

NEW - DEMOCRATIC PARTY

[SRI LANKA COMMUNIST PARTY (LEFT)]

Second National Congress

4th & 5th May 1991
COLOMBO.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Regain and Restore - National Democracy!
Win Over the Right to Self - Determination!



- ✻ National Economy
- ✻ National Independence
- ✻ Unity among Nationalities.

Build up a united front on the
basis of a Common Programme.

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SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Second National Congress of the Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) was held in Colombo on 4th & 5th May 1991. The following items in the Agenda were taken up for discussions and decisions arrived at:-

1. Report on National and International Situations.
2. Report on National Question.
3. Organisational Report
4. Party's constitutional amendments.
5. Immediate and long term programme.
6. Party's name.
7. Election of a New Central Committee.

The political report analysed the national situation in detail. The economic, political, social and cultural developments and changes that have been taking place in the past four decades were assessed on Marxist - Leninist approach. The UNP rule for over 13 year since 1977 and how the economics politics and culture of the country have been affected at the base was discussed in length. The report emphasises the need for the working class organizations, and other democratic, patriotic forces to unite and carry forward their struggle to safeguard the people.

The political report noted that it is the wish of the people to build a planned national economy and, contrary to it, new

forms of colonial economic set-up is being introduced. The country is being sold to multi-national organizations for their rapacious exploitation and free market. In the political cultural and social spheres, imperialist capitalist infiltrations and controls are increasing

The report explained the reasons for bringing in legislations to safeguard the exploitation by neo-colonists. Amendments to the constitution, especially the 6th amendment, emergency regulation, Essential Services Act to ban strikes, Anti Terrorism Act, Regulations against university students' organisations are a few of the legislations brought in by the government to deprive people of their basic human rights.

In addition to these, the armed forces are given unlimited powers to unleash tyranny. With these repressive laws, the people were deprived of the basic democratic, trade union, human rights. The people and students who opposed these measures were killed and thousands are missing. The number of people under detention is not known. It is quite evident that fascist methods are adopted in these cases.

The economic policy that is being practised has caused ever-increasing prices, inflation, deterioration in the living standards and unemployment. Not only the workers, peasants, middle-class and smallscale producers but also the national bourgeoisie are badly affected by the present economic set-up. On the other hand, foreign multi-national establishments and the big businesses are reaping the harvest.

The political report has referred to the present social structure as a neo-colonist, feudal, big bourgeois one. The chauvinist, fascist - UNP government is keen on protecting this set up. Thus the contradiction between the vast majority of people and neo-colonist-feudal-big bourgeois is the main contradiction today. The ruling big bourgeois UNP is the common enemy of the people. It has unleashed slogans such as democracy, freedom and peace in order to cover their anti-people activities. Therefore the working class, peasants, petty bourgeoisie national bourgeoisie and all working people should unite against this common enemy.

The report further adds that instead of the the present economic and political set-up where exploitation and injustice prevail, a long term struggle has to be waged - first to install a democratic set-up which would be followed by a socialist set-up. This can be achieved only by uniting all forces and classes that could be united in a united front on the basis of class struggle shown by Marxism-Leninism

While the Party is making, serious efforts to continue its struggle in order to achieve its long-term objectives, it stresses the need to face the immediate problems facing the country and people. The report emphasises that the immediate task is to restore the basic democratic-trade union and human rights which the people have been deprived of. This what is known as restoration of national democracy. Only by winning the struggle to restore the national democracy can the democratic and progressive forces build and protect national democracy and national independence. In the immediate task of restoring national democracy, all political forces with different ideologies and classes should unite on a common programme. This is what the country and people are demanding.

On the National Question,

The report put forward a clear and elaborate policy. In today's Sri Lanka, the contradiction between nationalities is not the main contradiction. However the National Question has developed into an important national problem and the war situation in the North-East continues. The Sri Lankan Tamils, Sri Lankan Muslims and the Tamils of Indian origin who speak Tamil were faced with various basic problems and the failure to resolve these problems led to the present crisis - the National Question and the armed struggle.

Starting from the deprivation of civic rights of Tamils of Indian origin in 1948 and upto the 6th amendment to the Constitution in the mid-eighties, various discriminatory legal enactments, state planned colonisation in the use of water resources, racial approach in the field of education, empyl-

ment - the sum total of these have developed the National Question into the state of war. There is no military solution to this national crises. A reasonable political solution is the only way for us to extricate ourselves from this crisis. To bring about a political solution, all three parties-namely, Sri Lanka government and political parties on one side, LTTE and all other militant groups on the other side and India the third party (which should not press forward its regional hegemonism) should sit together and bring about a political solution.

