

PLENUM OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LEBANESE CP*

The Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party met in plenum at the end of February to discuss the political situation in the world, the situation in the Arab world and in Lebanon. On the basis of the report of the Politbureau delivered by Nadim Abdel Al-Samad, the Central Committee outlined the tasks facing the Party in view of the existing situation.

The CC LCP gave a positive assessment of the successes achieved by the forces of peace, liberation and socialism in opposing imperialism on the world scene. Concretely, this is seen in the retreat of the forces of aggression and war in many areas, particularly in Vietnam, in a growing trend towards international détente, in progress in resolving the problems of European security, in the consolidation of the GDR's international positions after the signing of the treaty between the two German states. The camp of imperialism is continually shaken by recurrent crises and imperialist contradictions are becoming more acute, as evidenced by the currency crisis in the capitalist world and the declining value of the dollar. Meanwhile the working class and Left forces are consolidating their positions in Chile, France and several other countries.

This general trend is especially highlighted by the signing of the agreement on restoring peace in Vietnam, a tremendous, historical victory by the heroic people of Vietnam, the forces of

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peace, liberation and socialism and their vanguard — the Soviet Union, and all peoples of the world. The CC LCP passed a special resolution concerning this event of historic significance.

The CC expressed the deep conviction of Lebanese Communists and all progressive forces in Lebanon about the need for worldwide unity of the forces of peace, liberation, progress and socialism as the basic guarantee for continuation of the struggle to defeat imperialist aggression and strengthen the achievements of the forces of peace and progress.

Proceeding from this conviction, the CC considers it necessary to expose and censure the stand of the Chinese leadership, which has started to play a negative role in the peoples' anti-imperialist liberation struggle. The Chinese leadership is stepping up its policy of hostility to the world Communist movement. Anti-Sovietism has become the backbone of the foreign and home policy of the Chinese leadership. Instead of putting its relations with the United States on a correct basis, the Peking leadership is strengthening them in every way, striving to give them an anti-Soviet direction. China is following a chauvinistic, great-power policy contrary to the interests of the national-liberation movement, the unity of the socialist camp and the anti-imperialist forces.

SITUATION IN THE ARAB WORLD

The CC LCP considers that the Arab world is going through an extremely dangerous period — the concrete and grave question on the order of the day is that of doing away with the Palestinian problem in the interests of imperialism and reaction and of liquidating the gains of the national-liberation movement of the Arab peoples.

While the conspiracy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction is growing, the Rightist trends become more pronounced within the Arab national-liberation movement. Their aim is to strike a deal with the imperialists and they are rapidly advancing towards capitulation, striving to leave the solution of the Middle East crisis to the United States. This encourages reactionary elements in Saudi Arabia and Jordan and means further concessions every day. Most of the Arab leaders who follow such a line have not only done nothing to create the opportunities and conditions required by the liberation struggle, but are indeed doing everything to undermine the people's determination to resist. They are thereby acting as avowed enemies of the movement of the masses and those forces which refuse to accept a defeatist policy. They help strengthen the positions of reactionary propaganda which reflects medieval ignorance and attempts to impose this outlook on the Arab peoples using the national character of the liberation battle or religion as a cover.

These forces are trying to force the Arab countries to follow a reactionary course dictated by imperialism. They would like to disrupt Arab-Soviet friendship and separate the Arab peoples from their main ally and support. The stand taken by the Ar-Riad and Amman rulers is well known, and so is the evasive policy of the Libyan leadership. The current involvement of Egypt in following this political course is extremely dangerous to the interests of the entire Arab national-liberation movement, in view of that country's special role in resolving the Arab problems in general and particularly the problem of Palestine and Zionist occupation of Arab territories. It is obvious that by the logic of the official Arab circles in the existing conditions and with the present balance of forces the only possible solution is surrender.

This solution means not only liquidation of the Palestine problem and the just struggle of the people of Palestine, but is also designed to afford the imperialists broad opportunities to subjugate the Arab peoples, destroy their liberation movement and bring back our peoples and their national resources under imperialist and Zionist domination. That solution ensures the success of a counter-offensive of the dark forces of reaction in all the Arab countries and subjugation of Arab countries to regimes of outright imperialist puppets.

