

THE PEASANTS' MOVEMENT

Appeal to the Peasants of the East and the Colonies.

Adopted at the Second Enlarged Executive of the Peasant International.

To the Peasants of the Colonies and of the East: of Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, India, China, Corea, Japan, the Negroes of America and Africa and to all peasants and toilers in the Colonies who are oppressed by the capitalists and large landowners.

Brothers, Comrades!

In October 1923 there assembled in Moscow for the first time in world history the representatives of the peasants of 40 nationalities from all countries of the world and decided to form an International Peasant Council.

Its aim is to build a centre for the defence of the interests of the peasantry, to close the ranks of the peasantry for the struggle for freedom from the century-long slavery to the landowners, to establish a close connection between the peasants of the whole world, to unite the peasants who are fighting for their national and economic freedom with their brothers, the workers, and to determine the further methods of the struggle.

Not only the peasants of the West answered the appeal of the International Peasant Council, but also the peasants of the East. And to-day, after one and a half years, delegates have come to the conference of the International Peasant Council from Turkey, Persia, Egypt, India, China, Corea and Japan. Representatives have also come from the American Negroes.

The peasants of almost every country in the world were represented at this Congress. In these countries there are various religious beliefs. And these peasants belong to the most divergent parties. Many of them belong to no party at all.

The majority of them are poor. Nevertheless there are peasants of the middle class amongst them. In fact there are even well to-do peasants amongst them for whom the foreign

yoke has become unbearable and who have stretched out their hands to their poorer brothers.

They are all here, for they are all sons of the soil.

They have all been united by the recognition of the fact that in the colonies and in the East, from Turkey to Japan, from Kashgar to Java, from Algeria to the Cape of Good Hope, the peasants form 80% to 90% of the population.

They have grasped the fact that the whole burden of the taxes falls upon them, the peasants, that the whole state revenue is made up at the cost of their labour, that the armies are formed from the peasantry and then flung at each other for mutual destruction in the interests of the large landowners and capitalists, and that the large landowners have seized all the best land for themselves.

And whilst the peasants work with sweat and blood for the benefit of the foreign exploiters, the over-fed parasites, the officials and landowners, the conditions of the peasants themselves differ in no way from those of animals.

In the best case the peasant receives enough food to prevent him from dying of starvation. In the worst case he is condemned to die of starvation. But he must give here a third, there a half, in other places two thirds of his labour to the landowner. And every time he seeks to better his lot, he is threatened with monstrous judgments.

Thousand of peasants are shot by foreign soldiers, or by their own brothers who are thrust into the imperialist armies by force.

India, Algeria, Morocco, Tunis and Corea are groaning under the yoke of foreign bayonets. In the so-called independant states like China, Persia, Egypt and Siam, the capitalists behave just as though they were at home.

In America the Negroes are deprived of almost all human rights.

Comrades, Brothers!

How long shall this state of affairs last? How long will the peasants who form two thirds of humanity, yield up their work and the work of their wives and children and their whole lives for the benefit of a small group of exploiters?

These are the questions which the peasants of the Orient and the Colonies put to themselves here. In the Peasant Council however, they determined that an end must be put to such an order of things!

But is it easy to bring this about? Is it easy, for instance, to drive the foreign exploiters out, the English from Egypt and India, the French from Morocco and Algeria, the Japanese from Corea, the Dutch from the East Indies? Is it easy for the Negro to become a citizen of the United States with equal rights? Is it easy for the Chinese peasant to take back the land wrested from him by the foreigners? Is it easy for the Persian and Turkish peasants to withdraw the concessions obtained from them by force or by the bribery of officials? Is it easy for the Oriental peasants to take the land which belongs to them away from their feudal masters? Or is it easy for the peasant to free himself from the taxes, from forced labour, from forced military service, from forced participation in the execution of his brother peasants?

Brothers, Comrades!

You all know that that is a difficult matter. But the peasants of the East and of the Colonies are not fighting alone. You are not isolated. The first Workers' and Peasants' Soviet Republic existing in the world has become a refuge for you. The class conscious workers of the whole go hand in hand with the Soviet Republic. The workers in the countries the governments of which oppress you will rise together with you.

Look to the Russian comrades who have given an example of how the peasants must free themselves from the large landowners and oppressors. Look to the example of the Transcaucasien Republics and to that of the Mohammedans of Turkestan, look at the first Workers' and Peasants' Republic, see how the freedom of all nations is assured in a great union of peoples.

Victory is only possible if there is unity amongst the workers, when the peasants in all countries and in the whole world rise against their exploiters and enslavers.

And for this purpose not only a firm unity between the peasants of one land is necessary, but an alliance of the workers and peasants of all countries.

Who, however, is to devote himself to this? The International Peasant Council.

The International Peasant Council must unite the peasants of the whole world. There must be no country in the world without its representative in this Council.

If there are no peasants unions or associations in your country, then create them.

Organise defence committees for the struggle against the oppressors in the country! Link these committees up into a single peasant union in your country! Affiliate this union to the International Peasant Council in Moscow!

Send your delegates to us to discuss the general work together with the peasants of all other countries and to report to the International Peasant Council how you are struggling against the oppressors or how you think to struggle against them, what hinders your struggle, how can we help you to put an end to the immeasurable suffering of our peasant brothers in the Orient and the Colonies.

Long live the Unity of the Peasants of the Orient and of the Colonies!

Long live the Liberation of the Peasants of the East and the Colonies from foreign exploiters and their own landowners!

Long live the Alliance of the Workers and Peasants of the whole World!

Long live the International Peasant Council, the General Staff in the Struggle for the Liberation of the Peasantry!

**The Presidium of the Plenum of the
International Peasant Council.**
