, wrote to the editor of Le Monde expressing astonishment that a newspaper "as serious as Le Monde would grant so much space" to the Swiss Communist party which has "at the maximum thirty members and has no weight either in domestic Swiss politics or in international politics."

To this the Swiss Communist party replied in a letter (quoted in Le Monde July 30) that as of July 15, 1965, it had issued 311 membership cards, with a still higher number of sympathizers cards. "After all, we have never pretended to be numbered in the thousands. It is true that when our party was defending only the theses of the Chinese comrades, recruitment was difficult. Now that we have opted for a Communist road adapted to Swiss realities and possibilities, it is much less difficult for us to find new adherents."

This "Communist road," according to Le Monde, was defined further on in the letter as a "clear and independent line," the signers not desiring "to be either slaves or robots of anyone." The letter also said that in the first part of August a conference was scheduled to be held "somewhere in Europe" at which a new "revolutionary International" would be launched.