

international

newsletter



Workers and
oppressed
peoples
of the world,
unite!

of the Communist Party of Greece (marxist - leninist)

Resistance!



The future belongs to peoples!

**Popular discontent is expressed
in people's struggles
and not in the polls**

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MAYDAY 2000

Resistance front against the capitalist misery and the imperialist barbarity

One more time the proletariat in Greece and all over the world demonstrates on Mayday facing the capitalist misery and the imperialist barbarity.

Especially during the last decade we are living under a politics which demolish any right gained by the working class movement after tough and bloody fights. The right of 8-hour-day and 5-day-week has been abolished alongside the right of full employment. The wages have remained stagnant for years and unemployment is getting bigger. This is the politics of the PASOK government, which is supported by ND as well. All these forces are preparing a new attack against the toiling masses in the name of bourgeoisie, EU, and EMU.

We are also living in a period where the imperialists re-divide markets, spheres of influence and redraw borders regardless the human killings. We are living the drama of the peoples of Yugoslavia after the bloody intervention of NATO. We all saw the openly pro-NATO politics of the Greek government. It submissively helped the NATO strikes against our neighbour people. It is certain that the Greek government will follow the same treacherous policy.

During this year Mayday, the working people have to demonstrate their anger against the capitalist typhoon that demolishes any right, expressing their solidarity to the international working class, the armed revolutionary movements. They have to demonstrate their will for a strong labour movement, capable to resist sufficiently and capable to win.

Unfortunately today a leadership submissive to the government controls the trade unions. They did not even organize a formal anniversary. On the other hand, the revisionists did not dare to strike and decided to organize a Sunday celebration. They speak about fighting while they have not organized any sort of strike for the last three years.

The revolutionary forces, which participate in anti-revision-



Mayday 2000, Athens



Mayday 2000, Thessaloniki

ist labour committees, despite their small forces, organized a separate demonstration promoting the working class interests. A new resistance front is the only solution against the further plans for privatization and elimination of peasantry. The recent big struggles of peasants, dockers, teachers as well as the huge anti-imperialist demonstrations against the NATO invasion in Yugoslavia show the only perspective for the masses.

The necessity for the re-organization of the students movement

The main event in education during the last two and half years has been the imposition of new regulations by the government. The further enforcement of class distinction, the resistance and the development of a movement, mainly by pupils in high schools, the state oppression, and new undemocratic laws characterize the real situation.

We believe that the conflict has not finished and its further development will determine the active re-organization of the youth movement. Therefore it is necessary to see the nature of the problems inside the students movement.

The political conditions inside youth are determined by the general correlation inside the Greek society, the level of re-organization of the working class movement, the fighting mood of the people's movement, and finally the increasing capabilities of the revolutionary communist forces. In a country like Greece with a long tradition of people's struggles, the turn of the balance in favour of the left forces is very possible. However the domination of the rightist forces (conservatives and social-democrats) has created a "conservative inertia", namely political conditions which prevent the breaking of massive struggles, undermining the collective activity and the spreading of left ideas. On the other hand, the attempt of revisionism to re-organize its forces on a "radical" perspective is actually an obstacle for the



development of the students struggle against the government.

For these reasons, the university students, despite their fighting mood, failed to participate and support the struggle of the students in high schools as well as the anti-imperialist movement against the war in Yugoslavia.

However, it is certain that the reactionary attack of the "new" government will carry on, the military plans of imperialism in the Balkans are in progress creating the conditions for the development of new movements. Unemployment, poverty, the exclusion from further education according to class standards and the military adventures are the offers of the system to young people. The question is how long the system will succeed to keep the young masses in inertia. Therefore

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the immanent tasks of the revolutionary forces are to intensify their action in a direction beyond the parliamentary illusions, in order to lead the new generations to an alliance with the rest of the people's movement. This struggle goes against the capitalist as well as against the revisionist forces under the ideas of the revolutionary left.