Such a policy is clearly seen in the intensification of plots against the forces that reject the policy of capitulation and continue to oppose it. This is also seen in the growing conspiracy meant to liquidate the Palestine resistance movement and in the attempts to intimidate Syria by means of numerous Israeli attacks, in the plots of internal reaction against progressive Arab regimes and the popular movements in several Arab countries, including Lebanon.

The CC LCP regards it as the primary task of all Communists and progressive forces in the Arab countries to exert maximum effort in order to prevent a further deterioration of the situation and to block the hasty movement towards "accepting peace on American conditions." Practically it is possible to prevent the loss of all that has been gained by the Arab national-liberation movement, to expose the danger of such a course, organize a broad mass movement in opposition to it so as not to allow its supporters to attain their goals.

The broad masses of people in the Arab countries reject this course and by their actions express their determination to struggle against its implementation. Progressive and anti-imperialist forces, working to develop the Arab national-liberation movement, must close their ranks and act more effectively against Zionist and reactionary intrigues. Not giving in to despair, relying on the revolutionary energy of the Arab peoples and working people with the

working class in the van, we must fight on to radically change the situation.

The Arab peoples are on the right road to liberation and fulfillment of their national aspirations — on the road of struggle against imperialist monopolies operating in the Arab world, on the road of mobilizing the economic, social and political energy of the masses in the battle for the just cause of the Arabs and for democratic freedoms. This is the road of decisive action against Arab reaction plotting against our peoples' interests and a just solution of the problems that are of historical significance for the fate of our peoples. This is the road of consolidation with the forces of progress and freedom the world over, led by the Soviet Union. This is the road of struggle against imperialism and its creation — Israel.

THE SITUATION IN LEBANON

The CC LCP discussed the problems connected with the struggle of the broad masses in recent months. This struggle involves the majority of workers, employees, peasants, teachers, students and youth — the main social forces of the country. The Central Committee paid particular attention to the unprecedented display of solidarity in Lebanon with the workers of Al-Gundur, farm laborers at the tobacco plantations in the south of the country and the teachers of state educational institutions.

The CC gave a positive assessment of these actions as a part of the nationwide movement in defense of democracy, in protest against the rising cost of living, worsening labor conditions, in protest against the brutal methods used by the authorities in crushing mass demonstrations, as an expression of discontent with the scandalous exposures of embezzlement and misappropriations by the ruling regime, with the faint-hearted policy in the face of Zionist aggression, which is continually expanding on the territory of Lebanon.

In the opinion of the Central Committee the fact that the people did not win all the demands during their actions does not reduce their significance and great influence on the political life of the country at the present stage and on the prospect of the struggle of the progressive forces against the power of the financial oligarchy. The most recent actions by the people have caused still greater isolation of the regime. The government has failed in its campaign to isolate the Left forces. The conflicts between the religious communes have been mitigated. Contradictions are sharpening among supporters of the regime. The forces censoring the authorities for brutal reprisals, suppression of freedoms and curtailment of democracy are gaining in strength. The mass movement is growing. Militancy is mounting among the masses who paid a

heavy price in the lives and blood shed by many martyrs in the struggle against official repression. The most reactionary circles are now more isolated from the people than ever before. At the same time there is greater support by the masses for progressive parties and forces, and their unity, born in struggle, has become stronger.

In view of the fact that the authorities make broad use of reprisals, the CC holds that the threat to democracy in the country is becoming more obvious and grave. However, now more than ever, there are objective and subjective conditions at hand to thwart the anti-democratic plans of the regime, to protect freedom and continue the struggle for the people's fundamental interests. The authorities resort to reprisals on an increasing scale under the influence of the internal situation and the broadening ties of the Lebanese rulers with Saudi Arabia and Arab reaction in general. However, the attempts to involve the country in a bloody internecine strife and do away with Lebanese progressive forces and liquidate the Palestine resistance movement, have failed — reaction has lost one more battle. Meanwhile, the popular and progressive forces have gained ground, opening prospects for fresh successes in the difficult struggle against the anti-democratic rule, which is hostile to the people's economic and social interests and national aspirations. The struggle will continue on a growing scale until its basic aims are achieved.

