

World Communist Youth

Points Way to UNITY

FOR AMERICAN YOUTH!..

(An Interview With)
GIL GREEN

Q.—Comrade Green, in your interview with the Daily Worker immediately upon your return from the Sixth World Congress of the Young Communist International, you speak of a "front of the young generation." What is the meaning of this phrase?

A.—The Y. C. I. Congress made a thorough analysis of the situation of the youth in the capitalist world. It found that as a result of the general decline of capitalism and the last three years of economic crisis and depression, a whole generation of youth is growing to manhood and womanhood without prospect for future security and happiness. Capitalism can no longer offer even the limited opportunities of the past not alone to the working class youth, but to increasingly larger sections of youth from the ranks of the farming population and the middle class. The phrase "front of the young generation" implies our understanding of this plight of a generation of youth and our recognition of the possibility and necessity of uniting this generation in defense of its democratic, economic and political needs.

Q.—Does not this phrase tend to gloss over the class divisions in the ranks of the youth?

THE YOUNG GENERATION

A.—Of course, we as Marxists cannot fail to see the important fact that the youth do not constitute a separate class in society. The class divisions of society are also to be found in the ranks of youth. We do not wish to gloss over or blur these class divisions. On the contrary, we wish to make the youth more conscious of the main class division in society—the division between the wealthy and the exploited, the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. We wish to make the youth conscious of the fact that at the head of the masses of exploited stands the working class behind which all progressive forces must ally themselves in the interests not alone of the working class but of all of humanity.

The fascists also speak of the young generation. They demagogically appeal to the vanity of youth and shamefully utilize the plight of the youth in their attempt to place them in opposition to the older generation. They speak of the young generation and its plight in order to blur the class divisions in society. We speak of the youth in order to bring them together in order to win it in its vast majority against reaction and fascism, for peace and freedom.

Q.—How is such a "front of the young



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generation" to be formed in the United States?

A.—We already see the embryo or beginning of such a front in the existence of the American Youth Congress. The American Youth Congress unites in its ranks not only the organizations of working class youth, but also those of the youth of the middle classes. It attempts to unite the vast majority of the young generation in defense of peace against reaction and for all of their most urgent needs. The Young Communist League will continue to support and help extend and build the American Youth Congress. It will help to make this Congress the medium through which all non-fascist youth organizations and youth can collaborate in behalf of a common minimum program.

NON-FASCIST YOUTH

Q.—Can you be more specific as to what you mean by "non-fascist youth organizations"?

A.—Yes I refer to nearly all of the large youth organizations of the United States. These organizations, the Y.A. Settlement Houses, Christian youth organizations, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called fascist. While most of these are still under bourgeois influence, they are nevertheless non-fascist.

It is possible to establish close collaboration with these organizations against the growing reaction, for the democratic rights of the masses, for the economic improvement of the conditions of the youth and for peace. Such collaboration is of greatest importance in order to keep these organizations from being unified behind reactionary programs, such as was attempted a year ago by Victor Gollancz, and for peace. Such collaboration is of greatest importance in order to keep these organizations from being converted into organizations of a fascist type. We hope to help convert these organizations into centers of progressive influence. This centers against reaction and fascism.

Q.—In your interview with the Daily Worker, you also speak of reconstructing the Y. C. I. into a "non-Party mass youth organization." Can you elaborate on this statement?

A.—The readers of the YOUNG WORKER must understand that in the course of my press interview, due to a lack of space, it is difficult to fully explain questions such as this. For this reason open membership meetings will be held in all important cities, where reports will be given on the Sixth Congress of the Y. C. I. and its meaning for the youth of the U. S. A. We shall publish the most important documents and reports of this congress for further clarification. However, a few words of elaboration are in order here.

BROADER APPROACH

For a number of years we have been speaking of broadening the Y. C. I. into an organization, larger in size than the Communist Party. The need for this has been apparent to all members and sympathizers. However, in practice this was made impossible because the Y. C. I. had no serious program and organizational structure as that of the Party. Thus, the League remained in essence, despite its growth and progress, a youth Communist Party.

The Y. C. I. Congress called for the broadening of the young leagues in all capitalist countries into youth organizations which unite all youth who wish to stand on a working class program, who are ready to work for the transformation of society. The organizational character of the League should also be broadened to include any group of youth who wish to join such an organization. The League should in every sense of the word be a youth organization, answering all the needs of the youth. It should be an educational organization, imbuing the youth with a spirit of proletarian internationalism and revolutionary Marxism. Each organization would include in its ranks Communist, Socialist and non-party youth.

Q.—In what sense do you use the word



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"educational"? Does this imply that the League would only participate in study activity?

A.—Not at all. The word "educational" is used in the same sense as used by Lenin and Stalin. It implies a combination of theory and practice. We know that the youth cannot learn Marxism, cannot become revolutionaries, without participating in the daily class struggle. The League will have as its aim to draw more and more youth into the struggle for their immediate needs and against capitalism. It will, however, activate its membership not through compulsion but by conviction.

Q.—Does the non-Party character of the League imply no connections with the Communist Party?

A.—It implies that the League will not be a youth section of the Communist Party nor other party for that matter. It will be an independent organization. It will in a DEMOCRATIC manner decide on its own program and its relationship to the various parties. We as Communists shall work to maintain close fraternal relations between the youth League and the Communist Party, and we are sure that the Party in its turn will give support and aid to the development of this broad youth League.

ORGANIC UNITY

Q.—Would not the merging of the Y. C. I. and the Young Peoples Socialist League be of great assistance in the development of this non-Party youth League?

A.—Yes, it would. The Congress of the Young Communist International specifically spoke of the importance of establishing organic unity with the Socialist youth in every country and on a world scale. The merging of the Y. C. I. and Y. P. S. L. in the United States would not alone mean the creation of a League, larger than either of our present organizations. This merger would create tremendous enthusiasm in the ranks of youth and attract thousands of youth who today remain outside of our respective organizations due to the split which exists in the ranks of the working class. In this united organization, the Socialist youth could maintain their connections with the Socialist Party and the Communist youth with the Communist Party. The organization as a whole could establish fraternal relations with both parties.

Q.—What is the program for such reorganization in the United States?

A.—First of great importance is the successful merger of the two militant student organizations and the develop-

ment of close co-operation between the Socialist and Communist youth within this organization. This will be the best proof to those skeptics who believe such unity is impossible. Second, our League will throughout the country develop close comradely relations with the Socialist youth and their organization and in daily life prove our sincerity in promoting such amalgamation.

We shall support every demand or action of the Socialist youth directed in the interests of the working class and the young generation. We feel confident that in this manner it will not be long before the Socialist youth become convinced of the need for this step. We stand ready to discuss the question of amalgamation at any time and shall certainly seriously consider any proposals made by the leadership of the Socialist youth.

Q.—Why are the above changes necessary at the present time?

A.—Because unity is the need of the hour. Fascist reaction engulfs Europe and is spreading throughout the capitalist world. War has already begun. Fascist Germany is rearming at an alarming speed, preparing to attack the land of Socialism, the Soviet Union. Every possible force must be united in defense of the burning needs of the young generation for peace and freedom. The unity of the working class and all progressive forces can stop fascism, can hinder and stop war. That is why we must work with all our strength to bring about the front of the young generation, the front of all non-fascist forces. That is why we must unite all anti-fascist forces, all working class youth forces, in one working class youth organization. At stake is the very existence of humanity, of culture and progress.

GIL GREEN

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will report

on the 6th World Congress
of the Young Communist
International

FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 8 P. M.
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