

'The new International' from Le Monde (7 October 1947)

Caption: On 7 October 1947, the French daily newspaper Le Monde sets out the political objectives of the new Communist International and emphasises the predominant role of the Soviet Union in the new organisation.

Source: Le Monde. dir. de publ. Beuve-Méry, Hubert. 07.10.1947, n° 837; 4e année. Paris: Le Monde. "La nouvelle internationale", p. 1.

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Last updated: 05/07/2016

The new International

No one will be surprised to learn that representatives of the Communist parties from nine countries gathered in Warsaw to re-form the Comintern. The Third International was dissolved in May 1943 only so as to reassure the Allies fighting side-by-side with the USSR. If this organisation had been formally abolished, who would dare believe that Communist parties the world over were no longer following Moscow's instructions?

The resurrection of the Communist International is not, however, without meaning. While the presence of Mr Zhdanov and Mr Malenkov, Stalin's two main henchmen, emphasises the predominant role of the USSR, the intention appears no less to camouflage this role to some extent: it was not in Moscow that the meeting took place, but in Warsaw, and Belgrade will be the headquarters of the new 'Information Bureau' consisting of representatives of the central committees. The International shifts its centre westward to the satellite country that is most subject to the Communist orthodoxy: could this be a reminder that this doctrine has gained ground and that it is no longer restricted to the great nation where it began?

Those who refused to admit that the world is henceforth divided into two camps have only to read the new International's manifesto: in it, they will see that 'two opposite political lines have emerged (since the war): at one pole, the policy of the USSR and other democratic countries that aims to undermine imperialism and reinforce democracy; at the opposite pole, the policy of the United States and Britain that aims to reinforce imperialism and stifle democracy.'

The declaration of war is directed not only against the 'imperialism of the dollar'. No distinction has been made between Labour-ruled Great Britain and capitalist America. Mr Bevin is expressly named as Mr Truman's 'most consistent and zealous servant'. No account has been taken of the fact that this representative of 'British imperialism' liberated India at the same time as the USSR was oppressing Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and was annexing for itself, as one would the spoils of war, more than 600 000 square kilometres of territory with 20 million people from nine different nations.

The Warsaw Declaration is a direct blow to the UN. Does an organisation that claims to be universal still have a reason for being when one of its most important members and those in its orbit proclaim that 'two camps have been established in the world' and that 'the battle is being waged between these two camps'? The talks in New York, where compromises are being sought between the opposing theses, will soon feel the effects of these words, and the next conference on Germany, whose chances seem very slim, will not go uninfluenced.

It is on domestic policy in France and Italy that the effect of the new Soviet action must first be observed. Apart from Moscow's satellites, these two countries are the only ones designated as members of the International: for the moment, neither the British Communist Party, nor the Belgian, Dutch, Scandinavian, German or Austrian parties, nor those of other continents are members. France and Italy, two great nations where the Communist position is strong, are particularly targeted.

If it has not been made clear in words of one syllable to Mr Thorez and Mr Togliatti that they must abandon the policy of sharing in government that they advocate, the declaration of war on 'Capitalist' and Socialist parties (Mr Blum is referred to, as is Mr Attlee), in fact, condemns such participation. The French Communist Party should revise its policy, which is perhaps rather annoying two weeks before elections.

Following Moscow's tactic, the role of parties that once were brothers will henceforth be one of opposition and no longer of collaborators with other parties in a national union that has had its day. In Paris and Rome, they should openly defend the USSR's foreign policy. There is no longer a 'clandestine orchestra conductor' but a baton that openly beats time and musicians who turn towards it for all to see. If policy does not become easier, it will at least be clearer.