

PROGRAM OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING IT

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The development of capitalism in Lebanon and its introduction into the various spheres of the economy, agriculture included, has led to the prevalence of the capitalist system in the country. Therefore the future road of revolutionary transformations in Lebanon will be one of transition from capitalism to socialism.

Basing itself on an analysis of the economic, social and political situation, the correlation and nature of class forces, the level of organization and consciousness, and the stages of struggle, the Lebanese Communist Party considers that general democratic struggle in conditions of the existing system, far from putting off, is bringing nearer, the socialist revolution, which alone will ensure the economic, social and political liberation of the country. The socialist revolution will eliminate backwardness, abolish the privileges of the exploiter classes, and transfer the material and cultural values of society to those who create them. The Communist Party holds that in the period of this general democratic struggle an alliance of the working class and the other strata of the working people is established and strengthened and the political consciousness of the masses is enhanced. The Party holds that the pooling of the efforts of all progressive and national forces and sectors facilitates the achievement of economic and social gains in the present conditions, which will bring about an improvement of the life of the people and weaken the finance oligarchy economically and politically.

The Communist Party mobilizes the masses and cooperates with all parties, organizations and national and professional forces in the fight for political concessions to extend and consolidate democratic freedoms, and guarantee the legality of the party, trade union and mass organization of all socialist and national forces, in the fight to weaken the positions of the finance oligarchy and to thwart its attempts to eliminate the relative freedoms and pursue the policy of ideological and political discrimination.

Coming out for the extension of the democratic freedoms of the masses, the Party is working for its legalization, for it is the vanguard of the working class which is equipped with a scientific theory and with a rich experience of dozens of years of struggle. The legalization of the Communist Party and the repeal of the reactionary laws and measures which obstruct its activity and

struggle are not only a top-priority task of the working class and its allies from among the peasants, revolutionary intellectuals and other democrats, but also and above all a national necessity and a task of the entire democratic development in the country.

The Party is fighting resolutely for the pursuit of an independent foreign policy conforming to the economic and political interests of Lebanon, to the struggle of the Arab national liberation movement against imperialism, its conspiracies and Israel, its base and an instrument of its aggressive plans. The Communist Party stands firmly for a foreign policy favoring the struggle of the peoples for liberation, democracy and peace, for stronger contacts with the progressive Arab countries and the countries of the socialist camp.

Declaring for general democratic reforms, the Party considers that their implementation is a pressing necessity and a guarantee of our country's advancement along the road of democracy and progress. This struggle, in the Party's opinion, is being waged for the realization of economic, social and political tasks, for breaking the chains of economic dependence on imperialism, for building an independent balanced national economy in the interests of the broadest strata of the people.

These important national-democratic tasks cannot be carried out by a political power subordinated to the finance oligarchy, an agent of neo-colonialism.

The first step in this direction should be the overthrow of the power of the finance oligarchy through the establishment of a national-democratic government which should rest on the broadest possible alliance of the popular forces—representative of the working class and all other strata of the working people—and champion a program conforming to the interest of the various classes and strata and based on the following principles:

1. Abolition of foreign monopolistic companies to end the plunder of the national wealth.
2. Restriction of the economic positions of the finance oligarchy aimed at its eventual elimination through the nationalization of finance and insurance institutions and the narrowing down of the sphere of private foreign trade deals with the aid of state agencies.
3. An agrarian reform aimed at abolishing big land and semi-feudal ownership, limiting the size of land holdings, making full use of production possibilities, and employing modern methods of agricultural production.
4. Consolidation of the industrial sector through its expansion and development; establishment of new branches; industrialization of the country. The latter presupposes the existence of a scientific plan taking into account the possibilities of the country and the prospects for the development of industry. This requires direct

intervention of the state, reliance on the state sector, and the creation of mixed enterprises.

5. The granting of broad democratic freedoms: freedom of the press, expression, employment and party, trade union and mass organization; the conversion of formally democratic institutions into genuinely democratic ones through abrogating the laws which are an impediment to this. In the first place it is necessary to amend the constitution adopted by the authorities during the existence of the mandate, and to turn it into a modern democratic constitution guaranteeing the freedom of every citizen and respect for human dignity. It is also necessary to work out a new electoral law based on proportional representation and a single national list, eliminate the financial and other restrictions, introduce suffrage at the age of 18, and guarantee the freedom and rights of voters through strict respect for procedure (polling booths, ballots). Also to abolish the principal reactionary institutions of the state apparatus set up during the rule of the imperialists, who were concerned with preserving the power of the alliance of the feudals and the finance oligarchy; to build a modern democratic apparatus.