Popular discontent in people's

The elections of April 9, 2000 are over. The results are known. PASOK (social democrats) is in government. New Democracy (conservative) is in the opposition. The "Communist" Party stagnates in the same percentage. The other parties are down. What is the meaning of all these? The total percentage of the established parties (PASOK - ND) is almost 90%. That means that the unpopular politics will have a strong "legalized" base of attack. It also means that ties with the imperialist interests in the region will be stronger.

All these were more or less taken for granted and expected, What was kind of surprising was the total percentage of the two main parties. Some talk about the role (and victory) of a two-party system, the role of Media, the blackmail against the smaller parties, etc. These are true. But, we think, they do not go to the core of the subject. *The placing of each party was decided and formed long before the elections.* All other approaches came to enhance, express and form what was given from the start. The most negative aspect of these elections is the oppressing sensation this large percentage creates. Even more worrying is a possible disappointment of people that had started, mobilizing in the past years (and in view of the fact that we have in front of us fierce struggles to fight).

Marx's phrase "If elections could change the world they would be illegal" is well known. Let's make it clearer.

Elections by themselves do not change the system or the basic political struc-

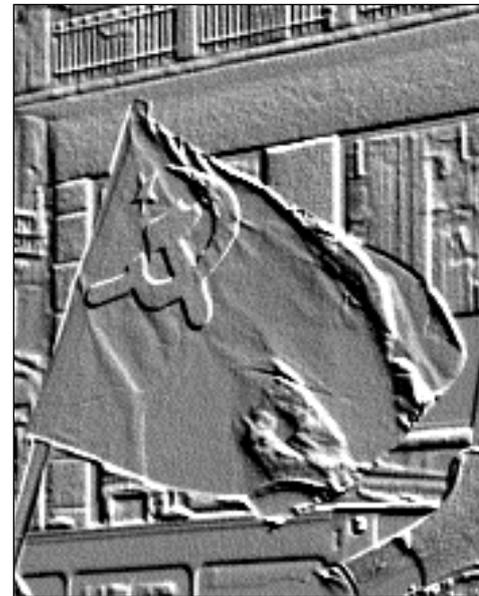
tures. They express and realize what is formed before them. So you cannot fight the two-party system in the elections when such a fight was not waged at all beforehand.

The negative result of the elections has also its positive side. Self-delusions were taken a severe hit and created some presuppositions for a fundamental approach of the real problem. The base of the matter lies in the worldwide change of correlation against the peoples. We are fully aware that we live in a period characterized by the historical peoples' defeat. A defeat that started in the '50s and completed in '89-'90.

The basic characteristics of this defeat are: The toppling of the socialist dream as the true and only way out for the popular struggle. The de-organization of the proletariat as the basic force and backbone of the popular movement. The liquidation of the communist movement as the leading force and inspiration of the popular struggles.

- Under these conditions people are led to the polls.

It is not true that people do not "understand" what is happening. Some are ready to either praise people for their "correct choice" or denounce them for their "backwardness". People "understands" very well. They sense that the choice between what they really want and what they really do not want is not put. The dilemma is to "vote" this or that solution the system promotes in a prearranged way (This is what K. Marx called bourgeois dictatorship).



The question is how can we change that? Because we can and must change it.

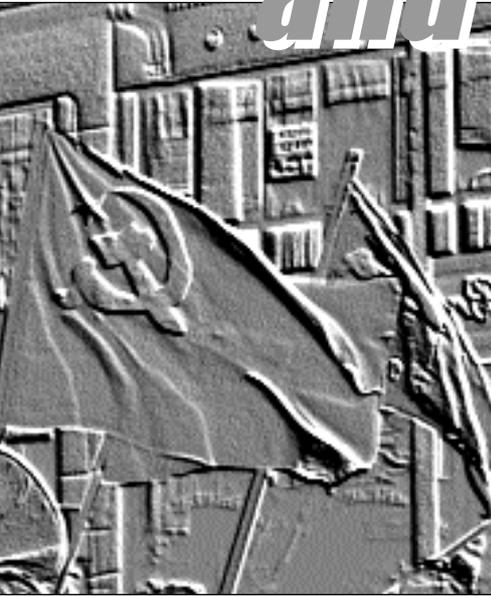
The reversal of this situation corresponds to the real wishes of the great majority of the people.

