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Struggle of Mexican People for Peace and National Independence.*

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The entire course of international events since the Tenth Congress of the Mexican Communist Party (November, 1947) confirms quite clearly the existence of two political trends in the international arena: the policy pursued by the democratic and anti-imperialist camp led by the mighty Soviet Union—a policy securely based on a consistent and staunch defence of peace, on respect for the freedom and independence of nations, on recognition of their equality; and the policy of the imperialist, anti-democratic camp led by the U.S. monopoly circles. The aim of this camp is to establish, by violence and war, U.S. world domination; to subordinate, by fire and sword, the will of all countries and peoples to the rule of the slave-owners; to unleash a third world war; to trample underfoot democracy and the growing movement of the peoples along the pathway to complete emancipation and Socialism.

Contrary to the plans of U.S. imperialism, and of home reaction and their hired agents, the people of Mexico will never go to war against the Soviet Union, will never serve as cannon-fodder for the interests of the Wall Street oppressors and exploiters now preparing anti-Soviet aggression.

The Soviet Union has never threatened and will never threaten the sovereignty of our country or of any other nation. It does not meddle in the internal affairs of the peoples.

U.S. imperialism, on the contrary, has always been the worst enemy of the national independence and national sovereignty of the people of Mexico.

The firm stand of our Party, which reflects the resistance of the Mexican people to the preparations for an anti-Soviet aggressive war, is a stand in defence of the national interests contrary to the designs of the U.S. imperialists who, with the help of the war they are now preparing, seek to enslave Mexico even, more and to subordinate it to military and political domination.

Against U.S. Colonisers, for National Independence of the Country

For some time past, the Aleman Government has been striving to make Mexico's economic development both in agriculture and industry, dependent on U.S. loans. This path simply means handing over our natural resources to the rapacious U.S. imperialists.

* From report to Eleventh National Congress of the Mexican Communist Party,

In place of the loan which, it was alleged, would save our oil industry (a loan the U.S. imperialists failed to impose due largely to the resistance of the Mexican people who regarded this loan as an encroachment on the national sovereignty), agreements for boring in the areas known as reservations were signed with certain U.S. oil companies. According to these agreements, the U.S. companies will take 50 per cent of the oil produced in these areas over the period necessary to cover the capital investments, and 15 per cent of the total output for a period of 25 years in "compensation" for services.

Another fact is the realisation in practice of the so-called Clayton plan and the Havana Charter which are instruments of U.S. expansion directed at undermining our national economy.

At the same time, U.S. capital investments are increasing in industry, trade and agriculture. In industry, this penetration is effected through the medium of so-called joint enterprises in which the bulk of the capital is American; by means of buying up operating enterprises, as is the case, for example, in the footwear, chemical and other industries; and by opening branch factories of big U.S. monopolies, such as the A & CJS in Monterey (Anderson & Clayton Joint-Stock Company), slaughter-houses and refrigerating plants in the north of the country, etc.

In the sphere of trade, attempts are being made to force Mexico to buy only from the United States and to sell solely to it or through its mediation. The Government connives at competition, the effects of which are disastrous for the national trade.

Agriculture is controlled, directly or indirectly, by the big U.S. monopolies, with the Anderson & Clayton Company to the fore.

This policy of colonisation gravely affects our economic position.

Official, and obviously under-estimated, figures give the following picture of the rising cost of living: if 1941 be taken as 100, in 1942 the cost of living for a worker was 115.9; in 1943, 151.8; in 1944, 190.7; in 1945, 204.5; in 1946, 255.5; in 1947, 287.6; in 1948, 305.4; in 1949, 321.7; between January and March 1950, 331.2. Since March 1950, the cost of living, due to a number of reasons, soared so steeply that even the President of the Republic had to acknowledge that the rising cost of living was becoming unbearable.

Naturally, this monstrous impoverishment took place to the accompaniment of growing profits for the exploiters.

