
Motions and Resolutions

Adopted at the 2nd Convention

of the Communist Party of America:

New York — July 13 to 18, 1920.

Typescript in Comintern Archive, RGASPI, f. 515, op. 1, d. 30, ll. 12-15.

Greetings to the Communist International.

In the name of the membership and organization, we, the delegates assembled at the Second Convention of the Communist Party of America, send fraternal greetings to the Third International.

We stand firmly determined to fight under the Red Banner of the Communist International till the victory of the proletariat and the Communist Ideal is attained.

Long Live the Proletarian Dictatorship!

Long Live the Communist International!

Long Live the Communist Party of America!

Long Live Communism!

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Greetings to Soviet Russia.

We, the delegates assembled at the Second Convention of the Communist Party of America send our fraternal greetings to the proletariat and poorer peasantry of Russia through the Soviet Government — the Peoples' Commissars and the CEC of the All-Russian Soviets — led by the Communist Party of Russia, the revolutionary vanguard of the working class.

Your struggle has brought you great victories. In a comparatively short time you have defeated on the field of battle all the internal and external foes that fought against you. You have crushed the counterrevolutionary hoards of Kolchak, Denikin, and Yudenich.

Now you are hurling your heroic Red Armies against the forces of the Polish bourgeoisie and Social-Patriots, who with the support, both open and tacit, of the Allied Imperialists have attacked you. We feel confident that you will decisively defeat the Polish bourgeoisie and assist the Polish proletariat and poorer peasantry in overthrowing their bourgeois government and establish the proletarian dictatorship in the form of a Soviet Government of Poland.

The victories of your Red Armies, backed by the awakening Western proletariat, may force the Allied Imperialists to accept peace in some form.

We feel confident that the proletariat and poorer peasantry will not expect such a peace to be permanent. Such peace can only be an armistice.

The World Imperialists will not give up the fight against you. The proletarian world revolution alone will finally bring victory to the workers of Russia and to the working class of the entire world.

The Communist Party of America will

bend all its energies toward building up a strong revolutionary movement in this country that will lead the working class in their struggle against their own capitalist class and government — and play its part in the world proletarian revolution which will establish the proletarian dictatorship throughout the world and through it introduce the Communist society.

Long Live Soviet Russia!

Long Live the Communist Party of Russia!

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**Our Attitude Toward
Workers' Councils (Soviets)
Before, During, and After the Revolution. †**

Workers' Councils are the organs of the proletarian revolution and are created at the time of revolution, developing out of the revolutionary situation itself and through the Communist Party Shop Committees, which become the nucleus for the formation of Workers' Councils.

Before the revolution, Workers' Councils tend to degenerate into philanthropic and cultural institutions because they have no revolutionary function to perform. The Communist Party alone has a revolutionary function to perform before the revolution — the task of building up the revolutionary movement by means of Communist propaganda and agitation that will lead the working class to the proletarian revolution and proletarian dictatorship.

After the proletarian revolution, the Work-

ers' Councils (Soviets) themselves become the proletarian state — the organ of proletarian dictatorship for (1) the suppression and coercion of the Capitalist Class and (2) the economic reconstruction of society.

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Resolution on Unity.

Communist Unity is based upon the organic unity of principles and tactics. Communist unity means unity with the rank and file and not with leaders. Our aim must be to separate the rank and file from their Centrist leaders.

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Unity with the UCP. ‡

Unity with the UCP as a party of Centrists is impossible. We can unite only with such of their membership or parts of the UCP that will repudiate their Centrist leadership and join the Communist Party on the basis of our principles, program, and tactics.

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**Our Attitude Toward Legal
and Other Workers Organizations.**

We are opposed to legal, cultural, or educational organizations and to party members

†— This resolution was substantially expanded after conclusion of the convention at the direction of the delegates. The original resolution passed by the convention and used as the basis for the revision read simply:

Workers' Councils are the organs of proletarian revolution and are created in the time of revolution, developing out of the CP shop committees which become the nucleus for the formation of Workers' Councils.

Before the time of revolution, Workers' Councils tend to become philanthropic and cultural institutions, because they have no function to perform. [f. 515, op. 1, d. 30, l. 12]

‡— An amendment was proposed reflecting the position of the 5th District [Chicago] convention on unity with the UCP which read as follows:

We recommend that those groups or branches of the UCP which repudiate officially their previous stand with the UCP shall be admitted in the CP. But we are absolutely against unity with the UCP as a whole as represented by their CEC. [f. 515, op. 1, d. 30, l. 12]

This amendment was defeated by a roll call vote of 20 to 3.

forming or operating such organizations. Party committees, consisting of not more than 15 in number, with approval of the CEC, may use the legal forms for special work.

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Young People's Groups.

We recommend that young people of 17 or over shall join the party as regular members.

Young people under 17 shall be placed in special groups without membership rights, with special captains appointed by the Sub-District Committee who shall conduct classes among them.

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Legal Defense.

We recommend that legal defense and relief shall be carried on by each district of the party under the control of the party.

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Resolution for One Day's Pay.

We recommend that the convention issue a call for members to contribute one day's pay for the party organization.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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