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Labor Unity in Mexico

It is a valued privilege to be able to greet you, workers of Mexico, in the name of the advanced sections of the workers of the U.S.A. for which our Communist Party speaks. The problems of our two countries are closely related. The people of our two countries have a common enemy, the monopolist-capitalist exploiters of Wall Street.

The people of our two lands are beginning to move in the same general direction, to organize their forces against the Wall Street bandits, against the forces of fascism, reaction and war. To meet our common problems, which are also connected with the world situation, we must build up ever more intimate connections and co-operation between our two peoples, between our two labor movements, and between our two Communist Parties.

I consider my visit here of importance from this point of view, as a symbol of the growing unity between the masses of Mexico and the U. S., in the fight against our common enemy.

It is interesting to note many points of similarity between the current political events in our two lands. The presidents of both Republics, alike in being progressive men of the middle-of-the-road philosophy, are attacked with the most vicious abuse and slander by the reactionary and fascist forces, by all Wall Street agents. The billionaires are not content to have administrations of a liberal, democratic and progressive nature; they demand administrations that will openly and boldly attack the political rights and economic interests of the people. They want rulers like Hitler and Mussolini. Anything less than this they call Communism and Bolshevism. Most of the great newspapers in the U. S. every day wail about

the "Bolshevik" governments of Franklin Roosevelt in the U. S. and General Cardenas in Mexico.

What Wall Street hates, the people of both countries have learned to love. The more Wall Street rages against Roosevelt and Cardenas, the more the masses of the people rally around them.

Of course, neither Roosevelt nor Cardenas are Communists nor are they sympathetic with Communism. We know that the program of each, while progressive, liberal and democratic in character, lies strictly within the limits of capitalism, though the economies of the two countries are quite different.

Nevertheless, we Communists find it very interesting when the greatest powers of capitalism, the great monopolists, begin to shriek "Communist" against such moderate leaders of the masses as Cardenas and Roosevelt. Long ago it was said: "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad!" The last madness has come upon Wall Street. It is the madness of fascism.

We Communists do not allow ourselves to be deceived. When the reactionaries howled about a "Communist victory" in our U. S. elections, we could only laugh at them. We know that among Roosevelt's 27 million supporters there are still comparatively very few Communists. But we also laugh with pleasure to see Wall Street doing our Communist work for us. Those 27 million are not Communists, they used to be very hostile to Communism, but since the Wall Street reactionaries began to howl "Communist" against Roosevelt, they begin to say, "Maybe there is something in Communism after all; maybe the Communists are not so bad; we'll have to look into this question." Thus we Communists, still a very small party, have been made respectable by this reactionary madness.

At the same time, the reactionary and fascist forces are becoming more bold and desperate under the lashing of their madmen leaders, Hitler and Mussolini, who drive toward world war while driving their followers in each country toward civil war. They will not be content until they destroy all remnants of democracy, of organization of the masses, of all human culture. Faced with this growing menace, all honest and sincere

progressives and democrats are realizing they must unite the people for defense; we Communists everywhere are at the same time calling for such a defensive unity of the people, to which we pledge our fullest support and co-operation.

Thus it is coming about in every country, that a united front of all workers is growing, around which rises a great People's Front, which includes also the Communists. It is this People's Front which has called a halt to the advance of fascism toward conquering the world. The People's Front stopped Franco at the gates of Madrid; the People's Front saved France from fascism; the beginnings of the People's Front make possible the progressive measures of Roosevelt in the U. S.; the beginnings of the People's Front is that solid foundation which enables General Cardenas to take over your railroads for the Mexican people.

What is this fascism that threatens the world? The most illuminating picture of what fascism prepares for every country is in Spain. Spanish fascism prepared an armed insurrection against the democratic republic. It shouted that it was defending Christianity—but it slaughtered Christian Spaniards with an imported Moorish army from Africa. It called itself a "national" movement—but it was organized, financed, and directed from Rome and Berlin. It claimed to crusade for the Catholic Church—but its most bestial destruction of open cities and slaughter of women and children was directed against the Basques, most Catholic of all people in Spain.

It protested that it was fighting against Communism—but its most desperate resolve is to smash the democratic republic, which it identifies with Communism just as it does in the U. S. and Mexico. It says it defends "civilization"—but it destroys all culture and civilization with airplanes, bombs, tanks and armies imported from abroad. Every slogan of fascism has been exposed as a lie in Spain. It stands exposed as the murderer of the people, the betrayer of the nation, the destroyer of democracy and civilization.

