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Conditions For Joining The
Communist InternationalTheses of the Executive Committee of the Communist
International

Editor's Note—At the instigation of Local (Winnipeg) No. 3 of the S. P. of C., the Dominion Executive Committee have decided to place the matter of affiliation with the Third (Communist) International before the Party membership for referendum. It is desirable that before the matter is decided upon the Party members should discuss the terms of affiliation and such other points as may relate to them. For this reason the terms of affiliation are printed in this issue. These are taken from the Theses presented to the Second Congress (July, 1920) of the Third International, by its executive. The document is printed in English and published in Moscow. The various locals of the S. P. of C. will no doubt discuss this matter, and we hope to be able to present the case for and against affiliation in these columns. Next issue will contain an article for affiliation from Comrade Kaplan of Winnipeg. A good discussion should take place, which, however, depends upon the Party membership and the interest taken by them in this important matter. The attitude adopted by the S. P. of C. towards the Second International is fairly well known, but for general information and in order to avoid needless argument over the remains of the Second International, we have printed in another column of this issue the D. E. C. resolution adopted in August, 1909, towards that institution. The serious attention of all party members is now asked for upon the question of affiliation with the Third International. Those who wish to do so may now state the case as they see it, for or against. We hope in this way to acquaint the Party membership with the nature of the question to be decided, which is:—"Shall the S. P. of C. affiliate with the Third (Communist) International upon the terms herein laid down." The date of referendum will necessarily depend upon the discussion that arises, relevant to that question. Send in your argument. The Editor will strive to be impartial.

THE First Constituent Congress of the Communist International did not draw up precise conditions for the joining of the Third International by separate parties. At the moment of the convocation of the First Congress, in the majority of countries there existed only Communist directions and groups.

The Second World Congress of the Communist International is assembling under different conditions. At the present moment in most countries there are not only Communist tendencies and directions, but Communist Parties and organizations.

The Communist International is more and more frequently receiving applications from parties and groups but a short time ago belonging to the Second International, now desirous of joining the Third International, but not yet really Communists.

The Second International parties and the groups of the "centre," seeing the complete hopelessness of the Second International, are trying to lean upon the ever-strengthening Communist International, hoping at the same time however to preserve a certain "autonomy" which would enable them to carry on their former opportunist or "centrist" policy.

The Communist International is beginning to be the fashion.

The desire for certain leading groups of the "centre" to join the Third International now is an indirect confirmation of the fact that the Third International has acquired the sympathies of the major-

ity of conscientious workers of the whole world, and that it is growing stronger every day.

Under certain circumstances the Communist International may be threatened with the danger of dilution by the fluctuating and half-and-half groups, which have not yet done with the ideology of the Second International.

Besides, in some of the larger parties (Italy, Sweden), the majority of which are adhering to the point of view of Communism, there is up to this moment a considerable reformist and social pacifist wing, which is only waiting for the moment to lift its head again, begin an active "sabotage" of the proletarian revolution, and thus help the bourgeoisie and the Second International.

No Communist should forget the lessons of the Hungarian Soviet Republic.

The union between the Hungarian Communists and the reformers cost the Hungarian proletariat very dear.

In view of this, the Second World Congress sees fit to establish the most precise conditions for the joining of new parties, and also to point out to such parties as have already joined the Communist International, the duties laid upon them.

The Second Congress of the Communist International decrees, that the conditions for joining the Communist International shall be as follows:

1. The daily propaganda must bear a truly Communist character.

All the organs of the press which are in the hands of the Party must be edited by reliable Communists, who have proved their loyalty to the cause of the proletarian revolution. The dictatorship of the proletariat should not be spoken of simply as a current well-learned formula; it must be propagated in such a way that its necessity for each rank and file workman, workwoman, soldier, or peasant should follow from every day facts, systematically recorded by our press day by day.

On the pages of the newspapers, at popular meetings, in the labor unions, in the co-operatives, in every place to which the partisans of the Third International have access, they must denounce not only the bourgeoisie, but its assistants, the reformists of all shades and color.

2. Each organization wishing to join the Communist International shall be bound to remove systematically and regularly from all responsible posts in the Labour movement (Party organizations, editor's office, labor unions, parliamentary faction, co-operatives, municipalities, etc.) all reformists and partisans of the "centre," and to replace them by Communists without troubling about the facts that in the beginning it might be necessary to replace "experienced" men by rank-and-file workmen.

3. In all countries where in consequence of martial law or exceptional laws the Communists are unable to carry on their work lawfully, a combination of

lawful and illegal work is absolutely necessary. The class struggle in almost all the countries of Europe and America is entering upon the phase of civil war. Under such conditions the Communists cannot have any confidence in the bourgeois laws. They are bound to create everywhere a parallel illegal apparatus, which at the decisive moment may help the Party to accomplish its duty to the Revolution.

4. An insistent systematic propaganda and agitation in the army is necessary, and the formation of Communist nuclei in each military organization. The Communists must carry on this work for the most part illegally, but a refusal to do such work would be equal to treason against the revolutionary cause, and inconsistent with their belonging to the Third International.

5. A systematic and regular propaganda in the rural districts is necessary. The working class cannot gain the victory without having at least part of rural workers and the poorer peasants on its side, and without neutralizing by its policy at least part of the other inhabitants of the country. Communist work in the rural districts is acquiring a primary importance in this epoch. It should be carried on through workmen—Communists—having connections in the country. To refuse to do this work or to transfer it to trustworthy half-reformist hands is equal to desisting from the proletarian revolution.

6. Every party desirous of joining the Third International is bound to denounce not only open social patriotism, but also the falsehood and hypocrisy of social-pacifism: it must systematically demonstrate to the workmen that without a revolutionary overthrow of capitalism no international arbitration, no talk of disarmament, no democratic reorganization of the League of Nations will be able to save mankind from new imperialist wars.

7. Parties desirous of joining the Communist international shall be bound to recognize the necessity of a complete and absolute rupture with reformism and the policy of the centrists, and to propagate this rupture among the widest circles of members of the Party. Without this condition a consecutive Communist policy is impossible.

The Communist International demands unconditionally and peremptorily that such rupture be realized with the least possible delay. The Communist International cannot reconcile itself with the fact that such acknowledged reformists as for instance Turatti, Modigliani and others should be entitled to consider themselves members of the Third International. This would make the Third International resemble the late Second International.

8. In the question of colonies and the oppressed nationalities an especially distinct and clear line of conduct of the parties of countries whose bourgeoisie possess such colonies or oppress other national-

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