

no. 376, April 29, 1948, Quito Embassy,
"Communist Leaflet Attacking Policies of the
United States."

(TRANSLATION)

DECLARATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ECUADOR

Refuting the Calumnies and the Provocative Acts
of Imperialism and Its Adherents.

When the Bogotá Pan American Conference brought to light the dissatisfaction of Latin American countries relative to the misery and state of dependence caused by imperialism, and, throughout the whole of Latin America there was heard the clamor of its peoples against hunger, economic backwardness and unsatisfactory living conditions, as well as in favor of peace, in defense of the conquests of democracy and of the enjoyment of complete national sovereignty on the part of each one of our countries, compelling our official representatives to work out problems such as that of industrial expansion and customs protection, contrary to the interests of the North American monopolists and in complete rebuttal of the Clayton plan, there took place the provocative acts in Bogotá, including the assassination of the Colombian liberal chief, Dr. Eliecer Gaitán.

Powerless to solve the disgraceful situation of misery of the great majority of Colombians, the Conservative Government under the leadership of the Falangist Laureano Gómez, admirer of Nazi-Fascist doctrines and favorable to the imposition of the conservative regime of blood and fire, took upon himself the task of delivering his people to the devouring rapacity of Colombian feudal and capitalistic interests as well as those of foreign companies, particularly North American, at the same time that he was hushing the popular protest against the crimes and mass assassinations of which hundreds of peaceful anti-conservatives were victims. On the very eve of the Pan American Conference, the Government of Ospina Pérez, with a view to gaining the sympathy and support of the Yankees, betrayed the oilfield workers and the Colombian nation, refusing to proceed with the nationalization of the mines of Barrancabermeja and Barco, in favor of which project open support had been given by all Colombian patriots and especially by the chief of the Liberal Party, Dr. Gaitán. The Conservative Government has aggravated the hunger of the people since its coming into power, has thrown the Army into opposition against industrial and agricultural workers, and has established a reign of terror, persecution and systematic robbery, causing a justified popular indignation.

In such circumstances, at a time when the conservatives and imperialists have had to come face to face with the opinion of the American peoples, and especially

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that of Colombia, there occurred the provocation which aroused the dispossessed and hungry masses as a signal of protest against their miserable way of life and against the assassination of their leader. Gaitán had carried on a vigorous combat within his own Party, placing himself in opposition to collaboration with Conservatives and, on the other hand, he had proclaimed the right of Colombia to the nationalization of its petroleum concessions. Who is responsible for the death of Gaitán? It is logical to deduce that the money of the petroleum trusts and the inquisitorial hatred of the discredited reactionary regime of Colombia gave strength to the police arm which assassinated Gaitán. The newspaper versions indicated as much in their first reports. It was only later that, responding to the version of the Department of State of the United States, the North American correspondents and the venal press of Yankee imperialism undertook to accuse the Communists of the events which occurred in Bogotá.

It is evident that it is neither to the Communist Party of Colombia nor to the Latin American Communists that the blame can be laid for the suspension of the Conference at the same moment in which there was occurring a solidification and broadening of the opposition of some of the Latin American delegates to the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. Compelled by the economic conditions of their respective countries, many of the delegates who did not, in a true democratic sense, represent their people, rebelled against the extortionist monopolistic system, opposing the economic and international policy of the United States. The weaker states undertook to demand that American imperialism should take up the economic problems which had been placed to one side in the recent Conference of Rio de Janeiro, where there had been imposed the unification of armaments and other means of warlike aggression favorable to the bellicose policy and the world domination of the Government of the United States, as well as the implementation of plans concerning the remaining colonial systems in America, and the necessity of maintaining peace, making the regional system an instrument of peaceful collaboration within the ONU; also the necessity of practicing the right of self-determination of peoples--Puerto Rico--, of the defense of national sovereignty against foreign intervention, the customs and industrial protection, etc., all of which was not suitable to Mr. Marshall nor to his plan of domination of the weaker countries of Latin America. On the other hand, the recognition of the imperialist danger was growing in America and its peoples were preparing to defend themselves, giving vigor to their independence and sovereignty, following the example of Panama.