- What people really want? They want jobs, a good standard of life, peace, welfare; they want a fair society, democracy, equality and freedom. In other words, they want what only a socialist society can offer.

These may sound too moralistic, but history has shown that these expectations had been realized on many occasions. The difficulty we face today is the unfavourable correlations that make these expectations seem too far away, at least. So unarmed the peoples are susceptible to false dilemmas and blackmails.

ent is expressed struggles

and not in the polls



• So how can we reverse this situation? **The answer is in the reconstruction of what has been demolished. That is the international peoples movement;** the reorganization of the proletariat as a class for itself; the reorganization of the communist movement; the change of the correlations through the waging of class, anti-imperialist, and peoples struggles. It is not by coincidence that the forces, which continue to resist, and in a way stood firm under the last electoral pressure, are those whose characteristics have been formed in the peoples struggles.

This is the fundamental link: We must wage struggles. Struggles democratic, social, class, anti-war, and anti-imperialist.

We live in an age full of problems and

special demands. The attack of the capitalist system against the toiling masses is an everyday matter, and is absolutely connected to the imperialist barbarity against the peoples all over the world. Peoples are under great, pressure, but also this pressure gives birth to resistance. On this field we can start to reverse the unfavourable conditions

Through their struggle, the masses become aware of the sort and characteristics of the contradictions between the masses and the system. Through their struggle they rediscover the importance and value of the joint fight, of organized struggle. Through this struggle, the vigour of the masses and their decisiveness acquire a new quality,

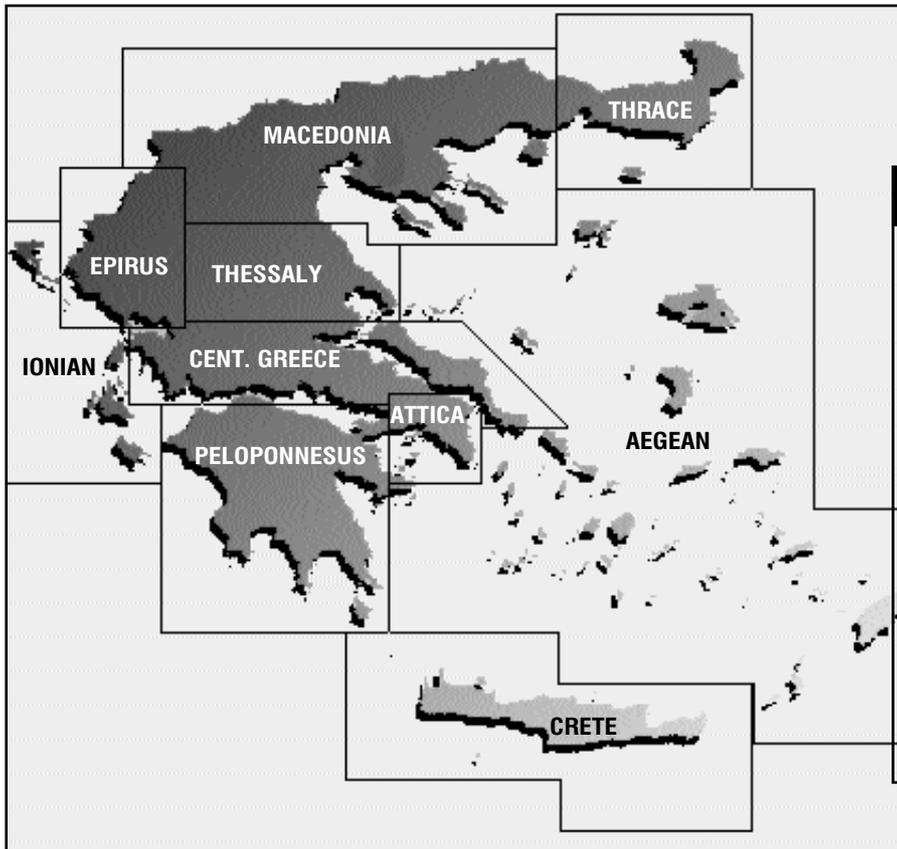
Through this struggle without of course underestimating any form of struggle - the masses will turn the tide in favour of them.

