

LETTER OF DEAD REVOLUTIONARY SHOWS MEXICAN WORKERS NEED OF UNITY

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MEXICO CITY.—From beyond the tomb comes the voice of the dearly-beloved and universally recognized leader of the agrarian revolutionary movement here, to urge a united front of the workers and peasants of Mexico and an understanding of the identity of the agrarian revolution with the social revolution of the workers. The publication in Spanish by the Mexican branch of the Federated Press of a hitherto unpublished letter, dated February, 1918, from the martyred Emiliano Zapata to General Amezcua and secured from his archives by your correspondent, is awakening much interest in agrarian and proletarian circles.

Zapata's Internationalism.

The letter reveals that the peasant leader Zapata had a thorough understanding of the relationship of internationalism to social revolution, was an ardent supporter of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, and felt that the aims of both the workers and the peasants of Mexico would be defeated if they did not unite. It reads in part:

"We would gain much, human justice would gain much, if all the peoples of our America and old Europe would understand that the cause of revolutionary Mexico and the cause of Russia . . . are and represent the cause of humanity, the supreme interest of all oppressed peoples. Here as there, there are great gentry, inhuman, greedy and cruel, who, from father to son, have gone on exploiting to the torture point the great masses of the peasants. And there as here, the enslaved men, the men of sleeping consciousness, are beginning to awaken, to shake themselves to be stirred up to punish.

" . . . In this connection it would be desirable to remember and keep always in view the inevitable analogy,

the marked parallelism, or better, the absolute parity, which exist between that movement and the agrarian revolution of Mexico. Both are directed against that which Leo Tolstoy called "the Great Crime," against the infamous usurpation of the earth,—which being the property of all, like the water and like the air, has been monopolized by a few powerful folk, supported by the force of the armies and the iniquity of the law.

"By the same token, it is not surprising, that the world proletariat applauds and admires the Russian revolution.

For Proletarian Unity.

"For that reason you ought to go to all labor centers and labor groups of the world, in order to make them feel the imperious necessity of realizing jointly the two enterprises: namely, to educate the worker for struggle and to awaken the consciousness of the peasant.

"It is necessary not to forget, that by virtue of the solidarity of the proletariat, the emancipation of the worker will not be accomplished if the liberation of the peasant is not realized at the same time. If not, the bourgeoisie can use those two forces against each other, and take advantage, for example, of the ignorance of the peasants in order to combat and check the just efforts of the workers of the towns; in the same manner that, if the occasion offers, they will be able to use the non-conscious workers against their brothers of the field."

The letter is signed: "Emiliano Zapata," is dated "Feb. 14, 1918, General Headquarters of the Mexico Republic, Army of Liberation," and is addressed to General Jenaro Amezcua, at present a leader of the revolutionary agrarian forces in Zapata's own state of Morelos, an energetic organizer of Peasant Co-operative Communes, and an ardent supporter of all of Zapata's program.