

No. **51**

Wigs, JUL 31 1936

Subject: Review of Earl Browder's, "What is Communism?"

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

As of possible interest to the Department, I have
1/ the honor to enclose the English translation of excerpts
from a review of Earl Browder's recent book, "What is
Communism?" The review appeared in the KOMMUNISTISCHER
INTERNATIONAL (COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL), No. 9, May 10,
1936, and is very favorable; the theses expounded in the
book are apparently in conformity in all respects with
those adopted by the Seventh Congress of the Communist
International.

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International.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur Elias Lane.

Enclosure:

1. A Book on Communism for the Broad Masses.
(KOMMUNISTICHESKI INTERNATSIONAL, No. 9,
May 10, 1986. Moscow.)

(in septuplicate.)

1 copies held for Embassy, Moscow.

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A true copy
of the signed
original. B

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Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 51 of JUL 31 1936
from the Legation at Riga, Latvia.

SOURCE: KOMMUNISTISCHES
INTERNATIONALES
(COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL),
No. 3,
May 10, 1936.
Page 78. Moscow.
(Organ of the Executive
Committee of the Com-
munist International.)

TRANSLATION OF EXCERPT

A BOOK ON COMMUNISM FOR THE EDUCATED MASSSES.*

By Earl Browder.^a

The book by Comrade Browder is quite an event on the front of ideological, propoganda and agitation work of the American Communist Party. This book may be considered as the direct result of the work done by the VII congress of the Communist International, with Comrade Dimitrov at its head, for remodeling the policy of the communist parties, the congress having enjoined them to regard as their particular duty: to be the political mass parties of the proletariat, and to act as leaders of the masses in all spheres of political life. This book furnishes to every American worker, to every toiler, to every anti-fascist, clear, comprehensible, and popular answers to a series of vital questions concerning class war, as well as elucidation of a number of points of principle in connection with communist tactics.

Comrade Browder's book contains 21 brief chapters. They are articles by and speeches of the author, re-edited

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* Footnote in the text: Earl Browder, "What is Communism?" New York, 1936. 235 pages.

^a Unknown to the Legation. Translator's note.

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to suit the exigencies of the moment. Each chapter deals with a definite subject, and makes smooth and interesting reading. The language of the book is very plain; the expounding of the various subjects is always accompanied by controversial argumentation levelled at enemies and opponents, by elucidation of dubious points, exposure of slanders and enemies, and exhortative argumentation for those who err; and all this adapted to actual problems of the life and the struggle of the masses in America. The principal subjects in the book - the problem of the united front, the struggle against fascism, the struggle for the preservation of peace - are dealt with not merely from the point of view of the policy of the Communist Party; they are dealt with as questions which deeply affect the interests and the life of the broad masses of the population. It is precisely these distinguishing features that make the book particularly valuable, and enable it to penetrate into the very thick of the readers from the rank and file. Comrade Browder's book is a genuinely popular book for American communists. Members of the Communist Party will read it with profit, it will strengthen the front of sympathizers, will draw many waverers into its orbit, and will make think many tellers whom the reactionary yellow press has set against the communists.

The first chapter of the book is entitled: ...

.....

(Page 80)

Comrade Browder's book reflects the ideological advances - ment of the leaders of the world communist movement, who have now learnt to speak not only to thousands of communists, but also to hundreds of thousands and millions of people whom the crisis and the events of the past years have awakened

to

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to active political life! We wish this truly popular
book broadest circulation.