
Letter to Grigorii Zinoviev in Moscow from John Ballam [“John Moore”] in Moscow in Regard to the American Situation, March 24, 1922.

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 128, l. 22.

Moscow, March 24, 1922.

In Re: American Situation (Communist Party of America)

Dear Comrade Zinoviev:

In the interests of the Communist movement in America I am prepared to agree to the disbanding of the faction which I represent and to work for the policies of the Comintern, which, as a soldier in the revolutionary ranks I cannot oppose.

I am therefore ready to accept the following: We will return to the CP of America unconditionally; we will at the same time become members of the legal political party — the Workers Party; we will recognize the authority and submit to the discipline of the Central Executive Committee of the CP of America and of the Executive Committee of the Comintern.

In bringing about this complete and unconditional liquidation of our faction composed of 5,000 comrades who have been members of the Comintern for the past 3 years, I have submitted the following to the EC of the CI in order to protect these comrades in their membership rights; and to avoid the danger of further disagreement and splits:

1) That a commission of 3 be appointed to consist of Moore [Ballam], Marshall [Max Bedacht], and a comrade to be selected by the Executive of the Comintern, to be agreed upon by Carr [Ludwig Katterfeld] and Moore [Ballam], and to be chairman of the commission. (I suggest the name of Comrade BORODIN).†

2) This commission of 3 to attend all meetings of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America, with voice but no vote.

3) This commission to have access to all books, records, files, documents, reports, etc. of the Communist Party of America.

4) The commission to be given the connections with districts and other units of the CP of America.

5) The commission to investigate the affairs of the Communist Party of America and to make a complete report to the Executive Committee of the Comintern.

6) A convention of the party to be called within 30 days of the unity of the two factions and to be held within 30 days of the issuance of the call.‡

7) The commission to be financed by the Comintern.

†- Henryk Walecki [Valetskii] was actually the individual dispatched by the Comintern to help supervise the reunification of the Central Caucus Faction with the regular Communist Party of America.

‡- This idea seems to have guided the actual reunification process, with a June 25, 1922 official date of unification followed by a joint convention held Aug. 17-22, 1922 at Bridgman, Michigan — that is, just under 60 days later.

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The adjustment of the factional differences in America requires the presence of a firm and skillful comrade. I would ask you to use your influence for the appointment of Comrade BORODIN as the chairman of the proposed commission, who I believe will act firmly and with political sagacity. I have spoken to Comrade BORODIN and he is willing to serve. I am sure that he will win the respect and confidence of both factions.

Fraternally yours,

John Moore [John J. Ballam],
American Delegate.

[appended in handwriting:]

If possible I would request a personal interview.

John Moore [John J. Ballam],
Room 32, Luxe.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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