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Contribution to the webinar about NATO expansion and the Russia-Ukraine war held by ILPS on 25Th February 2025

The military intervention initiated on February 24, 2022 by the Russian Federation in Ukraine is an answer to the attack that the U.S. imperialists directly and through NATO have been conducting since the group headed by Putin ended their freedom to act in the Federation and other states that have arisen from the dissolution of the USSR.

The imperialist powers carried out repeated aggressions against the Soviet state since its inception: military the first (1918-2021), conducted with sanctions, boycotts, plots and eliminations of Soviet leaders the second, military the third (1941-1945) led by Hitler's Germany. None of these aggressions were successful. In contrast, the fourth, the Cold War launched by Churchill in 1946 was successful because of the economic, social and political decadence triggered in Soviet society by the advent in 1956 of the modern revisionists in the leadership of the CPSU and ended with the dissolution in 1991 of the USSR and the reintegration into the imperialist camp of the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe. For nearly a decade, the imperialists had a free hand in the Russian Federation, where the conditions of the mass of the population worsened dramatically in all fields: the victims of the dissolution of the USSR are estimated to amount to several tens of millions, some say 50 million, more than double the Soviet casualties caused by World War II. The coming to power of Putin's group in 1999 marked the end of this period of savage destruction of the Russian economic and social system, the Russian Federation has undertaken a national and international policy relatively independent of the U.S. and the International Community (IC) of the U.S., Zionist and European imperialist groups and has also inserted itself with relative

autonomy into the resistance of states (Iran, Syria, Palestine and a growing number of South American and African states) refractory to free plunder by the IC of imperialist groups, and in the clash between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China. The Russian Federation with People's Republic of China has become the main actor in the opposition to the expansion of the U.S.-NATO imperialist groups around the world and obstacle to their plans to recolonize oppressed countries, dragging Latin American, African and Asian countries behind it.

The U.S. imperialists with NATO are attacking the Russian Federation and other former Soviet countries to try to halt the decline of the commercial, monetary and financial dominance in the world imperialist system they acquired at the end of World War II, declining since the 1970s due to the development of the second general crisis by absolute overproduction of capital.

The defense of their economic and financial role in the world drives the U.S. imperialist groups to complete the encirclement of the Russian Federation in Europe and litter with military bases and agencies the Asian republics that have arisen since the dissolution of the Soviet Union;

impose their goods on the European imperialist groups already their creditors as well as their competitors in the exploitation of oppressed countries and the devastation of the planet;

militarily encircle the People's Republic of China and resort to a thousand intrigues to subvert its political order;

try to subvert the political order in all countries that fail to throttle economically and financially, primarily Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Syria.

Included in this course of things is NATO's enlargement to the former Soviet Baltic republics and the former Eastern European People's Republics (1999: Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic; 2004: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia; 2009: Albania, Croatia; 2017: Montenegro; 2020: North Macedonia) and, as for Ukraine, the 2014 Euromaidan coup, the persecution of Russian-speaking populations in the Donbass, and the installation of Zelensky's puppet and pro-Nazi government.

The Russian Federation's reaction immediately generated divergence within the international communist movement, culminating in an open clash at the International Meeting of Communist & Workers' Parties held in Cuba on October 27-29, 2022. One position headed by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation supported and agreed with the intervention in Ukraine by the Russian Federation, one headed by the Communist Party of

Greece argued that the one in Ukraine is a war between imperialist countries, those U.S.-NATO on one side and the Russian Federation on the other.

This clash is healthy because it pushes parties and bodies of the international communist movement to understand the factors by which a country is, by the nature of its political, economic and social system, to be counted among the imperialist ones or not. This means, specifically, to understand the nature and role of the Russian Federation, a country generated by the dissolution of the first socialist country, therefore only to some extent assimilable to others. It is the bourgeoisie that wishes that the construction of socialism had never been there and tries to erase it from consciousness and memory!

