

STATEMENT BY PIERRE FRANK ON THE OUTLAWING OF THE PCI- June 13

I learned from a press agency that the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (PCI) has been placed on the list of organizations whose dissolution has been decreed by the Council of Ministers. I have had no official notification of this measure but it does not surprise me.

The PCI, it should be remembered, was built in the underground during World War II through the fusion of various Trotskyist groups of that time. It has been active in public life since the liberation. Among other things, since 1946 it has run candidates in legislative elections many times.

Our members were persecuted and arrested during France's war with Vietnam and again in the war with Algeria. The government measure, which has struck at various revolutionary youth organizations along with us for allegedly organizing commando groups, is a completely arbitrary administrative directive. The government does not dare to present its case in the courts, where it would have to formulate exact charges and present evidence.

The government move coincided with the frenzied campaign which the leaderships of the PCF (French Communist Party) and the CGT (General Federation of Labor--the CP-led union) are conducting against the "leftists." These leaderships have not protested at all against the repression which can turn in their direction in the future.

We are studying the legal aspects of the measure and are reserving our right to challenge it. We are confident that many labor and civil liberties organizations will speak up against the dissolution measures taken by the government against a series of vanguard organizations, and will struggle against these decrees until they are abrogated.

In any case, the Trotskyists, who have undergone many repressions before, will emerge from this attack stronger than ever.

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Chicago, Illinois
June 16, 1968

Dear Jack,

This is a report on the French campaign (through the Militant) here, over the last two weeks. We've sold 1350 of the June 7th and 14th issues: 450 on campus (most are out of session), 450 at shopping centers, 150 at the "Battle of Algiers" film showings nightly, and 160 at plant sales -- primarily at a U.S. Steel mill. At the latter we've sold overwhelmingly to black workers and have begun to sell some to young white workers.

Over 3/4 of the SWP branch and the YSA has been out on sales at least twice during the last three weeks, most of them three or four times. We've learned that our bundle size before the French events was much too small; it will certainly be raised significantly after the campaign (around France) is over.

We've called a solidarity rally for Friday, June 21, at the French consulate. We're trying to draw in SDS and others. Also Friday, Dan is giving a forum on France. We've run off 5,000 leaflets for the demonstration in our own name and 1000 forum leaflets.

Our bundle for the June 21 issue is 1000 and it looks sure that we will sell it out.

Comradely,

Richard Hill,
Militant Director