

# Communist Party Makes Public Its Reply to Jacques Duclos

The Communist Party of the United States yesterday made public its reply to the greetings to its 16th national convention sent by Jacques Duclos, French Communist Party leader. In their letter to the French leader, the American Communists welcomed his and other greetings as expressing an important principle voiced by Abraham Lincoln: "The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all nation and tongues and kindred." At the same time the Americans' reply disagreed with criticism and misgivings contained in Duclos' message.

Duclos, in his letter of greeting, had said of the convention's draft resolution that "we believe that we discern dangerous departures from these (Marxist-Leninist) principles."

The American Communists' reply said:

"We are deeply persuaded that our decisions are based on sound principles of Marxism-Leninism, rather than being revisionist. We are of the opinion that some of our past contributions to America have been limited by dogmatic and doctrinaire understanding and application of these principles, as well as oftentimes uncritical acceptance of views of Marxists in other countries, and often by a failure to appreciate thoroughly enough the conditions and democratic traditions of our country."

The resolutions of the Communist Party convention, the letter held, represented "an important departure from the past," and then quoted this section of a resolution adopted at the convention:

"The Communist Party bases its theory generally on the cultural heritage of mankind and particularly on the principles of scientific socialism as developed by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V. I. Lenin. These principles the Com-



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munist Party of the U.S.A. interprets, applies and strives to develop further in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle and democratic traditions."

Eugene Dennis referred to the Duclos greeting in his keynote address to the convention as follows:

"In respect to the misgivings expressed in the greeting signed by Jacques Duclos, let me say that we American Communists firmly believe in our great majority that the main line of our convention resolution is Marxist-Leninist in content and fully in accord with the interests and democratic traditions of our country, with proletarian solidarity, and with the new and ever-developing general-

ized experience of the international workingclass."

## Text of Reply To Duclos

Following is the text of the reply by the 16th National Convention of the Communist Party, U.S.A., to a greeting from Jacques Duclos, French Communist leader:

Our national convention has received many warm and fraternal messages from the Communists of many lands. We welcome them as expressions of that important principle once voiced by Abraham Lincoln, "The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all nations and tongues and kindred."

We are pleased to respond to the greetings we received from Comrade Jacques Duclos, for the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, one week before our convention, and from the Central Committee on the eve of its opening.

We pay tribute to the great Party of the resistance movement and the staunch sons and daughters of the French workingclass that your Party represents. We place great value upon your expressions of sympathy and solidarity to your own hard-pressed Party, especially as we recall the spirit of friendship that has animated our two peoples in the cause of democracy since the establishment of our Republics. This historic

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friendship cannot be extinguished by the anti-democratic and aggressive actions of the men of Wall Street which run counter to the will and traditions of our people.

We deeply regret, and strongly protest, the arbitrary exclusion of the fraternal representatives of your Party from our country by our State Department. These cold-war barriers have been injurious also in preventing full exchanges of information and opinion, making it more difficult that you in France or we in America might be fully acquainted with conditions in each other's country.

In the greeting signed by Comrade Jacques Duclos there is expressed misgivings and criticism with respect to the course we are following. We do not question his right to do so. Mutual criticism is beneficial and most useful when exercised on the basis of fraternal and equal relations between the respective Communist Parties.

We are in the closing sessions of the National Convention of our Party. As an independent working class Party we are motivated by the best interests of our class and nation, whose true interests coincide with those of the common people in all lands. In four days of free debate, we have arrived at our decisions, and for these we are accountable to our Party membership, our class and the American people, who will be the final judges of the correctness of our decisions in the light of their experience.

The heart of the decisions of this convention is the charting of a road ahead for our Party and our judgment as to the path to Socialism that the American people must eventually take by their own free choice.

We are deeply persuaded that our decisions are based on sound principles of scientific socialism, of Marxism-Leninism, rather than being revisionist. We are of the opinion that some of our past contributions to America have been limited by dogmatic and doctrinaire understanding and application of these principles, as well as the oft-times uncritical acceptance of views of Marxists in other countries, and often by a failure to appreciate thoroughly enough the conditions and democratic traditions of our country.

We believe that our Resolutions express an important departure from the past in stating that: "The Communist Party bases its theory

generally on the cultural heritage of mankind and particularly on the principles of scientific socialism as developed by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V. I. Lenin. These principles the Communist Party of the U.S.A. interprets, applies and strives to develop further in accordance with the requirements of the American class struggle and democratic traditions."

Our Resolution also clarifies our concept of relations among working class parties. "These relations must be based on the principles of scientific socialism, on proletarian internationalism, they must be based on each Communist Party serving the best national interests of its people and thereby the common interests of all progressive humanity. This requires the equality and independence of Marxist parties in the mutual discussion and resolution of common problems; the right and duty of the Communists of all countries to engage in comradely criticism of the policies and practices of the Communists of any country whenever they feel this necessary. This will strengthen, not weaken, international solidarity. It will advance the cause of socialism in all countries."

It is in this spirit that we have given careful consideration to the opinions expressed in your message, and extend to you our own warm and comradely greetings.

# MORRIS

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lows pretty much the criticism we have had in these columns on numerous occasions for the past two years. We greeted his remarks two years ago when he first voiced his criticism. But, as we said at the time of the merger convention, he took a negative position to the merger as such. That still holds.

Quill was alone in his position at the final CIO convention. Certainly we had no illusions that everything would be peaches and cream after the merger. We have stressed a hundred times that unless there is a pressure within the AFL-CIO for action on the merger convention decision, nothing will happen.

Developments since the merger have not been entirely negative, as we noted many times. But notwithstanding the results so far, the issue was not and is not whether to have or not have labor unity. The issue for people with a constructive outlook is how to take advantage of the opportunity to widen and intensify the struggle for progress. It is safe to answer that as