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# Circular Letter to All Members of the Russian Socialist Federation from Alexander Stoklitsky, Translator-Secretary, in Chicago [circa July 15, 1919]†

Russian document and a translation in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 925.

To All Sections of the  
Russian Socialist Federation.

Dear Comrades!

You probably have already been made aware of the news that our Federation has declared itself for the immediate organization in America of a Communist Party, which will follow the call of the “Third Communist International” not only in words but also by deeds.

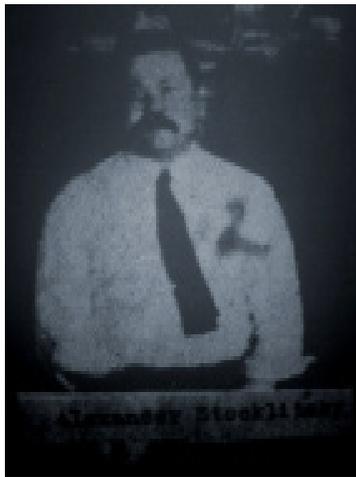
At the Conference of the Left Wing [New York: June 21-24, 1919] a communist nucleus was formed by the minority delegates, who immediately began this. A National Organizing Committee was established, which has called a September 1st [1919] Convention of the Communist Party of America.

Our local sections must immediately begin to work. Immediately summon representatives of the other Bolshevik Federations standing upon our position. Those sharing our position are the Lithuanian, Latvian, Ukrainian, Polish, and South

Slavic Federations. Organize at once Communist Locals or Conferences in your communities. Elect and do not fail to send delegates to the General Communist Convention September 1 [1919] in Chicago, Ill.

The following is the proportion of representation: In states (such as, for example, Michigan) in which our position is acknowledged throughout the state — 1 delegate, plus 1 delegate for each 500 organized members in the state. For instance, if Michigan has 6,750 organized members, it is entitled to 15 delegates: 1 delegate for the state, 13 delegates each representing a quota of 500 members, and 1 delegate for the major fraction of 500 members. (If it were to have 250 members after the first 500, then it would still have the right to another delegate).

In states not yet organized into a Communist Party, then delegates are from the Communist Local in your city, and if there is no such local, then it sends delegates from a Conference composed of the greater Bolshevik Federations, according to the following formula: 1 delegate from the Local or Conference (be it even of 50 members), and 1



†- While it would be intriguing to know the precise date of this document, the original (a copy of which is present in the Bureau of Investigation's files) does not include this information. Based on content, it seems to have been produced some time in July.

delegate for each 500 members. Take for example the Chicago Communist Conference, in which there are, say 4,500 members; this would receive 1 delegate plus 1 delegate for each 500, which would make 10 delegates. If the Chicago Conference were to have another 250 members more then it would have the right to an additional delegate.

In many cities there are no other Bolshevick sections outside of the Russian section. Such a section, even if it only has 25 members, has the right to a delegate. Such sections, in the name of **Communism**, MUST MAKE USE OF THEIR **RIGHTS!!!**

Comrades, Bolsheviks — immediately get to work. Select your delegates carefully, do not be embarrassed if they do not know the language. Far better that one votes like a Bolshevick than that one knows the English language but votes like a Menshevik or a Centrist.

Gather funds now, since each delegate will need about \$50. The organization is to pay the expenses of the delegate. The National Organizational Committee is collecting a fund to aid those organizations which have less than 250 members and which, therefore, will not be able to collect

their full sum, but only a part of it; therefore, comrades, do not be troubled about this sum of \$50 per delegate. Before us is the question of the existence of a Communist Party of America, the money question must be relegated to secondary concern.

The financial side of the Convention of the Communist Party will be arranged as follows: all delegates will contribute \$50. Many railroad fares will cost less, and from the surplus the expenses will be paid of those delegates spending more than this sum.

To work, comrades, the time is at hand!

The 1st of September is near!

Call a special meeting.

Call a conference of all Bolshevick delegates to this Convention.

Act in the name of Communism, act in the name of the new, fighting **Communist Party of America!**

Translator-Secretary of the  
Russian Socialist Federation,

*A. Stoklitsky.*

*Translation by Tim Davenport, substantially rectifying a Department of Justice translation to the Russian language original.*

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