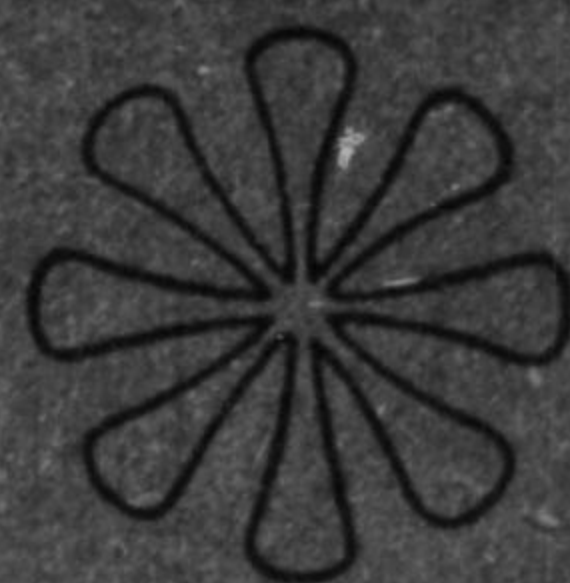


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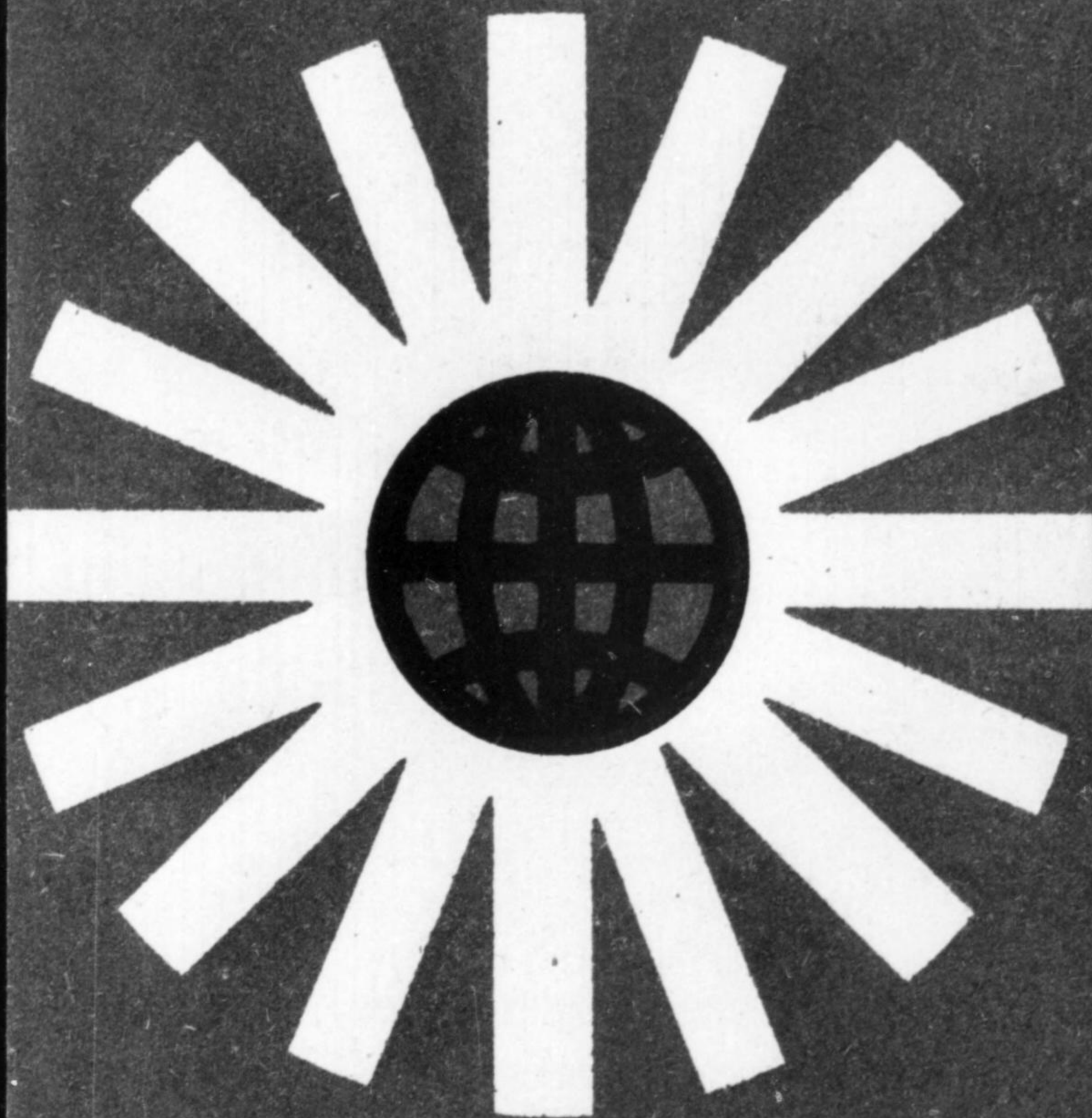
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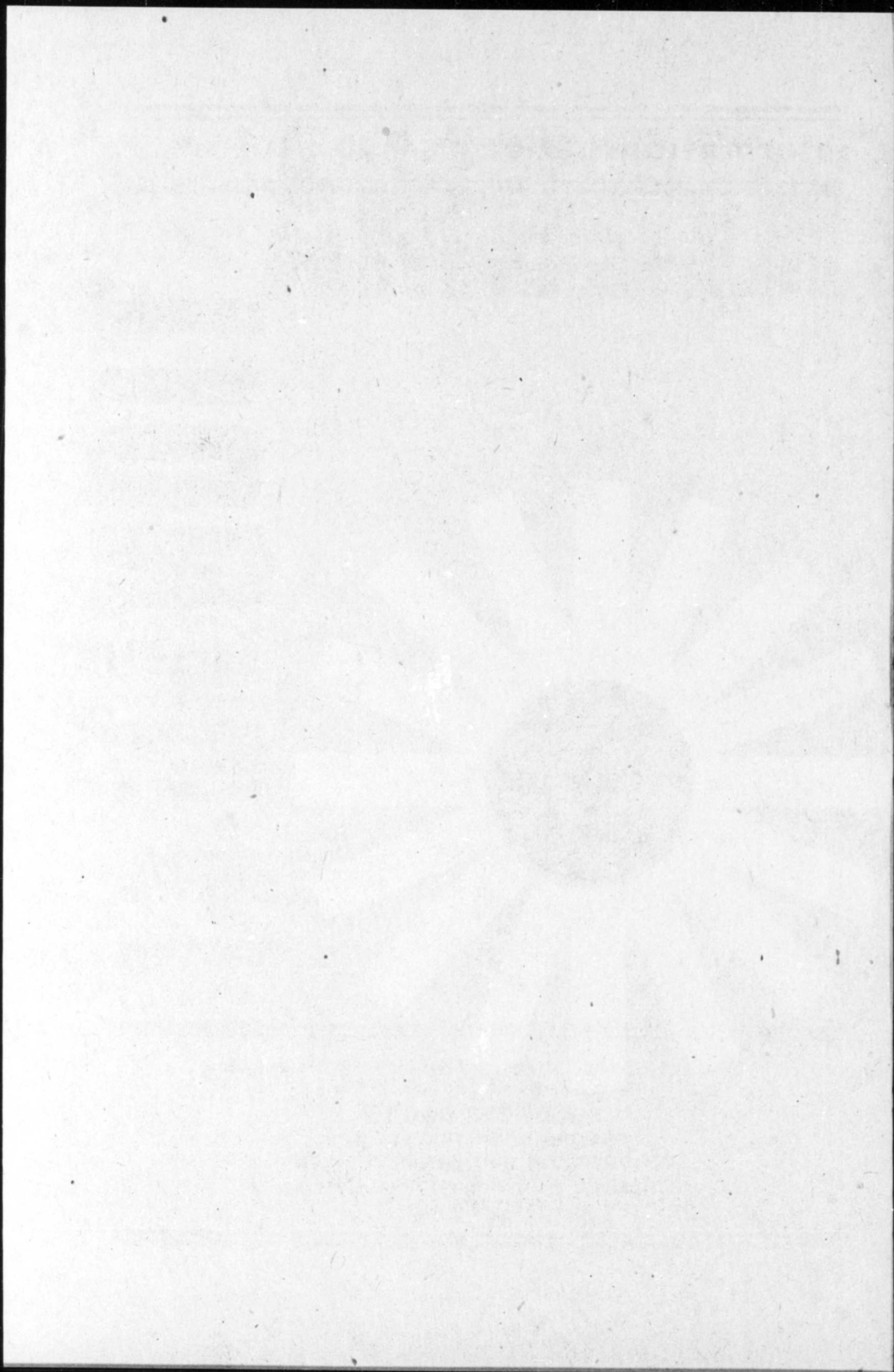
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PRESS STATEMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNIST, WORKERS', REVOLUTIONARY- DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND GROUPS

The Communist, Workers', Revolutionary-Democratic Parties and Groups of the Caribbean attending the 20th Congress of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana held a Consultative Meeting between August 4-6, 1979. Present were the Communist Party of Venezuela, Communist Party of Martinique, Communist Party of Guadeloupe, Workers' Party of Jamaica, Movement for National Liberation of Barbados, Youlou United Liberation Movement of St. Vincent, Workers Revolutionary Movement of St. Lucia, February 18th Movement of Trinidad and Tobago, Working People's Vanguard and Popular Independence Committee of Dominica, Working People's Alliance of Guyana and the People's Progressive Party of Guyana.

In their consultation, the Caribbean Parties and Groups reviewed the general situation in the region and heard reports on the most recent developments in each territory.

There was unanimity that imperialism continued to be the root cause of persistent poverty in the Caribbean and for this reason more and more of the Caribbean masses, in particular the working class, were joining in the struggle against imperialism and their local agents. Testimony to this new upsurge were recent victories against imperialism and reaction registered by the peoples of Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and Nicaragua. It was noted with satisfaction that in most of the territories Communist, Workers', Revolutionary-Democratic Parties and Groups were either being formed or gaining in strength as vital elements in the struggle against imperialism.

It was also noted that there is a growing number of broad alliances of Marxist-Leninist, Revolutionary-Democratic and Progressive Parties and Groups and trade unions and other organizations joining in the struggle against imperialism. In that context the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations seek as a principled position the unity of the progressive forces while continuing their consistent struggles for the

interests of the working people and to provide the best conditions for achieving national liberation and social progress.

The parties and groups assessed that since 1976, imperialist activity has intensified considerably relying increasingly on the extensive use of funding through the IMF and the consortium of imperialist states and their controlled financial institutions.

This tactic of imperialism necessitates increased emphasis by the progressive movement on deepening the foundation of anti-imperialism among the masses and most of all on seeking an independent path of development, oriented toward socialism in close relationship with the socialist community.

Anti-communism is also a main weapon of reaction. But the parties and groups assessed that this weapon was increasingly being blunted by the growing consciousness of the masses, by the achievements of socialist countries and the working peoples' own practical experience of the struggles of communists in defense of their vital interests.

The parties and groups were unanimous on the need for their closer cooperation in the interest of advancing the regional struggle against imperialism. They resolved to hold bilateral and multilateral consultations more frequently.

The parties and groups acclaimed the success of the 20th Congress of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana and expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended toward them by the PPP and its members.

August 11, 1979

SIXTY GLORIOUS YEARS

Gus Hall
General Secretary, CPUSA

What Marx and Engels, the twin giants of revolutionary thought, said about the theoretical conclusions by the communists of their day is fully applicable to the theoretical conclusions of the Communist Party, USA today:

"The theoretical conclusions of the communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented or discovered by this or that would-be universal reformer.

"They merely express in general terms actual relations springing

from an existing class struggle, from an historical movement going on under our very eyes" (*Communist Manifesto*).

The "existing class struggle," the "historical movements" and the "actual relations" in the United States 60 years ago energized and activated the forces that gave birth to the Communist Party, USA. The founding of the Communist Party was "in no way based on ideas or principles that had been invented or discovered by this or that would-be universal reformer."

Incubation by objective forces created the historic necessity for a working-class, revolutionary party. These objective forces prepared and enriched the political and ideological soil. This process was a necessary precondition, because while thoughts and ideas do not recognize national or state boundaries, they do not take root, they do not flourish or endure if the "political soil" is not well prepared.

