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From: United Secretariat Bureau
To: Sections and sympathizing organizations and IEC members

September 19, 1979

Dear Comrades,

Rumors have spread concerning a split in the Hezbe Kargarane Sosialist (HKS--Iranian section of the Fourth International).

The purpose of this letter is to inform the sections and sympathizing organizations of the situation based on the limited knowledge available to the Bureau.

A Bureau delegation visited Iran in early June. At that time there were no sharp differences expressed by either side of the newly fused organization, and there was no indication of split.

In late July and early August, telephone communication from both sides in Iran indicated a serious situation developing. The political differences that existed were of a tactical nature, concerning how to respond to an invitation by the Iranian Foreign Minister to political parties to present their views on foreign policy at a meeting with him. Then another difference arose over whether to participate in the elections for the Experts Assembly. After initial agreement to run in these elections, a section of the organization decided that the line of boycott was correct. In the end, one section of the organization continued to engage in the campaign and the other publicly called for boycott. Underneath these different tactical positions there is a possible difference concerning the evaluation of the overall situation, although we have no written documentation of any such difference if it in fact exists.

Organizational grievances appear to be at the center of the problem. The fusion between the former Sattar League and the former Iranian Group of the Fourth International in Europe and the Middle East was difficult and was not fully consummated.

In August two members of the Bureau, Duret and Stateman, communicated with both sides by telephone. As a result of these discussions, Duret and Stateman were convinced that a totally unjustifiable split was imminent and that it was necessary to act quickly to head this off. They therefore made a series of suggestions to both sides (see attachment).

Both sides in the HKS told comrades Duret and Stateman that they agreed with these proposals. Subsequently, however, a new newspaper, Che Bayad Kard (What Is To Be Done) was published by one side, in addition to Kargar (Worker). Both sides claim to speak for the HKS.

Neither Duret and Stateman, nor the Bureau, nor to our knowledge any section or sympathizing organization of the Fourth International has taken any position on the political or organizational questions in dispute. Rumors to the contrary are false.

The Bureau approves the position taken by comrades Duret and Stateman, and holds that the differences between the two sides do

not warrant a split. It is attempting to work with both sides, in the difficult situation facing the comrades, to reverse the split course, urging them to resolve their differences through the normal methods of democratic centralism.

Comradely greetings,

Duret and Stateman
For the Bureau

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ATTACHMENT: Proposals made by Duret and Stateman concerning the internal situation in Iran

- 1) The only way to overcome the crisis of the HKS is to hold a congress in a relatively short time, four to six weeks.
- 2) In the period before the congress, there be a parity leadership.
- 3) This parity leadership should draw up simple statutes for the congress to adopt.
- 4) In the period before the congress, the space in the newspaper should be divided 50-50. No second newspaper will be published.
- 5) Representatives of both sides to visit each branch to verify the membership before the congress.
- 6) Delegates to the congress should be elected on the basis of votes for written political resolutions.
- 7) The leadership should be elected proportional to the delegates' votes on conflicting political resolutions, if there are conflicting resolutions. If the vote is close, the majority should have a working majority on the leading bodies, e.g., approximately 60 percent.
- 8) Following the congress, the normal rules of democratic centralism will apply, with majority rule over all areas of party life, and full integration of any minority into all areas of party work under party discipline.