

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 21st July, 1937.

SECRETNO. 864WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Communist Party press continues to concentrate on the Spanish situation expounding the cause of the Madrid-Valencia regime. The Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, for 17th July, a special edition appearing in eight pages, is almost entirely devoted to this cause featuring Canada's participation in the conflict on the side of the Loyalists. It contains the "Roll of Honor" of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion showing 22 Canadians killed in action.

Dr. Norman Bethune is now touring Canada addressing meetings in the interest of the Committee to Aid Spanish democracy.

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 Supported by Two Hundred Sympathizers

Norman Levy and Kenneth Woodsworth

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in Congress Re-elected Chairman

(English) and Secretary, Respectively, of Continuations Committee

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(C) Steel Strike at Montreal, Que.

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(E) Longshoremen's Strike at Thorold, Ont., Settled

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Communists & the Canadian Youth Congress

The Canadian Youth Congress held its second annual meeting in Montreal, Que., from 22nd to 24th May with delegates present from all parts of Canada. The following is an analysis of the attendance: —

	<u>No. of Delegates</u>	<u>No. of Organisations</u>
<u>CHURCH GROUPS</u>		
United	66	50
Ukrainian Catholic	3	3
Presbyterian	2	2
Unitarian	2	2
Upper Canada Tract Society	1	1
Salvation Army	1	1
Y.P.A. of OBC	1	1
Anglican	2	2
Interdenominational	1	1
Lutheran	1	1
American Methodist Episc.	2	1
British Methodist Episc.	1	1
Friends	3	3
Baptist	1 87	1 70

<u>Y's.</u>				
Y.M.C.A.	40		34	
Y.W.C.A.	29		24	
Y.M.H.A.	11		9	
Y.W.H.A.	5	85	4	71
<u>POLITICAL YOUTH GROUPS</u>				
Liberal	1		1	
Conservative	3		2	
C.C.Y.M.	13		12	
Y.C.L.	49		34	
Miscellaneous	8	74	7	56
<u>STUDENTS GROUPS</u>				
Student Christian Movement	15		10	
Student Peace Movement	11		6	
Official Student Unions	9		6	
High School Groups	11		7	
Miscellaneous	24	70	19	48
<u>TRADE UNIONS</u>				
	70	70	46	46
<u>YOUTH COUNCILS</u>				
	36	36	22	22
<u>LANGUAGE GROUPS</u>				
U.L.F.T.A.	15		13	
Miscellaneous	8	23	6	19
<u>JEWISH GROUPS</u>				
National Council of Jewish	3		2	
A.Z.A.(Juniors.	2		2	
Junior Hadassah	4		4	
Federation of Young Judaea	1		1	
Miscellaneous	11	21	9	18
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<u>PEACE GROUPS</u>				
League of Nations Society	8		6	
League Against War & Fascism	8		7	
Crusaders for Internal Peace	1	17	1	14
<u>NEGRO GROUPS</u>				
U.N.I.A.	3		2	
Canadian Negro Youth	1		1	
Colored Girls Co-op. Council	1		1	
Montreal Negro Youth Council	2	7	1	5

FARM YOUTH

U.F.O.	2		2	
U.F.C.	1		1	
U.F.A.	1	4	1	4

MISCELLANEOUS

Boys' Club Federation	3		2	
Service Clubs	2		2	
Discussion Clubs	61		51	
Workmen's Circles	12		12	
Art and Dance Clubs	9		6	
Recreational and Culture	9		7	
Children's Councils	4		3	
Unemployed	3		2	
City Councils	2		2	
American Youth Congress	1	106	1	88
<u>FRENCH-CANADIANS</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>72</u>
Totals	730		553	

The provinces were represented as follows: —

	No. of <u>Delegates</u>
Nova Scotia	5
Quebec	365
Ontario	297
Manitoba	27
Saskatchewan	10
Alberta	17
British Columbia	<u>9</u>
Total . . .	730

Anticipating trouble the Communists, who have constituted the most active element and the driving force within this movement ever since its inception, came to this gathering fully prepared to resist any attempt on the part of the French-Canadian youth organisations to split the Congress. Through their agents operating within the French-Canadian youth organisations, information had reached the Communist leadership to the effect that an attempt would be made by the French-Canadian Catholic youth organisations to drive the Communists from the Congress. The Communist leaders resolved to use every conceivable method and subterfuge to prevent

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such an occurrence; [*deletion:4 lines]

The Political Bureau of the C.P. attached the greatest importance to this meeting of the Congress seeing in it a splendid medium through which to reach the French-Canadian youth with elementary Communist propaganda.

