
To the Russian Workers in America Relative to Recent Raids and Arrests: Proclamation of the Chicago District Committee of Russian Branches, CLP [published March 11, 1920]

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Pravda has received from Chicago a proclamation issued by the District Committee of Russian Branches of the Communist Labor Party appealing to the Russian workers relative to recent raids and arrests.

Marking the growth of reaction in the United States and the severity with which the hirelings of capital have attacked the revolutionary organizations, the proclamation says:

Do not our enemies rejoice rather early? Do they not proclaim their victory rather prematurely?

The Tsar's officials have repeatedly rejoiced and celebrated their victory when our comrades, the fighters for the freedom of Russia, were on their way to Siberia; when jails were filled with prisoners, when the streets of Russian cities were drenched in blood and covered by dead bodies. But neither exile, nor shootings, nor hangings have saved the Tsar and his gang. And neither will exile, nor jails, nor shootings save American capitalism now.

The rapacious attack of the international bourgeoisie upon Soviet Russia and the attempt to resurrect Tsarism by way of Kolchak, Denikin, Yudenich, and other Tsarist generals; the devastation of Hungary; the cynical open brigandage, by which the imperialists attempt to liquidate the war; devastation of our own countries in the name of God-Gold and miraculous profits — all this could not but open the eyes of the masses of workers.

The most backward American workers now know that the "heroes" of the present raids are nothing but thieves, who run before the mob shouting, "stop, thief!" so as to divert the people's attention from themselves.

Then the proclamation reveals the hypocrisy and cruelty of the persecutors and emphasizes the steadiness of the victims and their firm belief in the final triumph of the Bolshevik cause:

We know that fate demands expiatory sacrifices — and we are ready for these sacrifices.

We are ready to moisten with our blood every step forward towards liberation from capitalist slavery, just like our glorious Fatherland, the Red Russian Revolution, is doing. We are prepared to experience all the sufferings and trials which the American *Bashibuzuks* (roughnecks) are preparing for us.

But we will not give in!

Hand in hand with the international proletariat we will continue the struggle for the destruction of the capitalistic system, which exists on plunder and violence, and which has drowned the entire world in blood.

We appeal to all workers who value the interests of the laboring people to join us and raise high the Red Banner of Revolution to throw our challenge and slogans at international imperialism.

Down with Capital!

Long Live the Third International!

Long Live the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic!

Long Live the Communist Labor Party of America!

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