
Application of the Socialist Party of America for Membership in the Communist International.

A letter from Otto Branstetter to Grigorii Zinoviev, March 12, 1920.

A document in the Comintern Archive f. 515, op. 1, d. 37, l. 2.

Chicago, Ill., March 12, 1920.

G. Zinoviev, President Executive Committee
of the Communist International,
Moscow, Russia.

Dear Comrade:—

The Socialist Party of the United States held a convention in Chicago, Illinois, commencing August 30, 1919. Two resolutions on International Affiliations were presented to the convention.

The Majority resolution provided for participation in the calling of an international conference. The object of such conference was the formation of a new International to which delegates should be invited from the Communist parties of Russia and Germany and from those Socialist parties in all countries which subscribe to the principle of the class struggle. The resolution excluded from participation any party which participates in a government coalition with parties of the bourgeoisie.

The Minority resolution provided for direct and immediate affiliation with the Communist International, making reservations as to the application of the program to the United States until such time as a Congress could be held.

Copies of these resolutions are attached. Both resolutions were submitted to referendum of the party membership with the result that the Minority resolution providing for immediate affiliation with the Communist International was adopted. I therefore have the honor to apply to the Executive Committee for recognition of the Socialist Party of the United States of America and its admission to the Communist International.

With fraternal greetings and best wishes for the success of our struggling Russian comrades, I am

Fraternally yours,

Otto Branstetter
Executive Secretary

OB-BHW

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