

Milan Marxist Leninist Centre

We Watch the Manoeuvre of the Revisionists

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During the summer of last year, after a wider meeting held in Rome, the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, feeling the first effects of the Marxist-Leninist awakening, issued a series of directives aimed at neutralizing the action of the groups which, inside and outside the Party, work to unmask and condemn its political line.

These directives amounted to a co-ordinated series of interventions of various kinds. They can be basically summarized in the following way: a. to write and to speak as little as possible about the current ideologic debate, and especially about the true positions of the Chinese comrades; b. allow comrades who uphold Marxist-Leninist positions to get things off their chest by means of words alone, when it is impossible to avoid the discussion; c. punish with disciplinary means attempts by comrades to give concrete expression to Marxist-Leninist ideas in political positions by means of resolutions, agendas, articles, and other written and signed documents; d. fight to the end and by any means against Marxist-Leninist groups which have already been formed outside of the party, and in particular against those which due to regular publication of documents and newspapers seemed most dangerous.

It was left up to local leaders to decide in each case whether it would be better to use party "democracy" or party "discipline" in the various situations, and they were warned to draw clear distinctions between Marxist-Leninist groups and Trotskyites or other formations of this kind.

These directives have been obeyed with more or less zeal and enthusiasm, however they have exerted a substantial pressure on our movement, their weight is clear if one simply

compares the strength of the revisionist apparatus with that of the embryonic Marxist-Leninist organization.

Little by little the action of the revisionists was supplemented by a series of successive campaigns of rumors--deliberately circulated -- which always spoke of imminent agreements between Soviet and Chinese leaders, of friendly and secret contacts between the Italian Communist Party and the Chinese Communist Party, of delegations of these two parties which were always just about to leave from there and from here to meet and "make peace;" all this was done with the obvious aim of proving that the disagreements were nothing serious, nothing lasting, and that soon everything would be as it had been previously. Fantastic interpretations of Togliatti's testament and of the liquidation of Khrushchev were put in circulation, later they were gathered in the (anonymous) letters to the comrades of the Italian Communist Party [See Translations on International Communist Developments, No 694, JPRS: 28,690] about which we spoke in the last issue of Nuova Unita.

Later the electoral campaign represented a good opportunity to attempt to bury the ideological debate under the noise of comitia and under the feverish activities of preferences, and to rebuild the unity between Marxists-Leninists and revisionists, between revolutionaries and reformists, on the altar of unity against the lists of candidates of Rightwing parties. Finally the Italian Communist Party drafted some of its high spokesmen in order to try to regain some elements which had been leading the fight for Marxism-Leninism by hinting at profound renewal within the party and by showing the greatest liberality towards the positions assumed by our comrades, under the condition that we abandon the idea of a new Marxist-Leninist party. After about six months we can say that the various Marxist-Leninist groups have withstood very well the pressure and the heavy maneuvers of the revisionist apparatus. Most groups have continued to carry on their battles courageously and resolutely. The expulsion of many comrades from the Italian Communist Party in Pisa, Livorno, Vicenza, Ascoli-Piceno, etc. dates from this period, so does the formation of new Marxist-Leninist groups, sections, and circles in these and other localities. Notwithstanding the considerable organizational difficulties encountered by the production and the distribution of Nuova Unita the newspaper's circulation has continued to grow, so, as far as we know, has the circulation of publications devoted to the translation of the documents of fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties and movements. The Young (m-l) Communist League has been able to form in Milan, and it has started a youth movement which is developing all over Italy.

Only in Milan a few comrades, who however had contributed much to the development of the movement, lacked sufficient political experience and ideological solidity to withstand the revisionist offensive, which has been particularly strong in this city. Against the positions of Nuova Unità they ended up adopting the positions of the group which operates inside the party with the "anonymous letters" the ambiguous character of which we have loudly denounced. They have opposed the line to build a new Marxist-Leninist party and have instead adopted the formula of working inside and outside of the party "for the inside and for the outside" as if it were possible to work simultaneously for revisionism and for Marxism-Leninism.

Episodes like this represent one aspect of the great travail which the Italian working class must overcome in order to defeat the revisionist force of inertia and in order to find again the road which leads to revolution. These episodes do not affect -- except as individual cases -- the work to build the movement and the new party in which the true communists are engaged. Furthermore they also have a great positive significance: they familiarize us with the ways and the means by which revisionists are attempting to paralyze the movement and to hinder its development. Such episodes also warn us of the fact that we must watch out most for the revisionist leaders and for their agents who masquerade more or less as Marxists-Leninists, and who are trying to influence Marxist-Leninists by means of the most abject ideological corruption and of political blackmail.