

International Meeting of the Communist and Worker's Parties

18-20 October 2019, Izmir, Turkey

100th Anniversary of the founding of the Communist International: The fight for Peace and Socialism Continues

**Intervention of
Communist Party of India (Marxist)**

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) we greet the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) and the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) for co-hosting this 21st International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties.

This 21st International Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties commemorates the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Third (Communist) International, an event that happened close on the heels of the triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution. We are aware of the fact that in history, moments of great joy and inspiration would also bring in irreparable losses. The suppression of great revolutionary upsurges (following the October Revolution) in Germany and other European countries led to the martyrdom of many, including Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht others. The founding Congress of the Communist International began with paying glorious tributes to the valiant fighters and martyrs like Rosa Luxemburg and Liebknecht.

The topic of our meeting: *'100th Anniversary of the founding of the Communist International: The fight for Peace and Socialism Continues'* prompts us to undertake a brief overview of the situation of those times.

In an article written by VI Lenin, a month after the foundation of the CI, the history of the international working class movements' organization was summed up in the following lines: "The First International (1864-72) laid the foundation of an international organization of the workers for the preparations of their revolutionary attack on capital. The Second International (1889-1914) was an international organization of the proletarian movement whose growth proceeded in breadth at the cost of a temporary drop in the revolutionary level, a temporary strengthening of opportunism, which in the end led to the disgraceful collapse of the International.

"The Third International actually emerged in 1918, when the long years of struggle against opportunism and social chauvinism, especially during the war, led to the formation of Communist Parties in a number of countries. Officially the Third International was founded in its first Congress in March 1919, in Moscow. And the most characteristic feature of this International was its mission of fulfilling of implementing the precepts of Marxism, and of achieving the age-old ideals of socialism and the working class movement – this most characteristic feature of the Third International has manifested itself immediately in the fact that, the new third, 'International Working

Men's Association' has already begun to develop, to a certain extent, into a 'Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.'

Following this, the Soviet Union and the world working class movement underwent earthshaking experiences: the defeat of the white guard forces in the civil war; great strides in socialist construction and empowering of the till then marginalized sections; defeat of fascism in the Second World War; success of proletarian movements in Eastern Europe; the great Chinese Revolution; the Korean, Vietnamese and Cuban Revolutions, the first of its kind in Western hemisphere; liberation of colonies in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the emergence of the strong International Working class movement.

Today, when we assemble to commemorate the 100th year of the founding of the CI, the event that inspired its formation, the Great October Socialist Revolution had to encounter a severe setback, almost three decades ago. Therefore, one of the primary tasks of those who would like to take forward the tradition of the CI is to examine the reasons which caused the setback to the USSR and the East European socialist experiments, so that in the 21st century, we would be able to chart out a more scientific and error free socialist transformation.

The CPI(M) in its 14th Congress (1992), after having examined the lessons of the USSR and East Europe had concluded that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe negates neither Marxism-Leninism nor the ideal of socialism. Further, these reverses cannot erase the fact that socialism made a decisive contribution in uplifting the levels of quality of human life and civilization to hitherto unknown higher levels. Once socialism was achieved, it was erroneously thought that the future course was a straight line without any obstacles till the attainment of a classless, Communist society. Experience has also confirmed that socialism is the period of transition or, as Marx said, the first stage of Communism - the period between a class-divided exploitative capitalist order and the classless Communist order. This period of transition, therefore, by definition, implies, not the extinction of class conflicts but their intensification, with world capitalism trying to regain its lost territory. Incorrect estimations leading to an underestimation of the class enemy both without and within the socialist countries and the overestimation of socialism had created a situation where the problems confronting the socialist countries were ignored and so were the advances and consolidation of world capitalism.

The experience of the countries where capitalist restoration happened after the setback in East Europe shows beyond doubt that capitalism did not provide any solutions but only accentuated the problems.

