

Jan 1, 1930  
(30/30)  
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SOURCE: UNDER THE BANNER OF  
MILITANT INTERNATIONALISM,  
PRINCIPAL FEATURES AND  
IMMEDIATE TASKS OF THE  
WORK OF MOPR,  
EDITED BY THE E. C. OF THE  
IRA, MOSCOW — 1930.  
(IN ENGLISH.)

Pages 5 - 9.

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### THE ORIGIN OF MOPR.

The history of the International Red Aid takes us back to 1920—21. The revolutionary risings of the proletariat (the Spartacist rising in Germany in January 1919, the Soviet Republics in Hungary and Bavaria in 1919, the rising of the proletariat in Central Germany in 1921, the seizure of the factories by the workers in Italy in 1920, etc.) were crushed by the combined forces of the bourgeoisie and the social-traitors. Over the corpses of tens of thousands of the most advanced workers, the bourgeoisie somehow patched up the wounds inflicted on the capitalist State by the convulsions of war and revolution. In the USSR, one-sixth of the globe this period was marked by the close of the civil war and the passing of the country to the task of peaceful constructive work. These conditions were objectively favourable for setting up an organisation having as its object to grant material and moral assistance to comrades captured by the bourgeoisie and thrown into jail. At that time there already existed in a number of countries individual committees and initiatory groups concerned with granting aid to the prisoners of capitalism, (the "Red Aid" Committees in Germany, the Committee for Assisting Political Prisoners in Poland). In the extent of their work these committees did not go

beyond

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beyond the boundaries of the activity of the pre-war revolutionary "Red Cross", which helped the victims of Russian Tsarism and autocracy. These organisations, consequently, were not of a mass character.

The further growth of White Terror, assuming as it did an international character, naturally brought on to the order of the day the question of extending the work of these primary organisations of the International Red Aid, and creating a mass organisation for proletarian solidarity. The united efforts and single front of the reactionary bourgeoisie and the social-traitor parties had to be opposed by the united front of the proletariat. It was the toilers of the USSR, the advanced country of Socialism in construction, who took the initiative of applying this idea in practice. In September 1922, the Society of Old Bolsheviks—an organisation numbering in its ranks tried revolutionaries who themselves were familiar with all the horrors of Tsarist exile and hard labour—raised its voice on behalf of its brothers in arms, the warriors of the revolution in the West. The same year, on November 30, 1922, at a session of the IV Congress of the Comintern at which comrade Julian Marchlewsky (Karsky) was in the chair, a resolution was adopted approving the initiative shown by the Society of Old Bolsheviks. The Congress called on all the Communist Parties to give every assistance to the organisations of the International Red Aid and facilitate their formation in all the capitalist countries.

From 1924 to 1930 the International Red Aid was continuously developing, bringing under its influence ever wider and wider masses of non-party workers and peasants. The following table illustrates the

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development of our organisations in the capitalist countries and colonies:

**GROWTH OF ORGANISATIONS AND SECTIONS OF INTERN. RED AID**

Years	No. of organisations	Legal among these	Illegal.
1924	22	—	—
1925	35	20	15
1926	43	30	23
1927	44	30	24
1928	48	21	27
1929	51 *	28	23

**POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF OUR WORK.**

The bourgeoisie not only applies the most unbridled methods of destroying the foremost fighters of the revolution, but throws every possible hindrance in the way of assistance to those who have been captured and thrown into jail. The class enemies of the proletariat realise to the full the strength of international working class solidarity. Any politically literate person will realise that the immediate task of the International Red Aid—moral and material assistance to the prisoners of capitalism—should not be taken in the narrow sense of the word. We are striving towards the end that the wide masses should clearly understand why and to whom this aid is granted. On the basis of concrete facts

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\* Or 53, including USSR.

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of physical violence against fighters of the revolution, the International Red Aid strives to show that the White Terror is not an accidental event, but an event which follows directly from the very substance of the capitalist system. By its agitation and educational work, the International Red Aid helps to raise the level of the political consciousness of the masses, and brings them nearer and closer directly to the revolutionary vanguard. In this respect the International Red Aid fulfils the functions of a preparatory school, or the first step which the politically backward worker, agricultural labourer or toiler in an oppressed colony ascends in order to acquire the necessary experience in class struggle.

In a resolution of April 1st. 1928, the IV Congress of the RILU pointed out that "secure in the confidence of the millions of proletarians, the non-party mass organisations of the International Red Aid, in a number of mass conflicts with reaction and bourgeois class justice, and also in its widespread organisation of assistance to the latter's victims, have justified themselves as a united front organisation for fighting reaction, white terror and fascism".

Thus the International Red Aid is a mass voluntary social organisation of the toilers, training its members in the spirit of international proletarian solidarity and militant internationalism. The political importance of the International Red Aid may be briefly summed up as follows:

International Red Aid--the weapon for the international class education of the toiling masses.

International