
To All Members of the Communist Party in the Cleveland Area from P. Margetic in Cleveland, circa April 1, 1936. †

A mimeographed document in the Tim Davenport collection. Published here for the first time.

Dear Friends ‡ :

The Central Committee of our party, with the help of the National Bureau in Chicago, Ill., has made a change in our leadership. New editors were appointed — Fisher and F. Boric — and some comrades are taken off the payroll [*placenicka lista* §] as well as 3 local organizers. This was done because our work so far among our emigres has not been satisfactory and because by letting some comrades go off the payroll we will achieve some savings.

Further, the Central Committee of our party has given a task to the new Bureau, and through it to each of our members, that in the future we must make an even larger shift in our movement, i.e. in our work. To be able to do that and put into practice, we need to discuss with the membership any problem that comes up, reach a conclusion and then put it into action. The Central Committee, with the recommendation of the National Bureau has agreed to convene a conference in each of the local areas, to which are invited all members and at which conference we will discuss the questions listed later, select a new local bureau for our area, and also elect delegates for the national conference of our fractions, which will take place at the end of May in Cleveland.

The local conference in our area will take place on Saturday, 18 April in Cleveland in Knaus Hall on

6131 St. Claire Ave. (3rd floor, entrance from 62nd Street). The beginning of the conference at sharply 10 am. It has to finish by 6:30 pm. At the conference will be present a comrade from Chicago, Ill., and one comrade from the district committee of our party.

Each member of the Party — Serb, Croat, or Slovene — has to be present at this conference. Those that are not present will have to provide explanation of why they could not attend.

Each fraction of individual places in our area needs to invite all members to a meeting and with them discuss all the problems of that place, past work and to the area conference bring new suggestions Δ which will guarantee better and more successful work in the future. These questions need to be discussed: How to realize and promote work in our workers' clubs, in the Croatian Fraternal Union, in the IWO [International Workers' Order]. How to assemble our workers around *Patronatski* [Executive?] Board, how to create the united front and with whom, to discuss industrial unionism, Farmer-Labor Party, etc. These are the most vital questions of the present time about which we need to lead a thorough discussion and find a way for all issues to be translated into practice in particular locations.

Each of the fractions' secretary is requested to report how many party members are in each of your places, who are Serbs, Croats, or Slovenes. At the area

†- Date derived from a mention of the International Workers Order (1930-1954?) plus a near-future date of "Saturday, April 18" — which would constrain the possible years to 1931, 1936, 1942, and 1954. Further mention of a Farmer-Labor Party campaign would clearly indicate the year 1936 over the other possible options. —T.D.

‡- Uses the male and female forms of the word "friend" [*drugovi i drugarice*], not translatable. —M.D.

§- The term has the overtone of a list of mercenaries, etc., but may be an example of use of an archaic phrase. —M.D.

Δ- Uses a word that is not Croatian but Serbian. —M.D.

conference we will establish special bureaus for these listed nations. It has to be examined in each place which organizations exist with which we could work together on particular questions. We think here of *Hrvatsko kolo* [Croatian Kolo], the Defenders [*domobranici*], and Croatian Peasant Party (H.S.S.) and other clubs of our emigrés. Especially comrades from Akron should examine this question because they have a lot of defenders there.

Comrades, immediately take care of *podvoa* † to Cleveland for 18 April. Inform all members about this conference. The times are such that with all our passivity we must start our engines for activity among our existing organizations.

Please do let me know who will attend, i.e. how many will attend the conference.

With comradely greetings,

P. Margetic.

Address: 1081 Addison Rd.

†- This word has no meaning in Croatian. —M.D.

Translated from the Croatian by Marija Dalbello, Jan. 2007
Edited, with reference to a 2nd translation by Maksim (familiia?) by Tim Davenport.
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