

The Third Congress of the Lebanese Communist Party

The Third Congress of the Lebanese Communist Party opened in Beirut on January 7. The report of the Central Committee was presented by Nicolas Chaoui, General Secretary of the Central Committee. Speaking of developments following the Second Congress of the Party in 1968, Nicolas Chaoui said that several events of world-wide significance had occurred in the period under review, the most important one being the 24th Congress of the CPSU. In order to implement the foreign policy peace programme approved by the 24th Congress, the Soviet leaders have established international contacts

and taken a number of steps which have won general support both in the Lebanon and throughout the world. The speaker went on to say that together with other communist and workers' parties, the Lebanese Communist Party was fighting for unity and cohesion in the ranks of the communist movement based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and was doing its utmost to strengthen the contacts between Arab states. Party activity, he said, is aimed at eliminating the aftermaths of the Israeli aggression, defending the national rights of Arab peoples, including those of the Palestinian people.

The Lebanese Communist Party, the speaker continued, feels that an alliance with the forces of world socialism is an important precondition for victory. The entire progressive development of the Arab peoples as well as their determination in the face of Israeli aggression and imperialist schemes depend on Arab-Soviet friendship.

Speaking about the course taken by the Chinese leaders, Nicolas Chaoui noted that the Lebanese communists and progressive people fully realise that Peking's splitting activity plays into the hands of the imperialists and enemies of peoples. Peking's foreign and domestic policies are highly detrimental to the common cause of peoples' struggle for freedom, progress and socialism. These policies are highly detrimental to the Chinese people as well.

After China's break with the socialist camp, Nicolas Chaoui said, it was to be expected that the meaningless anti-imperialist slogans and pseudo-revolutionary phrase-mongering of the Chinese leaders would be followed by the policy of rapprochement with American imperialism, a policy directed against the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

It was to be expected that the course taken by the Chinese leadership would tie in with the policies pursued by the reactionaries against the interests of the peoples, against the national liberation movement and communist parties. China's stand with regard to the Indo-Pakistani conflict is an example of this.

Nicolas Chaoui analysed the political and economic situation in the Lebanon. He said that since the Second Congress the Party had considerably intensified its political and social activity. The progressive forces had joined in a united front and played a major role in repulsing the attacks of the imperialist and the reactionary elements at home.

Nicolas Chaoui spoke in detail about the organisational work within the Party and the political, ideological and organisational tasks facing it.

Following the report the participants heard greetings from a number of fraternal delegations. The first foreign delegate to address the congress was G. F. Sizov, Chairman of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU and head of the CPSU delegation.

The Third Congress of the Lebanese Party, G. F. Sizov stressed

in his speech, is the first to be held since the Party became legal. The ban on the Party was lifted as a result of the struggle waged by the Lebanese communists and all democratic forces in the country. It is also recognition of the important and positive role played by the Party in public and political life and in cementing the unity of progressive and patriotic forces in the Lebanon.

The presence of the CPSU delegation at the congress, the speaker said, is vivid proof of the strengthening of the fraternal bonds between the two parties, which have a long-standing record of friendship and comradely relations. These relations have always been based on the worthy principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. Both parties have always consistently carried on a joint struggle for the purity of these principles. Today, each of the many detachments of the international communist movement has a highly important duty to fulfil: to work for the ideological purity of the Marxist-Leninist teaching and to combat "left" and right-wing opportunism, Maoist splitting activity in the national liberation movement, to cement the unity of the communist ranks all over the world and the cohesion and unity of all anti-imperialist forces.

The Israeli policy of expansion, G. F. Sizov said, is the major reason for the continuing explosive situation in the Middle East. Backed by the United States, which provides large-scale financial and military aid to Israel, the Israeli aggressor objects to a political settlement.

An equitable and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be established if all the provisions of the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967, are implemented, if the Israeli troops are withdrawn from all occupied Arab territories and the legitimate rights and interests of all countries and peoples in the area, including the Arab peoples of Palestine, are guaranteed.

In encroaching on the freedom and independence of the Arab peoples, the speaker went on, the imperialist and reactionary circles count on a split among the national and patriotic forces in the Arab states. Unity of Arab peoples on an anti-imperialist basis, their cohesion and joint action constitute a prerequisite for successful struggle to eliminate the aftermaths of the Israeli imperialist aggression and to secure freedom, independence and social progress.

The Soviet Union, the speaker emphasised, has always supported, and will continue to support, the Arab countries in their struggle against imperialism and world zionism and in their effort to eliminate as quickly as possible the consequences of the Israeli aggression. The comprehensive development of friendly relations with the Arab states is a matter of principle for us, the speaker said. This course has been reaffirmed by the 24th Congress of the CPSU and we shall abide by this policy in future, concluded G. F. Sizov.

All speakers stressed the need to cement the unity of the international communist and working class movement, to be faithful to the principles of internationalism, to develop friendship and co-

operation with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The Lebanese communists resolutely condemned the Maoist subversive activity aimed at weakening and splitting revolutionary forces.

The congress was addressed by the delegates from Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Mongolia, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United States, Italy, India, Arab states and other countries.

The congress adopted a number of political documents. The resolution on the report of the Central Committee emphasised the crucial role played by the Soviet Union in the world revolutionary movement. The congress declared that by breaking with the international communist movement and pursuing a policy hostile to the socialist camp and the entire world revolutionary movement, including the national liberation movement, the Chinese leaders render great service to world imperialism and reaction.

The resolution on Indochina vigorously condemned US barbarous bombing raids on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Lebanese communists with the patriots of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The congress also passed a resolution on the Palestinian problem and approved a declaration by patriotic and progressive parties and organisations on convening a conference of progressive parties and movements of Arab states.

The congress elected the Central Committee of the Party, which later met in its first session and elected the leading bodies of the Party. Nicolas Chaoui was re-elected General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party.