The rules and regulations under which the Congress was convened guaranteed to every youth organisation in Canada the right to participate; to send two delegates for each coherent group within it and also two delegates from each district, provincial and national bodies. The French-Canadian youth, it was agreed, should comprise at least one-third of the total representation. The rules also stipulated that the sessions of the Congress were convened so that all youth in Canada may "provide forms of mutual activity wherever possible under common problems of world peace, and of social justice and internal peace, freely, equally and with mutual respect, regardless of sex, origin, race, creed, colour, opinion, political beliefs or affiliation".

The French-Canadian delegates presented seven conditions for their participation in the Congress meeting. They were:—

- (1) That the French-Canadians be represented by a number at least one-third of the official delegation at the Congress sessions and Continuations Committee.
- (2) That the Congress acknowledge freedom of creeds in Canada.
- (3) That the Congress be known in French as *Le Congress des Jeunesses Canadiennes*.
- (4) That the Congress favours justice to all.
- (5) That the aims of the Congress be internal and world peace.
- (6) That the Congress proceeds according to the principles of democracy and affirms a belief in God, the right of individuals to private property, the necessity for internal peace and co-operation between all social classes, and the sanctity of the human personality.
- (7) That the Congress condemn subversive doctrines.

These conditions were presented in anticipation of being rejected by the Communists. The only group which objected to these conditions were the representatives of the Trotskyist "League for a Revolutionary Workers' Party". This group eventually withdrew from the meeting.

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Speaking for the Young Communist League, Roy Davis, in accepting the conditions on behalf of his organisation, stated that the Y.C.L. supports the proposal and that the conditions were not contrary to the Y.C.L. programme. "We support the fight for freedom of beliefs — many of our people have suffered torture and death because they fought for this right of Jewish, Catholic and Protestant youth in Germany", he declared. The Communist spokesman

also maintained that the Y.C.L. was not an atheist organisation and had believers as well as non-believers in its ranks; furthermore, it was not a subversive organisation and not opposed to private property under Capitalism and wanted to see the "smaller fellow" have more private property. The Communists interpreted the last clause of the conditions presented by the French-Canadians to mean Fascist and semi-Fascist doctrines.

Norman Levy, Chairman of the Continuations Committee, welcomed the delegates and introduced Roger Ouimet, of Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Hart Devenney, of the Young Men's Christian Association, as French and English Chairmen, respectively. The opening session was taken up mainly with the report of Norman Levy outlining the history of the Congress. He stressed the importance of the French-Canadian participation this year and referred to the gains already won for the youth by the Congress, notably the million dollar grant made by the Federal Government.

Two Commissions were appointed, one each on the topics of world peace and of social justice and internal peace. Meeting simultaneously, each Commission had a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman; one English speaking and one French-Canadian Secretary, and one English speaking and one French-Canadian Rapporteur. The principal work of the Congress was attended to by these Commissions. The discussions and deliberations of the Commissions were presented to the plenary session of the Congress in the form of reports for adoption.

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The document containing the "findings" of the Commission on world peace, as submitted to and ratified by the Congress, reads: —

"The Commission for World Peace of the Second Canadian Youth Congress places itself on record with the utmost forcefulness as believing:

1. That War is not inevitable;
2. That peace, the universal desire of all mankind, can be achieved in our time;
3. That a practical and attainable policy which can be followed by our country is contained in the following statement of the views of the youth of Canada as expressed by their delegates to the said Congress;

1. CONCERNING CANADA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- (a) According to the statute of Westminster, Canada is technically an independent nation. We believe that for this independence to become a reality Canada must maintain complete independence of action

in the field of foreign policy.

- (b) Despite statements and actions to the contrary, we believe that lasting peace can be achieved largely by a system of collective security, that is, by agreements between the nations which really desire peace, to take common action against the aggressor. We further agree that such common action depends on the organized co-operation of the peoples of the world in order to escape from the imperialism of certain great nations.
- (c) Since the maintenance of peace in the Pacific largely depends on the co-operation of all Pacific countries, and since this co-operation is a great contribution towards world peace, therefore it is necessary that Canada participate actively in Pacific peace efforts.
- (d) Since the maintenance of peace in the Americas largely depends on the co-operation of all North and South American countries, and since this co-operation is a great contribution towards world peace, therefore it is necessary that Canada participate actively in Pan-American Peace efforts.

