

New Turn in the Communist Movement

Nov. 13 (NSIPS) — On Nov. 7 the exiled leader of the pro-Soviet Spanish Communist Workers Party (PCOE), General Enrique Lister, announced from Brussels that a left-wing opposition splitoff from the nominal communist party of Spain (the Spanish Communist Party, PCE) would be joining the ranks of Lister's organization. This announcement, which was hailed as "historic" by the General, signals a decisive shift not only within internal Spanish communism but reflects developments within policy-making circles of the Soviet Communist Party.

Jesus Aguilar, the leader of the PCE opposition group, expanded on the General's remarks with a statement of assurance that all the honest communists thus far trapped inside the PCE would soon be following his own grouping in entering the ranks of Lister's PCOE. To ensure this, General Lister has announced the imminent publication of his memoirs detailing the "bloody crimes" of the psychopathic murderer who heads the PCE, Santiago Carrillo.

Until now the General had withheld publication of this damning evidence for reasons of political considerations linked to the Soviets' continued nominal recognition of the PCE as the "official" Spanish Communist party. Those barriers now plainly removed, General Lister has been freed to instigate political organizing that will soon leave Carrillo surrounded by no membership save the thugs in his employ.

The case of the PCOE is the most dramatic and qualitative indication of a crystallizing shift in Soviet policy towards the Western communist parties, a shift whose effects are already discernible throughout the range of West European communist parties.

In Italy, the largest Western communist party — the PCI — is witnessing an obvious activation of its "Stalinist" or pro-Soviet wing under the leadership of PCI president Luigi Longo. In collaboration with the anti-Atlanticist "Bonapartist" wing of the party, the "Stalinists" are now threatening to split the PCI outright unless unity is maintained in ensuring that the PCI-supported Andreotti government does not cave in to International Monetary Fund demands for levels of super-austerity against the working class.

Similarly in Sweden, the pro-Soviet "northern faction" of the Swedish communist party has begun to publicly expose in its press the real backing of the Carter campaign and its commitment to provoking thermonuclear warfare confrontation with the Soviet Union.

In France, Soviet efforts have set off a major faction fight inside the French Communist Party (PCF), once again centering on defense policy and the war question.

This set of parallel developments, and in particular, the case of General Lister's PCOE, indicate that Moscow has begun to orient towards a new kind of sophisticated utilization of the Western communist parties as a major political weapon in a way not previously witnessed in the communist movement.

Such Soviet tactics at this point would involve stepping up this approach, not only mobilizing the pro-Soviet CP factions to conduct internal faction fights around the key strategic issues of war and economic policy, but going further to confront the communist movement with a fait accompli through a public Soviet disavowal of those Atlanticist policies hegemonic among some sections of the communist parties' leaderships.

Indications point to this at the Nov. 11-14 conference of the hardline pro-Soviet Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) of Alvaro Cunhal. The preliminary thesis document of the congress contained generic attacks against those CPs which

betrayed revolutionary struggle in betraying the struggle of the PCP. With 61 top-level foreign delegations in attendance, Cunhal subsequently concretized the thrust of the document during his keynote conference speech. In his capacity as a staunch Soviet factional ally, Cunhal minced no words in condemning so-called "Euro-communism" as "anti-Soviet" and a "social-democratic doctrine" to which "we will not bow." Cunhal's labeling of Euro-communism as anti-Soviet (Atlanticist) doctrine is an open recognizable castigation of the Atlanticist wings of all the Western communist parties.

The PCP also announced the launching of an offensive to replace the current pro-austerity government led by NATO and Socialist Party leader Mario Soares with a "government of the left."

Noting the manner in which Soares' anti-labor policies resulted in the "drawing together of Communist and Socialist workers" in the factories, Cunhal predicted mass Socialist worker defections to the PCP's united front slate in the December local elections, a development which would bring about the fall of the Soares government.

The congress further marked the emergence of internationalist factions in other West European Communist parties as evidenced in the uncharacteristic speeches given by the Italian and Spanish Communist representatives.

