

# Don't let yourselves be reduced to slaves!

## The Left Opposition appeals for working class unity

The Appeal of the Pre-Conference of the International Left Opposition to all the members of the Communist Party of Germany, to the Social Democratic workers, to the entire proletariat of Germany!

COMRADES, MORE than ever at the present moment are the eyes of the world proletariat turned to Germany.

With ever increasing uneasiness and tension of the nerves it is following the struggle you are conducting against the stranglers of your liberties, of your life. It is well aware that the extreme tension, the forces of the reaction imposing its base and black dictatorship upon you, will have enormous consequences for the destiny of the working masses of the entire world.

After having passed through various stages the Fascist reaction has succeeded in establishing itself in power. You all know under what conditions this could take place. For this to happen the treason of the social democracy and the pernicious policy of Stalinism was necessary, that the enormous mass of the German proletariat be maintained for years and years in a state of division and inaction.

Comrades, it is in order to crush us, in order to find a way out, that the German bourgeoisie, the great potentates of banking and industry, the landowners and the domestic cliques have raised the Brown Shirts to power. To snatch away the conquests attained by you and by your fathers in a heroic struggle of three quarters of a century; to destroy your political and trade union organisations; to reduce you to complete servitude: that is the task of the fascist dictatorship. The fascist dictatorship is the inferno of the proletariat.

No, comrades, the world proletariat cannot believe that its brothers in Germany will let themselves be reduced to the state of slave. The Fascist enemy who is determined to attain his goal by blood and death, will encounter on his path the determined and invincible resistance of millions of German workers. The German proletariat will know how to stand up in the harsh struggle, the bloody struggle, the civil war, to defend itself and to defeat its mortal foes.

We the Bolshevik-Leninists, after having for years drawn the attention of the German and world proletariat to the danger of Fascism in Germany; after having shown the road towards defeating and triumphing over it; after having denounced the treachery of the leaders of the social-democrats

and flayed the criminal tactic of the Stalinist faction which has the leadership of the Communist International and the Communist Party of Germany in its hands, we now address ourselves to you at the moment of the greatest and most tragic danger, to you, members of the German Communist Party, to you, social-democratic workers, to all the proletarians of Germany and we say to you: *there is still time!*

The victory over Fascism is still possible. Whoever tells you that all is lost, that the

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struggle is now in vain — is betraying you. You can still conquer. But in order to gain the victory, to avoid the defeat, the whole working class must unite in the struggle against the reaction.

This is possible upon one condition; that all the organisations of the German proletariat, the Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, the trade union organisations, the factory councils, etc. undertake the joint struggle against fascism.

To realise the united front of organisation with organisation, to establish in every fac-

tory, in every locality, in every quarter, everywhere, your organs of defence, here is the road: through the partial struggles, to pass from general action to the fighting general strike against Fascism, a strike which will lead by means of the popular fighting organisations, by means of the Soviets, to the crushing of the reaction and to the conquest of power.

Members of the German Communist Party: Demand that the leadership of your party propose from the bottom to the top the united front to the Social Democratic Party, to the Federation of Trade Unions, and to all the organisations of the German proletariat, for the joint struggle of all against Fascism.

Socialist workers, impose upon your leaders the realisation of the united front, the sole weapon by which you and your class brothers can defend your lives.

To act immediately means not to allow the enemy the choice of the attack, means to engage in the battle under conditions which allow us to conquer.

The German revolution is passing through a historic moment in which the fate of the proletarian Germany, the fate of the USSR is at stake.

History will condemn to shame those who, in this critical moment, will desert the field of battle.

Demand the joint action of the proletarian front:

- Form your organisations of struggle;
  - Fight to the death for the salvation of the German proletariat;
  - You hold in your hands the fate of the world proletariat and of the Russian revolution;
  - Arise ye millions of proletarians of Germany!
  - Smash Fascism!
  - Long live the joint action of the proletarian front!
  - Long live the victory of the proletariat.
- The International Communist Left Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninists)

**The Pre-Conference of the International Left Opposition took place in Paris early in February 1933 with delegates from Germany, France, Belgium, Russia, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, England and America who addressed the above appeal to the German proletariat.**

## Make haste, worker-Communists!

By LD Trotsky

THERE ARE AMONG the Communist officials not a few cowardly careerists and fakers whose little posts, whose incomes, and more than that, whose hides, are dear to them. These creatures are very much inclined to spout ultra-radical phrases beneath which is concealed a wretched and contemptible fatalism. "Without a victory over the Social Democracy, we cannot battle against fascism!" say such terrible revolutionists, and for this

reason... they get their passports ready.

Worker-Communists, you are hundreds of thousands, millions; you cannot leave for any place; there are not enough passports for you. Should fascism come to power, it will ride over your skulls and spines like a terrific tank. Your salvation lies in merciless struggle. And only a fighting unity with the Social Democratic workers can bring victory. Make haste, worker-Communists, you have very little time left!

*From For a Workers' United Front Against Fascism, December 1931*