

LFP/020/0114/9

WHAT IS THIS COMMUNIST PARTY?



A WORD TO AFRICAN WORKERS



3d.

Published by
THE COMMUNIST PARTY,
41a, FOX STREET,
P.O. Box 4179,
JOHANNESBURG.

published around 1932

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A Word to African Workers.

The world to-day is torn by a struggle between two classes: on the one hand, a few masters and idle rich who, originally by force or cunning, have gained possession of the land, mines, factories, etc., and live in comfort and luxury on the profit of others' labour; on the other hand, the masses who, dispossessed of land and property, have no choice but to go to work for the masters under wretched conditions above or underground, at a bare subsistence wage which amounts to a mere fraction of the total product of their toil, and condemns them to live in perpetual poverty for the enrichment of others. The workers dig gold but are penniless; build mansions but live in hovels; make fine clothes but go about in rags; erect schools but lack schooling; prepare rich food but eat pap. Even the mealies they grow are shipped abroad for gain. In short, the masters reap where the workers sowed: **THE WORKERS CREATE THE WEALTH BUT THE 'OWNERS' ROB THEM OF IT.**

CLASS AND RACE.

In some countries, especially Africa, these two classes seem to be opposed on lines of race and colour, because the owners and masters are mostly Europeans and the workers are mostly non-Europeans. As for the white workers, holding a privileged position as whites they are apt to forget that they are still fellow-workers with blacks.

But if we look further afield we see that the working class of the world as a whole consists of Europeans as well as Africans, Indians, Chinese, etc. Indeed, of the organised workers Europeans still form the great majority. And although on the average they may be better educated they are in general little better off than native workers here. For that matter, there are thousands of whites even in South Africa who live scarcely above the level of black people.

The master class, for its part, also includes brown, yellow and black men as well as white, for instance in India and China, and to some extent even in Africa, Europe and America.

The fact is that the struggle is not really between whites and blacks but **BETWEEN HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS, EXPLOITERS AND EXPLOITED, MASTERS AND SERVANTS, CAPITALISTS AND WORKERS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR COLOUR OR RACE.**

THE WHIP HAND.

In every country (except Russia) the master class, holding the property, consequently holds the whip of political power also and controls the Government and the State, while the workers, and in particular the non-European races who have been conquered by one section or another of the master class, are kept in subjection as underdogs, their struggles for a higher life being everywhere ruthlessly suppressed.

The South African Government too is thus seen to be just one of the **TOOLS OF THE PROPERTY-OWNING CLASS**, and acts entirely in the interest of that class. Its land laws, its pass laws, its oppressive taxes (all designed to drive men, women and children to work), its denial of education to the masses, its anti-'sedition' measures, its law courts, its police and Defence Force, its guns and aeroplanes, its wars of conquest—all these are in substance just means to keep the rich on top and the workers "in their place" as **SLAVES**.

A REVOLUTION NEEDED.

This class struggle is irreconcilable and insoluble except by a complete change of society. But the struggle itself leads up to just such a change. For the workers cannot and will not take their position lying down. They inevitably revolt against this master-and-servant society; they naturally aim at bringing it to an end and setting up in its stead their own rule, **THE RULE OF THE ACTUAL TOILERS AND PRODUCERS** whether in town or country.

That means organising to take over, as a working class, all productive property, with a view to working and administering it no longer for the benefit of a few private owners or bosses, but for

The immediate aim of the Communists is the same as that professed by all other working class parties; organisation of the workers on a class basis, overthrow of the supremacy of the owner and master class, and conquest of political power by the workers. They support any working class or national liberationist organisation, such as the A.N.C. or I.C.U., in so far as it pursues this aim.

The only difference in principle (whatever differences there may be in practice) between the Communists and other working class parties is that in the various national struggles of the workers the Communists stress THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS IRRESPECTIVE OF NATIONALITY; and again, that in the various stages of the struggle between workers and capitalists they always stand for THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE. At the same time they participate in all the practical and daily struggles of the toilers.

Thus the Communists are practically the most progressive and resolute section of the working class of all countries.

AN ADVANCE GUARD.

The Communist Party is NOT AFTER MONEY OR CATTLE, for it does not believe that freedom can be bought, or won through lawsuits. Of course it has its expenses, which its members must provide, and so the minimum monthly subscription is fixed at 1/- for members of a town branch (of which 6d. is kept by the branch) and 6d. for members of a country branch (of which 4d. is kept by the branch, only the other 2d. going to Headquarters).

Its main object is however to build up an 'advance guard' of intelligent, class conscious, disciplined workers, irrespective of race or colour, who may lead and inspire their fellow-workers and fellow-victims of oppression, especially in Trade Unions and national mass organisations, to play their part in the great world struggle for emancipation—and a very responsible part it is in South Africa.

A Communist must be sincere, courageous and self-sacrificing, ready to go anywhere and do anything to help along the victory of the working class. Membership of the Communist Party is a great burden, as well as a great honour and privilege.