• Under the pressure of the electoral results, some old and well-known dilemmas are brought up anew. "Open up to the great left or entrench ourselves?" "Broad alliances or sterile isolationism?" "A modern European political address or pseudo-struggles?" All the above are false dilemmas leading to false and disorientating answers.

Behind the fancy words hides an old and well-known scenario: Let's "open up" to PASOK, and so, "beat' the two-party system. Theoretically speaking, this is possible. It has happened in some European countries. In Spain the "Left" has made a so-called draft agreement with the "socialists", but the outcome of the elections was not in their favour. In France the "communists" collaborate with the government of L. Jospin. In Italy former "communist" D' Alema is Prime Minister! The two-party system in Italy has not only "taken sticks" but was also "crushed to pieces"!

The domination of the system not only remained intact but was reinforced by incorporating all those "leftists". In co-operation with all these charlatans, the system escalates its attack against the working people. In complicity with the above same, imperialism invades countries and massacres people.

• "Yes, but have we gained anything through all these struggles?" they ask. The electoral appeal of all "responsible" and "left" parties shrank to 10%. Here is the same phoney term of the same false dilemma. It is connected with the matter of the struggles and



POLL RESULTS OF CPG(m-I)

REGION	Votes	%
ATTICA	2133	0,10
CENT. GREECE	483	0,08
PELOPONNESUS	445	0,05
THESSALY	609	0,11
EPIRUS	613	0,23
MACEDONIA	1568	0,09
THRACE	370	0,16
IONIAN	190	0,14
AEGEAN	316	0,10
CRETE	574	0,15
TOTAL	7301	0,11

especially the way it was faced mainly by the "Communist" Party of Greece ("C"PG).

As we have (on many occasions) mentioned the "C"PG has not really acted having as a criterion the development of the struggle, but its own reinforcement. That was the only decisive criterion on which its whole action was based on even when -in many cases - it turned against the development of the struggles. As far as the so-called "Popular Front" is concerned, it is rather a farce. Let's put it straight. Our problem is not alliance with the nationalists intellectuals, **our basic**

problem is that the policy of the "C"PG has nothing to do with a direction leading to the development of a Front of all people who want to fight. The above example is used as a show of a policy that moves basically with old-fashioned tricks.

This is the main reason that this policy had some appeal in a minor test (Euroelections), but was shrunk in the recent national elections of greater significance. The same reason makes the "C"PG vulnerable to even more "realistic" ideas.

Here also lies the answer; in the development of people's struggles

based on the real problems and demands of people.

If some want to "capitalize" on the people's movement in order to place themselves inside the bourgeois political scene, let them enjoy it!

People are interested in overthrowing the capitalist system not only the two-party system. This is not an easy task and it will not be answered "tomorrow". It demands complex and persistent work. Above all, it demands firm concentration on the direction we have stated. We have the firm belief that sooner or later, one way or another this target will be attained.

Even if some people through "clever ideas" are led in the bear hug of the system, even if some others sink in their own stalemates, the answer will be given by the revolutionary direction of the people's movement. In this direction we move, with whatever forces we have. From then on we welcome anyone wanting to follow the same direction!

International Newsletter

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The electoral support of CPG(m-l)

A step to the strengthening of the resistance

The 7301 votes in the elections of 9th of April is a good result for our party. The fact that, years after our last autonomous electoral registration (1990), we managed to have a much more dignified electoral result, is one very important issue for our analyses. The second issue, which we take under consideration, is that our increasing electoral influence has generally and specifically happened in difficult conditions.

We did not need to wait for the electoral results in order to see that we live in a period where the political and social situation is very bad for labor movement, the working class, the communist ideas and practices. Of course, it isn't difficult for someone to understand that the fragmentation of the outside-the-parliament left-wing parties was too negative for all of them.

The electoral support of CPG(m-l), related to the experience and the contact with the people we have had during the pre-elections period, isn't accidental or circumstantial. And it is not only the result of the pre-elections work and effort that all the members of our party made with unselfishness.

