

Communist Party of Spain (M-L)

Richardo Castilla ~ On the Work of the Party Organisation

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The most urgent problem that faces us at the present time is that of organizing the Party. This is a difficult task that requires great attention and care, for in great part the success of our struggle will depend on the form in which the Party is reorganized. It is true that there is but one way of organizing a Communist Party. This is undoubtedly on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist principles of democratic centralism (subordination of the minority to the majority, of lower bodies to higher ones and the continuous exercise of criticism and self-criticism), taking into account the clandestine conditions under which we must organize the (Marxist-Leninist) Communist Party of Spain. For years we militant Communists have received revisionist proposals and orientations from the Carrillo leadership, and these have not only been harmful to the principles of the Party but have also seriously affected its working and organizational methods. The abandonment of revolutionary principles also meant the abandonment of the Leninist norms for the functioning of the Party. We are not therefore pretending to invent anything; but we must bear in mind that everything must be reconstructed.

The (Marxist-Leninist) CP of Spain is being constructed on the basis of the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism that give it life. It is engaged in an open battle against revisionism. We have to struggle against the opportunist remnants that remain in our ranks, by maintaining extreme vigilance in favor of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and by primarily averting any possible leftist deviations that may arise within our ranks. Our Party, which has been born as a result of a hard struggle waged under extremely difficult conditions, is at the present time fertile ground for these currents. The generally low theoretical level of the militants, which is a product of the years spent under revisionism, and the lack of any formation of Marxist-Leninist cadres during those years, are tasks that we must immediately tackle.

One of the necessary conditions for the good functioning of a Communist Party is the voluntary acceptance of discipline, that is, respect for its principles and the non-subjugation of members. In defense of the principles of Marxism-Leninism we have been forced to smash our organic discipline, and to undertake a job of clarification and information among the comrades connected with the old revisionist organs of leadership. It was necessary to do this in order to wrench the Party from the hands of the gang of revisionists who were entrenched in its leadership. We have assumed our responsibilities by overriding the barracks discipline it was attempted to impose upon us. Thus, at the present time, and in view of the reorganization of the Party, we must return a sense of discipline to our militants.

We must also elevate the theoretical level of the Party and promote in our ranks an efficient propaganda in favor of Marxist-Leninist principles. It is necessary for us to forge ourselves in the spirit of proletarian internationalism. It is necessary for us to practice criticism and self-criticism in a positive manner in all the organisms of, and at all levels within, the Party. We must never hide, but always boldly criticize, the deviations of our comrades, and systematically unmask all currents and vestiges that are against Marxism-Leninism. The Party must eliminate from its ranks any uncertain elements and select only the best. The ranks of the Party will attract not only honest and faithful men but also all kinds of self-seekers. Let us bear this in mind, for the Party must be strong not by virtue of the number of militants but because of their quality. It will be necessary to ensure that our organizational work will achieve the effective application of our political directives and the decisions of the Party.

In order to carry out a successful policy and to organize the (M-L) CP of Spain on a firm basis, it is essential to have the support of cadres that understand the Party's Political Line, who are determined to execute it in the nature of a personal attitude, who are able to defend it and to struggle for it, who can explain it not only to the militants but also to the masses. In this regard, Stalin once stated that: "There are some who believe that it is enough to elaborate a correct Political Line for the Party, and to proclaim it publicly, in order to ensure victory. This is a great error. Victory is never achieved easily: it must be won by conquest. ...Once a correct line is established its success depends on the work of the organization, and on the organization of the struggle to put the Party line into practice. It depends on the wise selection of men, of control over the fulfillment of the decisions adopted by the governing organisms... In addition, after a correct Political Line has been established, it is the organizational work that decides the outcome, including the fate of the Political Line itself, its implementation or its failure..."

The existence of vigorous cadres guarantees the Party's strength. Thus, their creation is a basic task in the reconstruction of our Party. We must forge Marxist-Leninist cadres, young, active, dynamic cadres that will understand and be able to implement the Party's Political Line through the use of the objectives that are most appropriate to any given moment or situation.

A high percentage of our militants are young people who have only recently joined the Party. The majority entered it while it was under the direction of the revisionists. Thus, it is precisely among these young militants that we must seek to select and form cadres. This does not mean that we must set aside the old cadres. Nothing of the kind. We must take advantage of the valuable experience of these veteran militants. However, we must distinguish between the old militants who have been formed with a dialectical spirit; that is, those who at all times have been able to adapt themselves to the new conditions of the struggle, who possess an agile and dynamic spirit (these militants constitute a real treasure for the Party and we must respect and carefully protect them); and the type of militant who believes that he has a right to everything because of his merits of the past, who continually talks of his battles and recounts his discussions or interviews with this or that person.

Stalin was aware of the nuisance and danger of these militants and classified them as "arrogant lords" and "charlatans." He classified the former as such because "they are militants who gained certain merits in the past, people who have converted themselves into great lords who feel that Party norms do not apply to them. They feel confident that no one will dare to attack them because of their past merits; they believe that they are irreplaceable and can thus violate the decisions of the governing organisms with impunity. These militants must be dismissed from their directorial positions without hesitation, without any thought of their past merits." He classified as charlatans those who "are honest people, if this can be said, who are unable to lead, incapable of organizing anything, incorrigible charlatans who are capable of drowning the most vigorous cause in a torrent of words. What to do with them? If they remain active they are capable of stifling any matter with interminable empty speeches. It is evident therefore that they must be dismissed from positions of leadership and assigned to nonactive work. There is no room for charlatans in the field of active work."

Our Party must be dynamic and agile within the clandestine area in which it must function, capable of adapting to all conditions of the struggle, and of striking the enemy while protecting itself from his attacks. Personal methods of Party guidance must be avoided and the principle of collective leadership must be applied at all times to all responsible organisms. It is necessary for all militants to discuss and criticize all the problems of the Party's policy for the purpose of maintaining a close and healthy relation between the rank and file and the leadership.

It is necessary to maintain at all times a rigid control over tasks assigned and decisions made, and to analyze the experiences of both successes and failures in order to constantly improve the quality of our work, which will allow us to correct errors and learn whatever is to be learned. We must remember at all times that the lack of personal responsibility in our work, as well as the lack of a systematic control over the fulfillment

of adopted decisions and the fear of criticism and self-criticism are generally the causes of great difficulties and failures. Nothing is more fitting, therefore, than that at this moment we should recall Lenin's wise statement: "The principal object in the task of organization is the selection of the men and control over the fulfillment of the decisions that are adopted."