The birth of the Communist Party, USA was influenced by the cross-pollination of the objective forces and developments on the world scene.

Our party came into existence at a turning point in the international working-class movement. It was created by the development of imperialism, the catastrophic First World War, but above all by the explosive great revolution that gave birth to the first socialist state, the Soviet Union.

All these developments had their influence. But it was the developments in our own country — the growth of the working class, the sharpening of class contradictions and the increase in class and racial oppression — that prepared the soil and the forces that came together at our founding convention 60 years ago.

It was in this same formative period that the writings of Lenin found their way to the United States. Lenin's ideas took root here because they gave a lead and a guide to the struggles of the working-class movement. They took root because the objective developments had created the necessary political and ideological climate.

Of course the roots of our party and of Marxism in the U.S. go back some 120 years. The first organized Marxist groups in the U.S. date back to 1857. Joseph Wedemeyer and Frederick Sorge, refugees from the reaction which followed the defeat of the Revolution of 1848 in Germany, took to the stump as agitators and organizers of Marxist groups.

Like air currents, thoughts and ideas can cross national boundaries. But revolutions and revolutionary movements cannot. In fact, the concept of "exporting revolution" is ridiculous and asinine. When the

mass media puts forth this idea they are injecting a calculated deception into the minds of the people.

The Communist Party, USA endures and flourishes because at each moment in history it is a product of and is influenced by the "existing class struggle" and the ever-changing "historical movements." The class struggle is the central furnace that continues to mold and temper the Communist Party.

For the Communist Party, the ideological winds of working-class consciousness are like fresh air that keeps feeding and refreshing its ranks. In turn, the party adds to class consciousness a revolutionary direction.

From its founding convention, the Communist Party, USA has been a working-class party. But "in the various stages of development which the struggles of the working class have passed through, the Communist Party always and everywhere represents the interests of the movement as a whole."

From its founding convention on, the Communist Party has based its thought and activities on the great science of Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, the party gives the working-class movement a scientific basis for its struggles. It gives the class struggle a direction, a revolutionary direction. It helps to instill in the workers a deeper consciousness of the class nature of capitalist exploitation, a consciousness of the class nature and class solution to the problems workers face.

For 60 years the Communist Party has influenced the character of the class struggle. While leading and taking part in the struggles for a better life, the Communist Party plants and nurtures the seeds of socialism. The significance of this contribution will grow as the struggles of the working class and the people of the United States move toward the historic point of revolutionary transition from capitalism to socialism.

The injection of Marxist-Leninist ideas has been and will become an ever greater influence on the course of human events.

Because communists are a revolutionary force and have a deeper understanding of the inner laws of capitalism, they make the best of all fighters for reforms.

When one comes to understand that *all* goods of value are the result of the labor of workers, then any demand of workers for wage increases or for a cut in hours of work without a cut in pay is totally

justified. That is why communists make good fighters for raising the standards of living of workers.

When a trade union leader comes to understand that production and the economic system can operate more efficiently without stockholders, corporate executives and without private profits, he or she becomes a better fighter for the workers' interests. Such a communist trade union leader will rely on the support of the workers and will not succumb to back-door agreements and accommodations that are against the interests of the workers.

Communist trade union leaders and generally people who understand that racism is an additional instrument of exploitation, an instrument for extra corporate profits, and who understand that the struggle against racism is a key factor in the struggle for unity, for people's anti-monopoly unity, make the most effective fighters on all fronts.

Communists make good fighters against ever-escalating taxes because we believe that working people should not have to pay any taxes. Banks, big business and landlords should bear the tax burden.

In the struggles of everyday life, communists are among the very best fighters for reforms and against the monopolies that create the crisis of everyday living.

Today there is developing a very basic crisis in the field of energy. The easy-to-get-at energy resources are slowly being depleted. But the people face two kinds of problems.

There is the longer-range problem of depletion, which our party discussed some six years ago in a book, *The Energy Rip-Off: Cause and Cure*. It is becoming increasingly clear that we are going to sink into an ever deeper energy crisis because capitalism is not a system that can handle this type of change in the availability of energy resources.

There is also the shorter-range energy problem. This is a crisis created by the oil corporations by simply cutting the shipments of crude oil and the rate of oil refining. This is now causing the lines at the pump. It is a ripoff conspiracy by the oil companies and their government. The purpose of the created shortage is to raise the price of oil, heating fuel and gas. They are now achieving their purpose.

For many years the Communist Party has been advancing the concept of nationalization under democratic controls. It is an idea that is now being accepted by tens of millions.

Besides being a force in the everyday struggles of the people, the

party, guided by Marxism-Leninism, adds an important and unique ingredient to the mainstream of intellectual life.

Marxism-Leninism provides a science of history. It enables the historian to see the relationship between cause and effect, and to see in their inter-relationship the influence of the laws of social development. It gives the historian an approach and a method with which to analyze the political, cultural and intellectual activities of people as makers of history. It gives the historian the ability to see the social relations between individuals and classes as makers of history.

Marxism-Leninism transforms the study of economics from the narrow limitations and restrictions of abstract speculation and statistics.

Marxism-Leninism rescues philosophy from the humiliating and hopeless role of propagandist and defender of capitalism. It liberates all thought from deadening confinements and isolation from real life.

Marxism deepens and enriches our appreciation and understanding of the aesthetic qualities in culture and the arts. It imbues culture with higher and more meaningful humanistic goals.

Marxism-Leninism enriches our sense of commitment and dedication to our fellow human beings in all fields of endeavor. Employed in the service of a dying way of life, intellectual activity itself dries up and dies. Marxism presents an alternative to this decaying process.

Marxism-Leninism rejects the concept of intellectual workers as non-partisan observers. It provides the key with which philosophers, economists, historians and cultural workers can escape from the prison of being merely neutral observers and can become active, partisan fighters for social progress — fighters who can change what they observe.

The "existing class struggle," the "historical movements" continue to change. As state-monopoly capitalism sinks deeper into the quagmire of its decay, the old contradictions will become sharper. New contradictions will appear. And the anti-human, reactionary character of the capitalist system will come into every-sharper focus. This gives rise to new historical movements. It is giving rise to new anti-monopoly majorities.

The ever-escalating billions of dollars poured into the military budget are generating new anti-military peace majorities.

The resurgence of the extreme racism of the Ku Klux Klan and the rise of other right-wing groups is contributing to a new anti-racist majority.

The sky-rocketing inflation is giving rise to new majorities in the economic field.

These new majorities will tend to coalesce in the arena of independent political action.

The Communist Party, USA will be challenged to fulfill its vanguard role within the flow of these new mass majorities.

Based on 60 years of leadership and struggle, we have confidence that the Communist Party, USA will meet this challenge and fulfill its historic role. The Communist Party, USA is celebrating 60 years of its glorious history. The best years of its life — the most productive and fruitful years — are still ahead.

Abridged from *Political Affairs*,
August-September, 1979

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DOCUMENTS

REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALISM IN ACTION

On July 26, 1979 a meeting devoted to the National Uprising Day, the 26th anniversary of the storm of the Moncada barracks, was held in Holguin, at which Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the CC CP of Cuba, made a speech. Alphonso Robelo and Humberto Ortega, members of a delegation of the Provisional Democratic Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, also spoke at the meeting. Below we print a recapitulation of Fidel Castro's speech.

The triumph of the Sandinistas is not merely a victory over the 45-year Somoza dictatorship. It is a victory over the 150-year long foreign domination, over centuries of conquistador rule, foreign exploitation and domination. One thing is certain: for the first time, yes, for the first time in their history the Nicaraguan people have become truly free and independent . . . In this we see the significance of the victorious struggle of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Yet this victory of the Sandinistas, this struggle signifies something more. The Sandinistas' struggle in Nicaragua engendered a powerful international solidarity movement, and strengthened the unity of all leftist forces in Latin and Central America, in a word, it spurred the formation in Latin America of a democratic front of struggle for independence, against the policy of intervention, which is of enormous historic importance.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, in the life of the entire Hemisphere Sandinism stimulated the drive for independence among the Latin American peoples, their struggle against the policy of intervention. A graphic manifestation, the apogee of these tendencies was the recent meeting of foreign ministers of the OAS countries. For the first time ever we mention it without an epithet because for the first time it openly refused to obey the diktat of the United States. And that is clearly symptomatic. For it happened at a time when on the advice of the most reactionary and aggressive U.S. circles the present U.S.

administration was intent on continuing an interventionist course with respect to Nicaragua. The United States proposed at this OAS meeting to set up a so-called "inter-American peace force" to "bring peace to Nicaragua." But imperialism has been imposing "peace" on Nicaragua ever since its repeated intervention there, which brought the reactionary regime to power; this was the peace of the graveyard. In reality what they sought was to maintain that type of "peace" and to obstruct the establishment of a revolutionary peace, the victory of the Sandinistas, to steal the victory from the combatant people.

We consider that the decision and results of this meeting constituted a success, a big victory for the Latin American people and spurred the development of solidarity with Nicaragua . . . Not a single left party or organization in Latin America failed to express its readiness to fight, or its solidarity with the struggle of Sandino's people.

To support this sentiment, this unity, is exceedingly important for all the peoples still suffering under the fascist yoke and bloody tyranny. That is also, in our view, the duty of the Sandinistas: to submit the victorious Nicaraguan people's contribution to upholding this spirit, to the consolidation of this broad front.

The Nicaraguans themselves gave a splendid answer to the question whether they should approve or express concern over the fact that Nicaragua might become another Cuba: "No, Nicaragua will become a new Nicaragua, and these are two different things!"

No two revolutions are alike, nor can they be. They may have many features in common, as I already mentioned; such as a militant spirit, heroism. But our problems are not a carbon copy of theirs. The conditions in which our revolution is taking place differ from those of the Nicaraguan revolution. For instance, the broad international front I have mentioned did not exist at the time, and imperialism immediately launched diverse campaigns and aggression against us . . . The Sandinistas not only learned to fight courageously, but also acquired flexibility, and when the need arose for some form of negotiations to avoid the risk of intervention, they were not afraid to undertake them. They revealed great ability, great talent both in the sphere of military and political strategy. How otherwise is one to explain the victory?

The Sandinistas not only displayed heroism and skill in battle, and political tact, but they also turned out to be extremely magnanimous at the moment of triumph. I am convinced that this will arouse the broadest sympathies toward them and will strengthen the feelings of

solidarity with them throughout the world, defeat the arguments and wrest the weapons out of the reactionaries' hands, denying them the opportunity to stoke the bonfires of defamation and slander.

Moreover, it points to the greatly enhanced authority of the Sandinista National Liberation Front's command and the Government of National Reconstruction in the eyes of the masses, for the masses have not forgotten and never will forget the crimes, torture and bombings. But they also displayed a deep trust in the revolutionary leadership for its magnanimity at a time when it was necessary.

We hope that imperialism will not make any adventuristic attempts to launch an intervention and trigger a counter-revolution in Nicaragua. Of course, there should be no illusions regarding this. It cannot be assumed that reaction will leave the Nicaraguan revolution in peace, despite its magnanimity, breadth and democratic intentions.

That is why — and I want to make it clear to our people — the circumstances in which the Nicaraguan revolution triumphed determines the fact that the forms of its advance will differ from ours. Besides, the fact that today that country is in ruins, completely devastated, prompts the need to implement a program of national reconstruction with the active participation of all strata of Nicaraguan society.

The Sandinistas are revolutionaries, and neither we nor they, nor anyone else is trying to conceal this. But they are realists, not extremists. And it is from the existing material that the best revolutions are made, the best and the most deep-going. I foresee that success awaits them along this road, for, not being extremists, they are not displaying any haste, they are not rushing ahead and are aware of the goal corresponding to each stage of the political and revolutionary process and what forms of struggle apply to these goals. Of this I am convinced.

The Sandinistas have displayed wisdom in their ability to unite closely at the decisive moment, and the result: victory is theirs, the fruit of their wise actions. We profoundly hope that this unity will gain in strength and become closer with every passing day, that it will become an inalienable part of the future. People, weapons, unity — that is what is needed, and nothing else, to reach the charted goal, and the required time.

The country is suffering from hunger. I believe that Nicaragua needs assistance from everywhere. Over the past few weeks the heads of many states have expressed willingness to render aid to Nicaragua.

We believe that this is as it should be.

Governments of every orientation, adhering to diverse ideologies and representing differing political systems have expressed their preparedness to extend to the Nicaraguan people the extensive aid it requires.

