

Close Up the Ranks of the People's Front to Crush Franco!

Resolution of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, which took place on November 13-16, 1937, having heard the report and closing remarks of Comrade Jose Diaz, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, resolves:

The report and closing remarks of Comrade Diaz to be regarded by all branches and all Party members as the basis for the general political line and practical work of the Party.

1. The Spanish people are undergoing a difficult period. After their offensive on the North, the rebel generals and fascist interventionists are preparing new operations in the attempt to break our resistance by means of a desperate offensive. At the same time open and covert enemies of the democratic republic, of our freedom and national independence, are doing everything possible to sow discord in our country.

At this time what is required of all the Spanish people is to concentrate their energies and exert them to the utmost in order to beat off the attacks of the enemy, to destroy their forces, rapidly and surely to achieve final victory. The Central Committee of the Communist Party considers that at the present moment the country possesses all the means necessary to resist the enemy and win victory. It is, however, necessary to strengthen the unity of the people by conducting a correct People's Front policy, to raise the enthusiasm, heroism and spirit of self-sacrifice of the masses of the people. The whole of republican Spain must become an invincible fortress. Madrid, Guadalajara, Belchite, show us the way. Repeat these heroic feats—such must be the way for all Spaniards filled with determination to put an end, rapidly once and for all, to fascism, to the foreign aggressors.

In reply to the maneuvers of the enemy (foreign and home) as expressed in the spreading of slanderous rumors about compromises with fascism and the foreign interventionists, and directed towards breaking the resistance and spirit of our people, the Communist Party, expressing the will of the working class and the whole of the people, declares through the lips of its general secretary:

“There can be no peace so long as a single foreign soldier remains on the soil of our fatherland.

“There can be no peace until all enemies, all those who are striving to establish a fascist regime in Spain, have been crushed once and for all.

“No compromise is possible either with generals who have betrayed their fatherland or with the foreign aggressors.

“Our slogan is: Drive out the interventionists, wipe out Franco, destroy fascism in our country once and for all.”

The Communist Party declares that it will fight with all its might against the treacherous gang that has set itself the task of demoralizing the people by spreading rumors of compromise and peace without victory.

3. The Central Committee of the Communist Party addresses an ardent appeal to the Communist and Socialist Parties, to trade unions and other working class organizations, to the democratic forces of Europe and the whole world, for unity to help Spain in its struggle for independence, for peace. Our people have already proved that they not only deserve victory, but that they are in a position to win it. It is the duty of the peoples of France, Britain, the United States, the duty of all who hate war, the duty of all to whom independence and freedom are dear, to prevent aid in any form whatsoever being rendered to Franco and to fight for the recognition of the international rights of the Spanish people.

We appeal in particular to the organizations of the working class, and declare that the international proletariat can render us tremendous aid by means of mass campaigns, strikes and the systematic boycott of the zone in the hands of the rebels.

4. While expressing its sincere confidence, supported by the Communist Party, as a whole, in the

People's Front government, and while greeting the head of the government, Comrade Negrin, whose work has helped to improve the state of the country, the Central Committee of the Communist Party emphasizes the need for:

A. An energetic policy in the internal administration of the country;

B. A radical change in juridical policy;

C. Raising the spirit of our people's army, despite the efforts of the enemy to break it by provocation and intrigue.

The Central Committee asks the government to discuss the question of the possibility of forming a Ministry for War Industries to concentrate in its hands all the work of organizing and administering these industries and to ensure its rapid development with a view to satisfying the requirements of war.

5. At a time when the rebel generals are converting all the territory in their hands into a foreign policy colony in which the liberties of the people have been destroyed and the most savage terror reigns, it is essential to strengthen our republican and democratic system and to consolidate the People's Front government by strengthening its contacts with the masses and ensuring the participation on a wide scale of the whole of the people in the political life of the country.

6. The Central Committee notes with satisfaction the cordial political and business relations existing between the Communist Party and the Socialist Labor Party, and confirms its desire to continue along that road until the fusion of the two political parties of the proletariat into a united party of the working class of Spain is achieved. The policy of unity between Socialists and Communists will accelerate the process of the general unification of the Spanish working class movement and deliver a blow at all attempts to split the anti-fascist forces.

The Central Committee of the Party indignantly denounces the splitting work of the small Largo Caballero group. By its attacks on the unity of the U.G.T. (General Workers Union), by spreading slanderous rumors the only purpose of which is to sow dissension among antifascists, by its defeatist propaganda and equivocal attitude towards the People's Front government and its best representatives, this small group is becoming an agency of the enemy. The Communist Party asks all workers to offer resolute resistance to the splitting and disintegrating work of this group by defending the unity of the working class and anti-fascist organizations against all who try to disrupt it.

7. The Communist Party regards the establishment of a National People's Front Committee as a fact of a positive character and is doing everything necessary to enable this first step to be followed by other more resolute and energetic steps towards the organization of People's Front committees throughout the country. These committees will unite all the anti-fascist forces and help the government to solve the tasks of the war and the revolution.

The Party considers it especially necessary today for the C.N.T. (National Confederation of Labor) and the U.G.T. to be included in the People's Front. It will make every effort to persuade its allies and friends of the need for this, and overcome obstacles and prejudices still hindering the realization of complete unity of the Spanish anti-fascist movement.

8. The Plenum of the Central Committee once more confirms the point that the policy of the Communist Party of Spain at the present time can only be the firm and consistent policy of the People's Front. It calls upon all Party organizations to make a critical examination of their activities so as to eliminate all errors, hesitations and all weaknesses whatsoever in the conduct of this policy. This means, as Comrade Diaz said in his report, that:

"The Party must constantly maintain the closest ties with the masses, must be the most energetic defender of their interests and the common interests of the whole of the people in their struggle against fascism and foreign invasion.

"The Party must do nothing capable of hindering the unity of all anti-fascist forces; it must be the best champion of the ever-closer consolidation of these forces."

To achieve these aims it is necessary that the Party units pay far more attention to trade union work, to organizing close contacts with the masses, with the Socialist Party, with the Republican Party, with

the Anarchist masses and with all who still stand aloof from the political and trade union movement.

9. All Party units, all Party members must with the maximum rapidity carry the decisions of the Plenum into life, after organizing a wide discussion of them by all members, and draw the attention of all, anti-fascists to these decisions.

The Plenum of the Central Committee has revealed how tremendous is the political and organizational strength of the Communist Party. The unity of the Party is the best guarantee of the fulfilment of its policy which is the policy of the masses, of the anti-fascist people. For the unity of the Party to be invincible what is required is that the maximum vigilance be observed in its ranks, thus rendering it possible to guarantee its organizational integrity and political indivisibility.

We are deeply convinced that the line of our Party, being a correct one, corresponds to the present situation, and expresses the will and interests of the whole of the Spanish people. Hence all Communists must work with the greatest enthusiasm to fulfil the decisions of the Party. This will lead to early victory over fascism and guarantee a happy life to our people.