

Statement - Thames Valley

WE initiate the inauguration of the Thames Valley Communist Association (affiliated to the Committee for Communist Unity) with this appeal, which we think is appropriate because we are former members of the Communist Party of Great Britain. Some of us have left the Party, while others have been forced to resign. Although the CPGB still claims to be a Marxist party, we found it impossible to stay in the Party yet remain true to our principles. We hold that by far the most effective way to advance the proletarian cause is to strengthen the Committee for Communist Unity because it is the embryo of a real revolutionary party, it is carrying on in the Leninist tradition, whereas the King Street clique of petty bourgeois careerists have betrayed all Marxist-Leninist principles. *The British Road to Socialism* is a disgusting betrayal of all Marxist ideals; even the revisionists don't really believe in it, but their apologists justify its adoption by saying that from a tactical point of view it is necessary to put it forward. Comrades, this is pure deception of the working class, unashamed and unadulterated opportunism, a disgrace to any party which claims to be Communist.

Rotten social democratic ideas and practices have long been a characteristic feature of the theory and practice of the CP leadership. But since Khrushchev, the arch-revisionist, the great friend of U.S. imperialism and the biggest traitor to Communism of all time, made his lying and slanderous attack on Comrade Stalin in 1956, negating everything Stalin did, the flood gates have opened and now revisionism has become a cancerous growth inside the ranks of the international Communist movement, which must, and eventually will, be destroyed by all the real Marxist-Leninists. We have no doubt about this, because we have the one great weapon which the revisionists can never have, and that is truth, Marxist-Leninist truth. Let the revisionists deceive and distort, twist and wriggle, it will all be to no avail. The truth will find you out.

And this is happening, comrades. In all fields of party work, the stultifying, corrupting hand of revisionism is taking its toll. The CPGB is degenerating as never before. The leaders have complete and utter contempt for the working class. They no longer appeal to their class consciousness. It is really nauseating to see them crawling round the BBC and ITA for TV time, to see them pathetically trying to establish their bona-fides with the establishment, to hear them proclaim how "respectable," how "responsible" they are and what a "serious" political party the CPGB has become. They have reached an all-time low in obsequiousness; they are even teaching the right-wing Labour leaders how to grovel. The CP leaders have lost touch with the aspirations and interests of the working class, they have submitted to bourgeois pressure and influence and have thus degenerated into petty bourgeois careerists. In fact, their whole appeal now is to petty bourgeois elements, and they have tailored their policy to suit the fears and prejudices of this vacillating class. Above all, they identify themselves as much as they can with the petty bourgeois Lefts of the Labour Party and the so-called Left TU leaders. They must be appeased at all costs; they must never be criticised. Yet these people are even bigger charlatans than the right-wing Labour and TU leaders. They use the rank-and-file opposition to the right wing only to ad-

vance their own careers. It is the job of Marxists, while supporting anything positive that they may do, to simultaneously expose their petty bourgeois nature and to conduct a principled struggle against them. But how can the revisionists do this, when they are themselves petty bourgeois leaders, and are doing precisely the same thing as all the other petty bourgeois lefts?

FUTURE WORK

So let us now tell you about ourselves and how we intend to work in the area in the future. The revisionists say there is democratic centralism in the CPGB. This is a lie. If democratic centralism did operate, it would mean that on basic issues such as the differences in the international Communist movement, both sides would be treated as equals and would have equal opportunity to present their case. What happens in practice, as all comrades know, is that a nominee from King St. or the District Committee comes to a branch to put forward the revisionist case. He speaks for half hour or so. An opposition speaker may be allowed 5 minutes, he is treated at best as a nuisance and at worst as an enemy. After he is finished he is crushed by the revisionists and then the voting machine goes into action. Comrades, this is bureaucratic centralism; it has nothing in common with democratic centralism. Within our organisation we allow free and uninhibited discussion, we do not bump anybody on the head and we treat all our members as comrades even if we disagree with them on certain issues.