Engineer Robelo said here that there is a shortage of doctors in Nicaragua, that it is necessary to conduct a mass campaign against illiteracy. And knowing our doctors and our teachers, we know they will go wherever they are needed: if they are needed in the mountains, they will go there, if they are needed in the countryside, they will go there. In Cuba and in Ethiopia, in Vietnam and Yemen, in Angola or anywhere else.

I believe that we express the feelings of our party and our people in promising our Nicaraguan brothers that if they intend to carry out an extensive program in the sphere of health care and medical aid, if they are short of doctors, we are ready to send as many doctors as they need to help realize such a program. Also mentioned was the need to conduct a broad educational campaign. It seems to me that we have teachers who will display enthusiasm.

Only a revolutionary government is capable of conducting extensive health care and educational campaigns . . . I know that the people highly evaluate health care and educational campaigns.

Even when everything is in ruins a revolutionary government has the ability to conduct broad campaigns in these spheres. Our country possesses extensive experience in this respect and we can render some practical aid both in the sphere of health care and in the sphere of education. And, I repeat, if Nicaragua is short of teachers for such a campaign, we are prepared to send as many as are needed there.

We are gratified that the United States and other countries are providing aid to Nicaragua. We are even ready to compete with the United States as to who does most for Nicaragua. We challenge the United States, all countries in Latin America, Europe, the third world, our fraternal socialist countries to a competition in rendering aid to Nicaragua. That is our stand on the question of rendering truly humane and constructive aid to the people of that country.

Nicaragua now faces the usual problems of those starting a revolutionary process in a country lying in ruins. We have 20 years of revolution behind us, ours are different circumstances, we are working in different conditions. What better way to mark this anniversary of the National Uprising than to honor the heroes who fell in battle,

what better way to show our respect for our guests than to promise them that each of us will multiply our efforts, will fight and work still better, so that we ourselves will become better!

Granma, July 28, 1979

THE ARABS' JUST ASPIRATIONS MUST BE FULFILLED

Statement of the CC, SCP Plenum

The Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party met for a plenary session on June 28-29, 1979. Below we print a statement adopted by it.

FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL TASKS FACING THE SCP AT THE PRESENT STAGE

The SCP Central Committee, having discussed developments in the country and the region, decided to mobilize the forces of the Syrian Communist Party to fulfill the following tasks:

1. Expand and intensify the struggle against U.S. imperialist plans to establish complete domination over our region and to expand its colonial military presence there; step up the struggle against the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat bloc, to put an end to the aggressive trilateral treaty and to frustrate U.S. intentions to draw other Arab countries into it.
2. Strengthen Arab solidarity in the struggle against this shameful, humiliating and treacherous treaty; step up the struggle to implement the decisions of the Baghdad summit, and the conference of ministers of foreign affairs and the economy of the Arab countries, for the adoption of political and economic sanctions against the Sadat regime.
3. Strengthen the Front of Steadfastness and Resistance to enhance its role in consolidating solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and to increase its effectiveness. Syrian-Iraqi drawing together has undoubtedly played its role in organizing solidarity actions by the Arabs against the capitulatory treaty. It is essential to strengthen the foundation of this drawing together, which

is based on countering the plans of U.S. imperialism and Zionism, to promote it on the basis of clear progressive democratic principles, and to bring Iraq into the Front of Steadfastness and Resistance.

4. Wage a broader struggle against the U.S. imperialists and Israeli aggressors, who are expanding their aggressive actions against Southern Lebanon, as well as the camps and bases of the Palestinians in this fraternal country, and who protect and supply weapons to Saad Haddad's gangs for the sake of achieving their expansionist goals.

All these actions are aimed at imposing on Lebanon a treaty similar to that concluded by Sadat, to split the country, intensify pressure on Syria, deal a blow at Palestinian presence in Lebanon and to destroy the Lebanese progressive patriotic forces.

5. Enhancement of Syria's role in the common struggle against imperialism and Zionism is an extremely important national objective, whose significance increases as imperialism, Zionism and reaction intensify and step up their attacks and intrigues. The SCP Central Committee urges the communists, workers, peasants, revolutionary intelligentsia, all progressive patriotic forces to launch vigorous joint actions to fulfill this objective.

UNITY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE "MUSLIM BROTHERS" GANG, AN IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST TOOL

The SCP Central Committee holds that imperialism, Zionism and reaction are stepping up their plotting in an attempt to force Syria onto its knees, to relinquish its policy of struggle against imperialism and the humiliating and treacherous treaty to deal a blow at the most important national gains won by the Syrian people in struggle against the colonialists, their aggressive blocs and military bases, to completely eliminate its progressive political and socio-economic achievements and to put an end to Syria's progressive orientation as a whole.

The brutal carnage perpetrated by a criminal gang of the "Muslim brothers" organization in the artillery school in Aleppo represents a serious escalation of the plotting by the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. Its political aim was clear: it was aimed against the patriotic course followed by Syria. The crime was committed on the direct instigation of U.S. imperialism and its agents in certain reactionary Arab states.

The CC SCP vigorously condemns this crime and supports the resolute stand adopted toward the "Muslim brothers" group as a

reactionary and venal political organizations acting contrary to the interests of people and the homeland, as evidenced by its activity in Syria itself. This resolute stand will be more effective if it relies on the support of the broadest popular masses.

The Central Committee condemns the murder of political functionaries, scientists, people working in the field of culture and other citizens. It is a heinous crime that runs counter to the age-old national traditions of our people and plays directly into the hands of imperialism and Zionism.

Scientific socialism, the Marxist-Leninist teaching, totally rejects as a matter of principle and denounces individual terror and assassination as a method of political activity.

THE NEED FOR A CLASS AND NATIONAL APPROACH

The attempts to undermine national unity by fomenting inter-communal conflicts are doomed to failure. This is evidenced by Syria's history from the time of direct colonial rule to the present day. As before, the Syrian people with their national awareness, long militant traditions and spirit of solidarity will become an insurmountable obstacle in the way of such attempts.

The attitude to a citizen should not and cannot be determined by his religious convictions. The point of departure must be a class approach. For the communists there can be no other basis for determining their attitude toward individuals, movements and parties.

Workers, peasants, all workers by hand and brain, whatever their religious convictions are united by a common class character, common class interests in the struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression. They reject any attempts by imperialism and reaction to split their ranks on a religious or any other principle. On the other hand, capitalists and exploiters professing diverse convictions, plunder and exploit the people together.

The workers, peasants and all working people understand that in the great battle our country is engaged in today the basic criterion for assessing any movement, any party and any regime is struggle against imperialism and Zionism, against the colonial policy conducted by the USA in our region, as embodied in the Carter-Begin-Sadat alliance.

The Syrian Communist Party calls on all its members, friends, the working-class masses, peasantry, all working people, the progressive patriotic forces of Syria, all those who are genuinely devoted to the

cause of our people and our homeland to pool efforts in order to frustrate the imperialist plots, strengthen the solidarity of the popular masses and rally their ranks to rebuff the pressure and plots being hatched against Syria by the U.S. imperialists, Israeli aggressors and their hireling, Sadat, Arab reaction and its agents inside the country.

The Syrian Communist Party declares its full solidarity with the decisions of the Front of Steadfastness and Resistance, the Palestine resistance movement, the Arab People's Congress and the Arab Workers' Trade Union Federation, which call for struggle against U.S. interests in our region, and for the withdrawal of all funds and other investments of the Arab countries in Sadat's Egypt.

THE FIGHT TO CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL UNITY

The SCP Central Committee urges strengthening the progressive national front, stepping up its activity both at leadership level and in the primary organizations, as well as among the masses, and stronger cooperation between the Syrian Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and other progressive parties affiliated in the Progressive National Front, and all genuine patriots. This is essential to vigorously rebuff any plots of imperialism and Zionism, to strengthen friendship with the Soviet Union, a reliable and a staunch ally of the Arabs. Only in this way can we thwart the attempts of the parasitic bourgeoisie, which is making fierce attempts to undermine and emasculate the implementation of socio-economic changes, acting against the highest national interests, the interests of the people and the homeland. Only in this way can we defend these changes and continue carrying them out in the interests of the working-class masses, all workers by hand and brain.

• Mobilization of the masses of workers, peasants, revolutionary intelligentsia, all patriots and supporters of progress through such cooperation, through expansion of democratic freedoms and opportunities for the activity of popular organizations, progressive parties and forces, as well as by paying closer attention to the economic requirements of the masses, their demands on housing and other issues, will open up broader prospects for drawing powerful popular forces into the struggle against sabotage, terror and the plots of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. This would more effectively isolate the plotters, criminals and murderers and frustrate imperialist plans to bring Syria to its knees and to undermine the vanguard patriotic role which it plays in the Arab world.

THE THREAT OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND ANTI-SOVIETISM

Condemning the policy of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism, the SCP Central Committee states that slipping into such positions and conducting such a course actually serves the interests of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, runs counter to the interests of the popular masses, weakens the national struggle against colonialism, creates obstacles in the way of putting an end to the humiliating and treacherous treaty signed by Sadat.

In this connection, the SCP Central Committee declares, on behalf of the Syrian communists and their friends, complete and active solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi Communist Party and condemns the repressions against communists and other democrats in Iraq, as well as against the Kurdish people, who are waging a struggle for autonomy, and insist that the promises made by the authorities and the terms of the official agreements on this issue be fulfilled. The CC SCP demands a stop to the campaign of terror.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIENNA MEETING

The Central Committee considers that the results of the Brezhnev-Carter meeting in Vienna and the signing of SALT-2 represent a major success for the cause of peace and the security of the peoples. The Soviet Union has played an active and effective role in achieving this agreement, which confirms its invariable adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence, its consistent struggle against nuclear war, which could destroy all humanity, and for strengthening the foundations of détente. The CC SCP hails the stand taken by the Soviet side at this meeting, which reaffirmed that the Soviet Union supports the Arabs' struggle to liberate the occupied territories, to ensure the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and to setting up an independent Palestine state, against the separate peace treaty concluded between Egypt and Israel.

The CC SCP once again emphasizes that Arab-Soviet friendship is a major factor in the struggle waged by the Syrian people and the peoples of other Arab countries for the fulfillment of the legitimate and just aspirations of the Arabs.

Nidal al-Shaab, No. 243, July 1979

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF OUR STRUGGLE

Jorge del Prado, General Secretary, Peruvian Communist Party
(From the report on the political situation delivered at the CC PCP plenum, held in Lima, June 30-July 1, 1979).

The question of a solution to the crisis, even the financial one, is not even on the agenda in Peru today. Not only from the Marxist viewpoint, but in the opinion of any serious economist, a way out of the crisis presupposes improvement of the people's well-being and advance toward economic independence and a country's progressive development. Yet this is not the case in either instance. What is happening is quite the opposite.

Official statistics show that within one year (1977-78) alone prices on imports (including many basic foods) went up by 113 per cent, and by 89 per cent on domestic products. Accordingly, despite a slight wage increase in this period, the reduction of real wages amounted to 20 per cent for workers, and 26 per cent for other employees (at private enterprises). At state enterprises real wages fell by 23 per cent. During the same period the number of fully unemployed among the economically active population amounted to 5.8 per cent, that is, 500,000 persons, and the number of partially employed, amounted to 46.9 per cent, that is, 2.5 million, which is unprecedented in our country.

The admissions of the entrepreneurs themselves to the effect that the profits of the big companies grew at a much higher rate than wages during the year, provide a sharp contrast. The reason is that the austerity measures and the demands of the IMF favor the above-mentioned enterprises, the majority of which are owned by imperialists or the transnationals.

That is why the government — a shameless protector of the big capitalists, either overt or masked as Peruvian imperialists and flirting with foreign investors — is brutally repressing the working people's struggle for their demands. For instance the increasingly frequent repeal of constitutional guarantees, the massacre at the Cromotex enterprise, the brutal suppression of the miners' strike in the south. The government is following a policy of gradual liquidation of the

working people's basic gains: public ownership, labor communes,* the right to strike, trade union democracy, etc.

Along with similar anti-national and anti-popular measures, the government intends shortly to adopt other measures which are equally harmful for Peru and the working people. In particular the announced price rise that is to come into effect at the end of the year (after which, rumor has it — and not surprisingly — will follow police repressions against the trade union and leftist political functionaries as soon as the tenure of the Constituent Assembly ends).

