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THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF BRITISH COMMUNISM, 1920–1991

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STUDIES I

Study the unique political culture...

British Online Archives' updated collection, *The Political Culture of British Communism, 1920–1991*, is drawn from the papers of various National Congresses held by the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB).

National Congress was the supreme decision-making body of the CPGB. Hundreds of elected delegates would meet on a bi-annual basis to vote on important policy issues, to elect



This collection is one of many CPGB resources hosted by British Online Archives.

members to key bodies within the Party, and to fraternise with delegates from across Great Britain and from further afield.

For Soviet Britain

The Programme of the Communist Party adopted at the XIII Congress February 2nd, 1935

L-THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN BRITAIN TO-DAY Britain to-day is in the hands of millionaires—owners of the biggest runs, the biggest stanship companies; in ahort, owners or controllers of the big monopolies. Nearly everything we use or need pays toll to them: soap and milk, digarettes and cinemas, newspapers and wireless are in their graup, as well as mining, chemicals, transport, etc. These millionaires, these monopoly capitality, not only own or control the chief means whereby we work and live, but, in fact, control the whole governing machine. They pull the strings. And they use their power to make themselves richer and richer—at our expense. This him drace to profit or make profic out of their labour; their capitalits production is for profit, not for use: and to get more profit they alsh wages, carry through speed-up and worsen conditions. This mad race for profit ends in a crisis; and then they try to get out of the crisis—at our expense.

Look at the result!

The collection contains over 33,800 unique images.

Most of the volumes contain official reports by the General-Secretary and from the Executive Committee. These feature reflections on the previous work of the Party and on its future direction.

The volumes also contain material given to National Congress delegates, as well as a range of personal notes by these attendees.

"For the values, the rituals, the language and the political culture of British communism, as well as insights into a wide spread of party activities, the congress materials provide an important source"

– Professor Kevin Morgan

Sources include: Archive Trust of the Communist Party of Great Britain

... of the Communist Party's National Congresses.

| TO ALL BRANCHES | | AUGUST | , 1965 |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| | 29th NATIONAL CONGRESS 1 9 6 5 ECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FLECTED POSSIBLE ATTENDANCES - 15 | - 1963 | |
| NAME | OCCUPATION | No. of yrs. in Party | Attend- ances |
| ALEXANDER, William | Full time Party worker | 33 | 14 |
| ADDAANDDA, WIIIIam | Assistant Secretary | | |
| BIRCH, Reg | Assistant Secretary Full time T.U. official | 26 | 13 |

The election of various Party bodies, including the Executive Committee, Appeals Committee, and Resolutions Committee, is covered in detail. Elections to these influential bodies decided who would pull the CPGB's levers of power.

| THE COMMUNIST PARTY | DRAFT |
|--|---|
| 25th SFECIAL MATIGUAL OCHGERSS HANDERGATE TORN HALL | P |
| AFRIL 19th-20th-21st-22st (EASTER) 1957 | ¹ Cond |
| STEWARDS AND HELFERS FOR CONGRESS We shall most a large minber of stewards and holpers during the Party Congress. | The his shown in scientific arberes: 0 |
| If you would like to apply please return the form blow, filling in the times you are available. We shall then write to you giving further details. We shall pay your faces. We shall be returning in will nak other commisses also be apply. You will be admitted only by stoward's oredential and your Arthy eard. | countries; America peoples of 10 amerg the In Brita nation-wie |
| Roturn to Control Organization Department, 16 King Street, LADON, W.O.S. | organised the cold strategy, a would can In all of set out at |
| SANS ADDRENS REASOL | Party has 20 At the dominates obstructio hack the f |
| I shall be available to help at the Nitional Congress ous (put a tick against the times you are available) | The econ have brou people. Th war allian resistance |
| Zhursday ovening, April 18th. Report to 18 King St. 5.p.s. to Assist moving <u>dengrose material</u> to hall in vnia <u>A form non required for this gota</u> | 30 Britain people are sets out. |
| range of material looks at the logistical | Reso |

A range of material looks at the logistical efforts that went into holding a National Congress; from hospitality and stewarding, to political organising.

POLITICAL RESOLUTION

INTRODUCTION in 10 in the at a time of great changes and decisions d

ric change is the balance of world forces has been Sc. the new trianges of socialize construction and J.00 Vatore, already outstripping capitalise in many social provent of the progressive and pace forces in all deve the great struggle of the proprise of Africa and Latin it interproteine alsoguide the advances of the N was; and the increasing contracticitors and divisions inde

> in Asia, African and Latin America. In the remaining occurities still subject to direct or imperialist domination, the liberation truggle is s forward and is a mighty factor for peace. In the imperialist countries, the organized work movement has increased in strength, and the worki and neuralist neuro field units the neurone or colle-

In poss and diamment status to over wifer rection. The number of neural coartists who want a policy of posetion of the status of the status of the status of the methylic operation of the status of the status of the contradiction in face of the save world situation. The inperialist war phasers, with the United States more possible that any phase status of the status of th

s vituation. Japan, and have equipped West Germany will is is what tho 40 weapons. Colonial wars and repression continue. The nature of imperialism has not changed.

Resolutions submitted by Party branches illuminate the passionate debates that raged over issues such as Soviet intervention and internal dissent.

Over 4 million records covering 1000 years of world history: from politics & warfare, to slavery & revolution.



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