The revisionist leaders, having torn the revolutionary heart out of the CPGB, now take their inspiration from Signor Togliatti. Vote grabbing has become the be-all and end-all of their existence.

They, too, would like to carve out for themselves a little petty bourgeois niche in capitalist society just the same as Togliatti has done. We reject this blatant opportunism. We do participate in elections but we only do it to expose the fraudulent nature of the bourgeois democratic state. We wholeheartedly agree with Lenin, who wrote in his article on "The Constituent Assembly Elections and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat," Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1954, p.36: "The party of the revolutionary proletariat must take part in bourgeois parliamentarism in order to enlighten the masses, which can be done during elections and in the struggle between parties in parliament. But to limit the class struggle to the parliamentary struggle, or to regard the latter as the highest and decisive form, to which all the other forms of struggle are subordinate, means actually deserting to the side of the bourgeoisie and going against the proletariat."

MASS STRUGGLE

We consider that our main task as Marxists is to appeal to the class consciousness of the masses, to lead, initiate and support their struggles. Resulting from this, our prestige will grow, we will gain their respect and they will elect us to positions of trust in TUs and other organisations. We will not make it our primary objective to capture key positions in these organisations, to win majorities on committees; if this does occur it will be a natural consequence of the winning of mass support. It will not be because we can get our people along to TU Branch meetings or because we can out-manoeuvre the right wing. We will endeavour to use our offices to strengthen the militant fighting power of the rank-and-file on the shop floor. We will never, from considerations of false loyalty to the CP leaders, do anything against the fundamental interests of the working class, as dozens of CP members have done in the past. The right-wing TU leaders deliberately send CP officials to break strikes, to do their dirty work for them. We will not allow ourselves to be placed in such a humiliating position; rather than do this, we will risk losing our office. Office holding will always take second place to the development of mass struggle at the place of work.

Ours will be an association of cadres; all our members will be active, and will participate in formulating policy and carrying it out. We will not be a party of card holders with the activists collecting dues from, selling literature to and generally wet-nursing the card holders. We are proud that even in a predominantly middle class area like the Thames Valley, our membership and support is 100 per cent working class. As yet, we have no

petty bourgeois intellectuals, so prominent and well-represented among the revisionists in the area. We welcome them, we would like them to come into our Association in order to strengthen our revolutionary principles, not to water them down.

NEED FOR STUDY

Finally, we absolutely insist that all our comrades buckle to and make a determined effort to master Marxist-Leninist theory, so as to be able to apply that theory to their own particular circumstances. We want no baton followers, no revisionist party hacks. The apologists for revisionism are getting increasingly irritated at our quotations from Lenin. Never mind. This is all to the good. Let them fume, rage, tear their hair out if they like. We will continue to throw Lenin in their faces. The study of Marxism in the CPGB over the years has progressively, been given less and less priority until now it is even discouraged. This is not so surprising since a comrade with a knowledge of Marxism is an embarrassment to the revisionists.

We call upon you to study Marxism, to read Lenin's great works. His polemics against the old revisionists, Kautsky and Bernstein, are great weapons in the struggle against the modern revisionists, Dutt and Gollan. Comrades, we ask you to join us. We are holding aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism, the same banner that the revisionists have tossed into the mire. However, if you feel that you are not ready to take this step, we appeal to you to conduct an active struggle inside the CPGB, against revisionism. Do not let the revisionists have it all their own way. If necessary, force them to expel you from the party. It is no stigma, for true Marxist-Leninists to be expelled from the CPGB; on the contrary it is an honour, and they will always be welcome in the ranks of the Committee for Communist Unity.

Allow us to conclude with these inspiring words written long ago in the **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**.

"The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their aims can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.

Working men of all countries, unite."

Ernie Hunt, Secretary pro tem.

(Comrade Hunt was a member of the C.P.G.B. from 1949 to 1964. Until recently he was Secretary of Twickenham Central Branch, and municipal candidate, and on the West Middlesex District Committee.—Editor.)