THE NEW CONSTITUTION BLESSES THE DOMINATION OF IMPERIALISM AND BIG CAPITAL

We do not intend to give a complete analysis of the new Constitution. But an overall examination of the political situation shows the following:

An objective comparison with the 1933 Constitution shows that formal provisions have been included in the new Constitution concerning individual and public rights and guarantees (Article I, sections I and V), some new, progressive norms, the most important of which are the right to work and job security, unrestricted right to set up trade union organizations by workers of state and private enterprises, the right to strike, to equal pay irrespective of sex, age, etc., protection of children and old people. At the same time the materialization of these rights is determined by law, that is, it depends on the parliamentary majority of future administrations.

It should be added that in the same Article I, Section I, there exists a threat to some formally recognized rights, such as the freedom of cults (Article 3), inviolability of domicile (Article 7), free choice of domicile (Article 9), public meetings (Article 10), that is, all those rights that could be restricted under the pretext of "maintaining public order," "imminent threat of a crime being committed," "reasons of security," and even "sanitary measures." The same is true of Article 21 (paragraph "h"), permitting the detention of a person simply by policy mandate, paragraph "j," according to which a person can be detained solely for investigation of a crime. All this establishes constitutional premises for the restriction of democracy,

* Labor communes (*comunidad laboral*) — self-governing association of blue- and white-collar workers set up by government legislation at Peruvian enterprises to control the activities of their owners or the administration and to direct production.
— Ed.

which at present is practised only in case of abrogation of constitutional guarantees.

With regard to the economic system, the new Constitution approves the country's integration into a capitalist system in the form of modernized development with the domination of the big capitalists and in conditions of dependence on imperialism through:

(1) broad guarantees and incentives for private local and foreign investors;

(2) curtailing government interference in business activity;

(3) stimulation of the concentration of capital, penetration of capitalism into the countryside;

(4) aiding the conversion of public enterprises into capitalist ones. This holds true also of the cooperatives and labor communes, which are being urged to take the road of "people's capitalism" or "small joint-stock companies."

The new Constitution infringes national sovereignty, providing imperialist enterprises a broader access to natural resources both with respect to acquiring property and by eliminating state control over foreign trade and over the exploitation of the 200-mile territorial zone of the sea, as well as a result of foreign enterprises being considered as national merely if they are registered as a "national juridical person."

In the state structure, three partial gains are envisaged. First, illiterate persons have the right to vote, though this could be frustrated by red tape in registration. Second, direct elections to the municipalities; and third, administrative regionalization.

THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS

Owing to the existence of a rightist alliance that is seeking to perpetuate the capitalist system, it is necessary and possible to unite the left forces to establish a genuine democratic system which would be anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic in content and aimed at socialism, with the working people, progressive strata and the oppressed people as a whole taking part in running the country.

On the initiative of our party and other progressive organizations substantial headway has been made toward this unity.

An indispensable condition in achieving unity, which requires audacious and vigorous steps, is the elaboration of a common program around which the broadest sections whose views on the above-mentioned questions coincide, could rally.

Not everyone, of course, is working to this end. There are groups, particularly the Maoist and Trotskyite ultra-left which seek unity primarily around a specific caudillo or candidate, and not on the basis of a concrete program.

REACTION'S ALTERNATIVE: FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS OR A COUP

At a time when the left forces are forging a way toward unity, contradictions are emerging among the rightist party, particularly between the Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and the Popular Christian Party (PPC), on the issue of hegemony in the future government in connection with the problem of general elections. This struggle intensified at the final stage of the Constituent Assembly's work, during discussion of the articles referring to the election of the President and Vice-President. The formulation that was finally adopted is a compromise that only partially satisfies either side, for it merely defines the contradictions without eliminating them. The APRA, with a 36 per cent majority, expects to win at the forthcoming elections. In seeking the post of President to ensure a parliamentary majority, it might be able to introduce a constitutional amendment on holding a second round of elections in the future.

The PPC, on the contrary, is hoping that after the elections a system will be introduced under which a candidate polling 51 per cent of the votes wins, and if he polls less than that number, a second round of voting will be held with the two candidates polling the largest number of votes taking part. The PPC believes that this would induce the other rightist parties, the Popular Action Party first of all, to agree to a united front with the PPC either at the next elections or in the second round, thereby ensuring its victory over the APRA in the camp of the rightist forces. But the greatest danger of the compromise formula consists in the fact that, like the PPC, the APRA and the Belaundist party are hoping with its aid to obstruct the victory of the left forces at the elections and eventually to establish a rightist two-party regime similar to that existing in Colombia and the United States, which will enjoy the support of imperialism.

In the face of such plans, maximum effort and flexibility are essential — without prejudice to principle — in the name of left unity, the earnest of which is a common program. It should envisage solution of the vital problems of the workers and people as a whole (cost of living, amnesty for political prisoners, broad democratic and trade union guarantees, solution of important labor conflicts, etc.), as well as the

formulation of a minimum government program envisaging anti-imperialist, progressive and democratic changes, the country's independent economic and social development, participation by the workers and popular masses at all levels of political power and management of production, a government ultimately oriented on non-capitalist development, moving toward socialism.

We must, however, take account of the difficulties facing us, the most important of which are: (a) adoption of a common program; (b) what forces should and can constitute this unity; (c) what should be the level of representation in the leading organs of united action; (d) political conditions and agreements that will guarantee unity at all levels; (e) common candidates to the post of President and members of parliament; (f) essential measures for the realization of these agreements on a national scale.

THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON THE TRANSFER OF POWER

Clearly aware of the significance of the left forces and their unity in the forthcoming election campaign, the government and the reactionary parties are intent on fortifying their mutual ties, as well as the rightist front. The Morales Bermudez government and the APRA will evidently be drawing closer together. However, in view of the anti-APRA trends inside the Armed Forces, particularly in the army, APRA's dwindling authority and electoral potentialities, changes are taking place in the balance of forces, with APRA allying itself with one or all of the reactionary forces and a part of the Armed Forces. This was evident from the start, and the present President may yet become the candidate of this coalition.

There are two factors, however, which tend to hamper the realization of this possibility. First, General Morales Bermudez's loss of prestige among the Peruvian people, which APRA must take into account if it fails in forming a government in any other way. Second, the undeniable coincidence of Morales Bermudez's position with that of the APRA, a position that is opposed even by the Armed Forces.

But apart from the plans for a reactionary coalition, which should not be underestimated, the military command has no intention of relinquishing its position as the decisive force in the government whatever the results of the elections will be, or even if none are held. Two dangerous alternatives are in evidence: (a) fraudulent elections that will bring to power candidates selected and approved by the

military command; (b) a coup by the strata of the Armed Forces which are seeking to postpone the elections indefinitely and rejecting the recently adopted Constitution. Whatever direction events will take, the existence of diverse and at times counterposed tendencies in the Armed Forces should not be ignored, including the still active leftist military, as well as the ultra-right gorillas, which are capable of affecting the solution of these problems.

It should be borne in mind that the possibility of military interference is also a negative factor in the struggle for the people's interests, for it will imply the issuance of orders and authoritarianism in conducting the economic policy dictated by the IMF, leading, on the one hand, to the country's further subordination to imperialism, and on the other, brutal suppression of the just demands of the workers and popular masses. Only by strengthening and expanding the unity of the popular forces in resolving the tasks advanced by our party and other left forces, can this danger be averted.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

U.S. imperialist pressure, which is effected through the present government, primarily through the IMF, is designed to transfer political power to the APRA and a coalition of rightist parties. As part of the global imperialist strategy, it has two aims: to uphold U.S. economic interests in Peru and to consolidate its positions in Latin America as a whole. It is also designed to counterbalance the colossal U.S. reverses stemming from the victorious struggle of the Vietnamese people, the liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia, the successes of the national-liberation movements, the democratization of Iran, Afghanistan and other countries, the growing resistance of the Chilean, Uruguayan, Guatemalan, Brazilian and other peoples to the fascist dictatorships in their countries, and particularly the consolidation of socialism in Cuba.

U.S. imperialism is implementing a global strategy through the Carter Administration, combining Trojan horse tactics with demagoguery about democratization and "representative democracy" and continued support for the genocidal dictatorial regimes at its service. All this is accompanied by intensive war preparations and provocations that are designed to undermine détente and to effect a return to the "positions of strength" policy and the cold war.

Their principal, most despicable and dangerous weapon at present is the treachery of the Maoists who now represent not only the most aggressive anti-Sovietism and anti-communism, but are also an in-

strument of direct imperialist aggression against the peoples who have triumphed over imperialism. Hence their direct aggression against heroic Vietnam. But this also prompts the conclusion that every step taken by imperialism along this road serves as a powerful stimulus to the reactionary forces in our country. Equally, each defeat inflicted on imperialism and its intentions gives a vigorous impulse to the struggle of the Peruvian people and the revolutionary forces expressing their interests.

It should be noted that while it is true that the foreign policy of U.S. imperialism has complicated and worsened the international climate, it is equally true that owing to the upsurge of the revolutionary and progressive forces, with the Soviet Union and the socialist community at its head, imperialism is unable to regain its lost initiative. The strategic arms limitation treaty signed between the government of the USSR and the USA is the most graphic and also the most important event of the recent period. Apart from demonstrating the striking success of the policy of peaceful coexistence pursued by the Soviet Union under the leadership of Leonid Brezhnev, it is an important concrete step on the road to stronger world peace, to averting a nuclear holocaust and, consequently, an earnest of the cause of social progress and national liberation throughout the world. Another factor, which is particularly important for Latin America and our country, is the Nicaraguan people's victorious struggle against the Somoza dictatorship. The success of the Sandinista forces has enhanced our people's political awareness. But apart from everything else, it demonstrates the role played by international solidarity in the present correlation of forces.

Abridged from *Unidad*, July 5 and 13, 1979

APPROACHING THE SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Political Resolution of the CC BCP

The opposition to the military-fascist dictatorship has won substantial victories in recent months. On the political plane, the regime continued to retreat. All this shows that the political process is developing in a direction favorable for the democratic forces and the popular movement.

The strikes and demonstrations organized by the working people, as well as the regime's defeat in the November 1978 parliamentary elections are the main political events characterizing this period of the democratic forces' advance.

I. POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE 1978 ELECTIONS

The 1974 elections already showed that the "liberalization" policy cannot deceive the people. The hopes of the ARENA* to capitalize on the 1978 elections through Geisel's broadly proclaimed "redemocratization" have not materialized, though the dictatorship's propaganda machine was at its disposal, and despite the rampant corruption, pressure, intimidation, and in many instances the use of repressive organs. Even the Falcao Law, restricting the use of radio and television during the election campaign, did not stop the popular masses from expressing their dissatisfaction. The people won yet another victory over the dictatorship, demonstrating that the results of the 1974 and 1976 elections were no chance occurrence.

In the country's most densely populated areas with a high level of urbanization and concentration of the proletariat the ARENA suffered a massive defeat, and the working class once again demonstrated its resolute opposition to the dictatorship.

The Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) — a legal party representing all the opposition forces — grew substantially stronger during the election struggle.

Therefore the overall results of the 1978 elections clearly favor the anti-dictatorial forces. Despite the restrictions imposed by the regime,

*National Renovation Alliance, the ruling party. — Ed.

the election campaign resulted in a broad mobilization of the masses. Despite the restrictions the democratic movement succeeded in initiating a discussion of national problems, thereby increasing the people's awareness and enhancing their unity, organization and militancy.

As in 1974, the popular vote dealt yet another telling blow at the regime's plans to strengthen its positions within its present juridical and legislative framework.

II. GROWING STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

The working people's struggle for specific demands concerning the restoration of their purchasing power are closely linked with the demand for trade union and democratic freedoms for the majority of our people.

This is reflected in the scale and quality of the struggle. More than 100,000 people took part in the May-Day demonstration organized by 56 organizations in San Andre, San Bernardo and San Caetano alone, which is unprecedented in the entire history of the Brazilian trade union and working-class movement. At the same time, despite repressive legislation, more than one million workers took part in strike actions in the period from 1978 up to now, defeating in the majority of cases, the regime's wages policy. Workers accounted for about 800,000 of the total number of strikers. The strikes took place primarily in Sao Paulo (670,000 persons), Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, and later spread to other states as well.

