
Appeal to the Executive Committee of the Communist International in Moscow from the UCP Delegation to the 2nd World Congress of the Comintern, August 6th, 1920. †

A document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 940, doc. 458.

To the Executive Committee
of the Communist International.

Dear Comrades:

The decision of the Mandate Commission, whose authority persuaded the Congress to refuse to cancel the mandates of the delegates of the Communist Party of America, results in a situation which we consider it necessary to call to the attention of the Executive Committee.

The United Communist Party was formed with the participation and advice of a representative of the Executive Committee of the Communist International [Samuel Agursky]. According to information from Comrade [Santeri] Nuorteva, secretary to Comrade [Ludwig] Martens, who saw the mandate of this representative of the Executive Committee, the latter had instructions from the Executive Committee to unite the American Communist movement.

It is well known, and has been admitted by Comrade [Louis] Fraina, that the elements who remain in the Communist Party after the formation of the United Communist Party are those that have resisted unity

for a whole year, and still continue in their attitude.

In support of its position, the Communist Party CLAIMS TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AS AN AFFILIATED PARTY. It is admitted by everyone that whichever party is not recognized by the Executive Committee would soon disappear.

It is a principle of the Communist International that there shall be only one Communist Party in each country. In so far as America is concerned, the implied recognition of two parties by the confirmation of the mandates of the Communist Party, over and in spite of the objections of the United Communist Party, will simply continue the split in the American Communist movement, and will give an excuse to the Communist Party to continue to deceive the membership on the ground that the Communist Party's existence was recognized by the Communist International.

As an instance of the tactics of the Communist Party, proving its attitude toward unity, it is well to cite the case of [John] Anderson, representative of the Communist Party who was here in December and January.‡

Anderson, in the name of his Party, signed the

†- The UCP was represented by four delegates at the 2nd World Congress of the Comintern [July 19-Aug. 7, 1920]: Edward Lindgren ("Flynn"), who was elected by the UCP itself and arrived late, and three delegates dispatched before the formation of the UCP by the Communist Labor Party — Alexander Bilan ("Morgan"), Eadmonn MacAlpine ("Jurgis"), and John Reed.

‡- John P. Anderson was the "American" name of a Latvian-American immigrant named Kristap Beika. The name seems to have been adopted by Beika prior to and independently of the move of the American Communist movement underground in the winter of 1919-20. Anderson was sent to Moscow as a representative of the various Slavic and Baltic Language Federations suspended by the Socialist Party of America prior to the formation of the Communist Party of America which emerged from them. On Jan. 20, 1920, Anderson signed in the name of the CPA a document with John Reed in Moscow agreeing to unify the two American Communist Parties. The two were given approximately \$25,000 each in valuta and jewels to bring home to America to help finance the fledgling

agreement for Unity with [John] Reed, representing the Communist Labor Party. Upon his arrival in Stockholm, some months later, Anderson sent a message back to the Executive Committee REPUDIATING HIS SIGNATURE TO THIS AGREEMENT.

Upon his return to America, after the foundation of the United Party, Anderson remained in the Communist Party, and the funds which he carried were evidently used to finance this Party, which was at that time in financial straits. [It] blossomed out with a whole series of new papers and engaged a number of “organizers” — whose work was to fight the United Party.

We repeat that the Executive Committee give this matter their serious consideration at the first opportunity.

American movement. Neither made it home with his valuable packets of gemstones — Reed arrested and jailed trying to stow away aboard a Finnish steamer with rocks sewed into the lining of his coat and Anderson losing his lot in a failed initial attempt to cross the bloody Latvian frontier. Shorn of his payload, Anderson eventually managed to cross the frontier to Sweden via Murmansk. When he returned to the United States, he found a cloistered and hyperfactionalized underground Communist movement had developed — a bizarrely transformed political world which he found repellant. He declined to join the CPA. In the fall of 1920, home from the 2nd World Congress of the Comintern, the UCP began to raise a ruckus over the jewels and currency which they (incorrectly) believed that Anderson had delivered to the CPA instead of to them. The very existence of this valuable merchandise seems to have been news to the CPA, who launched an internal investigation, culminating in a “party trial” on March 22, 1921, at which Anderson testified. [See: RTsKhIDNI f. 515, op. 1, d. 61, ll. 31-35 — available as a downloadable document from www.marxisthistory.org called “The Case of John P. Anderson...”] The results of this inquiry were sent to the Comintern on April 14, 1921.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.