The foreign debt of Mexico, October 31, 1950, stood at 476.3 million dollars. (Since 1941 alone, the debt shot up by 370.2 million dollars, or more than three billion Mexican pesos). Thus, total indebtedness exceeds the sum of four billion Mexican pesos.

Confronted with such an economic situation, our Party, in addition to organising the struggle of the working population and of all people for a general wage increase, for resolute action against the monstrous cost of living, for price reductions, for controls on a national scale and better living standards for the broad masses of the people, is demanding that a series of essential measures be taken. The Party considers the following measures to be main and vital:

Introduction of currency control, control over import and export. End to the plundering of the main sources of national wealth by U.S. imperialism acting through the medium of so-called "joint" companies. A stop to the Government's policy of the "open door" in relation to capital investments by the U.S. imperialists, and tightening of Mexican laws concerning foreign investments. Protection for Mexican industry, banning, for this purpose, the import of those foreign manufactured goods whose competition is disastrous for home production. Industrial and trade exchange with all countries, particularly with the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and the Chinese People's Republic; the conclusion of trade agreements with these countries. End to the Government's policy of foreign imperialist loans which undermine and enslave the national economy. Nationalisation of the main means of production now in the hands of foreign imperialist corporations. Nationalisation of banks and all enterprises of public utility, to review and annul all concessions granted to imperialist companies and not to permit any extension of the concessions. Strict observance of the national laws prohibiting trusts and monopolies and their disastrous activities levelled against the people, as, for example, those of the "Azucar" joint-stock company.

Cement Alliance Between Working Class and Peasants

One of the basic problems of the Mexican revolution is the division of the land among the poor peasants. There are still great latifundia in the country that have not been effected by agrarian reform, Many of them are in the possession of foreigners, mainly Americans, while the number of landless peasants exceeds one and a half million.

The Aleman Government sought not only to end completely the sharing of the land but also to review the redivision already carried out with a view to restoring their former property to the landlords and, at the same time, to protect, under cover of so-called respect, for "small property", the land acquired by landowners in some regions in the country. A considerable part of these new owners are State officials. The rich lands of the Matamoros cotton area, for example, were seized by prominent Government officials including the President himself.

Under these conditions the peasant masses in our country are beginning to realise the need for their own independent organisations which would consistently represent their interests, and ensure an alliance with the proletariat as the sole guarantee of success in the struggle waged by the peasantry.

Our Party played a decisive role in establishing the "General Worker-Peasant Alliance of Mexico" which rallied, in the first instance, workers in the mining and 'oil industries, a considerable section of the textile workers and the peasants in the main regions of the country such as Laguna, Yaqui, Mante, and others. This new organisation is the only national worker-peasant organisation independent of the State. It was formed in spite of open resistance on the part of the Government which set out to destroy this organisation.

All over the country, workers and peasants are courageously resisting the Government's aggressive policy. Outstanding examples of this resistance are the struggle waged by the miners' union, the peasant struggle in the Lagunera region, and the growing movement among the oil workers' and railwaymen unions against the Government-imposed leadership.

National-Democratic Anti-Imperialist Front

The Mexican working class, guided by the Communist Party, must struggle with renewed vigour in order to defeat the Government's anti-labour policy, resolutely defend the right to strike, and fight for at least a 30 per cent increase in wages and pensions, for the independence of working-class organisations from the State, for genuine and wide trade union democracy, against corruption and gangsterism.

This struggle must be based on the militant mobilisation of the working class, on its organisation and strength, and the elimination of bourgeois tendencies and agents from its ranks.

The indigenous peoples suffer from a double national yoke: they are oppressed, on the one hand, by U.S. imperialism and, on the other, they suffer from the dominant position of the Mexican nation.

The so-called Mexican revolution did not substantially change the position of the indigenous peoples. Successful completion of the bourgeois-democratic revolution must, inevitably, place before the Mexican working class the task of helping the development of the indigenous peoples into nations. At present, only the proletariat can fulfil this task.

