

The Proposed Changes In the Communist Organization

By Robert Minor

"Won't This Policy, as Expressed in the Tehran Agreement, and in the Proposed Changes of Policy by the Communists, Give Capitalism a New Lease of Life?"

Yes. The carrying out of the policy based upon the Tehran Agreement will give our present forms of world civilization, including the major portion of it which is on the capitalist basis — a new lease on life.



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First of all, it will mean the survival of the two largest and most powerful capitalist societies in the world, together with the socialist society that now exists, through united military action and consequent victory. Without this there would be nothing to talk about.

Secondly, it will mean that the national economy of these two great capitalist states, Great Britain and the United States, are brought into the position as rapidly as they are able to reconvert their national industrial economic plants, to proceed with full production for post-war reconstruction with a larger and more stable market than has ever been possible in the world before. Of course, we don't mean to confine this possibility to the great manufacturing states; the arrangement is a world-wide one.

There can be no serious doubt that the opening up, the stabilization and world-wide regulations of such a huge world market as will be the consequence of the Tehran agreement, will restore the economic life of all countries that participate in it, and the assumption

is that these national economies will in most cases remain upon the basis on which they now stand. For our country and for England, as well as for most of the other countries, this would mean what the questioner calls giving capitalism "a new lease on life."

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I suggest that the reader follow one of the most basic principles of Marxism in understanding this matter. Many people mistakenly believe that history moves in a circle, and they are likely to conclude that a restoration of the national economies of these capitalist countries will mean the reproduction of that condition of affairs, of world economy and of political life that existed prior to the beginning of the economic crisis in 1929. But this is not true. History does not move in circles. The restoration of our national economy in capitalist countries as a result of the victory of the United Nations can only mean its restoration under the vastly new conditions created by the enormous development of history, of technique and economy, of new understanding of democracy and ripening and building of the labor movement which are the inevitable result of the enormous phenomenon of this world-wide peoples' war.

It will not be a world of 1929, but a world of the 1940's that will be restored. It will be a Europe in which all those most advanced centers of the world's culture will be forever rid of the rotting structure of semi-feudal institutions, military castes, etc. That rotting structure has been turned into a quailing structure. It will be swept away.

The post-war governments of Europe will be those chosen by peoples who have experienced the rule of Hitler and of Quislings and who will have felt the meaning of liberation. The unity of the labor

movement of a liberated Europe is a foregone conclusion. There will be, for the most part, in all likelihood, governments in which all parties that have opposed fascism will share responsibility, under conditions for rapid and peaceful social development.

Our country is one in which the labor movement has never espoused socialism, never opposed capitalism, but has always favored nothing more than the most immediate moderate reforms. The restoration of the economic life of our country, with the opening of an almost limitless market for the products of our greatly expanded industries, under conditions of the enormous growth of the labor movement, cannot result in a backward movement, but only a forward movement of our whole national political life.

And everyone must remember that the American labor movement is moving into political action as an essential part of the great national unity established as a prerequisite for winning this war of national survival. There has never been a greater political freedom than exists now in our country, due to these conditions. The only historic comparison would be the freedom that existed in the Northern cities during the great war of the 1860's when the people were led by Lincoln. Consequently the way to social progress is open. Marxists cannot demand more.

The next question will be answered in tomorrow's Daily Worker. It will be:

"In 1928 it was said that Capitalism Was Entering a Period of Crisis from Which There would be no Complete Recovery. Will Post-War Co-operation Between the Four Major Powers Prove this Prophecy Incorrect?"