

In the Forefront of Struggle

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In January of this year the Lebanese Communist Party convened its Third Congress in Beirut. Held in an atmosphere of unity and great enthusiasm, the congress was the centre of public attention. A broad cross-section of the Lebanese people supported and approved the congress decisions.

This congress was of particular significance since it was the first open meeting to be held after two decades of underground and semi-legal struggle by the Party. It was attended by representatives of various political parties, workers' and other organisations.

The situation in the country was the main issue discussed during the preparatory work and figured prominently in the congress agenda and in its resolutions. Major events have taken place in the country since the Second Party Congress (1968). The economic, social and political crisis of the regime has become more acute. The workers and other sections of the population have stepped up their struggle and there have been large-scale manifestations of opposition to the reactionary imperialist and zionist intrigues against the democratic forces in the country and the Palestinian resistance movement.

Our Party has been making a determined effort to expose and isolate leftist groups. It has resolutely opposed Trotskyite and Maoist attempts to provoke and justify a clash between the Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese authorities. The Party considers that under the present circumstances such attempts aid and abet the plans of reactionary and imperialist quarters.

The Party has come out with a programme which accords with the vital interests of industrial and agricultural workers, poor peasants and urban and rural middle classes. The programme calls for the following: as a first step to end the domination of foreign, particularly US, capital in the country; to ensure the balanced development of the national economy which should be based both on industry and agriculture; to ensure the development of the state-owned sector and its participation in the country's industrialisation; to limit the scope of activities of the financial oligarchy; to nationalise loan banks and companies as part of a general plan for economic development; to introduce an agrarian reform in order to protect agriculture and its toilers from plunder by rich landlords and banks; and to eliminate the vestiges of feudalism and large landownership.

The establishment of a national democratic regime based on an alliance of the majority of the Lebanese people would permit radical constitutional changes and the democratisation of political life, state power and administration.

The main documents of the congress stress the need for developing cooperation with the national progressive forces in the Lebanon and establishing an alliance of these forces on the basis of a joint programme that would accord with the interests of the people and enable the Lebanon to pursue progressive policies. A specific resolution authorises the Central Committee to draft such a programme and submit it for discussion by Lebanese progressive parties and movements. The congress resolutions emphasise the urgent need for united action by all segments of the Arab national liberation movement.

The congress was important for all Arab peoples for it presented the first opportunity for various detachments of the Arab national liberation movement to come together. The congress was attended by delegations of the Arab Socialist Union of Egypt, the ruling Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria, the ruling Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Iraq, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, progressive organisations of the Persian Gulf states, the Communist Parties of Syria, Iraq, Sudan, and Jordan, the Party of Liberation and Socialism of Morocco, the Algerian Socialist Vanguard Party and a number of others.

The congress has reaffirmed our Party's view concerning the harmful and dangerous consequences of continued controversy among the Arab progressive forces, and called for united effort in the struggle against the common enemy.

The fact that various progressive forces in Arab countries were represented at the congress proves that the call for cooperation is very timely indeed. It is significant that it was during the congress of an Arab Communist Party that they first came together, which goes to show how isolated the anti-communists of all hues really are. An important outcome of the meeting was the truly historic statement signed by 24 Arab parties and organisations and calling for an all-Arab conference of progressive forces.

The speeches made at the congress and the resolutions passed reaffirmed the Party's view that the establishment of progressive regimes is an important achievement of the Arab national liberation movement. In this connection the Party condemned the reformist position which denies the working class a historic role in guiding the process of transition to socialism.

Our congress noted with satisfaction that there was greater cooperation, coordinated effort and unity of action among the communist parties, particularly those of Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the Lebanon. This enhances the prestige and influence of communist parties within the Arab national liberation movement, isolates the right-wing trends and helps unite all patriotic forces.

Our Party is for cementing and developing the alliance of the communist parties in the Arab countries with other progressive forces. We consider this to be highly important for the development of the Arab national liberation movement, for introducing profound

social and economic transformations in the Arab countries, and their subsequent transition to socialism.

The speeches made at the congress and its main policy decisions have reaffirmed our Party's principled position with regard to the Palestinian resistance movement as part of the Arab national liberation movement and the general struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The congress asserted the right of the Palestinian people to determine freely their own destiny.

Our Party's Third Congress has demonstrated the friendly feelings that the Lebanese communists and all Arabs have for the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; it has demonstrated the friendly ties between the Arab national liberation movement and the Soviet Union and its glorious Party. All speakers stressed the outstanding role played by the USSR in the world liberation struggle. They noted the vanguard role played in this struggle by the CPSU which, together with other communist parties, was represented at the congress. The congress also noted that any manifestation of anti-communism and anti-Soviet feelings runs counter to the interests of the Arab national liberation movement and plays into the hands of imperialism and Zionism.

At the same time the policy of the Peking leaders with regard to the Arab world was again completely discredited and their subversive splitting role in the world anti-imperialist movement exposed.

The report of the Central Committee emphasised that in its international activity our Party is guided by the decisions of the International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties held in Moscow in 1969. Our Party considers that the unity of the communist movement constitutes a firm basis for the unity of the world revolutionary movement.

Our Party subscribes to the Moscow meeting's definition of the role played by the world socialist system and the Soviet Union, its main force. We realise how important it is to preserve the unity of the world communist, working class, and revolutionary movements in the struggle of all nations against imperialism, aggression and war. This explains why our Party has resolutely condemned the political, ideological and practical activity of the Chinese leadership for weakening the socialist community of nations, inciting hostility towards the USSR and splitting the national liberation movement. Our Party considers that the dangerous nature of this activity has become even more evident now that China has made a deal with US imperialism, now that it is using its position at the United Nations to launch an offensive against the Soviet Union and the international communist movement, and openly sides with the United States on every major issue discussed at the United Nations.

The documents adopted by the congress express the view of the Lebanese Communist Party that the Chinese leaders have come out against the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and have, in fact, departed from class positions.

The Third Congress of the Lebanese Communist Party has reaffirmed out Party's internationalist policy based on Marxist-Leninist principles of proletarian internationalism, a policy of maintaining unbreakable ties between our Party and the world communist movement, a policy of friendship with the Party of the great Lenin.

The congress has mapped out great tasks for the Party: to expand its ranks and make it a mass party, to seek to establish a national democratic government which would create conditions for the transition to socialism; to struggle for the unity of the Arab national liberation movement; to fight against imperialism and aggression; to cement the Party's alliance with the world revolutionary movement led by the Soviet Union, and to work for social progress and socialism.

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