Solidarity with the strikers and their leaders on the part of many trade union organizations, broad strata of the population, many MDB members of Parliament, the Catholic Church as well as a number of other organizations and institutions contributed to the success and broad political repercussions of the strikes and the independent May-Day demonstrations. It was again confirmed, just as during the 1974 parliamentary elections, that the working class is beginning to play the primary role in the bloc of anti-dictatorial forces.

The strikes help to strengthen the positions won by the working class and trade union movement. They reveal a new, important aspect of the struggle against the dictatorship; the middle urban strata are beginning to resort to strike as a form of struggle.

It should be noted also that in waging this struggle the working masses are seeking the establishment of democratic practices in the life of the country.

III. THE REGIME'S DIFFICULTIES AND AIMS

The circumstances in which the Figueiredo government came to power differ greatly from those encountered by former dictatorial regimes. The present situation is characterized by the Brazilian people's growing opposition and sharpening contradictions inside the regime itself. Unlike its predecessors, the government no longer wields absolute power. The dictatorship was compelled to revoke Law No. 5, restore parliamentary immunity and *habeas corpus* in relation to the so-called political crimes, to release political prisoners and permit the return of many exiles. All this opens up new broad opportunities for political struggle.

In the circumstances, the government was forced to announce a gradual restoration of democracy in Brazil.

The widely publicized "redemocratization" policy is designed to strengthen the present, somewhat modified, regime and to continue the institutionalization begun by President Geisel's code of laws (April 1977) and "political reforms." The chief aspects of this institutionalization are the so-called "safety measures," the national security law, the anti-strike law, the new draft labor code, anti-democratic legislation on elections and the founding of parties, new "political reforms," etc. The system of repressive organs poses a constant threat to the opposition. Strikes have been declared illegal. The government is interfering in the activity of the trade unions, throwing their leaders and activists in jail. All this indicates that the elections will not be held on schedule. The government is out to destroy the MDB and is attacking the opposition press. It brands the campaign for convening a Constituent Assembly as unrealistic and subversive. Despite numerous promises, even a limited amnesty is continuously being postponed.

The spokesmen of the new government repeatedly declared struggle against inflation a priority task. They talk about stimulating agricultural output to "feed the poor," about modifying the present incomes' distribution system. The government promises development that will improve the quality of life. But all the measure adopted by it in April, above all in the sphere of economy and finances, run counter to these statements and promises.

The government's policy of decelerating economic development is clearly anti-popular and anti-worker and, hence, anti-national in character and leads to an aggravation of the crisis. It is not accidental that the government has announced the sale of profitable state enter-

prises to monopolies, first of all to foreign ones, which are also given broad tracts of land along the Amazon on the basis of "risky contracts." This policy is designed to shift the burden of the inflation and crisis onto the working class, peasants, middle urban sections and the non-monopoly urban and rural bourgeoisie.

IV. THE SITUATION FAVORS THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND POPULAR MOVEMENT

The regime has suffered a number of defeats and has been forced to retreat as a result of the struggle of the democratic forces and their gains, the surge of the working-class and trade union movement. The dictatorship is increasingly isolated and contradictions within it are growing. The social and political base of the regime is narrowing. This process is accompanied by an aggravation of the country's economic and social crisis.

The sharpening contradictions among the ruling classes also have an impact on the political situation: between the state institutions, above all between Parliament, the judicial organs, the universities and the government; between the states, municipalities and central authorities; inside the Armed Forces, the ARENA and the Figueiredo government itself. Moreover, there are growing contradictions between the leaders and technical personnel of the state enterprises on the one hand, and the government on the other.

This confirms the conclusions by our Central Committee: the political situation is developing favorably for the democratic forces and popular movement. That is the basic tendency, and it has intensified since the "start of the working people's qualitatively new stage of struggle against the regime."

Indisputably, changes have occurred in the dictatorship, including institutional ones, owing above all to the changed correlation of forces. "It can no longer do whatever it wishes. The dictatorship realizes this. On the one hand, it is pursuing a tougher policy, and on the other, it is maneuvering in view of its growing political instability and strengthening of the opposition." At the same time, the military-fascist character of the dictatorship remains unchanged. It is still relatively strong and possesses judicial and repressive apparatus. Holding the reins of power, it is able to maneuver and take initiatives in the political sphere and to resort to repressions, as we are witnessing.

Therefore in the long term we can expect an intensification of the struggle of the proletariat and the popular masses for their economic

and political demands. This confirms that the democratic movement now developing in the country is acquiring a new content.

V. ELABORATION OF A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE: PRIORITY TASK OF THE OPPOSITION FORCES

The new situation, which confirms the correctness of the guidelines of the Political Resolution of the Sixth BCP Congress, poses a new task before the communists and all opposition forces: to fight for the expansion of democratic gains and, eventually, to eliminate the dictatorship. Thanks to the process of accumulating forces, this has become possible. The activity of the masses has demonstrated their viability which the dictatorship has been unable to destroy during the 15 years of its existence. This process must be maintained and developed further.

We must go on resolving the fundamental tactical objective defined by the Sixth Congress, which "consists in mobilizing, uniting and organizing the working class and other patriotic and democratic forces to fight the dictatorial regime, to topple it and to win democratic freedoms." This task retains top priority. In resolving it we will be able to unite the forces which want an end to the regime, irrespective of their interests and political orientation or of differing views on democracy among the opposition forces. In the present conditions the proletariat can become the leading force in the anti-fascist front, thanks above all to its staunchness and unitary struggle for democratic freedoms. The solution of this task will open up the way for the establishment of political, economic and social democracy in Brazil, for it is "closely linked with the revolutionary goals of the present stage and the development of the working class struggle for socialism" (Political Resolution of the Sixth BCP Congress).

The struggle for these goals is today the chief task of the working-class movement and all opposition forces as a whole. The efforts of all those who are waging a struggle against the regime must be directed to this end.

The struggle for democratic freedoms remains our principal tactical task. For this it is essential to consolidate and expand our gains. By stepping up this struggle and the fight for its own demands the proletariat will strengthen the bloc of forces capable of overthrowing the dictatorship. That is why we must not permit the isolation of the working class or its relegation to a secondary role.

For the triumph of the struggle at this stage, diverse opposition forces must display a firm and realistic approach to the political

situation and tactical flexibility essential for going over from resistance to the offensive or, depending on the situation, a combination of both.

VI. CONCENTRATE THE PARTY'S EFFORTS ON ORGANIZING AND ORIENTING WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLE

Today, more than ever, our party must concentrate on organizing and orienting the struggle of the working class and trade union movement. The strikes held over the past 12 months demonstrate not only a growing preparedness to wage a struggle and an ability to organize the masses, but also point to the need for a more careful elaboration of tactics and plans for the working people's struggle for their demands.

While enhancing the potentialities of workers of all categories, we must ensure adequate preparation of their struggle and the firm and growing solidarity of other working people and broad population strata. This is essential, above all, in the case of prolonged strike struggles, with the employers and government resorting to repressive measures. The organization of commissions and strike funds at enterprises constitute a positive experience.

Nor can we fail to render political aid to the movement, and not only during strikes. It is essential to mobilize members of Parliament, newspapers, the radio and television, influential organizations and institutions in defense of and support for workers' demands as soon as they are put forward and to ensure actions by the broad popular masses against the employers' and the government's drive for a "tougher" policy.

It should be also clear that prolonged strikes are not the only form of struggle for higher wages. Other forms of pressure also exist. Often victory could be won or helped through short work stoppages or by staging mass public demonstrations.

Finally, it is important to realize that the strikes taking place in Brazil today are acquiring a clear political character, since they are directed against one of the pillars of the regime's economic and financial policy — the repressive anti-worker and anti-popular legislation. Hence they assume the character of a struggle for concrete political and trade union rights, particularly for the right to strike and for trade union independence. That is why they require the support of all forces opposing the dictatorship. And they must have this support.

Unity of the working class with its chief allies presupposes intensi-

fication of the communists' activity among the permanent and temporary agricultural workers, peasants, in working-class neighborhoods, among the middle urban strata, students, the women's and youth movements, that is, among all those who come out against the high cost of living, land speculation and for environmental protection.

In fighting for democratic freedoms the most urgent issue is amnesty. The announcement of a broad, general and unlimited amnesty for political prisoners will in practice signify a crushing blow at the forces of reaction. It would substantially expand the potential for struggle in the various political tendencies opposing the dictatorship. An amnesty would be an important step in forming new political parties and for the legalization of our party. An amnesty is, moreover, an essential condition for the election of a genuinely representative Constituent Assembly through which the Brazilian people can decide the question of the future regime.

The broad masses of the population should be drawn into the amnesty campaign. In the present circumstances it is necessary to develop initiative to the utmost and help set up committees to organize demonstrations at a national, regional and local level to demand an immediate amnesty.

Another important aspect of the struggle of the opposition forces is the demand that the elections to be held on schedule.

Elections at all levels provide extensive opportunities for struggle against the regime and facilitate mobilization of the people and expression of their will, exposure of the regime's policy and discussion of national problems.

We favor freedom for all political tendencies to organize in a party. We consider this an essential condition for the existence of a democratic regime in Brazil. Everyone realizes, however, that the present specific legislation practically obstructs the free formation of new political parties. The dictatorship is seeking to split and weaken the sole legal, political and parliamentary part of the people and the opposition forces. Hence we consider it essential to strengthen the unity of the MDB. We must not permit the regime to split the opposition forces.

The restoration of some parliamentary prerogatives provides new opportunities for waging a struggle. The forces of democracy and progress represented in it have grown both in number and quality, creating conditions for the formation of a parliamentary bloc consisting of representatives of the MDB and ARENA parties, which support democratization. While exposing the regime, this bloc can also

advance draft laws to halt the arbitrary actions of the dictatorship, and are aimed at fulfilling the demands of the masses. It could help to strengthen the unity, organization and mobilization of the working people.

The fight for democracy is closely linked with the growing struggle for legalization of the Communist Party. A democratic regime is unthinkable without the participation of all political trends, including the Communist Party, which has always fought for democratic freedoms, full national independence and social progress and has never failed to take part in any struggle of the workers and other employees.

Inasmuch as anti-communism has been the dictatorship's principal banner over these past 15 years, recognition of the communists' right to organize legally would signify a decisive victory for all the forces fighting against the regime and for a democratic alternative. The illegality of communist parties has become a thing of the past in most countries. Anyone who discriminates against the communists cannot be considered a democrat. There can be no question of full democracy until the Communist Party has won legality.

VII. STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE FRATERNAL PEOPLES

In analyzing the changes that have occurred in political life, the CC BCP cannot fail to express its condemnation of the Peking leadership's criminal aggression against heroic Vietnam. The Chinese leaders' actions against Vietnam and their foreign policy, which is directed against the forces of socialism, peace, democracy and national liberation show what hegemonism and anti-Sovietism can lead to.

The Soviet Union's policy of peace and détente comes up against the fierce opposition of imperialism and Peking's policy. The firm stand of the USSR and the broad movement for peace and social progress, and their inviolable positions in the struggle against the arms race, above all against nuclear arms, for a peaceful settlement of conflicts between states and numerous concrete initiatives have impeded the deterioration of the world climate. That is why the signing of SALT-2 by the Soviet Union and the United States is a substantial victory for the policy of détente and disarmament. This event shows that the balance of forces on the world arena remains favorable for the forces of peace.

Other events favoring the struggle of the anti-imperialist and progressive forces across the world are the victory of the Iranian revolution, the mounting struggle against imperialism and fascism on our

continent, the position of the Latin American Catholic Church, expressed in Pueblo, particularly the position of the Brazilian church.

The BCP urges the communists and all Brazilians to continue the struggle for peace and peaceful coexistence, to strengthen solidarity with the Vietnamese people and their splendid Communist Party. We urge heightened vigilance in connection with world developments and exposure of aggression and threats to détente.

Proceeding from the principles of proletarian internationalism, the communists will do everything possible to mobilize the working people and express solidarity with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the world working class and all peoples fighting against reaction and fascism, for complete national independence and social progress. It is essential now to step up the struggle, as well as solidarity with the fraternal peoples of our continent, the Middle East, with the Arab people of Palestine and the African peoples fighting against reaction, fascism, racism and apartheid.

The need to analyze the changes that have taken place in Brazil and the world since our previous congress (1967), the requirements of the struggle for our programmatic and strategic goals, for the overthrow of the dictatorship and for democratic freedoms place an enormous responsibility on the communists.