During the course of many years of sacrifice in defense of national interests and of the social rights

of

Enclosure 2, despatch no. 376, April 29, 1948, Quito.

- 3 -

of workers, Communists have demonstrated their sturdy patriotism and their condemnation has been implacable against all acts of anarchy and terrorism. This fact is well known to the imperialists, to their mestizo menials and the Gothic feudalists of Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and all Latin America. If now the puppet sellers-out of their countries and the subsidized journalists accuse the Communists of being the authors of vast plans of sabotage, they are doing so under direct orders of American imperialism and with a view to serving the interests of the latter, since the persecution of Communism is only the first step in the destruction of all democratic conquests, for the purpose of glossing over the treason, the extortion and the enslaving of the people, of which the Communists are the most determined defenders.

In the face of the danger that its anti-Communist plan may not be approved in the Pan-American Conference, through lack of a basis for acts of intimidation with the old discredited flag which conducted the Rome-Berlin Axis to its historical defeat, American imperialism which has now taken the place of Fascism in its purpose of dominating the world, has elaborated a plan of provocations, calumnies and insults against the Communist Parties, contrary to the aspirations for independence of the peoples, contrary to their urge to improve their economic situation. Since the bloody events which occurred at the seat of the Ninth Pan American Conference, Mr. Marshall and his lackeys in Chile, Brazil, Cuba, etc. are insisting that, instead of economic claims, preference be given to the Yankee political plan for the liquidation of democracy, sovereignty and independence in Latin America. It is significant that the Conference has put aside the study of problems concerning colonies, economic collaboration and equal treatment in the sphere of Pan Americanism to put forth the thesis which Mr. Truman has upheld since the Rio de Janeiro Conference, in his proposal to tie up the peoples of this continent to the war chariot of the United States and to place its imperialistic domination over those very countries which, on a day more than 100 years ago, were gloriously freed from the Yankee yoke.

For all these reasons, and with a view to preserving the well being and liberty of our nations, the Communist Party of Ecuador protests the vile calumny flung out by the reactionary Colombian Government and by Yankee imperialism, against the Communist Party and the people of Colombia, and defends these acts to the Ecuadoran conscience as well as those who are directly responsible for that day

of

2, despatch no. 376, April 29, 1948, Quito.

- 4 -

of blood and violence. It extends to the heroic Communist Party of Ecuador, to its glorious Federation of Workers and to its patriotic people the deepest expression of solidarity and unbreakable faith in the triumph of justice and right of the people.

The impudent intervention of the Department of State of the United States in the political life of our Republic has taken on a new aspect. It not only orders the removal of Communists from the Government, to give the classic dish of lentils to the traitor Gonzalez Videla; it not only gives aid to the Spanish Falangist Figueres, who has taken up arms against the Government of Costa Rica; it not only maintains in power its lackeys, under the condition of delivering over their countries, but it is also undertaking, by means of the most vitriolic campaign of provocation, Communist uprisings and revolutions, with a view to creating an atmosphere of hysterical alarm vis-a-vis the Communists. In its zeal for gaining control of the Republic, to endow it with imperialistic greed, the feudal and pro-imperialistic elements are taking advantage of the lies worked out by North American police agents without the slightest shame nor consciousness of national dignity. The most reactionary of the organs of the national press "El Comercio" has taken upon itself the diffusion of statements such as the supposed Communist revolution, in alliance with Conservatives and other political elements. According to this version we can see only the naked clause of those who, on the very eve of the presidential election, are trying to capture the leadership of the state in order to perpetrate fraud and to intimidate Ecuadoran democracy.

We Communists are, as always, opposed to the Feudalists and Conservatives who maintain their antiquated viewpoint towards Ecuador; we are against the pawns of Yankee imperialism, who have already attempted to deliver over the Galápagos, under the guidance of the Embassies in Washington and of the Secretaries of State; we are against the state of misery, hunger and lack of culture in which the opulent classes maintain the Ecuadoran people, and we remain faithful to the latter's interests, above all calculation of personal gain and any type of vacillation.

