

‘Consolidating Socialism and peace’ from Pravda

Caption: On 19 June 1968, Pravda, official newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party, condemns the new political course and the liberalisation measures taken in Czechoslovakia during the ‘Prague Spring’.

Source: Pravda. 19.07.1968, n° 201. Moskva. "Krepiť pozitsii sotsialisma i mira", p. 1.

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Consolidating Socialism and peace

The plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held on 17 July. It heard and discussed CPSU Central Committee General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev's report on the meeting of communist and labour party delegates held in Warsaw. It also fully approved the CPSU Central Committee Politburo's work in the areas of foreign policy, consolidating socialism, uniting the global socialist movement, and relations with communist and labour parties in socialist and non-socialist countries.

Delegates from communist and labour parties in Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland and the Soviet Union met in Warsaw on 14 and 15 July. Participants discussed issues of common interest. There was an exchange of views on the most pressing issues in international politics, including peace and security in Europe and the problems facing the global communist and labour movements. In the true spirit of proletarian internationalism, delegates gave details of the situation in their respective countries and discussed the developing situation in Czechoslovakia. They also addressed a joint letter to the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee which was published in *Pravda* yesterday.

The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee commended and endorsed the results of the Warsaw meeting as well as the letter from the fraternal parties to the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee. The plenum fully approved the actions of the CPSU at the meeting and the conclusions reached by the delegates in expressing their determination for the further comprehensive development of the fraternal bond between socialist countries, and to strengthen the socialist system and its cohesion based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. They also agreed that it was necessary to struggle implacably for socialism in Czechoslovakia.

The Warsaw meeting continued and built upon the joint efforts of fraternally united parties and nations to safeguard the key interests of the global socialist system. The decisions taken at the Warsaw meeting grew out of the aspiration to further consolidate socialism and protect the socialist community, as well as to ensure a tranquil environment for building socialism, communism, peace and security for all nations.

The Communiqué from the Warsaw Meeting underlined the 'need for all socialist nations and anti-imperialist forces to unite in the face of continuing acts of imperialist aggression, particularly in Vietnam and the Middle East. Representatives of parties and governments from fraternal countries paid particular attention to the rise of aggressive imperialist forces, striving to undermine socialism in individual countries through sabotage, and to weaken the ideological ties binding socialist countries together.'

Imperialism is stepping up sabotage against socialist countries, and attempting to undermine their unity and the cohesion of the international communist movement, and to sow division amongst the progressive forces in the modern world. Imperialist reactionaries are trying to tear the socialist community apart from within. The conclusion reached at April's plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee has been completely borne out. They concluded that 'whilst experiencing such serious upheaval and failure in their domestic and foreign policies, the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, along with the hawks in the military-political sphere, are putting more and more effort into the subversive political and ideological struggle against socialist countries and the communist and entire democratic movement.'

Socialist Czechoslovakia is the target of fierce attack from internal reactionaries and foreign imperialists.

The situation in the Czechoslovak Soviet Socialist Republic has become more complicated in recent months, and is causing widespread anxiety and justified alarm amongst communist and labour parties and peoples of socialist countries because of their strong feelings of friendship and solidarity towards their Czechoslovak brothers and their concerns about the socialist system.

At the January and subsequent plenary sessions, the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee was criticised for the shortcomings and mistakes made by the party and other state bodies of the Czechoslovak SSR. Of course, in accordance with the principles of respect, solidarity and equality between parties and socialist nations, the fraternally united parties consider that correcting Czechoslovakia's mistakes and

shortcomings, measures to improve the work of the party and the state, revamping the economy, and developing socialist democracy and equal relations between Czechs and Slovaks, are the internal affairs of the fraternal party and the Czechoslovak people.

Unfortunately, events in Czechoslovakia showed that the right-wing, antisocialist elements exploit the legitimate attempts to correct past mistakes and failures in order to discredit the efforts of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, thus undermining the foundations of the socialist state and offending socialism in the Czechoslovak SSR. This reactionary attack is taking place with the active support of imperialism. A political opposition has emerged in the country as a counterweight to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and it is spreading. It consists of the remnants of the dismantled exploiting classes, right-wing nationalist and revisionist elements, from lawful and unlawful groups, fighting against socialism. These enemy forces reject Marxism-Leninism and call for Czechoslovakia's withdrawal from the socialist community and a return to capitalism.

The anti-socialist and revisionist forces have seized control of the press, radio and television and are using such media as a platform from which to attack the Communist Party, to disorientate the working classes foster disruptive, anti-socialist demagoguery and sour relations between the Czechoslovak SSR and other socialist nations. The anti-socialists are using the media as a vehicle for enemy propaganda and to spread the counter-revolutionary message with the slogan: 'Two Thousand Words'.