6. Satisfaction of the social demands of the working class and the other strata of the working people and the masses; constantly to raise their living and cultural level; to solve the problem of education at various levels; to guarantee medical assistance and social maintenance.

7. Economic cooperation with the other Arab countries through the establishment of an Arab common market and activities aimed at building the economic unity of the Arab countries.

8. An independent anti-imperialist foreign policy, a policy of close cooperation of the newly-free Arab states; struggle against the conspiracies and the economic and political pressure of the imperialist countries on the Arab countries; elimination of imperialist influence on the other Arab countries; removal of the aftermath of the Israeli aggression; struggle for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The implementation of these tasks conforms not only to the common national interests of Lebanon and the other Arab states, but also to the interests of ensuring the territorial integrity of Lebanon itself.

9. Fortification of the villages lying along the front line; the arming of the villagers, introduction of universal military service; instruction of all citizens in the handling of weapons; enhancement of the defense potential of Lebanon with the help of the socialist countries.

10. Extension of cooperation with the countries of the socialist camp, in the first place with the Soviet Union, with the aim of freeing the national economy from the chains of imperialist dependence and ending subordination to the system of international

division of labor imposed upon the world by the capitalist monopolies.

These tasks are not socialist in character; their implementation will objectively serve the interests not only of the working class, the working people and the middle urban and rural strata, but also of the local bourgeoisie connected with national production and with the domestic and general Arab market. For this reason the Communist Party is working to build a broad front of representatives of all strata interested in overthrowing the power of the feudals and the finance oligarchy and in creating and developing an independent national economy, modern industry and agriculture. The Party is working for this front to come to power and for the establishment of a genuinely democratic regime which would reflect the real correlation of forces in the country, guarantee democratic freedoms, free our country from neo-colonialist domination, and ensure its advance along the road of social progress. By virtue of its being aware of the interests of the country, by virtue of its revolutionary spirit, cohesion and firmness, the working class can play the principal role in this front.

Basing itself on an analysis of the nature of the local bourgeoisie, the historical conditions of its emergence and development, and its connections, especially in the light of the present epoch, which is characterized by mankind's transition from capitalism to socialism, the Communist Party considers that the local bourgeoisie not only is incapable of heading this general democratic struggle but is unwilling to exercise leadership in its totality, and provide conditions for development in the direction of socialism.

Therefore the Communist Party is working to organize the working class, the working people of town and countryside and the other revolutionary forces striving for socialism, and provides guidance to them in the realization of these tasks.

The tasks of national liberation from neo-colonialism are interwoven with the tasks of the socialist revolution and are becoming part of them.

In its striving for national liberation from neo-colonialism and for socialist transformations, the Communist Party believes in mass struggle—conscious and organized, economic, political and ideological.

Relying on a scientific theory and being aware of its lofty historical responsibility, the Communist Party devotes great attention to the correlation of forces in the country, in the other Arab countries and in the world, to the correlation of objective and subjective conditions. It rejects revolutionary phrasemongering, Leftist adventurist and romantic trends; being the spokesman of the working class and its allies, it exposes liquidationism, the tendency

to follow in the tail of events, and Right-wing opportunism; adheres to principled class positions.

The Party is working to expand its basis, to mobilize all revolutionary socialist forces, to coordinate its actions and to enhance the revolutionary vigilance of its ranks.

Basing itself on close links with the masses, the Party is endeavoring to deepen the class struggle waged by the workers, the peasant masses and other working people; it is developing this struggle and striving to head it. The Party persistently explains that the complete emancipation of the working class and the entire people is possible only through the conquest of political power by the working class and its allies, which is the primary and principal problem of revolution.

While advocating a peaceful transition of power to the proletariat and its allies, which conforms to the interests of the working class and the entire people, the Communist Party, the vanguard of the working class, is preparing it for all forms of struggle, including violence in reply to the violence of the bourgeoisie, to ensure the victory of the socialist revolution.

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The Lebanese Communist Party will go on fighting in the spirit of firmness displayed throughout its long history of struggle, in keeping with the program, for the interests of the working class and the masses of working people, for the great aim of freeing all working people from political and social oppression and exploitation, for the accomplishment of the socialist revolution.