The CC carefully studied the shortcomings and negative aspects, both objective and subjective, which were revealed during the recent actions, to avoid repeating them in the future. The CC defined the following basic tasks at the present stage of the internal political struggle:

1. To support the struggle of the teachers of state educational institutions, organize joint actions with them in order to reinstate teachers who have been discharged.
2. To increase support for farm laborers on tobacco plantations; help them organize a single democratic trade union capable of effectively aiding them in their struggle, upholding the just demands of the farm workers, including the demand for compensation for families of workers killed or wounded during the brutal suppression by the authorities of the popular actions, to stop persecution and arrests and to put on trial those responsible for the firing at demonstrations.
3. To support the farm workers' movement and the demands advanced at the recent congress of this movement, which launched the organization of a truly democratic organization of the rural working class.
4. To accelerate preparations for a conference of the LCP on

the agrarian question and the drafting of the Party's agrarian program. To step up the work to carry out this program.

5. To activate the struggle of the working class and trade unions for the vital demands advanced by the working class, and above all the demand for amendments to article 50 of the Labor Code in order to end arbitrary lay-offs.

6. To rally the masses in the struggle against the decline of living standards, support and broaden the struggle of all social strata suffering from price rises on food, consumer goods, service facilities, medical service and treatment and tuition fees; speed up convening of a national congress to deal with the problem of the rising cost of living and develop the people's struggle against the monopolies and for better living conditions.

7. To support demands made by the student movement which has achieved significant success; strengthen student unity on a nationwide scale.

8. Effectively to promote cooperation and unity of action by various national progressive forces on the basis of the program for joint action, which includes the basic social, political, democratic and national demands of the masses.

9. To develop the campaign in defense of democratic freedoms by fighting against state reprisals to suppress democratic freedoms, against infringements on freedom of the press and trade unions; speed up preparations for the congress in defense of freedom with the participation of all who cherish democracy, who struggle in defense of democracy, for its development and consolidation.

THE VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM IS A VICTORY FOR THE FORCES OF LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM THE WORLD OVER

The resolution of the CC LCP says in part:

The victory of the people of Vietnam was welcomed by all peoples of the world. It gives special gratification to the Arab peoples who are fighting against the same enemy, American imperialism, who are also victims of dirty aggression by Israel carried out with the support of imperialism, first of all U.S. imperialism. The Arab peoples, who are going through a difficult period in their history, constantly draw inspiration from the struggle of the people of Vietnam and use their rich experience of victorious struggle.

Hailing the outstanding victory of the Vietnamese people, the CC LCP stresses the importance of this event for the Arab national-liberation movement. The people of Vietnam have won thanks to their unflagging staunchness in the face of imperialism, thanks to the mobilization of the masses carried out on the principles of revolutionary science, thanks to the support of the main vanguard force — the working class, thanks to the leadership of the

Marxist-Leninist party of the working class, thanks to the close unity with the world forces of progress, particularly the socialist countries and their vanguard, the Soviet Union, thanks to its support and the fact that the accorded help was used most rationally.

The brilliant victory scored by the people of Vietnam was a vivid demonstration of the fact that peace was no "gift" from the United States, as imperialist and reactionary forces try to make out. The achievement of peace in any part of the world where the peoples are subjected to imperialist aggression means only that aggressive American imperialism was forced to retreat. The Arab peoples are well aware of this truth and of its meaning, while imperialist, Zionist and reactionary propaganda is going out of its way to prove that the Arab question can be solved only with the participation of the United States and by yielding to the United States. Our peoples gain strength from the outstanding victory of the Vietnamese people and are determined to intensify their struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

On the occasion of this signal victory the LCP Central Committee wishes the very best to the heroic people of Vietnam in the South and in the North of the country, to the Working People's Party of Vietnam and its Central Committee, to the South Vietnam Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, to the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, to all the forces of progress and liberation the world over who supported and continue to support the people of Vietnam. At the same time the Central Committee appeals to the people of Lebanon and all the Arab countries to broaden their solidarity with the Vietnamese people who are combating all attempts by the United States and its puppets to violate the Agreement on Restoring Peace and who are working for the complete liberation of the country and its unity.

PLENARY MEETING OF CC, SOUTH AFRICAN CP

Below are two documents adopted by the Plenum and published in *African Communist*, first quarter of 1973.

COMMUNIQUE

The Central Committee of the South African Communist Party recently concluded its plenary session which was conducted in a spirit of complete unanimity and comradeship.