
Open Letter to All Russian Branches of the Communist Party of America in *Rabochaia Bor'ba* [Chicago], April 18, 1920

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The Rabochaia Bor'ba (Workers' Struggle), official organ of the Communist Party of the Chicago region, on page 5 of the issue of April 18, 1920, prints the following article entitled "To All Russian Communist Branches," of which Agent submits the following translation:

Comrades:

In view of the happenings in the life of the Russian Federation of the Communist Party, it is not a secret that our federation is going through a critical period. From one side reaction with the most contemptible way of oppressing the Russian revolutionary vanguard of the Communist movement, taking from the ranks the best active and loyal comrades; from the other side, the dirty politics of our leaders from the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Federation, those who dare to criticize their doings were taken and thrown out of the federation; and through whom, following the machine in Detroit, they elected the most ignorant fellows. Therefore it is no wonder that [despite the burst of activity related to] the 1st of May, our federation is shaky. Our leaders lost their nerve and many of them fled, not forgetting to first dip their hands into the people's pockets.

Those who were left could find no better revolutionary activity than the saving of the private property of the federation, leaving aside entirely the Communist movement. Comrades, this lesson cannot be lost. It is time to destroy the misunderstanding between revolutionary comrades sharing the same aims. It is time to stop the discussion as to whether the Com-

munist proletariat must be united in their fight against the common enemy — capital. Such misunderstandings were very bad before; now, when reaction is so bitter, this kind of politics is nothing but a crime. It is time to put an end to it. It is time to lead ourselves away from the bunch of politicians, among whom are included common adventurers who have nothing in common with the workers' movement, but who are utilizing this movement in their personal interests.

Let the direct call of the rank and file of our comrades, who took the best of the organization into their own hands, find a comradely echo among the ranks of the Russian Communists. We therefore ask the members of the Russian Federation to back up the decision adopted unanimously by the Chicago region, which reads as follows:

Refuse any moral and material help to the bunch who call themselves the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Federation and all the business of the region until we decide upon future steps to go over directly under the management of the Communist Party.

This is a decision which previously was accepted by the Boston District, which has over 1,000 members — therefore we call upon the rest of the districts to accept this. We also appeal to the expelled branches to immediately unite with us in order by comradely advance to rid all that rot which was in the federation, and to build up together a strong, wealthy organization which will be in a position to destroy the kingdom of the golden dollar and build up the new Communist society.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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