

**PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS  
( PKP-1930 )  
( Philippine Communist Party )**

**PKP-1930 Contribution to the Extraordinary IMCWP Teleconference  
( December 10 and 11, 2021 )**

**Theme :**

**The international economic, political and military developments.  
The experience from the struggle of Communist and Workers' Parties and peoples.  
Solidarity with Cuba, the Palestinian people, and all the peoples struggling  
against sanctions, machinations and imperialist aggression.**

**Dear comrades,**

The Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP-1930, the Philippine Communist Party) sends warmest regards to all office bearers, members and supporters of all the parties represented in the International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties (IMCWP). In view of the deferment to next year of the 22<sup>nd</sup> IMCWP due to the present pandemic situation, we commend the Working Group of the IMCWP for calling this Extraordinary Teleconference to strengthen the exchange of information and experience among all the parties, and to discuss joint activities, even without a physical meeting. We specially thank the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) for being jointly responsible for all coordinative and technical matters which makes possible the successful holding of this Teleconference.

**Dear comrades,**

The Philippines is a prime example of a neocolonial capitalist country which is generally unable to assist the working peoples in coping with the pandemic, unemployment, destitution, hunger and the wider capitalist crisis. This is primarily due to the overwhelming control by the private capitalist sector (led by foreign and native oligarchs) over health care provision, food marketing, education, housing, transportation, infrastructure, communication, power and water utilities, and all other areas of the people's basic needs.

Added to this is rampant corruption up to the highest political levels, as the emergency nature of pandemic response is used to justify non-transparent deals with crony contractors and favored foreign suppliers of vaccines, medicines, test kits, personal protective equipment, etc. While up to USD\$72-Billion in foreign borrowings have already been lined up for pandemic response, only up to USD\$31-Billion have been spent. The more substantial balance, as well as many other approved budgets for other government projects, are apparently being withheld by the Duterte regime for later release during the electoral campaign period leading to the May 2022 general elections. This will ensure an edge for the regime's candidates through their control of funds and credit-grabbing for campaign-period projects.

The elections are to be contested by the same graft-fueled politico-economic dynasties (many now coming from Filipino-Chinese business families or "taipans"), with the top candidates expected to also receive financial support either from the USA and other imperialist countries, or from China. Electoral candidates of the Duterte regime are

expected to maintain a cosy relationship with growing Chinese hegemonism, and to continue welcoming China's export of finance capital for local capitalist development. Duterte's opponents, on the other hand, are expected to draw support from the USA, Japan and other imperialist countries, and in turn would strengthen military ties with the USA. This could extend to supporting a Philippine role in the imperialist aim of militarily "encircling" China.

Our party has consistently opposed US and other imperialist military presence in our country and in our region, and is against any imperialist move to militarily encircle and threaten China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Russian Federation, and any other country which dares to take an independent path of development free from US and other imperialist dictates. For this same reason, our party strongly condemns the US blockade of socialist Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and condemns as well the US proxy war against Syria, and the US sanctions against Nicaragua, Bolivia and Iran. Our party has always been in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for their national freedom from zionist occupation ; with all the peoples struggling against imperialist bullying and aggression ; with the struggle of the peoples of Cyprus against Turkish occupation ; as well as with the struggle of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic against Moroccan occupation.

Regarding the ASEAN region, our party supports the struggle of the people of Myanmar for an end to military rule resulting from the February 1 coup d'etat this year, and for a return to civilian rule led by the National League for Democracy which won the election shortly before that coup d'etat.

At present, the burning concerns of our party as regards peace and security in our region are the following :

1. The further militarization of the South China Sea, with a stronger NATO presence with the coming of British and German warships to join US-led fleet patrols which will ratchet up tensions with China.
2. The new additional round of the regional arms race, with the recent rise of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) military alliance posing an additional threat to peace in our region. Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines from the USA, with UK technology, is a violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to which the USA and the UK are both signatories. More weapons of this type can only lead to more confrontation and instability, while eating up great resources that should better be used in confronting the pandemic.
3. China's building of military bases on artificial islands which are within the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia ; as well as China's insistence on an air and naval "defense identification zone", requiring passing aircraft and ships to identify themselves in a very wide area which does not even belong to China. Our party is against China's claim to a "9-Dash-Line" area which encompasses almost 90% of the whole South China Sea, and which violates the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This "9-Dash-Line" area includes large portions of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and Extended Continental Shelves (ECSs) of the Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Brunei and even Indonesia. In an affront to whole world, and not only to her ASEAN neighbors, China also includes in this "9-Dash-Line" area the

high seas which legally belong to the whole of humanity --- to all nations, including land-locked ones.

Significantly, China's "9-Dash-Line" map was presented to the U.N. only in May 2009, or 27 years after the forging of the 1982 UNCLOS to which China is also a signatory. China's "9-Dash-Line" claim was already declared invalid by the Ad-Hoc UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal in The Hague in its July 12, 2016 Arbitral Award (decision). By illegally building and maintaining military bases on artificial islands within the maritime domains of neighboring countries, China has started to foist an "*era of humiliation*" on her affected neighbors.

4. China's claim that she has the "right" to reunify Taiwan (Formosa) under her, even through a bloody invasion. Considering that the Philippines is the country closest to the island of Taiwan, any war foisted upon that island will surely have serious repercussions on our country. Our party opposes all military maneuvers and war games conducted by ALL forces in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait, as any accident or miscalculation could immediately escalate into a major war in our region.

We call on China to stop all military threats against Taiwan, and end any claim to the "right" to invade Taiwan for its forcible reunification under China. We have consistently supported the call of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for the peaceful and independent reunification of the Korean peninsula, and we can only similarly support a call for the peaceful and independent reunification of Taiwan under China, through peaceful and independent negotiations.

In this situation, the strengthening of our struggle for the immediate withdrawal of all imperialist forces from our region is complemented by our struggle against China's hegemonism. Our slogan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Foreign-Forces-Free South China Sea and South East Asia is a balanced demand against both imperialism and hegemonism. We hope that other parties in the IMCWP would give due attention to the tense situation in the South China Sea stemming from aggressive actions by both US-NATO imperialism and Chinese hegemonism.

Finally, in the face of the present pandemic, we wish all office bearers, members and supporters of all the parties represented in the International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties the best of health and every success in our common endeavors for the defense of peace, and in the struggle against imperialism -- for disarmament, freedom and socialism.

Long live proletarian internationalism !  
Long live the unity of the international communist movement !

ANTONIO E. PARIS  
General Secretary, PKP-1930

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