This solution shall recognise the Tamil nationality, the right to-self determination in the merged North - East and grant them ^{autonomy with} full powers. Under this autonomous region, the Muslims should have inner autonomous bodies based on self-determination so as to protect their individual identity. likewise people of Indian origin in the up country and elsewhere should get real benefits of citizenship, allocating lands in the respective places. setting up inner autonomous bodies based on self-determination and grant them powers to develop socio-economic, cultural and educational matters

We could not achieve these easily, as the National Question has become complicated, with great loss of lives and property damages by the chauvinist - fascist government. To win the right to self - determination, a great campaign has to be launched. In this struggle, not only the Tamil speaking people but also the Sinhalese have to participate. Not only this, the struggle for the recognition of the right to self - determination is a part and parcel of the struggle for the restoration of national democracy. That is why the Second National Congress of our Party declared "Restoration of national democracy winning the right to self - determination" are the immediate and essential tasks.

On the international situation, the report explained the super - powers' ambition to plunder the wealth of the Third World countries and installing governments that are acceptable to them. In the recent Gulf war, American imperialism and its allies exposed their real nature and aim to the people of the world. These forces have spread extensive propaganda that socialist set - up is failing. It is true that socialism now faces a crisis.

On the International Situation

Though the developments in Eastern Europe and the changes that are taking place in the Soviet Union are temporary setbacks for the world socialist movements, the report expresses the belief that the situation there would change shortly. The modern revisionism initiated in the Soviet Union by Khrushchev is the main reason for the present day crisis in socialism. The report points out that Khrushchev by his dirty actions brought disrepute and has bowed down to the reactionary American and Western imperialist forces.

While world Marxist-Leninist movements and socialist forces are faced with severe stress by the multi-fold steps taken in the Soviet Union and by Khrushchev, the report welcomes the happenings in the socialist China. The report also welcomed with rejoice the suppression of the so called 'students movement' in China instigated by foreign and local reactionary forces two years ago. Anti-socialist, reactionary nature of the 'students movement' was identified by the Chinese people and people of the world, the report noted. The report also welcomed and extended its whole hearted support for the guidelines of the Communist Party of China, viz:

1. Communist Party leadership.
2. Peoples democratic dictatorship
3. Socialist path.
4. Adherence to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse Tung Thought.

Report also welcomed the support extended to this socialist trend by the socialist countries Korea, Albania and Cuba. The report declared that it shared the feelings of proletarian internationalism and its solidarity with all liberation organisations, Marxist-Leninist Parties and other organisations which are fighting in various forms, against super-powers and their atrocities, and regional hegemonist forces.

The people of the third world and oppressed people of the world will definitely rise against imperialist, capitalist forces and

smash them. In this great international struggle the people of this country would firmly join hands, the report declared.

Change of Party's Name

The Second National Congress of Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) has decided to change the name of the Party as 'New-Democratic Party'. Explaining the reasons for change, the name Communist Party had been degenerated by Parliamentary opportunists and adventurists have also misused the name. Under the name Communist Party, various groups and splinter organisations are functioning. Further under the present situation, building up a broad united front is essential and, in order to achieve the goal of establishing New Democracy, the name New-Democratic Party is definitely a fitting one. The Congress unanimously adopted this change. At the end of two day session the Second National Congress elected a new Central Committee. The Central Committee had elected comrade S. K. Senthivel as General Secretary, comrade R. Thambiah as National Organiser and comrade S. Devaraja as Treasurer.

Delegates and observers from North-East, up country Colombo and other areas took part at this Second Congress. To make public the political decisions of the Party, a public political seminar under the title "Today's Political situation and the way ahead for Sri Lanka" was held on 5th May 1991. at GCSU Head Quarters

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6-5-1991
Colombo.

IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME

1. The immediate task is to build up a broad front on the strong foundation of common programme. This front will embrace all political parties and organisations that are resolutely opposed to the present anti-democratic, anti-working class, anti-people, anti national UNP government consisting of big capitalists, chauvinists and fascists. This common front which will mobilise the people will spearhead powerful people's struggles. The common programme should have as its main objectives the establishment of national democracy and securing the right to self determination.
2. Providing for suitable ways and means through which a government freely elected at a general election can replace the UNP government which is ejected from the seat of power by popular struggles.
3. The representatives of the people chosen through a free, fair and democratic election should evolve a new constitution to replace the present one this could be done through the mechanism of a national constituent assembly. The new constitution should abolish the present executive presidential system. It should vest popular sovereignty in the House of Representatives. The new constitution should be fashioned in such a way as to ensure the interests and welfare of the people, the nation, fundamental human rights and the equality of all irrespective of race, caste or creed.
4. The following pieces of legislation which are in force now should be immediately rescinded: emergency regulations, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Sixth Amendment, the Essential Services Act, regulations governing the Universities designed to suppress students and all other repressive legislation. Moreover, all auxiliary forces and special forces should be disbanded. The extraordinary powers granted to the armed forces should be comple-

tely withdrawn: At the same time all political prisoners, held in prisons, detention camps, army camps and interrogation centres should be released unconditionally.

5. An impartial commission should be appointed to probe into the anti-trade union, anti-democratic and fundamental human rights violations and activities since 1977. Through such a probe, a complete list of all those who have been killed or 'disappeared' should be compiled and made public; compensation must be paid to the next of kin and the survivors should be helped to rehabilitate themselves. Those guilty of these crimes should be punished, must be exposed, however exalted they may be.
6. Immediate steps should be taken without delay to initiate tripartite talks to lead to a reasonable interim solution of the national question. The solution envisaged would be based on the right of self-determination and would lead to regional autonomy for the merged North-East and inner autonomy for the Muslims and the Tamils of Indian origin. These arrangements would be enshrined in the constitution. Moreover, the victims of the cruel war being waged in the North and East should be fully compensated for the heavy losses of life and property, means of livelihood etc. A crash programme of rehabilitation should be launched to restore normalcy as possible in these areas.
7. All steps should be taken to raise the standard of living of all the working people, to control increases in the cost of living and to increase salaries to government servants, employees and workers in proportion to increases in the cost of living.
8. While laying the foundation for the planned development of heavy industry and agriculture, all encouragement and assistance should be given to cottage industries and small scale agriculture and the people involved in such activities. Agricultural development opportunities should

be equitably distributed among all the regions. Through these measures, the drain of our human resources can be stimulated and accelerated.

9. The open economy policies which have led to our country's imports and exports being exploited, without any restrictions, whatsoever, by foreign multinationals the shattering of the planned development of the national economy and our country becoming the captive market of these foreign corporations should be abandoned. Co-operatives should be set up to handle agricultural purchases, sales and marketing of small scale industries etc. Measures should be undertaken to build up our national economy on a strong, viable base and in a planned manner.
10. A monthly salary scheme for estate workers should be implemented. Estate workers should be brought in to the national mainstream by ensuring that they enjoy citizenship rights and the right to vote, in practice. The discrimination against them in the alienation of land should be stopped forthwith. Moreover, steps should be taken to ensure that the estate population enjoys residential, health and educational facilities on par with the rest of the population.
11. All discriminatory practices which turn women, who form half the population, into oppressed second class citizens in all spheres of activity should be stopped forthwith. Positive and firm measure should be undertaken to safeguard the rights, interests and equality of women.
12. An educational policy should be formulated which transcends all considerations and differences of race, class, religion, language, caste, gender, and region. This national educational policy should aim at developing the knowledge of science and technology so as to serve national economic development and the welfare of society. It should also inculcate a sense of social responsibility and a fundamental humanistic outlook. A cultural policy

which will preserve the positive value of different ethnic groups while at the same time renewing them so to combat poisonous foreign cultural influences is needed.

13. All institutions and property, belonging to the state, corporation and co operative sectors which have been privatised since the eighties and which have passed into the hands of private individuals, both local and foreign, should be restored to their original owners and suitable steps should be taken to make them viable economically. Similary, all those practices, based on a profit motive, which have been introduced into the vital educational, health and medical spheres should be forthwith abolished and policies geared to the people's needs and welfare should be implemented.
14. The backward groups in all parts of the country should be identified and immediate steps taken for their social, economic and educational amelioration. Backwardness should be redefined to cover caste, race, class and regional aspects.
15. The present UNP government's pro-western tilt in its foreign policy should be abandoned and a firm policy of non-alignment should be pursued. At the same time we should oppose the hegemonic activities of the superpowers and the regional powers. We should ally ourselves with the oppressed peoples of the world and actively assist their freedom movements, as also with the masses of the Indian sub-continent and their struggles for social justice and liberation. We should also ensure that our foreign policy solidly backs the efforts of Third world Countries to maintain their solidarity, their national independence and their economic development.

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