The Mexican nation must always recognise and respect the right of the indigenous peoples to self-determination and also their right to broad administrative regional and local autonomy.

The proletariat is the only class in the country capable of waging the struggle for the right of the indigenous peoples to self-determination and for all their progressive and revolutionary demands. The Communist Party must secure an alliance between the indigenous peoples and the Mexican proletariat and transform them into a reserve for the revolution.

The central task facing the revolutionary and progressive movement in Mexico is to organise a national-democratic, anti-imperialist front which, in addition to the working class and peasantry, should include the petty bourgeoisie and part of the national bourgeoisie who, together with all other democratic and patriotic elements, are ready to fight against imperialism, for the independence and sovereignty of the country, for consistent realisation of agrarian reform; respect for political and civil rights, and extending these rights to the youth and women; for an economic policy advantageous to the broad masses of the people; for industrial development of the country and a higher standard of living for the working people; for defence of the Constitution and adherence to it; against war and for peace. This national-democratic and anti-imperialist front must rely on a close alliance between the working class and peasantry, with the working class playing the leading role.

The main task is struggle for working class unity. This is not a matter of formal unity or of unity for unity's sake, as announced in 1938 by the corrupt leaders, Laborde and Campa, who advanced the slogan: "Unity at all cost". The unity that we want must be a militant unity. And this unity must find expression in resolute struggle by the workers for higher wages, for the right to strike, which is now in danger, for the independence of the trade unions from the State, for trade union democracy and against corruption. This unity must have a firm basis in each factory.

This unity calls for a united front of the workers in the various factories and various trade union organisations in the struggle for their specific demands.

The treachery of the reformist leaders—Government agents—must be exposed; it is essential to make clear to the working class that the reformist leaders are betraying the cause of struggle for their economic and political demands, that for a long time past they have been acting as agents of the bourgeoisie inside the Mexican working class movement.

Our Party Must Become Real Vanguard of Working Class

National and international events and the tasks arising from them, call, more so than ever before, for a powerful Party of the working class.

The main organisational task of the Mexican Communist Party is to become a mass Party, closely linked with the working people and with broad masses of the people, with their requirements and aspirations; a Party heading and directing the struggle of these masses. Our Party must become the real vanguard of the working class.

To achieve this main aim it is essential, above all, to educate the entire Party in the spirit of the Marx-Lenin-Stalin teaching, of mastering our invincible theory, in applying it in deciding all problems facing our country. In this way, our Party will be able to find correct solutions and become the vanguard of the working class in Mexico.

Second: while pursuing its political line it is essential for the Party to maintain, through its lower organisations and leading organs, close contact with the masses of the workers in the country. It is essential that it rely on the broad masses of the working people, particularly on the working class. To do this, the Party must study and be thoroughly acquainted with the problems of the working people, give correct solutions to these problems, orientate the working class and successfully guide it in solving its economic and political problems; the Party must stand at the head of all the working people and lead them to victory, heading their revolutionary battles.

Our strength lies solely in the masses. If the Party enjoys their support it will be strong and will possess enormous possibilities for waging the struggle, for rallying the masses.

While supporting the economic demands of the working people, our Party must bring political consciousness into their ranks, explaining to them the historical role of the working class, its decisive and leading role in defeating, in Mexico, the imperialist conspiracy against peace and the independence of the peoples, in order to win complete liberation and national sovereignty, to transform the old, capitalist society into a new, Socialist society and take the Mexican people along the Socialist road.

Pursuing this policy, we shall wage consistent struggle against economism which at present undermines our work.

Third: in order to transform our organisation into a mass Party, it is essential that we give correct leadership to the masses, that a clear political line be elaborated for them and that it be pursued correctly, both as regards strategy and tactics.

By linking up the problems of the broad masses of workers and peasants in our country with the main task of fighting for peace, we will set out along the correct road which will result in our Party becoming a mass Party. At the same time, we must consistently combat sectarianism and opportunism in our ranks.