We are struggling for the effective independence of our country, for the agrarian reform, for the social liberation of our people, for its economic and cultural progress and for the just demands of workers and agriculturalists. We are actively struggling for peace and for a spirit of solidarity with all peoples of the earth, but we also demand our territorial rights, sacrificed in Rio de Janeiro through the imposition of an imperialist type of Pan Americanism and by the treason of the upper classes and Conservatives. We also demand the exercise of full national sovereignty as regards the Galápagos Islands, where the military boot of the Yankees has already stained

our

despatch no. 376, April 29, 1948, Quito.

- 5 -

our national honor. The Communist Party cannot ally itself with the Conservatives and the imperialists in order to betray the Republic, and will not answer provocations of interested parties, because the Party is the most patriotic, responsible and loyal defender of the interest of the people. It struggles and will continue to struggle incessantly along with the working class and the popular masses for the obtaining of more human living conditions, and it will exercise its rights freely; and it will not lend itself to the maneuvers of Wall Street agents, but will succeed in doubling the integrity, the patriotism and the incorruptibility of Ecuadoran Communists and their faithfulness to the principles and objectives, always faithful to the historic destiny of their country and to human progress.

The former Berlin-Rome Axis which Washington is now trying to revive fell because it was blocked by the forces of world democracy. A similar fate awaits the imperialists and their national and foreign lackeys who, frightened by the revolutionary advance of the nations of the whole world, have the intention of unleashing a war before the next capitalistic crisis has an opportunity to liquidate them. History is not static nor does it march backwards. Once more, the submerged peoples are rising up to achieve their liberation and progress. Imperialist claims are being blocked in the whole world and a new spirit of liberation is coming into being in Ecuador. In order to carry this spirit forward, the Communist Party will not shun sacrifices. It calls upon all progressive parties, upon all anti-conservative and anti-imperialist forces to put aside their vacillations and to bring about a widespread unity among left-wing groups which will permit a solid front against reaction, against the plotting agents of Yankee imperialism, as well as against the traitors and starvers of the people, with a view to defeating them in the forthcoming civic occasion.

We call upon the public, the workers, the students, the honorable intellectuals, and men and women who understand patriotism as a historic responsibility, to form their ranks in defense of democratic conquests, threatened today by the foreign North American boot, which, emanating from its Department of States is spreading infamous calumnies in order to favor a certain presidential candidate, a well-known and public agent of Yankee imperialism.

We hope that the national Government, as a guardian of democratic principles and of the sovereignty of our country, rejects the rumors propagated by news agencies under the control of Wall Street and that it will maintain the dignity of the nation and will defend its future, as it has so far done, in the Pan American Conference; also

that

Enclosure 2, despatch no. 376, April 29, 1948, Quito.

- 6 -

that it will support there an energetic campaign for:

Demanding the revision of the Rio de Janeiro protocol;

Demanding the return of Seymour Island, now occupied by American military forces;

Demanding the expulsion of the North American secret police agents, who are swarming around our country, in defiance of Ecuadoran laws and in the service of a foreign power;

Defending world peace, preventing the conversion of the Inter-American Regional Pact into an arm of provocation and a threat of war;

Rejecting the Marshall Plan for sabotaging our countries under the North American military command; also the Clayton plan of economic dependence, as well as the Truman doctrine of interference in the internal politics of Latin America;

Protesting the so-called anti-Communist pact, which it is proposed to sign in Bogotá as a means of maintaining in a state of passivity and fear the patriotic and revolutionary forces which have full right to intervene in the political life of their countries. Let us combat this claim, which is nothing more than a fetter to rivet the chain with which imperialist and reactionary forces are enchaining our people.

Ecuadorans, let us struggle;

For the preservation and extension of Ecuadoran democracy;

For the social and national liberation of our country and for its political and economic independence;

Against provocations and calumnies;

Against speculation, feudalism and imperialism; against the disseminators of hunger and national and foreign exploiters;

For world peace, solidarity of the peoples and the progress of humanity.

Executive Committee of the Ecuadoran
Communist Party

Quito, April 19, 1948.