

translation (unchecked)

Rouge. Dec. 16, 1977

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Lutte Ouvriere Has Held Its Eighth Congress

We have received the following release from Lutte Ouvrière:

"Lutte Ouvrière, a Trotskyist organization that ran Arlette Laguiller in the 1974 presidential elections, has just held its Eighth Congress.

"Organizationally, Lutte Ouvrière has experienced a 9% membership growth over the past year. The social composition of its members -- 86.9% employed, of whom half work in big enterprises -- reflects the organization's continual effort to build itself in the working class in order to crystallize a genuine revolutionary current within the class. This involvement in the working class is shown particularly by the <sup>(regular)</sup> production of factory publications. Lutte Ouvrière now has <sup>more than 250</sup> factory publications, which come out at least every 15 days. This represents a political presence that surpasses that of all the far left organizations, and even surpasses the left organizations, except for the

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Communist Party.

"Lutte Ouvrière is a young organization: 65.5% of its members are less than 30 years old. It is also a political organization in which women play a particularly important role, both in ~~number~~ number (37.4% of the members) and in leadership posts (38% of the national leadership).

"The congress defined Lutte Ouvrière's attitude toward the coming legislative elections.

"Lutte Ouvrière considers that the role of revolutionaries in the current period is to try to convince the workers that what ~~is~~ <sup>matters</sup> } for the future is not going to come out of the ballot box. Whatever the result of the March elections, the workers will not be able to hold back in their struggles if they don't want to be crushed by the capitalist bourgeoisie, which is all the more merciless in seeking to preserve its profits in these times of crisis at the expense of the ~~toiling~~ toiling classes.

"Lutte Ouvrière will denounce the electoralist

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illusions so that a growing number of workers will stop being fooled by the promises of Mitterand and Marchais; these candidates, just like the [REDACTED] anti-labor right wing, favor governing for the benefit of the bourgeoisie.

"Lutte Ouvrière has decided to run at least one candidate in each department, and to participate fully in the election campaign, which is going to be a feature of political life in the coming months, [REDACTED] so that the votes of the most conscious workers can be expressed at that time."

Trade Union Conference Sponsored by the Spanish LCR

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~~Over~~ Over 2000 worker activists discuss a response to austerity caps

The organizers of this first Revolutionary Communist League (sympathizing organization in the Spanish state) trade union conference had erred by being too pessimistic. They were expecting 1,500 to 2,000 participants. Altogether there were more than 2,300 on the morning of this Sunday, December 12. They came from the four main parts of the Spanish state to huddle together in the huge underground parking area located in the heart of the red neighborhood of Vallecas in Madrid.

Up for debate were three themes that are at the heart of the preoccupations of ~~workers~~ activist <sup>working class</sup> revolutionaries in the Spanish state: how to get rid of the Moncloa pact, a real social pact that was cosigned by the PSOE and the CP with the ~~the~~ government and the neo-Francoist right; how to struggle against divisions among the trade unions, for trade union democracy and the perspective of a unification conference between the different working class federations; <sup>and</sup> how to spread the first experiences

222/Apain workers conference

of workers control and strengthen the development of the  
unitary and democratic  
~~unitary and democratic~~ councils or factory committees that have already

been formed in a number of "bastions".

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Undoubtedly the conference suffered from being limited to only one day, which was necessary because of the fact that most of the big industrial firms close only at noon on Saturday. The three main reports were followed by about sixty short contributions. It would be vain to ~~try~~ <sup>try</sup> to summarize their richness in the framework of an article like this, even schematically. But the most impressive aspect was undoubtedly the living demonstration they gave of the degree of the ICR's working class implantation.

The ~~maximalist~~ greetings given by the representative of the International had to recognize that no section or sympathizing organization of the Fourth International ~~could~~ would be able today to bring together such a trade union conference, where ~~working~~ working follow one another to the podium, class leaders, most of them young but recognized as leaders in the main centers, the leading factories that

~~embodied~~  
 have kept the "one" ~~of the~~ reality of these last years  
 or months: SEAT, Hispano-Olivetti, Numax in Barcelona,  
 Ford and the hospitals in Valencia, shipbuilders in  
 Cadix, Robert-Bosch in Madrid, Motor Iberica, the  
 naval yard workers in Euskalduna, General Electric and  
 Babcock-Wilcox in Bilbao, Imanesa in Pamplona, etc. The  
 list would be too long.

~~Also present~~ Also present were worker leaders ~~that~~ <sup>who</sup>  
 led different general strikes in Euskadi, those who helped  
 found ~~coordination~~ coordination committees in ~~crisis-ridden~~  
 crisis-ridden factories in Biscaye and Barcelona, the leaders  
 of the March ~~1976~~ 1976 general strike in ~~Vitoria~~ <sup>Vitoria</sup>, the last  
 general strike in Biscaye, etc.

The conference statistics speak for themselves:

32% of the participants work in steel, 11% in construction,  
 5% ~~in~~ <sup>chemicals,</sup> 5% in wood and cork, 5% in textile.

On the other hand, the proportion of ~~employees~~ <sup>white collar workers</sup> from ~~banks~~  
~~or~~ <sup>government workers</sup> ~~functionaries~~, or even teachers did not exceed a  
 small percentage. Over 500 participants had leading  
 trade union positions and, perhaps more important,

over 400 already belonged to councils or factory committees.

~~It must~~ <sup>it must</sup> certainly be ~~emphasized~~ emphasized that in the Spanish state, the Party of <sup>Labor [PT]</sup> ~~and~~ and the Revolutionary Organization of Workers (Maoist) <sup>[ORT]</sup> still have greater weight. But the advantage that the ICR is beginning to have over these two organizations is the better ~~national~~ <sup>scope</sup> it has <sup>in</sup> its implantation. <sup>although</sup> ~~strong~~ strong inequalities <sup>in development</sup> still exist, ~~the~~ the ~~strengthening~~ strengthening over the last year of such areas <sup>as</sup> ~~like~~ like Catalonia, Madrid, and to a lesser degree Andalusia, remains spectacular. An important part of this <sup>growth</sup> ~~rise~~ comes from the fusion last January with the Workers Tendency of the Communist League (Barcelona-Valencia). The unification with the majority of the IC, which will <sup>take effect</sup> ~~be~~ at the next common central committee this <sup>coming</sup> weekend, will give a new <sup>impetus</sup> ~~push~~ to the development of the new section of the Fourth International in a ~~number~~ number of areas (Alava, Navare, Asturia, Aragon, and the Canary Islands, for example).

In a certain way also, the ~~decision~~ decision by the PSOE to have a message read <sup>"wishing"</sup> ~~for~~ success in

(The)

work of the conference" or the decision of the Workers

Commissions to send Jose Torres to greet the participants

"in the name of Marcelino Camacho and the leadership of

the Workers Commissions" ~~██████████~~ testify to the weight

gained by the ICR. We will come ~~back~~ <sup>back</sup> to ~~██████████~~ this conference

to present the terms of the response to the Monclos pact

as they were put forward by our comrades in the Spanish

state.