

Long Live the Struggle for the Unity of the International Communist Movement!

—Political Bureau, Regional Committee Tupac Amaru of the Partido Comunista del Perú [Communist Party of Peru]*

Important Declaration

The document entitled “To the Marxist-Leninists, the Workers and the Oppressed of All Countries,” issued by 13 communist organisations from the five continents, is one of the world proletariat’s most important advances on the road of international revolutionary organisation which was begun by Marx and Engels, continued by Lenin and Mao, and on which we must now persevere.

At a time of ferocious worldwide reactionary offensive, while arrogant reformist and revisionist bureaucracies and opportunists of all kinds spew foul-mouthed assaults on the Marxist doctrine and the revolutionary movement, as weak and two-faced elements abandon our ranks and go over to the enemy; in sum, at a difficult time, it is a great encouragement to us to see that real communists throughout the world are persisting bravely in the fight against imperialism and world reaction, in the hard fight to smash the bourgeoisie’s agents and lead the revolutionary struggle.

We are particularly happy to know that the battle we have carried out for years against the three-worldists and Chinese revisionism is not an isolated struggle, although there have been times when it seemed that way. We’re happy to learn of the existence of other organisations which have not capitulated, organisations with which one can and must join forces in the common task.

Correct Orientation

The document outlines in a general and schematic way the basic positions that in the present situation serve as the basis to advance towards the unity of the communists of all countries. It is correct to take as the starting point the present crisis of the international communist movement, because only in this way can a correct way out of this crisis be charted.

It is correct to emphasise, although only in broad strokes for now, the three great historic tasks: the dictatorship of the proletariat, the violent seizure of power and the construction of the communist party. It is quite accurate to indicate the important role played by Mao in developing the theory and practise of the proletarian dictatorship, of revolution in the underdeveloped countries, of people’s war and military strategy, of Marxist philosophy and of other aspects.

Nevertheless, the document has a shortcoming regarding the current counterrevolution in China, in that it indicates that it began

in 1976. This shouldn’t be considered an obstacle to unity, but it is important to understand that revisionism took power in China in 1970 (it is after this point that the rehabilitation of revisionist elements takes place and three-worldism is spread on a world level) and it became consolidated in 1973 with the 10th Congress manipulated by Chou En-lai.

We consider it a step forward against dogmatism to grasp that there are countries in the colonial world which, because of the workings of imperialism and other factors, have ceased to be semi-feudal (p. 7, English edition) even though their peoples still form part of the great torrent of national democratic revolutions.

On the other hand we believe that semi-colonialism shouldn’t be confused or identified with neo-colonialism (p. 6), since among the neo-colonial countries there are both semi-colonies (partial domination) as well as colonies (complete domination). These two latter categories refer to the *degree* of domination, which shouldn’t be confused with the *form* of domination: old-style colonialism (direct domination) and neo-colonialism (indirect domination).

It is correct to once again give the proper significance to the great thesis put forward by Lenin and Mao that the two great currents which make up the world proletarian revolution are socialist revolution and new-democratic revolution. This point marks a demarcation with the three-worldists who have “forgotten” the task of revolution, replacing it with support for puppet governments in the colonies and the imperialist governments of Europe and the U.S. Nevertheless, we think this analysis of the class struggle on a world level should take into account that the colonial world (Asia, Africa and Latin America) and in particular, at this moment, Central America, is the focal point where the contradictions in today’s world converge and where the imperialists are weakest, and where the most important revolutionary battles are developing at the present. This understanding will allow moving forward in the formulation of a unified tactical line for the international proletariat.

The Tasks of the ICM

Since the unity of the communists of the whole world is one of the most important tasks, it is vital that all the signatory organisations firmly endorse the characterisation of Mao Tsetung Thought as “a new stage in the development of Marxism-Leninism” (p. 10), because it is only on the solid basis of the doctrine of Marx, Lenin and Mao that the communist parties can be reconstructed. We must push this decision as well as the clear demarcation with the main forms of

*The national leadership of the Party was liquidated and some of us from the lower ranks are now engaged in its reconstruction.

revisionism: Russian, Chinese, Albanian and Trotskyite, together with the unequivocal categorisation of social democracy as an imperialist trend.

Furthermore, we think that in putting forward the great task of world communist unity it is fine to point out the necessity to sum up the experiences of the ICM and of the dictatorship of the proletariat, so as to be able to draw the lessons from history. We also agree with the succinct list of themes which should be struggled over in this summation (pp. 13-14), but there is an important omission: struggle over the experience of the communist parties and organisations after the great international polemics of 1961-64. During this period, many organisations throughout the world broke with revisionism and took up the historic task of leading the revolution, without, in general, much success. Certainly international conditions and the betrayal of Chinese and Albanian revisionism explain part of this, but the crisis should be analysed mainly on the basis of the class struggle in each country and of the hits and misses, the setbacks and successes, of the line followed by those parties in their work. Without this, the summation would be incomplete and there would be the risk

of not actually arriving at a solution for the present crisis of the ICM.

We are fully convinced that all this work of demarcation, unification, polemics, investigation and theoretical development must be carried out to arrive at a very concrete goal, in addition to the general objectives indicated in the document: the formulation of the proletariat's international programme and tactical line which would serve as the basis for the reconstruction of the glorious Third International with its respective national sections, as the unified party of world revolution.

Finally, we express our firm determination to actively participate in the struggle to provide the international proletariat with its political vanguard. The road to this goal certainly will not be easy neither in the short nor the long run. An arduous and complex struggle awaits us, which will certainly include disagreements, splits, reunifications, etc. But with the experience obtained, with the forces which the working class will offer us to the degree that we are able to be its vanguard, with the all-powerful guide of the doctrine of Marx, Lenin and Mao, we will certainly achieve victory in this great historic task.

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