Fascism represents a small minority, armed to the teeth, desperately resolved to rule or ruin the world. It gains its

victories through the *disunity* of the great majority of the people and of the nations which want peace and democracy. Where the workers are solidly united, and with them the great masses of the people, in a People's Front, there fascism is always and inevitably defeated. Therefore the great aim of the fascists is always and everywhere to sow disunity, distrust and demoralization among the democratic people, and between the democratic nations. Therefore to preserve democracy and peace, the first law is that of unity, unity at all costs, unity first and last, unity until the forces of fascism and war are destroyed and driven from the earth.

Everywhere the fascists look for their helpers, not only among the open reactionaries, but also among those who shout the loudest in extreme revolutionary slogans, but who use such slogans to try to break the People's Front in face of fascist attacks. Thus in Spain, the butcher Franco based his greatest expectations of smashing the iron front of the People's Army upon the insurrection organized behind its lines in Barcelona, by the counter-revolutionary Trotskyites of the P.O.U.M.

Luckily the Spanish Republic and the people had been warned in time, they were prepared, and they put down that treacherous stab-in-the-back in a few days. Trotskyism thus exposed itself in Spain, and through Spain to the whole world, as the slinking masked agent of fascism. Trotskyism is the same the world over. What it tried in Spain, it is preparing everywhere else it shows its head. It is the most vicious enemy of the unity of the workers and of the people.

Spain has given another lesson of first importance to the whole democratic world. In its darkest hours, the Spanish Republic was deserted by almost all the other great democratic countries of the world. One honorable exception was the Mexican Republic which, within its limited resources and abilities, demonstrated in deeds its real solidarity with the Spanish Republic. But the help which was decisive to enable the Spanish people to arm themselves to withstand the airplanes, tanks, cannon and armies invading them from Hitler Germany, Fascist Italy and enslaved Morocco, came not from France,

not from England, not from the United States—no, they came from the only great power which is both able and willing to help any people fighting for its freedom and independence, from the great country of socialism, the Soviet Union. Stalin declared that the cause of the Spanish people is the cause of all progressive and democratic mankind. He could speak in the name of a great power, of 170 million people, because his people has won complete liberty, not only from foreign domination, but from the domination of all landlords, monopolists and bloodsuckers who have all been driven completely out of the Soviet Union.

It is a great joy to us in the United States to witness the Mexican people more and more organizing their forces, more and more pushing the reactionary forces into the background, more and more asserting your national independence and leadership among the Latin-American peoples, more and more realizing the great objectives of the national revolution set up in your Constitution. We are happy to see such measures as the beginning of land distribution to the peasants. We are happy to see you take your railroads finally and forever out of the hands of foreign imperialist stockholders. We are happy to see you, step by step, moving toward possession and administration of one after another of your great industries and national resources. We have our own selfish reasons for this happiness—a free and independent Mexican people will be a great help and inspiration to us in the United States to win our own freedom from the Wall Street monopolists who robbed not only Mexico, Cuba and all Latin-America but who rob and oppress the people of the United States with equal ferocity. Go forward with full determination, as a united nation, toward complete possession of your own land.

It has been a privilege which I highly appreciate to have participated for the last three days in the Central Committee meeting of the Communist Party of Mexico. I have learned to admire and love my comrades of the leadership of the C.P.M. as never before.

Our Mexican Communists have made brilliant advances, in

winning the confidence and co-operation of increasing sections of the Mexican workers and people. They have made mistakes—but is there anyone in the world who has not? Only those who sit back and do nothing! The mistakes of our Mexican Communists consisted in wanting to push forward too fast, faster than our friends and collaborators were in all cases ready to go. That had threatened a disastrous division, with brother fighting brother, labor fighting labor. But Communists can never permit such a situation! The Central Committee of the C.P.M. has called a halt to this fratricidal conflict. It has declared for unity at all costs. It is prepared to do everything necessary to heal the breach. It is mercilessly correcting all its weaknesses which have contributed to permitting this intolerable division. It has passed the supreme test of a mature party—the ability to correct its own errors before the world. It has proved again that it deserves the confidence of the Mexican masses.

Great tasks and great struggles are ahead of you, workers and people of Mexico, as they also face us in the United States, and as they face the people of the whole world. We must prepare to defend our threatened democracy and peace. We must learn how to defeat the fascists, reactionaries and war-makers. We must learn how to unite; how to unite the workers of every industry and locality; how to unite all the toiling people in the nation, how to win control of our countries and hold them against the fascists. We must learn how to unite the toiling people of all countries; how to unite for common international action; how to build a world unity of defense against fascism and war. This is no small task. Our difficulties are great.

But our determination is also great, and our common abilities, when united on a national and international scale, are multiplied a thousandfold. We learn our true strength through unity. It is an invincible strength. Therefore, forward to the united front of labor, and of all the people, in Mexico, in the United States, and in all the world. Through unity to victory for all the toiling people!

Abridged text of a speech delivered at a mass meeting in Mexico City, June 29, 1937.