Manifesto of the Red Sport International

MANIFESTO.

To the Working class Sportsmen of all Countries!

To all Working Men and Working Women in Town and Countryside! 

The Third World Congress of the Red Sports International addresses this manifesto on behalf of the delegations who represent twenty-nine countries at the Congress, to all workers belonging to gymnastics and sports organizations, and invites them to join the international association of proletarian and peasant gymnastics and sports organizations—the Red Sports International.

The bourgeoisie does its utmost to keep the oppressed classes under its domination. In the hands of the bourgeoisie, gymnastic and sports organizations are converted into tools of bourgeois militarism and fascism, and thereby into fighting cadets of the reactionaries against the proletariat of the home country, as well as the proletariat of foreign countries.

The bourgeoisie is fully aware of the important role of gymnastic and sport organizations and it is using them as a means to corrupt the proletariat and to permeate it with bourgeois ideology, providing thereby active defenders of bourgeois capitalist interests in the everyday economic struggles (factory sports, clubs under capitalist control, strikebreaking, technical aid, etc.), as well as in the present and future political struggles (Chauvinist national organizations, military training of the young, national militia, etc.).

From a being at the class struggle of the bourgeoisie against the proletariat, proletarian gymnastic and sports organizations must become an important factor—the proletariat—in the world struggle of the workers and poor peasants for the establishment of a proletarian social order.

In the atmosphere of class struggle there can be no “neutrality” and no “non-political attitude” for the workers also with respect to gymnastics and sports. Collaboration or class truce with and within bourgeois organizations, and especially with the bourgeoisie, is tantamount to a betrayal of proletarian interests.

Difficult economic and political conflicts lie in wait for the proletariat. The Third World Congress of the Red Sports International therefore issues the fighting slogan: 

Proletarian sports international is the only real world organization of proletarian gymnastics and sport organizations. The Red Sports International is the only real world organization of proletarian gymnastics and sports organizations. 

The Red Sports International draws the attention of the masses to the deception practised by the Lucerne bureaucrats and urges all proletarians to be more energetic in their fight for united action.

The Vienna decision of the six Lucerne leaders must be overridden. This will clear the way for a real international proletarian organization.

Working men and women, proletarian gymnasts and sportsmen: In the event of the Lucerne leaders rejecting your demands and refusing to organize a real workers’ Olympiad, you must do your utmost yourselves to organize a powerful Red World Olympiad. This Red proletarian World Olympiad will proclaim the unity of proletarian gymnasts and sportsmen in their opposition to the bourgeoisie.

The Red Sports International here invites all proletarian gymnastic and sports organizations throughout the world, as well as all other proletarian organizations to take part in the Red World Olympiad—the Red World Spartakiade.

The Red Spartakiade will proclaim the solidarity of the international proletariat in its opposition to the bourgeoisie. It will constitute a new phase in the great epoch of the mighty proletarian movement on the field of physical culture, not only in Europe and America, but also among the enslaved and oppressed colonial and Eastern peoples.

“Long live the fight against bourgeoisie gymnastic and sport organizations!”

“Long live physical culture as a means of class struggle!”

“Three cheers for the unity of the international proletarian gymnastic and sport movement!”

“Three cheers for international solidarity and united action with the revolutionary labor movement for the emancipation of the working class from the capitalist yoke!”

“Three cheers for the Red Sport International!”

On behalf of the Third World Congress of the Red Sports International, the president of the E. C. of the Y. C. I., November, 1924.