

CPUSA Resolution

(The following is the text of a special resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 21st Convention of the Communist Party, U.S.A. held in Chicago June 26-29.)

Since our 20th Convention, considerable clarity has emerged on the problem of continuing tension in the Middle East. The war in October, 1973, brought into sharp focus the shifting balance of forces in the area, the strength and growth of the anti-imperialist forces and the aims of the alliance between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist leadership in Israel.

The results of the October War and political developments in the area have clearly brought about a shift in U.S. imperialist strategy. Control over, and unhindered exploitation of the area's oil resources continues to be the central focus of imperialist intrigue. The major shift in the area has been away from total dependence on the Israeli government as the bulwark against the Arab movements for liberation and national independence.

Increased reliance has been placed on the many-faceted forces of counterrevolution and reaction in the area in addition to continued support for Israeli expansionism. This has meant increasing activities designed to disrupt and prevent unity of the Arab peoples and nations; the bolstering of reactionary anti-democratic and pro-imperialist forces; and increased efforts to create divisions and conflict between the Arab peoples and their allies in the socialist world, particularly the Soviet Union.

The main tasks of the progressive and peace-loving forces in the world today are to support and render solidarity with the progressive movements in the entire Middle East. This means the mobilization of support for anti-imperialist and peace forces in the Arab countries, the nations of the Arab Gulf and Israel.

The pivotal question which prevents the removal of international tensions in the Middle East has been and remains the refusal of Zionism backed by U.S. imperialism to settle the just rights, including the national rights, of the Palestinian people.

Through the valiant and tenacious struggle of the Palestinian people themselves, and the solidarity and assistance--both material and political--from the progressive Arab regimes and the Socialist camp led by the Soviet Union, the world community has resolved that no solution to the problems of the area is possible without the satisfaction of the just national rights of the Palestinian people. This was signaled by the overwhelming vote of the

United Nations to place the Palestinian question on the agenda of the world body and give observer status to the sole true legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

In all of our work, the Communist party of the United States gives full support to the heroic Communist Party of Israel and the progressive and peace-loving forces in that country in their struggle for a democratic, non-racialist society, based on equality, and dedicated to peace among all nations in the area.

Similarly our full support for the courageous and brilliant work of the Communist parties in the Arab countries should be registered and put into practice.

This convention sends its expression and pledge of militant solidarity to the progressive forces in Israel, the Israeli Communist Party, and progressive detachments of the Palestinian Liberation Movement and all movements in the area for peace, liberation and national independence.

The central task before the progressive movement in the U.S. today is to counter and neutralize Zionist propaganda and influence on government policy. Mass public sentiment must be mobilized in support of the progressive forces in the Middle East--Arab and Jewish--for peace and justice for all peoples in the area.

There is an urgent need of the progressive forces to build a mass organizational framework through which such mass sentiment can be built and mobilized. Our Party must in concert with others, play a leading role in this effort.

The demands around which a mass movement for a just peace in the Middle East must be built are:

An end to Israeli occupation of Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

Realization of the right of the Palestinian people to establish national authority over lands relinquished by the Israeli aggressors.

The immediate release of the 18,000 Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli jails.

An end to all U.S. military support to Israel.

The right of the Palestinian people to return to their homelands with full democratic rights.

The reconvening of the Geneva Conference on the Middle East with full equal participation by all nations involved, including Palestine through the PLO.

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