Cunhal: **We'll Defend Conquests of Revolution**

The following are excerpts of the speech by Alvaro Cunhal, General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) at the PCP Congress as printed by Diario Popular (Lisbon daily) Nov. 12:

...Much has been discussed about the rhythm of the Portuguese Revolution. Some critics have said that the revolutionary transformations in the economic structures increased the dangers against the young Portuguese democracy. The truth is the inverse. Already in the time of fascism, our party indicated that the liquidation of the fascist dictatorship would have to mean not only the liquidation of the fascist form of political power, but the liquidation of the political and economic power of the monopolists and latifundists.

The Portuguese Revolution constitutes new proof of how erroneous is the opinion according to which peaceful coexistence in Europe signified the maintenance of the political and social status quo. Even in the time of fascism, we combated such conceptions and corresponding slanders. The Portuguese Revolution did not delay in giving us, in our own country, the proof that we were right.

We, Portuguese Communists, believe that the Portuguese Revolution was and is a valiant contribution to the struggle of the workers and the peoples of the whole world. But we also have a clear notion of how much the Portuguese Revolution owes not only to the active solidarity of the brother parties and progressive forces of other countries, but also to the realizations and victories of the Soviet Union...

...(In terms of the Portuguese situation — ed.) the guarantee of liberties is one of the preoccupations most felt by the masses at the present moment. It is not surprising that the C.D.S. (Portuguese rightwing party — ed.) talks of "pluralism" while

thinking of dictatorship.

...More surprising for many is the "pluralist" practice of the government of the Socialist Party, a party that used to carry out regular campaigns against what it called governments of minorities, but which installed itself in power with a minority government, leading one to believe that "pluralism" is its own political monopoly. Proceeding to purges of the left...the government is giving constant demonstrations of sectarianism and narrowness, which are not harmonious with the much proclaimed "pluralism."

...The Socialist Party government is not able to resolve the political, economic and social problems confronting Portugal. And it is not able to do so because it does not bear in mind the interests of the working class and because the policy that it adopted is a policy of capitalist recuperation, which is not adapting nor can adapt to the real economic, social, and political situation created by the Revolution.

...The real alternative at the present moment is between democracy (and democracy means having the conquests of the revolution as definitive and completely irreversible and heading toward socialism) or capitalist recuperation, which would signify in the short term the liquidation of the democratic regime and the installation of a new dictatorship.

...The workers are prepared to undertake great sacrifices so that the conquests of the Revolution are defended, so that the Portuguese democracy can proceed on the road to socialism. But not so that the results of their work and their sacrifices will fall again into the wallet of their exploiters and feed their parasitic life.

...It is possible to defend the conquests of the Revolution and continue the construction of democracy as long as action is carried out on two complementary planes: on the level of the masses and on the level of the organs of power.

...Portuguese democracy is not interested in the foreseen fall of the Socialist Party government giving way to a government openly of the right, with or without the Socialist Party. The PCP is preparing the conditions for the formation of a majority of the left and of a government of the left with Communist participation. Constituted around a common program, it should include members of the SP, of the PCP, military men, independents and members of any other parties who will join in the task of assuring the carrying out of the democratic process.

...We happily witness that, on the level of the factories and localities, contacts and cases of cooperation between Socialists and Communists are more and more frequent. The real dangers that exist for democracy (dangers that come from the right and only from the right) will more and more bring all the anti-fascists, including socialists, to the conclusion that with the present policy of the government, the SP will also run into disaster.

...The recent SP congress showed that the SP is struggling with internal difficulties, that there is a left and there is a right, that there are representatives of the workers and that there are representatives of the bourgeoisie, and that thus, even within the SP, "controlling" the class struggle is not easy.

...Our Party is not a Party faced toward the past, it is a Party faced toward the future. While remaining vigilant in regard to any counterrevolutionary attempts, the Party is orienting its activity with the view of intervening with even more efficiency, with more energies, with more creative force, with greater mobilization capacity, with tighter linkage to the masses, in defense of the conquests of the Revolution and in the proceeding of the construction of democracy.

