

# RESOLUTION OF THE I.R.A. ON WORK AMONG THE NEGROES

Adopted by the Secretariat of the E.C.

*October 16, 1930*

The capitalist world is in the grasp of a relentless economic crisis that daily continues to deepen and widen. In their desperate efforts to save themselves the lords of imperialism are seeking to shift the burdens of the crisis upon the backs of those exploited masses in the "home" countries and their millions of already poverty stricken masses in the colonies. The blows of its ruthless agents are falling most heavily upon the weakest sections of the toiling masses. Throughout the "civilised" world the exploitation and oppression of the Negro peoples know no limit. In "cultured" America open season is declared for the Jim-Crowing, segregation and wholesale lynching of the Negro toilers. Dominant in the black colonies is the expropriation from the land, pass laws, poll tax and Riotous Assembly Acts. The lot of the Negroes can only be described as that of the lowest caste in the ruling countries and as slaves at "home."

But the Negro masses are beginning to awaken. In America they are standing side by side with the white workers in strike struggle and political demonstrations. The revolutionary upsurge in the black colonies increases in intensity. In Haiti the masses are in revolt against the bloody dictatorship of American imperialism. In the French colonies of Madagascar and the Congo the uprisings of the helpless natives have been drowned in blood. In Gambia the bloody armed forces of MacDonald's "socialist" government attempted to suppress the strike of the native workers against the Lever Margarine Co. In the Belgian Congo tens of thousands of Negroes have paid with their lives for their stand against imperialist looting. In East Africa, West Africa and South Africa the blood of the Negro masses has flowed like water. In Nigeria 500 Negro women were killed because they dared protest against increasing taxation; in Durban and Worcester, in South Africa, the fascist gangs of Hertzog aided the police in their murderous attack upon defenceless Negroes. In the United States 36 lynchings is the total for the first nine months of this year.

The struggle of the Negro masses for social and national emancipation is an inseparable part of the proletarian struggles against imperialism. The revolutionary proletariat of the ruling countries must give active support to the Revolutionary National Movements of the Negro Masses; it must make of these movements an ally in the struggle against imperialism. "Labour in white skin cannot emancipate itself while labour in black skin is branded" (Karl Marx). The fiercer and more bloody becomes the murderous attack of capitalism, the more indissoluble must become the international solidarity of the exploited and oppressed masses of the world.

The so-called peace conferences of the imperialists are but a cover for their preparations for war against the Soviet Union. In a new world war they will attempt to end the struggles of the exploited and oppressed masses against imperialism. Millions of the exploited and oppressed Negro masses *will be organised* for this struggle. Already France has built her army of tens of thousands of black soldiers. The Negro masses will be forced again to give their blood and lives in war for the repartition of their country and their further enslavement to imperialism. Together with the white workers they must relentlessly struggle against imperialist war.

They must also put up a determined struggle against imperialist terror. Their struggle must be spread to all fronts with the aid of the I.R.A. which stands in the forefront of the struggle defending the victims of white terror, aiding and protecting the families of those in prison, under the banner of the Anti-Imperialist League and their revolutionary National Liberation Organisations.

#### *The Role of the International Red Aid*

In these ever sharpening and spreading struggles of the toiling Negro masses for liberation from the yoke of imperialism, the role of the International Red Aid, that supports the victims of white terror without discrimination of race and nationality and mobilises widest masses for the fight against capitalist oppression and persecution, is becoming increasingly more important.

The role of the I.R.A. in the liberation struggle of the toiling Negro masses is particularly important because the I.R.A. educates the toilers of all races for the united fight against the exploiters. Through the relentless struggle against imperialist oppression and white chauvinism we will be able to remove the lack of confidence of the Negro masses towards white workers.

The Executive Committee of the I.R.A. has carried through international campaigns against the bloody persecution of the toiling Negroes (Haiti, Madagascar) and published a special pamphlet in the English, Spanish, German and Russian languages about the Negroes in the U.S.A. The I.R.A. has carried, and carries through energetic and persistent campaigns of protest and fights against lynching, Jim-Crowism and other forms of white chauvinism and terror, and supports, through its relief work, the struggles of the toiling Negroes in the colonies for their liberation from the yoke of imperialism. The I.R.A. was represented at the Negro Workers' Conference in Hamburg (June 1930) where a resolution for the I.R.A. was adopted.

The Red Aid organisation in the U.S.A. (International Labour Defence) has understood how to develop a strong campaign against lynch-terror and the persecution of Negroes, and has achieved some positive results.

The French section of the I.R.A. has begun in its country the fight against the oppression of the toiling Negroes in the French colonies.

The sections of the I.R.A. in the Latin American countries have also started the fight against the persecution of toiling Negroes in their own

countries and the remnants of race discrimination against Negroes, which still exist among toilers and is perpetuated and nourished there by the bourgeoisie.

At the same time the Executive Committee of the I.R.A. emphasises the fact, that its sections in the "mother countries" have done too little to foster in a concrete and efficient way the development or creation of the I.R.A. movement in the colonies.

#### *The Work in the Colonies.*

The Executive Committee of the I.R.A. stresses the fact that the work of the Red Aid in South Africa, which is of the greatest importance for the work among the Negroes, has been absolutely unsatisfactory because the Red Aid of South Africa has not understood how to fulfil its prime task—the work among Negroes—has not developed the fight against white chauvinism and has even not been able to draw Negroes into its ranks.

