

Armenians in U. S. Unite and Join With the Workers Party

By ABRAM IAKIRA

An important event has taken place in the ranks of the Armenian workers of America. Two opposing communist organizations—the "Armenian Workers Party" and the "Social-Democratic Hunchakist Party" decided to amalgamate and jointly affiliate with the Workers Party. This action of the Armenian Communists is of vital importance to the labor movement not only of the United States, but of other countries as well, and is of special significance to Soviet Armenia.

The S. D. Hunchakist Party with headquarters in Armenia has been in existence for over 38 years. It has its branches in many countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and has played an important part among the Armenian workers of North and South America. At one time it had about 100 branches in this country alone. Its influence has been especially felt in the New England States, the center of the Armenian population. Internal strife, the fight with the "Armenian Workers Party" and isolation from the general labor movement of America have for the last several years considerably weakened the organization. Many branches went out of existence, many others were demoralized. Thousands of Armenian workers were anxiously awaiting the day when unity of the Armenian communist forces and affiliation with the Workers Party would be achieved.

"The Armenian Workers Party," while not as large numerically, had a better solidified and functioning organization. It has been in close contact with the Workers Party of America, tho not officially affiliated with it. It has also taken an active part in the general labor movement of the country. This organization has been ready to join the Workers Party for some time, but decided to wait the results of the convention of the Hunchakist Party. This convention was held a few days ago and the question of unity both with the Armenian Workers Party and with the Workers Party of America was decided upon favorably by a unanimous vote.

The Central Executive Committee of the WPA agreed that the name of the joint organization shall for the time being remain—"The Armenian Federation of the Workers Party—Hunchakist Social Democratic."

It is expected that a general convention of the Hunchakist Party will be held within the coming year to which the American comrades will send delegates. There is every reason to believe that that convention will decide to have each organization of the Hunchakist Party join the sections of the Comintern in their respective countries. The Hunchakist Party some time ago applied for admission as a unit to the C.I. The C.I. however, could not allow that organization to keep its own connections with its sections and to remain as a world organization within the Comintern. The question of changing the name will be decided by the Armenian Federation itself, if the general convention will not be held within one year.

The official organs of the two organizations will amalgamate beginning with the next issue. The name of the joint organ will be "Young Armenia." It was agreed that the new bureau of the Federation shall consist of 11 members—5 from each of the two former organizations and a representative of the Central Executive Committee of the Party. This arrangement is to remain until the next convention of the Federation.

There is no doubt that with unity achieved the Armenian Federation will be able in a short time to gather within its ranks the several thousand Armenian communists who have up to now remained unorganized.