Cunhal's Speech According To The U.S. And British Press

New York Times, Nov. 12: "Lisbon Reds Demand Cabinet Role":

...Mr. Cunhal stressed that the Portuguese Communist Party was opposed to "social democratic reformism."

In clear divergence from the independent European Communist line, he said that his party would uphold "the principle of Marxism-Leninism and the internationalism of the proletariat" — a bow to the Soviet party as the dominant one.

Daily Telegraph, Nov. 12: "Soares Is Accused Of 'Encouraging Capitalism'":

...The Communist secretary-general made clear the party would have nothing to do with the "Euro-Communism" of some Western European parties which followed a policy of independence from the Soviet Union and tactical cooperation with "bourgeois" parties.

"We shall not bow to pressures for an anti-Soviet line," he said.

...On the economy, Dr. Cunhal said workers should not suffer austerity at the expense of the revolution. If "Capitalist Recuperation" continued they had a right to resort to strikes and demonstrations.

Financial Times, Nov. 12: "Cunhal Expects Larger Vote":

...If the Communists are not let back into the government, Dr. Cunhal made it clear that they will "continue to organize the workers." He stressed "positive experiments" in workers control and collectivization, but reiterated the party's belief that "strikes, demonstrations and factory shutdowns are also legitimate weapons, if the policies of capitalist recuperation continue."

Salinas:

Solidarity With The PCP

The following are excerpts from the speech by Spanish Communist Party (PCE) Central Committee members Lopez Salinas at the Portuguese Communist Party congress as reported in O Diario, Nov. 15:

The cry "Spain will win" and an enormous ovation received Armando Lopez Salinas, the head of the delegation from the Spanish Communist Party at the VIII Congress of the PCP in his speech at the 5th session, which took place on Saturday morning and which was presided over by Jaime Serra of the Political Commission of the Central Committee of the PCP.

Salinas began by greeting the "heroic PCP" calling it the "vanguard of the working class and of the progressive forces" of Portugal. The PCE representative, after citing the struggle of the Portuguese Communists during clandestinity and their solidarity toward the Spanish Communists at the time of the Spanish Civil War, spoke of the situation in his country, expounding the view of the Spanish Communists in that regard.

...Amid new manifestations of solidarity, Salinas concluded his speech by wishing success for the PCP "in the construction of a new democratic Portugal on the road to Socialism and Communism" and with hurrahs (literally "Long live's") for the friendship of the PCP and PCE and for proletarian internationalism.

Pajetta:

No To 'Eurocommunism'

The following are excerpts from the speech by Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the political bureau of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), at the PCP congress as reported in Diario de Noticias, Nov. 13:

...A different atmosphere (a less warmer reception — *Diario de Noticias*), however, surrounded the intervention of the representative of the Italian Communist Party, Giancarlo Pajetta.

That member of the political "bureau" of the CC of the PCI affirmed:

"The journalistic term 'Eurocommunism' was neither created nor used by us to define a policy that nevertheless bears in mind political and social analogies and historical traditions of many European countries and problems that demand common

reflection and elaboration. We, however, don't accept and don't propose models that can in any way come from the exterior, conscious as we are that more than in other places, it is precisely Western Europe that has to do with countries that have national structures, historical events, (and) well specified preceding institutions in each of the countries.

... "The crisis of the groups of the extreme left, the divisions manifested in the extreme right, show that a unitarian and democratic solution is possible. In the face of a profound crisis, that demonstrates how valid our analysis is; we Communists consider ourselves to be indispensable, but we don't intend to be alone.

"Because of this, on today posing the problem of a political clarification and of the maturation of a process that must see us assume new responsibilities in our country, we are looking with extreme interest and attention at the Portuguese experience and your perspective of a democratic and unitarian movement to safeguard the development of the conquests of the Portuguese revolution, for which we express the sincere solidarity and support of the Italian Communists."

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