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The Communist Party and the Left Book Club

THE purpose of the chart overleaf is to illustrate how the Communist Party of Great Britain uses the Left Book Club as a channel for revolutionary propaganda and activity.

The heavy outlines indicate that the organisations concerned are subsidiaries of the Communist Party. The arrows indicate the direction of the flow of propaganda and control.

Harry Pollitt, jointly with Victor Gollancz, is the usual "star" speaker at Left Book Club rallies. John Strachey is one of the most active workers in the Communist Party, a regular contributor to the *Daily Worker*, and a member of the Selection Committee of the Left Book Club. Claude Cockburn, editor of the *Week*, is the same person as Frank Pitcairn, the special correspondent of the *Daily Worker* on Spain and foreign affairs generally. The *Week* is available to Left Book Club Groups at a special cheap rate. Prospect Tours arranges visits abroad for members of the Left Book Club. The Dean of Canterbury is the head of the Christian Book Club. He is also an active supporter of the Friends of the Soviet Union, and in April 1938 he made a financial contribution towards the cost of running the *Daily Worker*.

Lawrence and Wishart have a close working arrangement with the Left Book Club through Victor Gollancz Ltd., and are also the publishers in English of written material issued by the Soviet Government and Communist International. Collets Ltd. and the Workers' Bookshop are the main retail sales agencies for the publications of the Communist Party. The Unity Theatre was formerly known as the Workers' Theatre Movement and is closely associated with the Left Book Club Theatre Guild. Marx House is the Communist training school, and it is also used by the Left Book Club for training leaders of political discussion groups. Victor Gollancz, the founder of the Left Book Club, has been actively connected with Marx House, the China Campaign Committee, the Society for Cultural Relations with Soviet Russia, the Friends of the Soviet Union, the Spanish Dependents' Aid Committee, the Young Communist League, the Council for Civil Liberties and the Relief Committee for the Victims of Fascism. The British Youth Peace Assembly has among its most active officials a number of persons who are either members of the Young Communist League or closely associated with the leaders of that body.

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