It also pushes to analyze the People's Republic of China and "socialism with Chinese characteristics," rather than excluding a priori that a communist party, which has the political leadership of its own country and mobilizes the masses of the people in the construction of socialism, can strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat and the planned direction of the economy by making use of both the cooperation of the national bourgeoisie and the bureaucratic bourgeoisie. Lenin and Stalin had urged to do this in the USSR before the start of the 1918-1921 civil war. This also sharpens the contrasts among the imperialist powers and groups, as Lenin and Stalin consistently tried to do by opposing their party leaders--famous the case of Trotsky in 1917--who refused to do so.

The clash pushes to gain a deeper understanding of the characteristics of the imperialist era, then to develop the analysis made by Lenin considering transformations there have been since 1916. The accumulated delay in scientific knowledge of the reality of imperialism on the part of communists in imperialist countries has given breath to theories whose common landing place is that there is no need to establish socialism. In the field of mass activity, this helps to keep communists bogged down in economism and electoralism.

The transformations that have taken place in the imperialist era both are the economic field. We are talking about the fact that production as commodities of the material conditions of human existence has become a secondary aspect of the valorization of capital and the activities of the bourgeoisie--although it remains the ineradicable basis of them--subordinate to the valorization of capital through financial and speculative transactions. The transformation that has taken place in the political field is the shift from bourgeois democracy to regimes of preventive counterrevolution. These transformations lead to the same conclusion: the promotion of claim struggles and participation in bourgeois political struggle should be consciously aimed at the establishment of socialism;

The clash pushes to understand in a more practical way that the imperialist era is the era of socialist revolution and of the decadence of bourgeois society. Proletarian revolution and World War III are the two currents vying for ground throughout humanity given the unification of the world that took place in the imperialist era. Today's priority task is to establish socialism in imperialist countries, overcoming the limitations in understanding the conditions of the class struggle concerning the course of economic activities, the nature of political systems, the form of socialist revolution. We must understand why in the last century the communist movement, except in the “weakest link in the imperialist chain” country, failed in this task: the first imperialist country to break the chains of the International Community of the U.S., Zionist and European imperialist groups will start the fire that will stop the extension of World War III and free the world from the imperialist system.

The clash pushes to break with the practice prevailing for decades in the international communist movement of not dealing openly with divergences of evaluation, analysis of the course of things and line for the sake of quiet life and instead to practice front politics that means solidarity against repression and joint initiatives even by bodies that have among themselves divergences of analysis and line, the development of frank and open debate and ideological struggle and the evaluation of experience as a method of dealing with such divergences.

In Italy the opposition of the popular masses to the war is widespread and increases their distance from a government that, in the European Union, is among the most subservient to NATO. It is up to us Italian communists to develop in every sector of the population specific operations to end our country's participation in the U.S.-NATO war. It is up to us to orient every workers' and popular organism against the Meloni government, the government of war, war economy and subservience to the U.S. imperialists, in order to oust it, replace it with a popular emergency government and from there advance to the establishment of socialism, the true and only way out of World War III. It is up to us communists to promote the coordination of the many bodies operating on the national territory against NATO and its bases, as we have done since April 2024, contributing to the birth of the National Coordination against NATO, a body to which we will take care to give any information on mobilizations against NATO at the international level, as we are already doing for this seminar and for the mobilization that ILPS is organizing against the NATO summit in The Hague in June.

The World Anti-Imperialist Platform (WAP), a coordination that arose in October 2022, will be mobilized on that occasion. It is our concern to feed the convergence of the WAP

mobilization with this one promoted by the ILPS. The WFP and ILPS are different coordinations, but common is their enemy and therefore it is of great importance that they converge against it in The Hague, in the most effective forms to strike it. The CARC Party feeds this convergence and makes itself available for it to take place, just as it feeds the attention and participation in the Hague mobilization by the workers' and popular organizations in our country that are coordinating against the U.S.-NATO imperialists and their servants, attention and participation that will be all the more alive the more united the NATO opponents march at the Hague.

What the conscious and organized communist movement is doing in the world and in Italy are steps toward the establishment of socialism, starting with imperialist countries like ours. The future is bright! Onward to victory!

International Working Group of the CARC Party

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