

RWL – Informationen zu Albanien, Österreich [Revolutionäre Kommunisten], Griechenland etc., 22.11.1936

4 Seiten, (Teil-) Abschrift,¹ Übersetzung und Faksimile

[...]

AUSTRIA

(information obtained from Comrade Vitte)

Nov. 22, 1936

There is a left wing in the ranks of Austrian Stalinism and especially among the youth. It appears that this group is quite influential in the YCL and even in the leadership of the YCL.

This Austrian group is trying to make international contacts and has already entered into relations with the Greek Archio Marxists (about 4 mos. [month] ago). It was invited to the Trotskyist Conference „For the Fourth International“ but refused to attend. Group favors a new international but not on Trotsky's line.

A paper or bulletin of some sort is published.

This group has connections with forces in the Hungarian CP and also has connections in Czechoslovakia but could not ascertain if the latter are in the CP or outside.

The political struggle of this group appears to center around the Peoples Front and the question of Fascism vs. Democracy or Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat, they taking the latter formula.

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[...]

¹ Übersetzt und in Abschrift vorgelegt wurde nur jener Abschnitt des Dokuments, der sich auf Österreich bezieht

Übersetzung:

ÖSTERREICH

(Informationen von Genosse Vitte)

22. November 1936

Es gibt einen linken Flügel in den Reihen des österreichischen Stalinismus, insbesondere unter der Jugend. Diese Gruppe scheint großen Einfluss im YCL [Kommunistischer Jugendverband] und sogar in dessen Führung zu haben.

Diese österreichische Gruppe versucht, internationale Kontakte zu knüpfen und hat bereits (vor etwa vier Monaten) Beziehungen zu den griechischen Archeo-Marxisten aufgenommen. Sie wurde zur trotzkistischen Konferenz „Für die Vierte Internationale“ eingeladen, lehnte jedoch die Teilnahme ab. Die Gruppe befürwortet eine neue Internationale, jedoch nicht auf Trotzkis Linie.

Eine Zeitung oder eine Art Bulletin wird veröffentlicht.

Diese Gruppe unterhält Verbindungen zu Kräften der ungarischen KP und hat auch Verbindungen in der Tschechoslowakei. Es konnte aber nicht festgestellt werden, ob diese der KP angehören oder nicht.

Der politische Kampf dieser Gruppe scheint sich um die Volksfront und die Frage von Faschismus vs. Demokratie oder Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat zu drehen, wobei letztere Formel verwendet wird.

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Nov. 22, 1936

A revolutionary communist organization exists in the Kingdom of Albania partially under the political influence of the Greek Archie Marxists, but in which some semi-Stalinists participate. Many of its members and some of its leaders have been in the Greek organization. Conditions of terror and persecution prevail in this feudal semi-colony of Italian Fascism.

Membership : 80 to 100 members in the larger towns, greatest strength in the city of Corcha.

A mimeographed organ called "The Bulletin" is published.

The group has no name, and the fact of its existence as an organization is carefully concealed. It functions however in an organized manner and has leadership in the unions leading all the important mass actions carried out in the country.

Works through a number of auxiliaries - Cultural, artistic, literary, sports

There is great mass sympathy for revolutionary ideas in Albania.

Very little industrial proletariat. Basis of the labor movement lies among the workers of small shops (tailors, shoemakers etc) and poor peasants.

There is no Stalinist organization in Albania, although they have a group composed of emigres and exiles in Paris, which calls itself the "Committee for National Independence". These Stalinists have formed a "Peoples Front with anti-Italian cliques within Albania. These cliques are instruments of Yugoslavia and Greece in the struggle against Italy and against the Italian puppet, King Zog.

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TURKEY AND CYPRUS

There are illegal Communist organizations in the city of Stamboul, Turkey and on the British controlled Island of Cyprus. Both are under the political guidance of the Greek Archio Marxists, and receive occasional directives from the latter, whose press they use when it can be smuggled in.

TURKEY - This new group has ten members or thereabouts, workers and students, mostly greeks, turks, and armenians. It functions under the most illegal conditions.

CYPRUS - This group left the Third International about one year ago. It appears to consist of the former leaders of the C-P, if not the major part of the latter. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ There are locals in the two or ~~XXXXXX~~ three largest towns. Membership about 30 or 40, is entirely Greek as is the whole population of the island. Illegal.

