

"... In my opinion we should frankly acknowledge that while the Negro question in the Deep South remains a national and an agrarian question, for some time developments in the South have not* moved in the direction of the establishment of a Negro nation.

"The basic demands of the Negro people in the South, which they themselves put forward and are struggling for, are for the right to vote and representative government, for full equality in employment, education and in all other spheres of life, and for achieving serious reforms in agriculture.

"In re-appraising our position on self-determination in the Black Belt, our Party should emphasize, as never before, that the struggle for Negro rights and freedom, north and south of the Mason-Dixon line, has emerged as a general, national democratic task, upon the solution of which depends the democratic and social advance of the whole nation, particularly of the workers and farmers."⁸

It can be seen, therefore, that the Party has modified its policy of "self-determination." This is a major development in Negro matters for the Party. However, its general propaganda relating to "equal rights" and other issues remains essentially the same as does the ultimate goal of the Communist Party, USA, --the establishment of a socialist United States. In February, 1956, a member of the Party's national Negro commission stated:

"... It is generally known that the proletariat of a national movement has both a national and class mission to perform. This is likewise true of the Negro proletariat in our country. It has the task of leading the Negro people to national liberation, and, in conjunction with their fellow white workers, of putting an end to class exploitation by leading the American people to Socialism...."

*Underlined portion italicized in original text.

