

Excerpts from Minutes of the United Secretariat

April 15-16, 1972

Motion by Pierre:

The United Secretariat of the Fourth International disapproves of the publication in the Militant and in Labor Challenge of resolutions adopted by the leaderships of the Socialist Workers Party and the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière concerning the kidnapping of Sallustro by the Argentine ERP, the armed organization led by the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT), Argentine section of the Fourth International.

Such public declarations could well encourage sections to follow this example of public attacks against other sections, which would be highly damaging to the whole International.

In addition, these resolutions do not express any solidarity towards these comrades, at the moment when a fierce campaign is underway against them.

The United Secretariat of the Fourth International resolves not to publish these two resolutions in the International's organs, or in organs expressing its positions.

This resolution is not for public circulation.

Vote: For: 6 (Petersen, Walter, Livio, Kurt, Pierre, Delfin)  
Against: 5 (Adair, Pedro, Juan, Hans, Thérèse)  
Consultative For: 1 (Riel)  
Consultative Against: 1 (Crandall)

Carried.

Motion by Juan:

That the United Secretariat issue a public statement on the kidnapping of Sallustro making the following points:

1) Indicate the economic, social, political crisis racking Argentina, citing some examples, such as the massive strikes, demonstrations and uprisings in various cities, the latest one being Mendoza.

2) Indicate the origin and purpose of the military dictatorship, that it constitutes an illegal regime, ruling in violation of the constitution.

3) Outline the brutal methods used by the military dictatorship such as suppression of student and workers demonstrations, suppression of strikes, arbitrary imprisonment of union leaders and union militants, the use of kidnapping, torture, and murder of political opponents. Name some of the political prisoners held by the hundreds in the jails of Argentina.

4) Give some facts on the frustration, anger, and instinctive elemental reaction, particularly among the youth, who want immediate direct action against the dictatorship.

5) Describe briefly the historical political crisis facing the Argentine working class, above all the absence of a mass revolutionary Marxist party of the kind the Fourth International is seeking to build in all countries, that could guide the struggle effectively toward an early revolutionary victory.

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6) Stress the influence of guerrilla struggles in Latin America and elsewhere in which the action of a small group has been substituted for action by the masses, leading to adventurism, and away from construction of a mass revolutionary Marxist party regardless of the intentions of the guerrilla fighters.

7) Specify in a few sentences that we consider the PRT-ERP to have fallen into errors of this kind, the most spectacular being the kidnapping and execution of Sallustro. Include a brief explanation of how acts like the kidnapping and execution of Sallustro injure the work of building the mass revolutionary party required to overturn Argentine capitalism, and how the world press has taken advantage of the Sallustro affair to attempt to discredit Trotskyism by identifying it with terrorism.

8) Affirm that the Fourth International expresses its solidarity with the courageous militants of the PRT-ERP regardless of their mistaken course and pledges to step up its campaign in their defense and in defense of all the political prisoners held in the jails of Argentina.

Vote: For: 5 (Adair, Pedro, Juan Thérèse, Hans)  
Against: 5 (Petersen, Walter, Kurt, Pierre, Delfin, Livio)  
Consultative For: 1 (Crandall)  
Consultative Against: 1 (Riel)

Defeated.