BULGARIA

There were formerly two tendencies in the Trotskyist section in Bulgaria. The Left led by Gatzoff with whom the Archio Marxists had regular contact, and a right wing led by Manoff, an old menshevik.

The Greek comrades have lost contact with the Bulgarians and do not know how matters stand at present in that country.

GREECE (Information obtained from Comrade Vitte of the C.A.M.P.)

Nov. 22, 1936.

COMMUNIST ARCHIO-MARKIST PARTY-Approximately 2,000 members.

COMMUNIST ARCHIO-MARXIST YOUTH-Approximately 1,000 members.

Separate youth and adult branches but joint leading committees.

Age limit of the Youth - 15-25. No minimum age in party and in towns where there are less than five youth, these are attached to the party units.

Party has sections in 65-to 100 cities and towns including all important places throughout the country. Founded in 1919 as a left faction within the O-I. Section, and an independent group since 1925, it has experienced a steady growth during the period having reached the figure given above at the time of the establishment of the Metaxas dictatorship. Absolutely illegal conditions exist and over a hundred members are now in prison.

Archio-Marxists were formerly the Greek section of the ICL. Broke away at the beginning of Trotskyist swing to the right.

Has no definite position as yet on the IBSU (London Buro). Considers IBSU a centrist organization, but believes that it might be advisable to enter same where it would form a left wing. Entry would be a tactical question. Will attend the Barcelona Congress of the IBSU, and is prepared to work together with whatever other left forces there may be at said Congress.

Comintern, proclaimed itself a party at its last (II) Congress (Previous only "Conferences" had been held) in July 1934. Said congress adopted resolutions on all of the most important political questions. These documents constitute the party program and were published in a pamphlet entitled a "On the Road of Marxism". Position with relation to the ICL and the road to the Fourth International is contained among these documents.

Party has a large Trade union influence throughout Greece, controlling many of them, and having minority groups in the majority of the unions throughout the country.

Party controls the "Association of War Victims" (50,000 members) and carries on effective fraction work in one of the three peasant parties. The C-A-M-P. membership is 80% proletarian. Five month probation period for new members. High ideological level. About 30% of membership has been in the C.P. The policy is to recruit directly from the masses and in the past there half been serious differences with Trotsky because of this. (Vitte says: "If we had followed Trotsky's advice, we would have remained a sect.") The party has about 10,000 close sympathizers. There are continuous struggles with the Stalinists, often assuming a violent character. Two Archio Marxists have been murdered by the Stalinists.

PRESS- The party has a well equipped print shop of its own and issues:

"Class Struggle", Central organ, weekly, four pages, large format

Press-run 7-8,000 of which half is paid circulation.

"The Torch" Theoretical organ, Circulation 1,500

"Workers Solidarity" - Red aid paper of party.

Various trade papers a womens paper and occasional pamphlets also issued.

No youth paper.

[illegible]

Greece (2)

All press is affected by the repressions but is published illegally.
FRACTIONS AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS-

Besides the regularly functioning trade union fractions, there are Agraria, Student, and Womens' fractions. There is no children's organisation. The party has many auxiliaries such as artistic and cultural groups, sports organisations etc.

Congresses are held ordinarily every two years. Congress is now overdue, having been delayed by the terror. Plenums are regularly held every 3-4 months. Central Committee has 15 members, with a Political Committee of 5. There are various regional committees. Minimum dues in the organisation (for employed) is the equivalent of one days wages per month.

Other groups in Greece standing for the Fourth International.

Groups favoring the "French Turn" of the ICL.

- 1.- Bolshevik-Leninists (Official Trotskyites), publish "The Bolshevik Membership - 15.
- 2.- & "New Road" Group with paper of same name, 20 members. Comats the above mentioned group, seeks Trotskyist recognition.
- 3.- "Workers Press" Group with paper of same name - 10 members, neurotic types.

Opposed to the "French Turn".

Vanguard Group (Formerly called the Spartacus group)

Publishes "The Vanguard"
15 members at most.
Ultra left and rightist at same time
Similar to Weisbord group in U.S.A.
Loose connections with Weisbordites.
Membership composed largely of "safe revolutionists".

A contact commission exists between the Archio Marxists, the Vanguard Group, and the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "New Road Group". They have issued a joint manifesto against the Metaxas dictatorship, calling for a working class united front as against the peoples front..