The Central Committee, convinced that these questions can be resolved by the party organizations and members only in accordance with the Rules, adopted in 1973 the necessary measures for the convening of the Seventh Party Congress. But we were unable to hold it then owing to the blows inflicted on our party.

Today the process of reorganizing the party and the work of its leadership, of strengthening our unity around the political line, the Rules — the main principle of which is democratic centralism — and the Central Committee, reaffirms these requirements. Hence the Central Committee has decided to take the requisite measures for holding the Seventh BCP Congress. We call on all party members to do everything to make the congress a major event in the life of the party, the working class and the entire Brazilian people.

*Central Committee,
Brazilian Communist Party
May 1979*

Abridged from Voz Operaria, No. 159, 1979

NEW PROSPECTS OF THE PANAMANIAN WORKING PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

Resolution of the CC Plenum, People's Party of Panama

Almost 11 years have passed since our previous, Fifth National Party Congress (September 1968). The political events of this period brought about significant changes in our country. Beginning with October 1968, our party has been subjected to harsh repression, including the exile of almost the entire Central Committee, as well as other comrades. Despite incredible difficulties, the party succeeded in working out a political line which correctly oriented the popular masses in resolving the historical anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic tasks. This line was further elaborated at successive meetings of the Central Committee and deliberations of its Political Bureau. Along with the struggle of other progressive forces, the party's activity contributed to the drafting of a policy of decolonization, democratization and socio-economic change.

Panama's historical struggle, particularly against U.S. imperialism, the consistent stand of the leadership headed by General Torrijos, the support of the most advanced strata of the people — all this made possible the implementation of substantial changes and enhanced Panama's international prestige as a democratic and progressive country that is following an independent foreign policy. Our party's authority in the community of communist parties has also grown. Its contribution to the Marxist-Leninist interpretation of reality and the specifics of our process is valued for its creative character and generalization of a rich experience.

Consistently implementing an internationalist policy, our party has always held that the changes taking place in Panama are inseparable from events in the international arena where the socialist camp, with the Soviet Union at its head, plays an increasingly decisive role. Following this line, our party has expanded its internationalist ties with the fraternal parties, especially with the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba.

All the measures carried out at the leadership level — debates (including those conducted abroad during the period of repressions), plenums, enlarged plenums and national conferences of the Central Committee — held after the Fifth Congress and the March 1969

special Central Committee meeting have been permeated with a spirit of continuity and creative criticism so as to promptly react to the turns and changes taking place, to closely follow and enrich them. This sensible approach had a favorable impact on the party and the membership highly assessed the collective party leadership. We draw attention to this because with the looming danger of an ideological split and the permanent plotting of imperialism and local reaction it is far from easy to maintain the unity of the party around its leadership. We note the party's firmness not for the purpose of self-glorification, but are prompted by revolutionary sincerity, because all this helps to increase the party's membership, strengthen its authority in the masses and among its allies in the process developing at the present time.

On the national plane, under the leadership of General Torrijos, the approval of the Torrijos-Carter treaties was achieved, providing a juridical basis for the gradual elimination of the colony known as the Canal Zone, marking the Panamanian people's historic victory over imperialism.

Notable in domestic policy is the adoption of new legislation based on the 1972 Constitution, under which organs of popular power now exist. There are also new forms of property: cooperative and state, to compete with the traditional private enterprises. Changes have taken place in the sphere of health care, education and democratization of life, as reflected in the growing participation of the popular masses. During the ten years of the government's tenure, the masses' civil and political rights have been expanded and now no one is subjected to persecution for organizing trade unions or student federations. Our activity, based on a combination of alliance and criticism, has contributed to the creation of the present situation.

At our Third National Conference (April 1979) it was stated that the present process is still developing in the framework of bourgeois democracy, that we intend to expand this democracy so as to ensure the growing participation of the workers and popular masses as a whole in government decision-making. It is essential for these masses, together with the revolutionary-minded petty bourgeoisie and middle sections, to weaken the influence of the reformist bourgeoisie which still affects the process. The goal of our policy is to complete the country's decolonization, to come to grips with the task of total liberation, to expand our democracy and to work for more profound socio-economic transformations. We seek to unite the Marxist left forces and to form a democratic national-liberation front on the basis of all forces taking part in the process.

At this historic moment, with the approaching transfer of the Canal Zone to Panama and when, thanks to the actions of the Nicaraguan people and international solidarity, the hated Somoza dictatorship has been toppled, the oligarchy and imperialism continue to resort to intrigues and are hatching plans of destabilization, with the so-called National Opposition Front as their chief political weapon and imperialist agents in certain ultra-left groups as an auxiliary force. Hence the importance of expanding our work among the masses, of clarifying our stand, for the struggle against our enemy is becoming ever more complex and difficult.

The above-mentioned factors, along with our party's conscious activity have contributed to its heightened sense of responsibility and growing significance in comparison with the pre-October 1968 period. With the adoption of Law No. 81 on October 5, 1978, and the abrogation of the anti-communist laws and decrees, we are no longer a clandestine party. In accordance with the above-mentioned law and the decisions of the Third National Conference we are now at a stage of forming the party and its complete legalization, which implies not merely its registration for participation in the elections, but the transformation of the entire inner-party life with a view to turning it into a mass party, or, as stated in the Fifth National National Congress decisions, to enhance its responsibility and significance.

These big changes in the national and inner-party life necessitate the convocation of the Sixth National Party Congress, which should focus attention on the following fundamental issues stemming from the present objective and subjective circumstances:

1. To clarify the strategy formulated at the Ninth PPP Plenum (1962), which fully retains its validity. The point is to define how far we have advanced along the charted road and how to resolve the outstanding questions of the first stage of the Panamanian revolution, the stage of the anti-imperialist revolution.

2. To examine the party's general policy in order to resolve the task of its legalization in accordance with the resolution of the Third National Conference (April 1979) and to strengthen it as the vanguard of the masses in the period of the democratic national-liberation revolution.

3. Elect a new Central Committee.

Considering the complexity of the present political situation and the importance of occupying the Canal Zone, it is resolved to hold the Sixth PPP Congress after that event, that is, in November 1979, and to instruct the Political Bureau to set the exact date.

The Central Committee is convinced that the Sixth Congress will not only evaluate what has been achieved since the previous congress, but will give an impulse to the party's development for the good of expanding the process demanded by the broad popular masses and, in particular, the working people. Let us come to the Sixth Congress with several hundred new comrades, whom we expect to join the party during the pre-congress membership drive.

For legalization and a mass party!

For the formation of a democratic national-liberation front!

Remain vigilant in decolonizing the country!

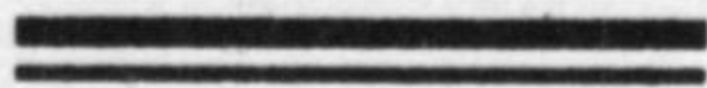
Expand the socio-economic changes!

We have advanced, the struggle goes on!

*Central Committee,
People's Party of Panama*

July 28, 1979

Abridged



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FROM THE PRESS

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

P. Zhilin

Corresponding Member, USSR Academy of Sciences

Forty years ago, on the early morning of September 1, 1939, the German fascist army invaded Poland. The Second World War broke out. It lasted six years, drew 61 states with 1,700 million inhabitants into its bloody maelstrom and brought mankind incalculable sufferings.

Assessing the September tragedy of 1939 four decades after, people reflect: how could it happen that the peoples of so many countries found themselves involved in this war? What social forces were responsible for it? Who is guilty of unleashing it? These are vital questions. And the answers to them are necessary not for the satisfaction of simple curiosity, but in order to prevent a new and more terrible war.

The international situation in which the Second World War came to a head was complicated and full of contradictions. It was characterized, on the one hand, by the sharp imperialist contradictions that existed within the capitalist camp, and, on the other, by their common animosity toward the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist state. The fact that the military conflict in 1939 started between two groups of capitalist states does not change the anti-Soviet direction of the prewar policy of major imperialist powers.

A particularly aggressive role was played by German imperialism and its shock force, fascism, which had proclaimed their anti-Soviet credo even when bellicose fascist thugs were still gathering in the Munich pubs. And when the fascists came to power in Germany and established a military-terrorist dictatorship, they immediately began to prepare Germany for a predatory, "total" war for aggression against the Soviet Union. In September 1936 Hitler declared: "In four

years we must have an efficient army. In four years the German economy must be ready for war."

The following data illustrate the scale and the rate of these preparations. Whereas in 1935 Germany had 31 divisions, by the autumn of 1939 their number was already 102 and the total strength of the Wehrmacht in seven prewar years rose from 105,000 to 3,755,000, that is, went up by more than 35 times. In 1934 Germany had 840 planes. In 1936 it already had 4,733. All in all, arms manufacture increased 22 times over since 1934.

Germany could not have maintained this tempo if it had not received loans from the USA and Britain for the development of its military potential. And it was not only money that streamed into fascist Germany. It acquired military equipment and arms, including first-rate aircraft engines. The Heinkel and Fokke-Wulf factories and the military-industrial complexes of Thyssen, Krupp and IG Farbenindustrie received the latest arms production technology. As a result of the alliance formed in the prewar years between the German monopolies and foreign capital Germany succeeded in creating a developed military-industrial base and rebuilding powerful armed forces. It is not accidental that during the Nuremberg Trial Schacht, minister of finance in Hitler's government, told the American officer who guarded him: "If you want to bring to trial the industrialists who helped to arm Germany, you will have to try your own industrialists."

German Nazism not only created the material base for preparing and unleashing World War II but also formulated the ideology of war. Nationalism, chauvinism and racism were its main components. The Nazis alleged that the Aryan race was the "supreme race on earth" which had the right to the unrestricted expansion of their "lebensraum."

The expansionist character of the policy of fascist Germany and its striving to unite around itself the most reactionary militarist forces were most vividly manifested in the "anti-Comintern pact" signed in 1936 and on the setting up of the military-political bloc comprising Germany, Italy and Japan. After the creation of the fascist coalition seats of war began to appear in Europe and Asia threatening to develop into a world conflagration.

The fascist aggression against Republic Spain, the war in Abyssinia, Japan's attack on China, the ventures of Japanese militarism at Lake Hassan and Khalkhingol, and the annexation of Austria were stages on the road to the most difficult war in mankind's history.

The policy of connivance at the aggressor, conducted by the

governments of Britain, France and the United States was largely responsible for the unleashing of the war. The climax of this policy became the Munich deal signed by the governments of Germany, Italy, Britain and France on September 29, 1938, on the division of Czechoslovakia. Shortly afterwards the whole of Czechoslovakia was occupied by Nazi Germany.

The Munich deal virtually cleared the way for Hitler's aggression. The Western governments hoped that he would send his troops against the socialist country. But the hopes and illusions of the Munich "peace-makers" did not come true. The Wehrmacht aimed its first blows at those who had fostered fascism and set it on its feet.

The war did not begin as a clash between capitalism and socialism. Having dealt with Poland, Hitler sent his army to the West. Denmark, Holland, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg and France found themselves under the heel of fascist Germany, and a deadly threat was hovering over Britain.

Such was a paradox of history. Lenin wrote in his time that history liked paradoxes and jokes — you were going to one room but came to quite another. This is what happened to the Chamberlain and Daladier governments which had striven to resolve their differences with Germany at the expense of the Soviet Union. That policy, however, backfired against their own countries.

This is a highly instructive historical fact. It calls to mind, for instance, the efforts of the present leaders of the USA and some other Western countries to encourage in every way the hostile policy of the Peking leadership vis-à-vis the USSR, and to supply China with weapons and military technology. Speaking about it, Leonid Brezhnev has pointed out that "the plans to use the beefed-up Peking regime as an instrument of NATO's policy and to channel its bellicose ambitions in the direction favorable to the West are simply presumptuous naiveté. Suffice it to recall what was the outcome of the Munich policy for the West. Do historical lessons become forgotten so soon?"

Some Western historians flagrantly falsify the developments preceding World War II. They not only try to deny or to minimize the responsibility of imperialism and fascism for unleashing it, but are also out to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union, using the time-worn false thesis of a "Soviet military threat" looming over Europe at that time. They claim that Hitler started a preemptive, or "preventive" war in order to save the Western countries from a "communist expansion." Being a poisoned weapon in the ideological struggle

against the USSR and other countries of the socialist community, this slander has a clear political purpose.

