

Communist Opposition Calls on C. P. For United Front Action

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S.:

Dear Comrades:

We address this communication to you as an appeal for united action on one of the most important issues facing the American workers today as well as for cooperation in bringing about a better political understanding between our organizations with a view to ultimate Communist unity.

There surely can be no question as to the vital necessity of a mass movement against war and fascism in this country at the present time. To be at all effective such a movement must be a workers movement primarily, based on the existing mass organizations of labor, with the support, of course, of all other sections of the population opposed to war and fascism. Consequently, its program, its approach, its methods of operation must be such as to appeal to the American workers in their organizations; certainly they should not be such as to repel and alienate them. Unfortunately, those responsible for organizing the American League Against War and Fascism have utterly disregarded these elementary considerations with the result that the American League is now a very narrow organization, practically divorced from the labor movement, embracing hardly more than some Communists and sympathizers together with a few liberals and pacifists. Its militant program or its good intentions should not blind us to the undeniable fact that the American League is not today nor can it become in the future the organizational vehicle of a real movement against war and fascism. Only a new movement on a new and sound basis, can hope to organize the widespread anti-war and anti-fascist sentiment among the working masses. It is manifestly the duty of the Communists to mobilize all their forces to stimulate the development of such a movement, in cooperation, naturally, with all other workers organizations committed to the same end. If we agree as to the necessity and possibility of such a broad, non-partisan movement, rooted in the mass organizations of labor, then it should surely be possible for us to get together to work out ways and means of encouraging its development among those sections of organized labor where we have influence.

But we should not be satisfied merely with cooperation on this issue. Never was the unity of Communist forces so essential as it is today, with the fruits of disunity so obvious. Would it not be of the greatest value if we could join in a common effort to bring about a better political understanding between our organizations so as to pave the way to complete unity? Between the Communist Party and the Communist Opposition there is no disagreement on the fundamental principles of Com-

munist. We have repeatedly condemned the vicious political slander of those who, like the Trotskyites, deny the genuinely Communist character of the C.P. and the C.I. What separates us are very serious differences on questions of strategy, tactics and methods, such questions as the united front, policy in the trade unions, estimate of and attitude to the Socialist movement and the like. The clarification of these issues has been greatly hampered by the obstacles placed in the way of frank and comradely discussion of our differences, especially in the light of recent events in this country and on a world scale. And yet we must all agree that only such frank and comradely discussion can lead to real unity in the Communist movement, which we all desire so earnestly. We therefore suggest that a joint committee be set up to encourage and regulate the mutual discussion of the disputed questions. In particular, we would propose the exchange of discussion articles in our papers, joint discussion meetings, etc. Certainly this suggestion should meet with your approval today in view of the broad discussion the Communist International has urged in preparation of the Seventh Congress, a discussion in which Socialist workers and even members of Catholic trade unions are invited to participate.

We make these proposals to you because we are convinced that they would greatly benefit the Communist and labor movements of this country, to the furtherance of which both our organizations are dedicated. The fruitful cooperation that our comrades of the C.P. and C.P.O. have succeeded in establishing in Germany, should be an inspiration and a guide to us in this country. We hope that, putting to one side all narrow factional prejudices and considerations, you will see your way clear to acting favorably upon our proposals, thus greatly advancing the consolidation of the forces of the class conscious proletariat of this country.

In connection with this appeal, we would suggest that a delegation of our National Committee be permitted to appear before your plenum so as to explain our proposals in greater detail. We take this occasion also to invite a delegation of your plenum to appear before the full session of our National Committee to be held on December 29, 30, and 31 in this city, with a view to presenting to us your attitude on our proposals. We may also advise you that a copy of this communication has been sent to the Executive Committee of the Communist International with the request that it use its influence in obtaining the favorable consideration of our proposals by you.

Fraternally,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
COMMUNIST PARTY U. S. (OPPOSITION)
JAY LOVESTONE, Secretary