Sectarianism, which manifests itself mainly in the absence of contact between the Party and the broad masses of the working class and the people, arises from lack of confidence in the masses, in their activity and ability to wage successful struggle.

Sectarianism prevented the Party from establishing the necessary contact with the masses. In the struggle for peace, for example, sectarianism prevented this struggle from being developed on a large-scale, in keeping with the decisions of the World Peace Congress. Due to sectarianism, our activities in defence of peace did not yield the results which could have been achieved.

Opportunism manifests itself mainly in abandoning principles, in the political weakness of the struggle against the enemy, in distorting our political line and deviating from it.

The branch, and, above all, the factory branch, the branch in industry in general, is the basic organisation of our Party.

This means that the Communists must turn mainly to the places where the working class is concentrated. Our principal task in improving the organisation of the Party is to strengthen the work of the branches in industry and to form new branches in the main industrial enterprises in the country.

We must combat bureaucratism and routine in the work of the Party. In the central leadership and in other leading organs of our Party there are comrades who spend most of their time in the office, who fail to realise that in order to make our Party strong it is necessary to go to the masses, to establish contact with the branches, to help strengthen these branches and guide them.

The principles of democratic centralism call for revolutionary vigilance on the part of the entire Party, vigilance levelled against provocateurs and spies—agents of the enemy; against the traitors expelled from the Party and who recently have intensified their treacherous, anti-Party activities; against any attempt to smuggle into our Party ideas alien to the proletarian nature of our organisation; against any manifestation of opportunism, sectarianism and bourgeois nationalism.

We cannot hope to build a strong Communist Party in Mexico if we do not correctly apply the methods of criticism: and self-criticism in our ranks.

Most important in the organisational work of the Party is the selection of people and of leading cadres, the carrying out of the decisions and verifying their fulfilment.

The role assigned by imperialism to the counter-revolutionary Tito agents has its parallel in Mexico—in the fight waged against the Mexican Communist Party by the gang of provocateurs led by Laborde and Campa.

The provocative activities of these elements are closely linked with those of the Trotskyite, treacherous and adventurer groups who, in Mexico, as in other countries, are fighting against the Communist Party, serving imperialism and reaction and seeking to undermine the genuine Communist movement.

Thus, the provocative activities against the Communist movement in various Latin-American countries are combined, and Laborde, Sanchez, Cardenas and Co. are the transmitters of these activities in Mexico.

The struggle to expose this clique and to warn the masses against its subversive activities, the task of eradicating its anti-Party work wherever it is conducted—constitute one of the main political tasks of the Party, and are part of the struggle against the designs of imperialism and reaction.

In 1949, our Party had 197 basic organisations; at present, there are 600, many of them factory branches.

Despite these successes, we cannot permit any complacency. There are still considerable shortcomings to be overcome.

Until now, little attention has been devoted to educating Party members, particularly in the leading organs, beginning with the Political Commission. The political and theoretical level of the Party is low and does not correspond to present-day requirements. A serious under-estimation of educational work was observed, the effects of which are felt even now. The education of Party members and leading cadres is one of the main and decisive problems for our organisation.

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We are faced with great political tasks in the sphere of defending the vital interests of our people and the working class. Of these, the main task is organising the struggle of the masses in defence of peace. This cardinal task forms the basis of our political line. Defence of peace must be the pivot of the daily work of the Party, of each of its organs, of every active Party member.

We must rid the Party of all harmful theories to the effect that our organisation cannot carry out big tasks because it is still small.

Our Party can fulfil great and important tasks: it can, by its mass revolutionary work and by correct leadership and guidance in the struggle of the working people for their vital interests and demands, considerably influence the situation in the country, and facilitate the struggle of the Mexican people for peace, national independence, liberation from the imperialist yoke and for Socialism.

Great battles lie ahead of us. Nothing will make us retreat or abandon our duty of leading our people onward to the victory of the cause of peace, national independence and Socialism in Mexico.