11. CONCERNING CANADA'S INTERNAL POLICY

- (a) We affirm that the establishment of peace is principally based on the maintenance of democracy and the extension of complete freedom and equality to the people of Canada and throughout the world.
- (b) Whereas certain sections of the Militia Act of Canada, Revised Statutes, Ch. 132, 1927, make it possible for Canadians to be conscripted for military service abroad by order-in-council, therefore we strongly resolve that Parliament be urged to amend the said sections as to remove the power of conscription for service abroad by order-in-council.
- (c) That the Governments control the export directly or indirectly of raw materials to any aggressor state to be utilized in the manufacture of war materials.
- (d) At present the Governor General in Council has the power to commit the country to war without reference to any responsible body. We believe this to be anomalous in a democratic country and that the sole power to decide participation in war must of necessity be

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vested in the people of Canada as expressed by a plebiscite of all those eligible for military service.

- (e) We declare ourselves to be against the increase of armaments in Canada and suggest that the money spent for this purpose would be

more usefully employed to bring about the improvement of existing social standards and further the economic progress of our country.

III. GENERAL METHODS OF ATTAINING THE ABOVE POLICIES

United mass movement of the people of Canada determined on a Policy of Peace is the ultimate assurance that Canada will be kept out of war. Such a movement must be organized immediately and before the outbreak of war.

As ways and means of building this movement, we propose:

- (a) Creation of goodwill among the peoples of the world by (1) removing from text books, newspapers, radio programmes, etc., all war sentiment and race hatred; (2) marshalling the cultural forces of the arts and sciences to this effect.
- (b) The participation of all churches who, by their great influence, can lead their members forward to the goal so ardently desired.
- (c) Education for peace in all schools and universities of Canada.
- (d) Recognition of the rights of minorities and national groups within nations.
- (e) Maintenance of internal peace by satisfying the legitimate needs of the people.

IV. PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE YOUTH CONGRESS MOVEMENT

- (a) That the Congress endorse the National Student Peace Petition demanding repeal of the law of conscription and independence of Canada to declare war.
- (b) That letters should be written to all Dominion Cabinet Ministers urging immediate fulfilment of these two points.
- (c) That a national peace petition or a peace ballot, or both, be circulated by the Canadian Youth Congress throughout the country.
- (d) That peace chairs be instituted in all universities.
- (e) That the movement observe a Peace Day once a year to co-operate and co-ordinate with the plans of the American Youth Movement, and that this day be arranged as early as possible.
- (f) That we urge an immediate halt to all military and non-gymnastic training in Canadian schools and colleges.
- (g) That we favor both inter-provincial and international exchange of ideas and students to promote better understanding between different races.
- (h) That all mediums of publicity be used to spread peace sentiment.
- (i) That we declare it necessary to inoculate in people's minds a sense of their moral obligation regarding peace which can be obtained only by means of social justice and brotherly love.
- (j) That a cable be sent forthwith to the Canadian Government delegation

to the Coronation, said cable to contain resolutions 1a and b."

Full approval of the delegates was also given the report of the Commission on Social Justice and Internal Peace which read:

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"The opinion was unanimously expressed in this Commission that there has to be a definite improvement in the social and economic conditions of the Canadian people before there can be any possibility of achieving social justice or internal peace.

There was unanimous agreement on the fundamental and inherent rights of the people of Canada to freedom of speech, freedom of meeting and organization, and freedom of religious belief.

From the discussion it was evident that there is a great desire on the part of the younger people of Canada to meet with their fellow Canadians from all parts of the Dominion, and there was a general realization of the benefits which would accrue from an understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the various peoples who are now citizens of Canada.

There was unanimous agreement among the members of the Commission that all those engaged in industry and commerce should have the right to enter trade unions of their own choice and that Provincial Governments should be called upon to enact social legislation to protect the workers against discrimination on account of such affiliations and to raise the standards of living by the enactment, and above all, the enforcement of minimum wage laws.

The opinion was expressed that this Congress should go on record as requesting the Dominion Government to set up, as soon as is practicable a Royal Commission to investigate the relationships prevailing between the Provincial and the Federal Governments in order that provision might be made for the realization of the various cultural, religious, economic and social aspirations of the different minorities within the Dominion, and for the carrying out in practice of the spirit of Confederation.

