

ADDRESS BY COMRADE JANET JAGAN, MP, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY,
PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, GUYANA, TO THE 11TH CONGRESS OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE,

Dear Comrades,

It is with a distinct sense of pride that the People's Progressive Party of Guyana ~~to-day~~ participates in this historic 11th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece.

Your invitation for us to take part in this Congress presents us with a most unique occasion. For the first time in our country's history the People's Progressive Party has been given the rare opportunity to represent the working people of our South American nation at such an honourable forum of such a prestigious Party and of such a great nation.

Dear Comrades of the Communist Party of Greece, you will understand then with what deep feelings I extend to you, on behalf of the working people of Guyana, the Central Committee and entire membership of our party, warm, fraternal and revolutionary greetings.

The People's Progressive Party greatly cherishes the strong bonds of friendship that have been growing steadily between our two parties. We have always admired and tried to emulate the courageous and principled way you carried out your revolutionary duties in the interest of the Greek people started just one year after the Great October Socialist Revolution. And we are pleased to say that though your Party is twice the age of ours, we have enjoyed a relationship based on equality, mutual respect and cooperation founded on the time-tested Leninist principles of Proletarian Internationalism.

This 11th Congress, the second to be held in conditions of legality since the last war, is being held at a crucial juncture of mankind's history. Since your last Congress serious developments have occurred both within your country and on the international scene.

Imperialism, especially US imperialism, has launched a most aggressive and adventuristic onslaught against the most sacred right of the peoples of the world - the right to live in peace. Through the criminal escalation of the arms race and the development and deployment of dangerous weapons of mass destruction imperialism is threatening to destroy entire humanity. They must be stopped! We share the view that there is no other single issue in contemporary international life than that of the preservation of world peace.

From this rostrum we salute the mighty Soviet Union for having persistently and consistently shouldered the heavy responsibility, sometimes single-handedly, of preserving peace. At the same time we want to pay homage to the great statesman and leader of the International Communist Movement, the late Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, for his untiring and exemplary contribution to the cause of peace.

Imperialism cannot resign itself to the fact that it is doomed. The forces of peace, progress and socialism are on the march. As Lenin himself said, the march of humanity towards socialism is inevitable. Already socialism has gained a resounding victory in taking away the initiative from capitalism. More and more, once exploited peoples are throwing off the yoke of imperialist plunder, backwardness and poverty.

In your own region, imperialism has created a situation of increasing tensions.

The maintenance of US bases and the presence of the 6th fleet in the Mediterranean Sea is criminal. Their support for the brutal dictatorship in Turkey and turning Cyprus into a spring board for attacks against the Soviet Union and progressive states have further endangered world peace.

In your own country there have been remarkable developments. The defeat of the New Democracy and the victory of the left in the general and local government elections have clearly attested to the fact that the Greek people want change.

In studying the recent developments in Greece it is clear that the most important victory achieved was in the field of uniting the various forces around the slogan of anti-imperialism, anti-monopoly and democracy.

The Communist Party of Greece, apart from the impressive gains scored in the elections, can with dignity claim credit for having so patiently and persistently, on the basis of uncompromising class struggles, hammered out a unity of the various forces. We fully understand the difficulties faced by the communists in charting a road that will bring final victory of socialism, to free the Greek people from the exploitation of the imperialists and to free Greece from militarisation and the clutches of the NATO war hawks.

But like the victorious battles you waged against fascism we are sure you will also be triumphant in your struggle against U.S. and NATO domination of your country and for national independence, peace and progress.

Because of the new and comparatively democratic climate existing there are certainly greater possibilities for mass participation in the struggles.

In this context we understand and support the CPG's struggle in the direction for genuine political change - an anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist and democratic change that will pave the way for socialism. We salute you in your valiant struggle for the withdrawal of your country from NATO, the clearing out of all foreign bases in the area and for the Mediterranean to be a Nuclear Free Zone. This, we believe is very fundamental. As General Secretary, ^{Comrade} Florakis, himself said in a recent speech: "We look upon the struggle for the achievement of these goals not only as fundamental for our own national independence but also to the consolidation of peace and security in the region."

In our own region also the imperialists have been on the onslaught. Rocked by the victory of the Cuban revolution and the successful building of socialism in that Isle of Freedom, the triumph of the revolutions in Nicaragua, Grenada and Suriname in what it considers its own backyard, the US is attempting to halt the wind of change sweeping the region. The Reagan administration today supports the most brutal dictatorships in Central and Latin America and is using its financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank to dictate terms to Caribbean nations. Likewise it has boosted its military strength in the Caribbean Basin and especially to the murderous junta in El Salvador where the people's liberation war has reached a high point.

In Guyana, the People's Progressive Party continues its battle to form a united opposition to the present regime under which the living standards of the people are being attacked. Faced with an overall crisis, the regime is seeking a solution based on imperialist prescriptions. Like in the past this is bound to fail.

We see, at the present stage, a solution to the deep crisis in Guyana, a policy based on democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist orientation. However, the

ruling class will not give up power and this is bound to heighten the contradictions and lead to **further class battles in the** near future. The Guyanese people want change. They want a halt to the erosion of civil and human rights; attacks on their living standards and an end to the opportunist, petty-bourgeois **regime** which keeps itself in power through fraudulent elections and military strength.

Dear Comrades,

We are joined in a common struggle for a socialist future. Your struggles to unite the people and various forces in Greece teach us greatly as we continue to struggle in Guyana for a National Patriotic Front. Last year our Party celebrated its 30 years of existence. With the experiences of fraternal parties like yours and our continued preparations for the class battles ahead, we are certain of victory.

On this occasion of your 11th Congress the People's Progressive Party expresses its firm conviction that our relationship will grow to our mutual benefit. Just this year a representative of our Central Executive **visited** your party. Also a few months ago we had the honour of welcoming Comrade Vais Polychronis, Central Committee Member of your Party when he attended our 21st Congress, the very first member of the CPG to be a guest of the PPP in Guyana.

It is our fervent belief that this Congress will take your struggles to a higher ~~plane~~ as you assess your past work and chart your course for the future. In this struggle we give you our wholehearted solidarity.

History and time are on our side! Victory is inevitable!

Long live the Communist Party of Greece !

Long Live Proletarian Internationalism!

Long Live Communism !