
Friends of Soviet Russia Launched: Unions and Other Working Class Organizations United to Relieve Famine in Russia.

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New York, Aug. 9 [1921].— A conference took place here tonight, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.W. Hartman, editor of *Soviet Russia*, to consolidate the efforts being made by various organizations in relief work for Soviet Russia.

The conference was called at the special instance of a provisional committee representing the American Labor Alliance, Friends of Soviet Russia, Society for Technical Aid for Russia, and the Medical Relief Committee for Soviet Russia.

Caleb Harrison of the American Labor Alliance opened the conference and stated its purpose:

We propose to do all we can in such a manner that we won't have to depend upon Herbert Hoover and such agencies for helping the famine victims of Soviet Russia. Funds collected by this organization will not be turned over to so-called humanitarian organizations.

We recognize Hoover and similar agencies of relief as counterrevolutionary. We are the class brothers of our struggling brother workers of Russia, and we propose by our relief work not only to stem the tide of hunger, but also to save the Russian Revolution from the attacks of the counterrevolutionaries.

American Aid Only an Imperialistic Venture.

Dr. Hartman pointed out that Hoover had laid down various imperialistic terms as the conditions upon which aid would be given. He referred to the article entitled "Overthrowing the Red Regime" which appeared in the June [1921] issue of *World's Work*, written by T.T.C. Gregory, one of Hoover's agents, who openly boasted that it was the intention of the relief commission operating in Hungary during the Soviet regime in that country to overthrow the Hungarian

Soviet Government.

Dr. Hartman showed that the present offer of capitalist relief commissions to Soviet Russia was another attempt on the life of the Russian Workers' Republic.

Hoover Dare Not Issue Call for Funds.

Hoover, Dr. Hartman asserted, dared not issue a general call for funds to help the Russian workers, since he knows full well that the American people would respond abundantly and thereby manifest their overwhelming sympathy with the workers of Russia.

The credentials committee reported that 87 organizations were represented at the conference by 150 delegates. The credentials of 2 delegates were rejected because they emanated from a counterrevolutionary paper which has indulged in rabid and repeated attacks on Soviet Russia.

No Conditions Affixed to Relief Work.

The conference decided to call the new organization the Friends of Soviet Russia. The organization will collect funds for the relief of famine stricken Russia, the money to be turned over to the Soviet Government or its accredited representatives without imposing any terms. All appeals shall be of a distinctly working class character, class-conscious and free from the humanitarian taint always involved in such enterprises conducted by capitalist organizations.

It was decided to elect an Executive Committee to serve for 3 months. Those elected were Dr. Hartman, Caleb Harrison, Edgar Owens, Allen S. Brooms, Dr. Mendelsohn, Dr. Wilenkin, Dr. Reichel.

To Seek the Cooperation of Other Conferences.

The conference instructed the Executive Committee to seek ways and means of securing the cooperation of the other conferences taking place in the country. It was pointed out that united effort in the relief work will avoid duplication of work and release energy for extending the organization and bringing the whole working class into action for helping the famine districts of Soviet Russia.

The attitude of all the delegates present demonstrated the tremendous interest that American workers are taking in the relief drive for Soviet Russia and their heartfelt solicitude for the welfare of their fellow-workers across the sea.

Another conference will take place next Tuesday, to which representatives of more organizations have been invited.

Executive Committee Issues Call to Other Organizations.

Upon adjournment of the conference the Executive Committee went into session and elected Caleb Harrison, Chairman; Allen S. Broms, Secretary; and Dr. J.W. Hartman, Treasurer.

The Executive Committee is issuing a call to workers in all parts of the country to organize branches of the Friends of Soviet Russia and affiliate with the national organization. It invites working class organizations of all kinds to cooperate with it in the relief work. All funds and contributions should be sent to the National Headquarters at 201 West 13th St., New York City.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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