Further on the subject of the basis of social justice, it is obvious that the raising of the standards of working conditions is directly dependent on the provision of adequate educational opportunities and the extension of grants of bursaries and scholarships by the Dominion and the Provincial Governments. Such educational opportunities are understood to include also the building of libraries, gymnasias, and the creation of vocational training centres.

In this connection, special attention should be given to rural districts where the lack of such advantages are especially apparent.

The specific recommendations of the Commission on the matter of conditions of employment were:

- (a) The enactment by Provincial Governments of legislation protecting the rights of the worker to collective bargaining in industry and commerce, such as that already passed by the Governments of Alberta and Nova Scotia.
- (b) The enactment by the Dominion Government of the proposed legislation at present known as Bill 62.

From the discussion, it was quite obvious that the conditions existing in industry tend inevitably to the disorganization of the family and community life, resulting in an increase in crime and immorality and also in preventing younger people from establishing their own homes. It was felt that it is insufficient only to provide facilities for the improvement of social standards, but that it is essential that the opportunity of enjoyment of such facilities be provided by a decrease in the hours of work and greater attention being paid to the standards of the health of the people.

Specifically the Commission feels that social standards can best be raised by:

- (a) The initiation of a national physical education and recreational movement, fostered by the Dominion Government in co-operation with the Provincial Governments.

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- (b) A greater emphasis being placed on the instruction of physical training and social hygiene in school curricula.
- (c) The provision of special clinics for the dissemination of full information on the prevention and cure of social diseases.
- (d) The enactment of stricter health and safety regulations in industry for the protection of workers from accidents, and industrial diseases such as siliicoses and the strictest enforcement of such regulations as already exist, by the adequate inspection and also by the provision of all compensation where injury or ill-health occurs as the result of such employment.
- (e) The enactment of health insurance by the responsible authorities.

In the achievement of such aims, it is felt that there lies a great responsibility upon the youth of Canada. All members who spoke on the subject expressed their appreciation of the grant by the Dominion Government of one million dollars towards the rehabilitation of youth. Members stressed the fact that Youth Councils and youth organizations should co-operate to the uttermost among themselves through the study of the programmes of the different organizations such as the J.O.C. programme and also with Governmental and public bodies entrusted with the spending of the money. It was urged that all Provincial Governments should make

an allotment equivalent to that promised by the Dominion Government and it was further suggested that such moneys should be spent on the following projects:

- (a) The establishment of additional facilities for technical education.
- (b) The provision of additional recreational facilities and centres such as the development of Youth Hostels Movement in Canada, the creation of playgrounds, the erection of gymnasia and libraries.
- (c) Public Works projects such as reforestation, electric power development, the building of necessary schools and hospitals, suitable housing schemes and other socially useful projects, it being understood that all work on these projects be paid in cash on the basis of trade union rates of wages or fair wage rates”.

The attitude of the Communists was one of conciliation and compromise in order to bring about unity of all elements within the Congress on the basis of the two resolutions adopted. The Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement delegation held a joint caucus with the Y.C.L. delegation and together they presented a united front in the Congress. The attitude of the French Canadians was at first one of open hostility to the Communists but later changed to one of conciliation in the sense that they did not demand the expulsion of the Communists from the Congress. Norman Levy and Ken Woodsworth were not openly accused of being Communists but they were regarded as the spokesmen of Communist opinion.

The Communists had 50 official delegates from the Y.C.L. and approximately 150 straight Communists representing other organisations. The total Communist block in the Congress was in excess of 200 delegates. These were supported by about 200 sympathizers which gave the Communists a dependable block of at least 400 delegates.

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Under the pretence of defending democracy, progress and peace the Communists were able to influence the delegates of the English speaking youth in the majority. It will be readily observed that the documents of the Congress are phrased so vaguely that almost any interpretation can be placed upon them and that is precisely what the Communists had in mind when framing same.

At the concluding session of the Congress Norman Levy of Toronto and Roger Ouimet of Montreal were elected as co-Chairmen of the Continuations Committee. Other members of the Executive elected with them were: Vice-Presidents -Phyllis Burns, Halifax; Allistair Stewart, Toronto; J.A. Stanton, Vancouver; and Pierre Chaloult, Quebec: Secretaries - Pierre Angers, Montreal; Kenneth Woodsworth, Toronto; Treasurer - Ingham Sutcliffe, Toronto:

Leo Richard and P. Richer, both of Montreal, were named as the Finance Committee.