From the first days of its existence the Soviet Union pursued the policy of upholding peace and eliminating military conflicts from the life of states. Staunchly defending the gains of the October Revolution, the USSR strove for peaceful cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect, and joint moves to ensure international security. At the League of Nations and at international conferences the Soviet government worked for practical steps in the sphere of disarmament and for adopting real guarantees against the military threat. The Soviet government energetically negotiated with the Western governments, and concluded treaties and agreements which envisaged joint measures to prevent aggression. Such treaties were signed with France and Czechoslovakia. The USSR proposed to sign the Eastern pact in keeping with which many states were to assume commitments to avert aggression and consolidate European security.

Displaying international solidarity and seeking to prevent nazi aggression, the Soviet Union helped and supported in every way the heroic Spanish people, the working people of Mongolia, and China's revolutionary forces.

When the threat of an incursion of German nazi troops into Czechoslovakia became imminent in September 1938, the Soviet armed forces were ready to give it immediate and effective assistance. After the Munich deal the Soviet Union continued its efforts, trying to set up a system of collective security in Europe to stop the fascist aggressor. With this aim in view, on the USSR's initiative, protracted talks on concluding a tripartite pact were conducted with the governments of Britain and France in the spring and summer of 1939.

At the sittings of the Soviet, British and French military missions in Moscow on August 12-21, 1939, the sides discussed their joint military efforts and the working out of a specific plan of military operations against the aggression, which was being prepared by Hitler. The Soviet military delegation set forth three variants of strategic plans of joint actions and voiced the USSR's readiness to allot within eight to 20 days 120 infantry and 16 cavalry divisions, 9,000-10,000 tanks, up to 5,500 combat planes and 5,000 heavy guns.

But this time, too, when war was impending, the British and French rulers did not wish to form a military alliance with the USSR. Now that former secret documents have been published, it is obvious that the Chamberlain and Daladier governments conducted an unfair and

double-faced gamble. They sought to isolate the Soviet Union and leave it alone in the face of the established coalition of hostile powers. Lloyd George, a prominent British politician who was well informed about the state of affairs, even before the end of the Moscow talks declared that Chamberlain and Halifax did not want any agreement with Russia. A. Taylor, a well-known British historian concluded, after a thorough study of the then policies of the British government, that a war in which they would have fought against Germany on the side of Russia was unthinkable for them. "When we now reread the draft British-French-Soviet treaty," recalls French General Boffre, who took part in the talks, "the question inevitably arises: how short-sighted and narrow-minded our diplomacy must have been in the solution of this problem, to miss the opportunity to sign a treaty of such great significance . . ."

The unwillingness of the British and French rulers to sign a treaty with the USSR in the summer of 1939 and their provocative attempts to channel Hitler's aggression against the Soviet Union, impelled the Soviet government to take relevant steps in order to protect the nation's interests. These steps enabled the USSR to win time in order to better prepare for the impending clash with nazism.

At that time the Soviet Union was endangered both from the West and the East. The non-aggression pact signed with Germany on August 23, 1939, made it possible for the USSR to break the hostile anti-Soviet imperialist front and gave it nearly two years of peace to strengthen its defense potential.

Some in the Western world continue to spread an utterly false argument that the Soviet-German pact gave Hitler the "green light" to attack Poland. The facts and documents irrefutably prove this to be a lie. The invasion of Poland was neither the beginning, nor the end of the aggressive policy of German imperialism. It had been prepared by the entire preceding development, including the "non-intervention" of the so-called "Western democracies" which permitted the German and Italian fascists to have their way in Spain and enabled the Nazis to seize Austria. Having betrayed Czechoslovakia, these "democracies" tried to "appease" German imperialism and militarism in the West and in Central Europe, making it clear that they could shut their eyes to Germany's expansion eastward. Poland's tragedy was also the result of the reckless course of the then Polish government which was so blinded by anti-communism and by hatred for the USSR that it could not and did not want to see the real danger to the Polish people from the West. That government preferred to have their country

defeated rather than to cooperate with the Soviet Union in a common struggle against the aggressor. That is the way things really were. That is the truth of history.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government, considering that the prospect of war breaking out was quite obvious, strove to do everything necessary to stop the instigators of war from involving this country in armed conflicts. They did so along with carrying out extensive measures to build up Soviet defenses: the Soviet defense industry stepped up the rate of production of aircraft, tanks, guns and other military hardware; this went parallel with the training of career servicemen, improvement of the Armed Forces structure and building up the strength of the Red Army and Navy, which nearly tripled within three prewar years.

The Communist Party, guided by Lenin's instruction that "we must combine our moves for peace with our full combat preparedness," used all of the country's resources to lay in peace time the foundations for the victories in the years of the war.

Following Nazi Germany's perfidious attack on the USSR, the center of World War II shifted to the Soviet-German front which became its main front from June 1941.

At the cost of a colossal military, economic and moral effort, the Soviet Union succeeded in resolving three major problems in a fierce struggle lasting for nearly four years: it stopped the German Nazi legions and forced them to retreat, thereby blocking the aggressor's way to other countries and continents; having smashed the Wehrmacht, it took the principal means of warfare away from the enemy and, discharging its great liberating mission, lent decisive support to the peoples of Europe in delivering them from fascist tyranny.

The war, its course and outcome, demonstrated the historic invincibility of socialism and the forces of democracy and progress. The Soviet Union earned profound respect and international prestige among the peoples of the world.

The World War II was a coalition war. The peoples and armies of the USA, Britain, France and other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition fought against the fascist aggressor. Troops of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania put up a courageous fight against the fascist invaders, and so did those of Bulgaria and Rumania after the victory of their popular uprisings. The members of the Resistance Movement in the occupied countries of Europe made their contribution toward the common victory over the enemy. The servicemen of

the Mongolian People's Republic played their full part in smashing the Kwantung army. The struggle of the freedom-loving people of all nations merged into the powerful stream. It crushed the forces of reaction and aggression and led to victory.

The results of the World War II confirmed that the attempts of imperialism and the forces of reaction to gain world supremacy were doomed. The defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism, as well as the subsequent disintegration of the colonial system inevitably led to the weakening of the positions of world capitalism. Imperialism, responsible for the outbreak of the World War II, in which 50 million people died, is still incurring the wrath and indignation of all progressives in the world.

A world socialist community emerged after the war, growing up and gaining strength as a powerful force of modern times. The Soviet Union and the socialist community countries are persistently carrying on a policy to promote international détente and to get political détente supplemented by military détente, and are consistently pressing for the implementation of a broad and realistic program of strengthening peace on earth for the benefit of all nations.

The events before and during World War II proved that war has to be fought against before it breaks out. The disunity and weakness of the anti-war movement in the West allowed the Nazis to start the war. This is a very important lesson, one which urges all progressive forces to be vigilant and rally together for a vigorous opposition to war.

To maintain peace, won at such a dear price, it is necessary to expose the schemings of imperialism and of all those who, covering up their action by their own inventions about a "Soviet military threat," are swelling military budgets, speeding up the arms race and building up their armed forces. Neither can one leave out of sight the "scientific" lieutenants of imperialism, those who pose as military theorists and argue that every generation must have a war of its own, that there is nothing but war to fight a war, and that world wars arise under the laws of arithmetic progression — once in every 10, 20, 30 years, and that the third world war is, therefore, long overdue.

Today, just as 40 years ago, there still are some forces of aggression and revenge-seeking, hatching plans for another war against socialist countries, above all, against the Soviet Union. That is why our party and the Soviet government have always combined the efforts for peace with strengthening the country's defense capability. "We are for restraint and for a balanced approach," Leonid Brezhnev said.

"But we are for stout opposition to aggression if that proves necessary. This is the the position the Soviet Union held in the face of the impending danger of world war. And this is the position we are holding today."

The danger of war has not, unfortunately, gone never to return. To avert another world war is still the overriding problem of modern times. But now that the alignment of forces in the international arena has radically changed and a community of socialist nations has emerged and grown strong, there are real conditions for ensuring a stable peace on earth.

Pravda, August 31, 1979

WE WILL LIVE UP TO THE PEOPLE'S HOPES

Narciso Isa Conde

General Secretary, Dominican Communist Party

In an atmosphere of mass condemnation of the DRP's* anti-popular measures, consisting in the sharp increase of prices on petrol and other fuel, the Vice-President of the Republic called for repressive measures against the strikers and demonstrators who unanimously supported the appeal of the Drivers' Struggle Committee.

The Vice-President, who won a majority at the last elections, the leaders of the "party of national hope" and the social-democratic leaders are using Somoza's terminology in their speeches, while armed gangs consisting of municipal employees carrying DRP membership cards took an active part in the repressions, during which seven persons were killed and dozens wounded and arrested.

What is it all about?

Why the "changes" in the policy of government leaders and the "party of change?"

We are witnessing the culmination of the broad and rapid process in which the government and the party which less than a year ago had won the support of the overwhelming majority of our people have been losing popularity.

When the first signs of disenchantment appeared, Jorge Blanco,

* Dominican Revolutionary Party. — Ed.

DRP Chairman and leader of one of its groups, and its General Secretary Pena Gomez sought to dissociate themselves from certain aspects of official policy, inferring that these negative phenomena were the responsibility of the government.

But when dissatisfaction with government activity acquired the character of a social, popular protest, as reflected in the drivers' strike and street demonstrations, all DRP groups rallied in defense of the government's policy and actions. The President's personalist "my government" slogan was replaced by that of "our government."

The members of the municipal council facilitated the DRP military formations' brutal actions and put the resources of the city council at the disposal of these latter-day bandits.

As a result of the repressions by the groups of DRP thugs, who were joined by the police and other armed groups, dozens of people who supported the striking drivers were killed and wounded.

Majluta, speaking over Radio Commercial on behalf of the President of the Republic, urged stepping up the repressions.

In an atmosphere of growing popular disenchantment with the government's decision to raise the price of petrol and other fuel, Jorge Blanco and Pena Gomez decided to give it their full support.

The DRP General Secretary unabashedly declared that the present government is the offspring of the DRP and that in these circumstances all DRP members must rally around it, saying: "At this critical moment the Dominican Revolutionary Party reaffirms its unconditional support for the government of President Antonio Guzman" (*El Sol*, August 1, 1979, p. 7).

A compromise was thus reached with the ruling social bloc. Pena Gomez's speech echoed the conceptions of Friedrich Ebert and Willy Brandt, who oppose vigorous actions by the oppressed in their struggle.

The repressions against the strikers are repressions against the actions of the people who are tired of the rising prices, deception and unfulfilled promises.

The use of DRP armed formations and the force of arms, confiscation of buses, expansion of the repressive apparatus and brutal vandalism of the authorities which resulted in bloodshed — all this took place on the pretext of struggle against "conspiracy," against "destabilization." But complete silence was maintained on the question of responsibility for these actions.

Pena Gomez spoke of the ultra-rightists' and Balaguerists' joint actions with the Marxist-Leninists.

He and other DRP leaders spoke of the involvement of the rightist forces and reformists in the strike.

Actually it was only the DRP government's actions that coincided with those of the former Balaguer government, for both used similar methods of struggle against the drivers' strike movement.

As for the rightists, they have once again demonstrated their opposition to the strike and the movements in its support. Neither did the Balaguerists support the strike nor actions in its favor. Not a single organization of the ultra-right or rightists joined the drivers' strike.

It should be noted that the rightists' position in the government was expressed by the Minister of Industry and Trade (former adviser of the ministry during Balaguer's rule and adviser of the Association of Industrialists and Cattle Breeders), the architect of the price increases which infringed the interests of the people. The rightist forces are also represented by Franco Badias (Head of the Municipal Council) and DRP Chairman Salvador Jorge Blanco, who, as Shell's lawyers, defend the positions of that foreign company whose interests are directly affected by the strikers' demand for nationalization of the oil refinery and oil distribution company.

The DRP Guard formed by the Head of the Municipal Council with the connivance of DRP leaders is also composed of rightist forces.

At a time of broad social conflicts, the promises for "democratic socialism" and "changes in freedom" have been replaced by a demand for repressions.

Majluta insistently called for them. Pena Gomez, a would-be popular leader, urged their being carried out at any cost.

But neither the repressions nor the appeals of the "top leader" achieved their aims.

The strike went on, winning increasing support among the people.

These actions and statements by social democracy exposed its true face, and further discredited the DRP and its top leadership.

Leaders are tested during major social conflicts. In this case the DRP and Pena Gomez himself suffered a serious defeat, which considerably reduced their influence.

