improve the political climate, a requisite for settling the Cyprus question.

The people of Cyprus are going through critical days. The main task facing them is to be constantly on the alert. We need vigilance if we are to detect, expose and condemn all suspicious moves in time.

The people must know of the real danger threatening our island and must be helped in every way in defending it against foreign aggressive forces as well as against all pitfalls, conspiracies and subversion at home.

AKEL is ready to do all in its power for unity on a broad basis behind President Makarios, for the mustering of all the patriotic forces of the people to foil the imperialist plan directed against Cyprus.

The situation is very trying indeed. The next few weeks may see the crisis gain in intensity and we may be faced with new trials. But we must never give in to despair. The people of Cyprus are no longer alone and are no easy prey for insatiable imperialism. They are supported by strong and sincere friends. For all the enormous difficulties and the gravity of the menace, we look ahead with optimism and confidence.

We are convinced that all the attacks of the enemies of Cyprus will be fittingly repelled and that the people will win in the end.

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THIRD CONGRESS OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY

COMMUNICATION ON PLENARY MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LCP

The Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party convened a plenary meeting to discuss the Political Bureau report on the Third Party Congress. The Central Committee unanimously approved the report and proposals concerning the agenda of the coming congress. It will be recalled that the Party has come to the fourth year since the Second Congress—the year which according to the Party Rules should see the Third Congress.

Reaffirming the historical importance of the Second Congress and approving the exposition contained in the Political Bureau report of the main phases in the Party's struggle after the congress, the Central Committee attaches the utmost importance to convening the Third Congress. It will be held at a time when the struggle between the liberation movement in the Arab countries and its allies, on the one hand, and imperialism, Zionism and reaction, on the other, continues to grow more acute and more complicated.

The struggle reflects sharply on the internal situation in the Lebanon. U.S. imperialist pressure on the Lebanon is increasing to subject it still more to its political, financial and military influence. Arab reaction plays an active role in this pressure. All this is accompanied by greater activity on the part of local reaction, by feverish preparations for bloody provocations against the Palestine resistance movement, the people's movement and the progressive forces, and a mounting campaign against democracy and freedom.

Congress will take place against the background of a deteriorating economic and social crisis in the Lebanon, an aggravation of the class struggle, mounting concern and discontent among the working people over such problems as the rising cost of living, the difficulty of finding jobs, the question of wages, marketing of products, medical service, housing, education, and the like.

The country is on the threshold of general parliamentary elections to which more importance is attached than ever before. All Communists without exception must participate in the search for and introduction of methods best suited to consolidate the gains won in the struggle of the past three years, continue with redoubled

Al-Akbar, June 20, 1971.
The Central Committee strives to apply correctly the principles of democratic centralism: broad participation of Communists in debates and discussions, joint action in carrying forward the adopted decisions, submission of the minority to the majority and of the lower Party bodies to the higher, and fulfilment by each Communist of the decisions of the Congress, the Party's supreme organ.

The Central Committee gives all those who had earlier for one reason or another left the Party, in accord with its political program and Rules, and wish to return to its ranks in order to continue the struggle, an opportunity to apply for membership in accordance with the Rules. Their application will receive consideration and decisions will be taken on them.

The struggle is long and arduous. Many may falter, many may commit mistakes. A real fighter will not be afraid to admit his mistakes and hear the criticism of his comrades in the Party. For its part, the Party takes a positive view of sincere self-criticism.

PARTICIPATION OF BROAD SECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN PREPARING THE CONGRESS

The Central Committee calls not only on members of the Party but also on its friends and broad masses of people in town and country to participate in different forms in preparing the Congress and discussing its agenda.

The Central Committee will take the necessary steps to publish extensively the results of constructive and serious discussions of materials and theses of the coming congress.

These measures are being taken to fortify the bond between the Party and the mass of the people, enabling it to express to a greater extent the national and social aspirations and vital demands of the people.

Our Party is a party of the workers, farmers, progressive intellectual and other groups of people. That is why these sections of the people have a right to participate in drawing up the Party's policy and to express their standpoint on the Party program and its implementation.

As one of its main tasks, the Party is working for the unity of the progressive forces in the Lebanon and for a common program. The Party is prepared to let the truly progressive forces participate in the debate of its political program and all its activity. This will only invigorate cooperation and add to the influence and weight of these forces in the life of the country.

Expressing firm faith in democracy and being desirous of developing and deepening it, the Party calls for broad debates on a democratic basis of issues concerning the struggle against imperialism, Israel and reaction, progress in the Lebanon and achievement of a better life for workers and other sections of the people.