

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

POSITION OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST LEAGUE

The Second International Conference of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico is projected to begin Sept. 12, 1979 in Mexico.

The Puerto Rican Socialist League was invited to participate in the work of the Organizing Committee beginning with the selection of the Committee. To that effect we received the respectful visit of the distinguished compatriots, Doctors Isabel Gutierrez del Arroyo and Eneida Vazquez, the attorney Noel Colon Martinez and doctor Luis Rivera Pagan.

Our organization rapidly arrived at a conclusion, but we left the matter open to discussion until now. We decided not to participate in the conference nor in the selection of the organizing committee, and its works. We believe that in participating we would be interrupting a position taken every time a similar situation is presented. To participate in the organization and work of the committee while not planning to attend the conference would be to enter with malace and inquiry into the midst of Independentism, a practice we have always condemned.

Needless to say how much we appreciate the nice and courteous manner in which the invitation was extended to us. Neither is it necessary to say how much we recognize the importance of the conference. The struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico is an international development since its beginning, as much because people struggle to bring about the international society as because those affected by the colonial condition of Puerto Rico is not Puerto Rico in itself, nor are Puerto Rico and the United States the only ones affected by this differentiation. The problem of Puerto Rico is the concern of the international community. Independence is to the benefit of all except the U.S. and the monopolies it represents.

What separates us from the conference are very important reasons. As we found out, the content of the conference, we could not accept. Its objective is to back the resolution of the Committee on Decolonization that was approved by the U.N. General Assembly. That resolution in offering the alternative of "free association" to that of independence implacably separates us from the conference.

The Conferencia Anticolonica del Istmo, convened by Gran Colombia and inspired by Bolivar in 1826, set the historical precedent of a liberating tradition never violated with respect to the independence

of Puerto Rico. The Charter of Jamaica responded to the principle laid down by Bolivar years before, and to the development of events. Bolivar wanted, as did the HispanoAmerican nations involved in the War of Independence, for that precedent to remain juridically affirmed before the end of the war, and so the arms, in assuring independence forever, approved in battle the historical and juridical reason already decided. That is the Antillian content of Ayacucho, and to it corresponds the wisdom of Marti in Cuba and of Albizu Campos in Puerto Rico.

The deed, that is juridically affirmed in Panama and approved by the liberating arms in Ayacucho, is that there was not, nor can there be an alternative to the independence of Puerto Rico, not even in the theoretical game of possible diplomatic presentations circumstantially convenient to one, or some, or to all its governments.

In presenting, as it will present, an alternative to independence of Puerto Rico, the conference of Mexico will violate all the diplomatic tradition of the independence of Puerto Rico, since 1826 to the present. It makes itself inaccessible to our presence.

To this general question can be added another of particular reference for the Puerto Rican Socialist League.

Our decision is not to enter into relations with governments or political parties that share with the U.S., the Organization of American States, and other international organisms, the policies of the Department of State and the Pentagon which impose exploitation on peoples by yanqui monopolistic capital, holding back the true redemption of peoples' independence, especially the Latin American people; combatting in all forms the development of socialist organizations; persecuting the revolutionaries, anti-imperialists, patriots, socialists, and communists; kidnapping, imprisoning them, torturing them, disappearing and assassinating them.

Our commitment and our loyalty are with the peoples in struggle against capitalism, against imperialism. They are our comrades and we are theirs.

by the Central Committee
of the Puerto Rican Socialist League

Juan Antonio Corretjer,
Secretary General

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