

BRITISH MINERS' LEADER STATES VIEWS ON HUNGARY

We reprint below from the London Daily Worker a statement on the events in Hungary by Arthur Horner, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers and a well-known Communist. The statement was made by Horner to staff writer George Sinfield:

The situation in Hungary reminds me of a pit. In a pit you have sparks which need do no damage; but if gas has accumulated an explosion can occur with terrible consequences.

The two conditions existed in Hungary; and here let me hope there will be urgent and generous response to relieve the suffering of its people, particularly the women and children.

We all know that the sparks were deliberately set off by American interventionist conspiracy and by other dangerous sources as well.

They resulted in the present tragic situation only because unsatisfactory living conditions and grave limitations in democracy existed. Otherwise they would have been innocuous.

Only through the rapid correction of bad political and economic conditions can Socialism be restored in Hungary.

I have just returned from China with a miners' delegation. We witnessed marvellous progress there, progress achieved largely with Soviet help, openly admitted.

But it seems the help is given in a more democratic way than appears to be the case in Eastern Europe.

Of course, we know that the Russian task was harder following their revolution in 1917. They were alone, surrounded by a world of enemies. But China has enjoyed the great advantage of much material help from Russia.

There must be rapid reorientation in Socialist and Communist countries: each must be permitted, without military or other pressures from outside, to develop Socialism in its own way.

Conditions are different in the various countries and the experiences of one cannot be transplanted into another.

NO ONE deplors more than I do the events reported to have taken place in Hungary over the past few weeks.

But I must say this: I would not be afraid of foreign espionage and subversion—however large the sums of money spent on them—if genuine Socialist democracy is introduced and maintained in any country.

Beyond all doubt the prerequisite of success is the waging of never-ceasing class struggle.

With proper regard paid to the safety of the first Socialist country and its allies, I hope Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Hungary as soon as possible. . .

I know the original intention of the Russian Government was to withdraw its troops earlier; but without question agreement should now be reached with the Hungarian Government for rapid withdrawal.

The policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Communist parties in countries not only where they have state power, but in others as well, including our own, must be carried to a degree beyond anything we have yet known.

After all, it is now 39 years since the Russian Revolution; and in those 39 years other Socialist and Communist parties have grown to a level of maturity which entitles them to answer the problems arising in their own countries.

It is easy to point to the past grave faults in the affairs of Russia—faults freely admitted by the Russians themselves.

But it would be quite wrong to overlook the tremendous achievements of the first Socialist country in the world.

THIS CRITICAL view of mine should not be taken to imply I have lessened in any way my firm belief that Socialism represents the next stage in the organization of human society.

I profoundly believe the Communist Party is the only instrument through which genuine Socialism can be ultimately established.

After careful thought I unhesitatingly declare that it is my intention to remain loyal to the Communist principles and ideas I held even before the Russian Revolution in 1917.

I intend to struggle within the Party as I am democratically entitled to—for full consultation with and between all comrades.

Decisions on our own affairs must be made by and within our own movement.

I stand firmly for the British road to socialism. So should we all.

But I and all of us must stand for unity and true internationalism; to give and to expect to receive friendly and constructive criticism on the common problems facing the working people anywhere.

I therefore urge all comrades—if such urging is at all necessary—to remain true to their basic faith in the future of Socialist society. . . .

To remain loyal and to fight for those principles and ideas which have guided and influenced their whole lives for so many years.

Never in any circumstances do Communists give up the fight for

(Continued on Page 7)

HORNER

(Continued from Page 2)

political, economic and social justice.

We fight to win—and win we will.

Whatever else may be thought to be wrong, or is wrong, the principles of Communism—the principles of our Party—are untarnished and as sound as ever.

They are principles upon and through which all men and women the world over will eventually live in Peace, Happiness and Freedom.