

TRANSLATION

Copies to: Liga Comunista Internacionalista
United Secretariat of the IV International
Steering Committee of the Leninist Trotskyist
Faction

The undersigned expelled members, as well as members who -- because of their disagreement with these expulsions and method used in the entire process of incrimination -- have left the PRT since the February 1, 1976, plenum that approved the sanctions, make it known through this statement that:

1. The accusations were not objective. Written charges were not presented. All the evaluations made orally against the members under attack had the weight of accusations.

2. The membership of the party in its entirety was denied the right to become acquainted with the basic material of the inquiry as well as the method of investigation of what was referred to by the central leadership as "rumors."

3. The expulsion proceedings were prejudiced by the confusion deliberately created by the party leadership in raising the possibility that comrades like Evaristo or Ernesto, both Trotskyist activists for five years and elected members of the central leadership, might be linked to the extreme right -- the ELP -- or to the extreme left -- FUR. This was openly stated by Comrade Sá Leal at a meeting of cell leaderships in Lisbon where problems of "factional origin" were discussed.

4. Not a single one of the members against whom sanctions were applied was given the chance to formulate a defense in writing, since it was only at the plenum that they learned that they were under accusation and what the bases of the charges were.

5. During the plenum, called on one day's notice, the atmosphere that prevailed was an emotional one, charged with physical and psychological coercion, which was the logical outcome of the entire method used.

6. In the discussion of the agenda and throughout the entire meeting, both the central leadership and the presiding committee of the plenum tried to prevent comrades under accusation from taking up the charges in their political context. They continually insisted that the question was not a political one but an organizational one.

7. The charges of "provocative, antiparty factional activity" were not proved.

8. Since the organization is in a pre-congress period, such methods pose an impediment to airing political differences with the central leadership in an atmosphere of open, democratic discussion.

9. In accordance with the organizational norms of the IV International, the congress is the supreme and sovereign body. Therefore, the sanctions should be discussed at that level. If we are not allowed to be present, to participate and defend ourselves politically on the basis of written charges, this will constitute a new example of misrepresentation and violation of the organizational principles of Leninism-Trotskyism.

10. The forced removal of members who continue to support the IV International and building a section of the Fourth International in our country will divide the Trotskyist forces and prevent clarification of the political positions -- which is a necessary precondition for the building of the Revolutionary Workers Party in Portugal.

In view of the above, we demand that the Leadership of the PRT:

1. Immediately reinstate the undersigned expelled members in the Partido Revolucionário dos Trabalhadores,

2. Permit our participation in the Congress, the highest sovereign body, which should make the final decision on the proceedings.

We await a reply, which we request be made within one week and sent to the following address: [address in original].

Lisbon, March 26, 1976

The expelled members:

s/ Ernesto
Frederico
Alexandre
Marta
Catarina
José

Suspended:

Gonçalo
Américo

Members who left the PRT since the plenum in solidarity with the expelled:

s/Aduzuea (?)
Francisca
Otelo
Silvia
Maria
Marina
Andrea
Rosa