The Communist Party is everywhere hated and persecuted by the ruling class because it alone in every country stands by the workers through thick and thin, whereas other organisations, and especially their leaders both black and white, have often been corrupted or bought, have become defenders or parasites of capitalism, have compromised with the bosses, and to their eternal shame have actually helped to beat the workers.

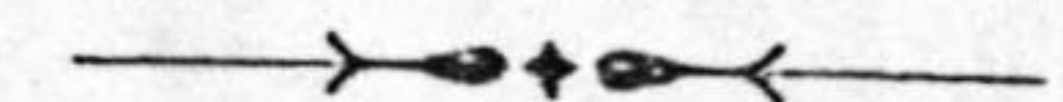
NO COLOUR BAR.

The Communist Party champions the cause of the workers of every race and country. In South Africa it is the only political

party that embraces native and white workers alike; it has the same message for both. It has no colour bar: it consists of both native and European members, the majority being natives because the majority of South African workers are natives.

The slogan of the C.P. in every country alike is: ,

"WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE; YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS, YOU HAVE A WORLD TO WIN."



JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

READ THE "SOUTH AFRICAN WORKER," THE COMMUNIST PAPER.

For further particulars apply to the Secretary, Communist Party, 41a, Fox Street (Box 4179), JOHANNESBURG, or to the Secretary, Communist Party, Capetown Branch, 86, Wale Street, CAPETOWN.

the common benefit of all, establishing a "co-operative commonwealth" where ALL MEN SHALL BE SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY FREE AND SHALL SHARE ALIKE IN THE FRUITS OF THEIR JOINT LABOUR, WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

Of course that is a great change, indeed it is a REVOLUTION: but it is necessary, not on sentimental grounds nor just for the sake of talking fine revolutionary clap trap, but because such a revolution is the only way to end the class struggle, the only way to free the world from tyranny. There can be no real civilisation FOR ALL until the present oppressive and brutal capitalist rule is swept away.

How is this to be accomplished?

LABOUR UNITY THE ONLY WAY.

Only through the UNITY OF ALL THE EXPLOITED AND OPPRESSED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. To realise this unity is the great task before the workers' movement to-day.

It cannot be realised by waiting for a Moses or a Messiah to lead us out of bondage. Those who would be free themselves must strike the blow.

The first steps are AGITATION, EDUCATION AND ORGANISATION.

AGITATION.

We must not be afraid to encourage and stimulate in the heart of every man, woman and child of our class and people a bitter indignation at their subjection and degradation, a burning passion for freedom, a violent and sustained protest against miserable wages and conditions, against the oppressiveness of passes and taxes, against landlessness and injustice, against the bullying and contempt with which natives in particular are generally treated in South Africa against the rule of gun and sjambok.

EDUCATION.

Not only our bodies but our minds are enchained by the ruling class. We must learn to break these chains, to see through the lies the masters tell us, the laws they frame for their own benefit and then tell us to obey, the kings and empires they want us to fall down and worship, the superstitions their parsons teach us about a better life up in heaven so that we may be content with a slave's life here below. WE MUST ALL LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THOROUGHLY THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR OWN POSITION, about the nature of the forces against us and the steps we must take to defeat them. This sort of education is more necessary than

even the "reading, writing and arithmetic" or the "Industrial education" which they grudgingly give to some of us to make us more profitable servants to themselves.

ORGANISATION.

And having this understanding and education, we must organise ourselves together, especially so as to be able like one man to withhold our labour in order to enforce better conditions—for remember, THE MASTERS ARE POWERLESS IF WE DO NOT WORK FOR THEM. Strikes are not our only weapon of course, but it is simply asking for defeat to say they are 'obsolete' like assegais, or that we must just rely on 'constitutional means' (i.e. such means as the masters' government in its own interest allows to us), especially if we have no votes. Only, to win a strike, we must learn to STAND TOGETHER. When our fellow-workers are on strike we must realise that it is criminal to scab on them; for an injury to one is an injury to all, and "the solidarity of labour is the hope of the world."

A UNITED FRONT.

Organisations like the African Native Congress or the I.C.U. will serve our interests only in so far as they learn and teach this lesson of militant solidarity, and co-operate accordingly to create a United Front of all the African Native people, and also between the African Native people and the workers and oppressed peoples of all other races and countries, whites included, so as together to fight not only for increased wages and better conditions, but for the complete overthrow of the common enemy, the capitalist class and system and the imperialist rule over the earth.

WE MUST WIN.

Let us not think for one moment that this task is beyond our strength, that the Capitalist Governments are too powerful for us to succeed. The Russians, a people formerly almost as backward as the Africans, have already established a workers' Government or State composed of workers' councils, functioning in the interest of the workers, and are now beckoning to other countries to do likewise. A success in one country makes easier the struggle in another: and besides, the master class is itself disunited, and we must always be ready to take advantage of its quarrels. Where there's a will there's a way. No matter how they shoot us down, the 'social revolution' MUST come.

WHAT THE C.P. IS OUT FOR.

Such in outline is the policy preached by the Communist Party, and by it alone in South Africa. It is the only policy that deserves to be called a 'civilised labour policy.'