Members of the Continuations Committee elected are:

H. G. Arabsky	— Ukrainian Catholic Youth, Winnipeg
Phyllis Burns	— Halifax Youth Council
Clare Claus	— Toronto Y.M.C.A.
Alderman Margaret Crang	— League Against War & Fascism, Edmonton
Juanita DeShields	— Canadian Negro Youth Movement, Montreal
George Doty	— Brantford Y.M.C.A.
Marjorie Edy	— London (Ont.) Y.M.C.A.
Michael Egnatoff	— Saskatoon Youth Council
Norman Levy	— Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity Omega, Toronto
Major S. A. Magnacca	— Winnipeg Young Conservative Council
Neil Morrison	— Student Christian Movement, Montreal
John Mowat	— Toronto Y.M.C.A.
Oakley Pawson	— Baptist Young People, Sudbury
Philippe Richer	— Y.C.L., Montreal
Margaret Sharpe	— Y.M.C.A., Ottawa
Philip	— Thunder Bay (Ont.) Youth Council
Kenneth Woodsworth	— Canadian Youth Congress, Toronto
Gilbert Wright	— Edmonton (Alta.) Youth Council
Jean Valerand	— University of Montreal
Avula Labelle	— Cercle Litteraire, Ottawa
Jacques Vadboncoeur	— Montreal Junior Bar
Bernard Lebel	— Les Auberges de la Jeunesse (Youth Hostels), Montreal
Hector Grenon	— l'Idée Ouvriere, Montreal
Gaston Beaudet	— Action Liberale Nationale
Louis Philippe Langlois	— Canada-Voyage, Montreal
Germain DesRosiers	— Cercle Mgr. Gauthier, Montreal
Paul Emile Dumont	— Cercle Litteraire, Ottawa

Jean Devroede

— Chambre de Commerce, Montreal

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This meeting of the Congress has been hailed by the Communists as a great success for the line of the Y.C.L. which aims to bring about a situation of collaboration between the participating groups under the slogan of "Internal and World Peace". The whole object of the Y.C.L. is to carry through in a careful and gradual fashion propaganda designed to win the young people for action directed against the Governments. Under the guise of fighting for peace, democracy and progress the Communists hope to be able to gradually enlarge the scope of their propaganda and entrench themselves in all important organisations of young people with a view to turning the Congress into a Popular Front of youth organisations. The Communists are particularly anxious to use the Congress as a weapon for agitation against the Government and "reaction". While some agreement was reached at Montreal, the Communists are quite aware that there is as yet a strong anti-Communist block of Catholic youth in the Congress. It is their intention to now try to disrupt and neutralize this anti-Communist block from within at the same time developing dramatic forms of activities through which they hope to gradually win the young people for more definite and drastic action.

The Communists are quite pleased with the results of the Congress and their sincerity may be summed up in the following words of one of the Political Bureau representatives who helped to guide the proceedings from behind the scenes: -

"The Young Communist League among those people (Congress delegates) is like a guy with a shot-gun in a coop full of pigeons — just mass slaughter".

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2. Strikes and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

(A) Paper Mill Workers Strike at Three Rivers

A strike involving 650 workers, members of the Brotherhood of Papermakers and the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, at the Consolidated Paper Corporation's Wayagamack Island plant at Three Rivers, Que., was settled on 16th July. The strike commenced at midnight on 11th July and came to an end after spokesmen for the strikers asserted that an attempt would be made to spread the walkout to other paper plants in the province.

(B) Strike at John B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, Ont.

Endorsing the strike of employees of the John B. Stetson Co. in Brockville, the Toronto Trades and Labour Council - in regular meeting assembled on 15th July - recommended to all unionists to cease patronising all Stetson products until the strike is settled. The action was taken on the request of the Toronto local of the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' international union.

(C) Steel Strike at Montreal, Que.

With leaders of the union and company officials refusing to deviate from their original stand in the strike of W.R. Cuthbert Company employees at Montreal, the situation remains unchanged. Lucien Dufour, local leader of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America (C.I.O.), recently declared: "We are prepared to carry the strike three months or longer if necessary".

(D) Textile Strike at Peterboro, Ont.

The strike at the Dominion Woollens and Worsteds Co. plant at Peterboro continues. A lengthy conference between representatives of strikers and company officials held on 16th July ended in failure.

(E) Longshoremen's Strike at Thorold, Ont., Settled

Thorold longshoremen, notified that the Ontario Paper Mills Company had agreed to recognize their union, returned to work at 8.00 p.m., on 14th July after having been on strike for eight days.