The May plenary session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee recognised the increased efforts by hostile elements and identified right-wing forces as the principal threat to socialism in the Czechoslovak SSR. Labour collectives, party organisations, the national activists of the People's Militia, and many members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee are demanding that the right-wing anti-socialists be reigned in, and that concrete and effective measures be taken to consolidate socialism. However, the facts show that the attack against the right-wing anti-socialist forces announced by the May plenary session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee had neither a sound ideological or political basis, nor was it well organised. Indeed, it has not taken place and the enemies of socialism have taken advantage of this and, encountering no opposition, have deployed their subversive activities all the more brazenly.

The reactionary forces apparently want to sow doubt in the minds of the Czechoslovak people, disorientating them and undermining their conviction that Czechoslovakia can only preserve its independence and sovereignty if it is a socialist nation and member of the socialist community. Clearly, the essential question is whether Czechoslovakia will be a socialist nation or not.

Of course the socialist forces in the Czechoslovak SSR far outnumber those who entertain big ideas about a revolutionary victory for the Czechoslovak people. The right-wing elements, notwithstanding all the noise they are making and their attacks, do not enjoy wide support amongst the masses of workers. However, in order to defeat them requires a determined, uncompromising and consistent struggle.

History shows that indecisiveness, passivity, or any delay in mobilising the party and the people and launching the struggle against an upsurge of anti-socialism, when the very existence of popular power and the foundation of the socialist order are under threat, can lead a nation into anarchy and political crisis.

The situation is such that the threat to the foundations of socialism in Czechoslovakia poses a threat to the vital interests of all socialist nations. It is the historical responsibility of all communists from socialist nations to ensure that the revolutionary victories achieved thus far should not be forfeited. Each of the fraternally united parties is answerable not only before its own working class and its people, but before the international working class and the global communist movement, and can not shirk any of the responsibilities that implies. Therefore we must be united and show solidarity in defending socialism, our security and the international position of the entire socialist community.

Out of international duty, delegates at the Warsaw meeting, on behalf of the Central Committees of their communist and labour parties appealed to the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party to

defend the power of the working classes and all workers, and to protect socialist achievements in Czechoslovakia. This required a decisive and courageous strike against the right-wing anti-socialists, and the mobilisation of all means of defence at the socialist states' disposal. It required a halt to the activities of all political organisations acting against socialism. It also required the closing down of all political organisations opposed to socialism and the seizure, by the Party, of the mass media — the press, radio and television in the interests of the working classes and all workers and socialism. It required that the party ranks be united on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, respecting unswervingly the principle of democratic centralisation and fighting against those whose activities assist the enemy forces. The working classes and the peasant workers and the leading intelligentsia had to be mobilised in the fight against the counter-revolutionaries, and to preserve and strengthen socialism in Czechoslovakia.

The plenum of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee believes that the letter from the fraternally united parties adopted in Warsaw will be understood and approved by the Communist Party and the people of Czechoslovakia as an expression of sincere friendly international support from those parties and the people of the socialist countries. It will serve to consolidate friendly relations between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and the entire socialist community.

Communists and workers of Czechoslovakia may rest assured that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Government and our people are ready to assist them in any way they can to defend the socialist cause.

Our party and people unilaterally approve the results of the Warsaw Meeting, the decisions of the plenum of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, and support the measures taken by the party and Soviet Government in the name of strengthening the ties uniting the fraternal parties and peoples of socialist nations, in the name of consolidating socialism and peace.

The Soviet people, closely united around the native Leninist party, successfully put into practice the course set out at the 23rd CPSU Congress and are involved in building a Communist community. Each day of our lives is filled with the constructive efforts of millions of Soviet people, with their creative labour strengthening the political, economic and defensive potential of the homeland, entrenching peace and socialism in the world. The Soviet people are deeply conscious of the justice and nobility of their goals, their duty to the international revolutionary cause, and are multiplying their efforts to fulfil the five-year plan ahead of schedule as an appropriate way of marking the centenary of Lenin's birth.

The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee has underlined the need to strengthen the unity of the party and people, and to implement fully the ideology and great teachings of Marxism-Leninism. Success in constructing communism in our nation will be in the interests of all socialist nations, all revolutionary forces, and will help in the struggle against international imperialism, and in favour of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Our party depends on the devoted support of the Soviet people. The indestructible unity of Party and people is the strongest weapon that our community possesses.

The communists and all the workers of our homeland are rallying ever more solidly around the Central Committee of the Leninist CPSU under the flag of Marxism-Leninism, of proletarian internationalism and are confidently smoothing the path towards Communism and a brighter future for all mankind.