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# Letter to the Workers Party in Chicago from Vasil Kolarov in Moscow, July 12, 1923.

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July 12, 1923

To the Workers Party of America.

Dear Comrades:

The convention of the Workers Party of America is taking place at a time when world reaction is preparing another blow against the international proletariat. Gathered like ravens over the bodies of the working class of Germany, the imperialist powers of France, England, and America are making their plans to divide the spoils in Germany and reduce the working class to the position of coolies. The capitalists of Germany have established their military dictatorship and are ready to cooperate with the foreign imperialists,, provided they are guaranteed part of the booty.

In several states of Europe fascism holds the workers in its bloody grip. Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria are in the throes of the wildest reaction. The white terror rules in Finland, Romania, and Hungary.

In Soviet Russia alone the rule of the workers and peasants is unshaken despite the many attempts that have been made to destroy it. The soviet power is consolidating itself more and more, and today stands invincible to the plots and intrigues of the reactionary capitalist governments and counterrevolutionary emigrés.

The vast sentiment for Communism that the Workers Party has aroused must be organized. Your Central Executive Committee acted right in inaugurating a campaign for membership. This campaign must be a matter of discipline. Each member of the party must be pledged to secure one or more new members for the party. The Workers Party must increase its membership several times before it will be-

come the factor in the proletarian movement in the United States that the Communists are destined to become.

The Workers Party has applied Communist tactics correctly in seeking a United Front of all forces to fight the capitalist system in the United States. It has sought a United Front not only on the economic but particularly on the political field. That Gompers and the reactionary trade union officialdom oppose it because of their antiquated, treacherous policy of “rewarding the friends and punishing the enemies of labor” in the capitalist parties; that the Socialists, having renounced every revolutionary idea and lined up with the reactionary forces of the country, also oppose it; and that a few so-called “progressive” trade union leaders of the Middle West have betrayed the workers and gone over to Gompers; that they denounce the ideas they once stood for and therefore also oppose the United Front — is creating the best basis for the United Front policy. This treachery has been and will remain one of the chief reasons why the workers of America still are the prey of the capitalist parties of America. This treachery, however, will show the workers so much the more clearly the necessity of the United Front. It will also demonstrate to them that *the Communists, who are the only militant exponents of the United Front, are not only their best friends but the only ones in the United States who understand the political needs of the working class.*

The organization of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party was an achievement of primary importance. The coming together of the militant farmers and workers for the attainment of political power against the control of the capitalist parties revealed an awakened consciousness and a rising spirit no longer to tolerate

political domination by the bourgeoisie. In the Federated Farmer-Labor Party are organized only a small portion of the militant workers and farmers. *The United Front of all proletarian and farmers' parties and organizations for the fight against capitalism is the demand of the hour.* The Communists must spare no effort to bring this about.

This is all the more necessary in view of the Presidential election of 1924. The labor parties and farmer-labor parties that have been formed in 29 states must be consolidated into a United Front; they must put up joint proletarian candidates. They must fight as a united body against the reaction that is bound to set in after the elections. They must be prepared to support this United Front with their economic power. The chaos in the working class movement must be ended. This is the task of the Communists, a task they are performing with great effect.

There is one problem to which the American Communists have not applied themselves with sufficient energy, viz., that of American imperialism. The huge profits from the war and the exploitation of foreign markets have enabled the American bourgeoisie to penetrate deeper into the Latin American countries. The recent declaration of Secretary of State Hughes to the effect that the interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine must be left exclusively to America, is already bearing fruit. The recognition of Mexico is merely a trick to give American capitalists greater control over the resources of Mexico and, in case of "trouble," afford the American government an excuse for intervention "in protection of American property and interests." The conflict in Cuba, which will also probably end with an intervention, the continue military occupation of Haiti and Santo Domingo, the muzzling of Nicaragua, Panama, and Colombia, the

loans to the numerous South American states, the increasing economic exploitation of these countries, and the rising revolt in the Philippines, indicate that American imperialism intends to conquer the Western Hemisphere and force the colonies under complete control.

This is a problem of *vital* importance to the American working class. Fearful imperialist wars face the country. The bourgeoisie is making ready. The government is perfecting its military machinery; General Pershing is demanding a *larger army*. *The Communists must sound the alarm and prepare the workers for resistance to these bloody schemes.* The Communists must point out that the illegal organizations of the capitalist class, the spies, and especially the Ku Klux Klan and American Legion, are a product of the foresight of the capitalists, and are openly sponsored by the government of the United States. *The capitalists are prepared to crush any attempt to interfere with their plans.*

These, comrades, are the vital problems that confront the party. To propagate them and organize the workers for action will demand the concentrated strength of the whole party membership.

We greet the Third Convention of the Workers Party and have confidence that the party will line up the workers of America with the revolutionary workers of the world in the struggle against capitalism and for the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government.

With Communist greetings,

Executive Committee of  
the Communist International,  
V. Kolarov, General Secretary. †

†- The brief of which this document was a part, submitted by Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, comments "This letter has great importance, for it demonstrates at this very moment the close connection between the Communist International and the Workers Party of America. The Communist International, as has been shown, is dominated by the Russian Communist Party, and that party dominates and controls the so-called Russian Soviet Republic and the whole Russian government. In other words, the Communists' propaganda in America comes directly from the government we are asked to recognize." He concludes "The doctrines which the representatives of Russia are preaching here today are not in accordance with the beliefs or the principles of the American people, and in my judgment it is no time to give the Soviet Government of Russia the official recognition and approval of the United States and invite official representatives to come among us and under the diplomatic shield seek to break up our own labor organizations, attack American laws and American freedom, and kindle the flame of riot and disorder throughout our country."

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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