To a great extent, it's a conscious support that thousands of left people gave us because of our action and ideas during the last decade and especially the last four years.

All these people who gave us their vote, no matter how much energetic and active they were during the last period, they did not do it "by accident" or because they were "forced" to do it. They decided to give us courage, strengthen impulse for our ideas and views, for our political features, for our permanence and consistency for all these years in all the fights and the resistance.

All these people approved (with their vote) the double effort we made and the every one of them for the benefit of the other: Firstly, the effort for the reconstruction of the communist movement and on the other hand, the effort for the strengthening of the massive resistance of people and the youth through the common action of the out-of-the-parliament left-wing parties.

These people also had to choose between other suggestions that had been made, not only in the pre-elections period. The electoral results show that we had an increase where our party exists and acts, for example in Attiki, in Northern Greece, in Crete, in Epirus, in Thessalia, in Thace. It gives us courage that in these places we took a reward for our action, for having the initiative in doing so many things, for trying to support any movements against the war and the



imperialism;

Our efforts for the strengthening and the support of the farmers in Thessalia and Crete. Our fight for the rights of the minority in Thace. Our efforts for the fight and the rights of the people hurt by the earthquake in Attiki. All these things do not make us forget the conditions we have been living and we will live in the future. We cannot forget that the road is too long and too difficult and it is full of thorns for the left-wing revolutionary and communist forces in order to try and succeed in playing a very important role and reconstruct the contemporary communist movement. Once more, we are aware of the consequences the defeat of the communist movement have brought and the consequences of the wild capitalistic attack against the working class, the toiling masses and especially the young people.

During all our pre-elections campaign we faced so many difficulties and came across so many obstacles which showed again that the situation is so negative and you cannot forget that you have to fight so hard, for the reconstruction of the labor movement as well as the youth movement. Also, the dialogue about who and how will fight is too long and difficult, especially for the left parties after the elections of 9th of April.

Certainly, there are a lot of things that must be changed in the mentality of the left parties, the teams and the individual activists. The only thing that must not be changed is the willing and the persistence for the common action. In this effort more and more are needed.

NATO murderers, out of the Balkans!

Down with the military exercises that prepare for war

Rehearsal for a new war in the Balkans, that is the actual character of the NATO exercises in Northern Greece from 20 May to 10 June. More NATO troops are arriving in Thessaloniki port and airport. The NATO murderers of the peoples of Yugoslavia prepare new nightmarish scenarios for invasion in the Balkan peninsula in order to redraw the borders under imperialist domination.

The Greek social-democrat government (the conservative opposition agrees as well) participates and accepts all these war plans. The country is under NATO control: motrways, ports, airports, sea routes in Aegean Sea have been offered for the criminal plans against the peoples of Yugoslavia. The American plans speak about the breaking up of Yugoslavia with the creation of small protectorates under the imperialist control. The port of Thessaloniki is actually under NATO occupation. The so-called imperialist stability

bears poverty, misery, economic destruction, and massacres.

The continuous summits for the political and economic "reconstruction" of the Balkans indicate the increasing dangerous for the peoples in the region. Coordinators in this barbarity are the various nationalists and reactionaries who have the power in the Balkan countries. They have offered their surrender their countries to imperialism and international capital. Peoples and working class must resist.

The only way out is the development of a strong anti-imperialist, anti-war movement. The committees in various cities all over the country have to be strengthened and intensify their activity. This is the imminent task of the revolutionary forces, which have organized the committees beyond the revisionist pacifistic frameworks.

Anti-NATO demonstrations

On 23/3/00 a very successful anti-war, anti-imperialist demonstration took place in Athens. After the calling of the Initiative Committee (our party included) thousands of left people demonstrated against the new massacre prepared by imperialists, going to the American Embassy. It became again clear the importance of the joint action of the left parties and the dynamism derived by it. The action against the war will continue as far as the imperialists intensify their military preparations.

- Solidarity to the Balkan peoples
- Greece has to leave NATO
- Down with the politics of submission