The E.C. of the I.R.A. considers that this situation is intolerable and calls upon the Red Aid in South Africa to reorganise itself immediately in such a way that it becomes an organisation of the natives with Negro comrades occupying the majority in all leading positions.

The Caribbean Secretariat of the I.R.A. must take measures for the immediate creation of Red Aid Sections in Haiti, Jamaica, San Domingo and Trinidad.

Large masses of Negro toilers must be drawn into the I.R.A. Sections in Panama, Honduras, Columbia and placed in leading positions in the organisation.

The Caribbean Secretariat of the I.R.A. must continue the publication of its bulletin in French and English, which must deal specifically with the persecutions of the Negro masses, and secure its circulation. It is necessary to intensify the education among the masses of Negroes and natives of Central America in the spirit of international proletarian solidarity, with the aim of uniting them for the common struggle against imperialism and its native lackeys.

In those states of Brazil, where the Negro population is in the majority, the Red Aid must become a mass Negro organisation with Negro comrades in the majority of the leading positions, and where they are in the minority in the population, they must be drawn into the organisation and into the committees.

#### *Tasks of the I.R.A. in the "Mother Countries."*

The E.C. of the I.R.A. directs the attention of its sections to the absolute necessity of linking up their daily work and campaigns in the "mother countries" with the fight against the persecution of toiling Negro masses (lynching, Jim-Crowism, segregation and all forms of social and political discrimination) and the relief of the Negro victims of white terror with all of the national liberation struggles of the Negro masses, as well as with a systematic work of international education of widest toiling masses of all nationalities as an indispensable aid in the struggle against race pre-

judices and for class solidarity. It is particularly the task and duty of the Red Aid organisations in imperialist countries to develop constant and intensive work in this direction and to make clear to large masses of toilers in the "mother countries" that their class struggle in the "mother countries" is inseparably connected with the liberation struggle of the colonial toilers.

It is the task of the R.A. Sections in the "mother countries" to establish close connection with the toiling Negroes who live in the "mother countries," to obtain the collective affiliation to the I.R.A. of their organisations which exist in the "mother countries" particularly the "Ligue de Defense de la Race Negre," both French and German Sections, and to create in these collectively affiliated organisations I.R.A. groups, as well as to lead recruiting campaigns among the toiling Negroes in the "mother countries" for the I.R.A.

It is particularly important to establish close connection with Negro seamen in the "mother countries" with the aim of strengthening the connection with the colonies.

The I.R.A. Sections in the "mother countries" must in their reports regularly inform the E.C. of the I.R.A. about their work among the Negroes.

#### *Tasks of the I.L.D.*

The I.L.D. of the United States must consider, as centre of gravity for its work among the Negroes in the U.S.A., the Southern Black Belt. Here where the Negroes form the national majority, the local and district organisations must become mass Negro organisations and Negro comrades must occupy the majority of the positions on responsible committees, but at the same time work among the Negro masses in the North must not be neglected and Negro comrades should be placed in leading positions on all committees.

A systematic and relentless struggle must be carried on against all open expressions of white chauvinism among the working class and particularly in the ranks of the I.L.D. as well as against all those expressions of chauvinism which manifest themselves in an underestimation of the importance of the work among the Negro masses.

The I.L.D. in the U.S.A. must throughout the country draw Negro comrades into the courses for I.L.D. functionaries, and in the Black Belt of the South such courses must be established and the majority of the attendants should be Negroes.

A special drive for recruiting new members among the Negro masses must be organised.

In its report to the E.C. of the I.R.A. the I.L.D. must regularly inform about the development of its Negro work.

#### *Tasks of the I.R.A. sections in the "Mother Countries" towards Colonies.*

The sections of the Red Aid in the "mother countries" must establish and maintain connections with the organisations of the toiling Negroes in the colonies and do their utmost to foster the creation of Red Aid Sections in the colonies.

The English-speaking sections must develop the connections established with the organisations of the Negro toilers in Sierra Leone, Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria and supply the latter regularly with their literature. The I.L.D. in the U.S.A. must turn its attention toward the work of strengthening the development of Red Aid Sections in the Caribbean and South American countries.

In strengthening their campaigns against the persecution of Negro workers and peasants, the I.R.A. Sections in the "mother countries" must show the common interest and inseparableness of the struggle of the workers in the "mother countries" and the Negro peoples in the colonies against imperialism.

The I.R.A. calls upon the toiling Negro masses in the colonies who suffer under the heel of imperialism and are massacred when they fight against forced labour, poll taxes and other forms of exploitation and oppression, to join the Red Aid and to establish Red Aid organisations wherever such do not exist as yet.

Particularly the I.R.A. calls upon the Negro proletarian and peasant organisations in the colonies to foster the development of Red Aid work in colonies and to affiliate as collective members to the I.R.A.

Fight against imperialism that perpetrates white terror in the whole world!

Fight against lynching! Fight against Jim-Crowism, segregation and all forms of national discrimination against Negro toilers!

Fight for the unity of the toilers of all races and nationalities for the common struggle against white terror!

Negro toilers, join the Red Aid, which supports all victims of reaction and imperialist terror without discrimination of race or colour!

Fight for the release of all the revolutionary political prisoners!

Negro toilers in colonies: Create the Red Aid!

Long live the International Proletarian Solidarity!