The Dominican Communist Party can take justified pride in its position as the vanguard of the movement of political solidarity as reflected in with the powerful expression of popular protest. It is thus becoming the new hope of the people, which we will live up to.

Hablan los Comunistas, No. 59, August 3-7, 1979

UNITED STATES' INTERFERENCE

Interference in the internal affairs of other countries remains a permanent practice of the United States government. In this respect, both President Carter and his advisor Brzezinski have distinguished themselves over the past 24 hours.

Speaking in Baltimore, Carter publicly declared that he was quite satisfied over what he called a substantial weakening of popular support for the Italian Communist Party. Wishful thinking.

He said he hoped that communist influence in Italy would once again be significantly weakened.

This is flagrant interference. No one has authorized the U.S. President to pass judgment on the country's political future which is for the Italians themselves to decide, freely and sovereignly.

Verbal intervention? There are too many precedents — from Vietnam to Santo Domingo, from Korea to Guatemala, from Lebanon to Nicaragua — attesting to the fact that Washington only too frequently goes over from threat to action.

That was confirmed by Brzezinski. In an interview to the West German *Stern* he said that over the past two years the U.S. has been creating a Rapid Development Force which can be used in "troubled regions" where U.S. forces are not stationed. The U.S. must be ready to use them, he added. He calls for discretion, however, though not with respect to their use, believing it unwise to talk too much about this before their use.

Brzezinski confirms the plans announced by U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown in February and which were specified at the White House on July 19 and 20.

Le Figaro-Magazine printed at the time an enthusiastic article in the style of political fiction, saying:

"A general alert has been announced in all Western capitals. Feverish military preparations have begun in Fort Bragg, Carolina. First, in about a 20-hour period the 82nd U.S. Paratroop Division will be dispatched to the Emirates, to be followed by the 101st Airborne Division, and three marine divisions; altogether about 120,000 men with arms and equipment.

"Six thousand Frenchmen will also be dropped in the desert: several regiments of the 11th Parachute Division (Southwest) and the 9th Marine Division (West), which have already taken part in military operations in Chad, Lebanon and Zaire.

"Reinforcements are arriving in Djibouti. The French fleet in the

Indian Ocean has headed for Oman. A gigantic airbridge links the United States and Europe with the Middle East. Carter decided to declare a nuclear alert."

Political fiction? Yes, most likely. But how eloquent.

Incidentally, since the end of April, Brzezinski, in an interview printed in *Die Welt*, *La Stampa* and *Le Monde*, has been stressing the "growing role" Washington is assigning to Western Europe "in the domain of world economy, as well as regional security, as, for example, in Africa," that is, the role of imperialist policeman.

And on our continent too, the United States is stepping up its military preparations. In his statements to *Stern*, Brzezinski reported that the Americans, "will apparently" install the "Pershing-2" and the Cruise missile in Western Europe. This is a scandalous way of responding to the socialist countries' initiatives to place on the agenda military détente in Europe.

In reality, Pentagon strategists are out to organize a counter-offensive to remedy their reverses.

After their defeat in Vietnam their reverses have been multiplying.

In the Middle East their hopes rested on three main pillars: the shah's Iran, the Egyptian-Saudi alliance concluded after Nasser's death, and Israel. The first two pillars have already crumbled.

In Central America the Somoza dictatorship has been toppled.

Almost every day brings new proof of the deterioration of imperialism's positions. In the Western Sahara, the agreement between Mauritania and the Polisario Front provides favorable prospects for peace and recognition of the rights of the people of Sahara. In Lusaka, the Commonwealth conference, opposing Mrs. Thatcher, condemned the racist regimes of Southern Africa.

In these circumstances, the gunboat policy appears outdated.

The growing interference of the United States, of course, calls for vigilance. But the conditions exist for not permitting such interference any longer.

Yves Moreau
L'Humanité August 9, 1979

IN BRIEF

FINLAND

Continuation of the struggle for peace, détente and disarmament is a major objective of the Communist Party of Finland, the Political Bureau of the CC CPF states in an appeal to the party membership issued in Helsinki.

The signing of SALT-2 between the USSR and the USA, the document emphasizes, opens up new opportunities for success in this struggle. It is essential to rebuff the attempts to falsify the historical facts of the Second World War, which started 40 years ago.

We emphatically state, the appeal says, that Finland's extrication from the war and the foreign policy line the country has followed ever since, which is based on the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, continues to fully comply with the interests of Finland and the Finnish people.

GDR

On August 30, Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SUPG Central Committee, received a delegation of the Communist Party of Finland led by Party Chairman Aarne Saarinen, which was visiting Berlin. They noted the substantial progress made by the socialist community, particularly the Soviet Union, in the struggle for peace and stressed their resolve to continue contributing to the consolidation of united actions by the communist and workers' parties in resolving vital present-day problems: curbing the arms race and working out concrete disarmament measures. The SUPG and the CPF see the signing of SALT-2 as an important success for the peace policy of the Soviet Union.

Erich Honecker and Aarne Saarinen expressed firm opposition to the arms race launched by the reactionary circles of the West and condemned the great-power chauvinistic policy of the Peking leadership.

The sides unanimously stated that the priority task of the SUPG and CPF consists in consolidating the unity of the communist movement on the principles of Marxism-leninism and proletarian internationalism.

CYPRUS

The CC Political Bureau of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) met in plenary session in Nicosia to

examine the impending restructuring of the Cyprus government.

The unanimously adopted decision notes that the formation and restructuring of a government is the right and prerogative of the President of the Republic, and is at the same time an "important political action" which pursues "definite political goals and aspirations."

The document points out that the planned restructuring "is causing justifiable alarm among broad popular strata, particularly the patriotic and democratic forces. . . . This is due to the fact that the restructuring is the result of pressure and is aimed at changing the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers in a way that would satisfy certain political forces — which are neither in the government nor in Cyprus — which have recently stepped up their activities.

The Political Bureau decision gives an analysis of the complex political situation around the Cyprus question and in the country. The Political Bureau emphasizes that the restructuring of the government must help to strengthen the patriotic and democratic forces and enhance the authority of the President of the Republic. "The AKEL resolutely opposes the dismissal from the Council of Ministers of tried, democratic-minded ministers." The AKEL stresses that if the new government should signify "a turn toward a more reactionary course, this would deal a blow at the unity of the patriotic and democratic forces, undermine the President's position, weaken the authority of the government on the international arena and prejudice the struggle of the Cypriot people."

SOVIET UNION

On September 5, Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CC CPSU and President of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium met with Enrico Berlinguer, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, who is vacationing in the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Suslov, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CC CPSU, also took part in the meeting.

Leonid Brezhnev spoke of the fulfillment of the tenth five-year plan, of how large-scale projects that are designed to strengthen the basic elements of Soviet economy are being realized. He stressed that the CPSU is intent on increasingly involving the working people in running the state and public affairs. The party sees this as the earnest of successfully solving the problems arising in the course of communist construction.

Leonid Brezhnev reaffirmed the CPSU's internationalist solidarity with the communists and all working people in Italy.

Enrico Berlinguer spoke of the struggle being waged by the Italian communists for the vital rights and interests of the working masses, for democracy and a positive solution to the problems of Italian society. He spoke of the Italian communists' understanding of the problems encountered in the struggle for socialism and in socialist construction. Enrico Berlinguer hailed the successes of the Soviet people in the economy, science, culture and public life, which strengthen the authority of the Soviet socialist state and are an important contribution to the struggle of the anti-imperialist, peace forces throughout the world.

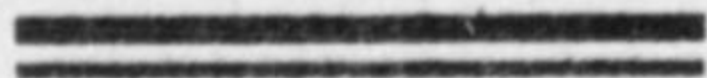
Comrades Brezhnev and Berlinguer expressed the Soviet and Italian communists' conviction that it is essential to step up activity and initiative to consolidate détente, to stop the arms race and to ensure full respect for the independence of all peoples. The peoples place great hopes on the ratification of SALT-2, which is an important real step toward strengthening international solidarity. Both parties attach special significance to promoting peaceful, diverse relations between states with different social systems. The non-aligned movement, whose leaders are meeting at a conference in Havana, have an important role in this.

Comrades Brezhnev and Berlinguer consider that the consolidation of peace and peaceful coexistence between European states depends largely on the communist and workers' parties, on all democratic organizations, on the their actions and initiatives.

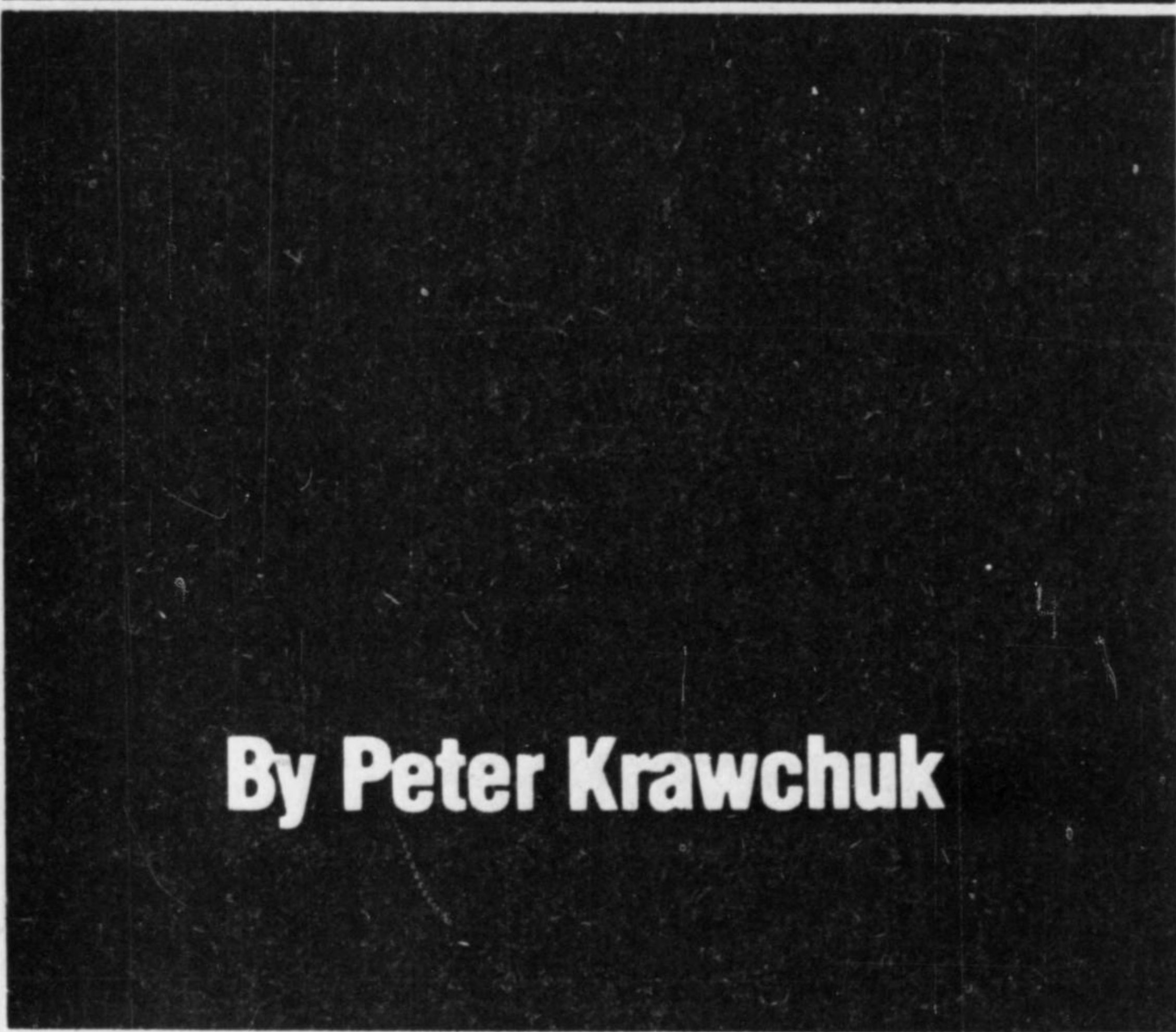
They stressed the need to vigorously rebuff the attempts to foment enmity between peoples, the manifestations of anti-communism, slander campaigns against the socialist countries and the national-liberation movements.

The talk took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship.

Also taking part was Anatoly Blatov, assistant to the General Secretary of the CC CPSU.



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