In the present period of global crisis and recession, the fundamental contradiction between labour and capital under capitalism is acutely intensifying. The efforts by imperialism to consolidate its hegemony, while, on the one hand, seeking to draw the ruling classes of the developing countries under its tutelage, on the other, is leading to the intensification of the contradiction between imperialism and the peoples of the developing countries. Inter-imperialist contradictions also manifest themselves in different forms in different spheres in intensifying global exploitation for profit maximisation. However, the central contradiction of this period of transition remains between imperialism and socialism.

Building on these conclusions, the resolution on some ideological issues adopted in the 20th Congress (2012) stated: “The struggle for socialism in the 21st century must, therefore, be the struggle for the establishment of a system that is free from exploitation of human by human and of nation by nation. Such a system must be based on further strengthening of the democratic rights and civil liberties of the people. Such a system must establish its superiority over capitalism in achieving higher levels of productivity and productive forces based on the principle of transition from, ‘from each according to his ability, to each according to his work’ eventually leading towards a Communist society where the principle of ‘to each according to his need’ would prevail. Such superiority must be established, through the increasing participation of the popular masses, in all spheres of social existence – political, social, cultural, etc”.

In India, the CPI(M) is trying its best to move in this direction of intense class struggles by mobilising workers, peasants, youth, students, marginalized sections and women. On 8-9 January 2019, a 48-hour National Strike of workers called by 10 central trade unions, in which many national confederations of workers and employees also joined hands, was a historic success. The bourgeois media had reported that over 180 million workers participated in this strike. Taking forward these struggles, trade unions have once again called for a general strike on 8th January 2020, for which preparations are afoot. Along with the working class struggles, struggles by youth and students demanding jobs and education; women’s struggles against atrocities and discrimination and for gender equality are gathering momentum in different parts of India.

Even within the obtrusive limitations of the overall socio-economic system prevailing in the country, the Left and Democratic Front led Kerala state government in the southern tip of India in which Communist Party of India (Marxist) is the main force along with CPI and other Left and democratic sections, is initiating number of democratic and progressive alternate programmes. In a recent study undertaken by a central government controlled (NITI Ayog) organization, Kerala state came out on top in ensuring quality education to maximum in society among 28 Indian states.

Comrades,

Today, we witness a world which is faced with intolerable levels of unemployment, agrarian distress, environmental degradation and ever increasing gap between the haves and have-nots. Capitalism is trying to overcome the crisis through shifting the burden and hardships onto the shoulders of working people and peasants, profit maximization through plundering nature and exploiting technologies. It is trying to break the unity of the working class by promoting far right-wing ideologies that intend to divide people on the basis of their race, religion, caste, nationality and ethnicity.

Production of weapons of mass destruction is a key strategy for imposing imperialist hegemony, for which it ensures regional conflicts and wars, in the name of 'war on terrorism'. In fact, declaration of war on terrorism by imperialism is to manufacture terrorism. Military-Industrial-Media Complex actually promotes, harvests and perpetuates terrorism. As per the latest data, defense budget of USA is 649 billion dollars accounting for 36 percent of the global military spending in 2018. The US spent almost as much as the next eight highest spenders combined, (China, Saudi Arabia, India, France, Russia, UK, Germany and Japan) which was \$655 billion! Total spending of the 29 NATO countries was \$963 billions, which is 48 percent of the global military expenditure. Weapons of mass destruction are competitively produced, procured and marketed, leading to arms race and regional conflicts and wars, so that the capitalist system benefits and imperialist forces are able to dominate their spheres of influence.

In spite of all its efforts - igniting military conflicts, promoting right-wing divisive, fundamentalist, racist ideologies and forces - ruling classes are failing to quell the growing popular unrest. The unsustainability of the rule of capital is evident now, more than in any other epoch. Under these circumstances, the people of every country in the world will have to meet the challenges of existing realities to shape their future destiny. How successful

they will be in advancing the struggles of the people for social transformation will determine the pace of this transition. Only by mobilizing workers, peasants, youth, student women, intellectuals and toiling masses on their burning livelihood questions and social issues, struggles to protect the hard won rights can be strengthened and massive movements to achieve their immediate and fundamental demands can be taken forward. The path of intense class struggles is the only path ahead of us to build everlasting peace and socialism.

Thank you