

"WHEN COMRADE JURI JUKOW WRITES IN PRAVDA THAT A PROOF OF THE INCOHERENCE IN THE STAND TAKEN BY SOME IN TRUTH BY SEVERAL COMMUNIST PARTIES IS THE SURPRISE HE EXPERIENCED AT THE SIMILARITY WITH HIS OR THAT ARTICLE IN THE BOURGEOIS PAPERS, WE MUST FIRST OF ALL ANSWER HIM THAT WE DO NOT AGREE WITH HIS METHOD TO DIRECT THE POLEMIC. IN SECOND PLACE WE MUST ASK HIM TO MAKE AN EFFORT (AND NO ONE CAN CONTEST US THIS RIGHT FOR THAT WHICH REGARDS OUR PARTY) TO LOOK AT THINGS AS THEY ARE, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO CALL THEM BY THEIR PROPER OWN NAME, EVEN IF ONE REMAINS OF HIS OWN OPINION ON THE MERITS OF THE QUESTION ON WHICH WE ASSUME SUCH DIFFERENT POSITIONS.

"THE POSITION OF THE ITALIAN PARTY IS COHERENT TODAY WITH THE JUDGMENTS WE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, ON THE INFORMATION WE HAD GATHERED AND MADE PUBLIC, ON THE POSITIONS OF PRINCIPLE WE HAD TAKEN AND OFTEN TOGETHER WITH OTHERS IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THEY ARE, BESIDES, THE POSITIONS WE EXPRESSED AT EVERY MEETING, EVEN RECENT ONES, WITH THE SOVIET COMRADES.

"WE DECISIVELY REFUSE IN WHAT CONCERNS US THE ACCUSATION OF INCOHERENCE, AS WE REFUSE THAT OF HAVING BEEN HASTY, IN AN EVENT THAT, IF IT HAS REQUIRED MEDITATION AND RESEARCH UP UNTIL YESTERDAY IN RECENT DAYS IT ONLY REQUIRED PROMPT CLEARNESS.

"IF AFTER ALL A PROOF IS WANTED THAT THE EASY POLEMIC OF THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN OURS AND A REACTIONARY PAPER DOESN'T STAND UP, WE COULD RECOMMEND COMRADE JUKOW TO FOLLOW THE BOURGEOIS AND CENTER-LEFT PRESS OF THESE DAYS IN OUR COUNTRY.

"THE EFFORT TO DISTORT OUR POSITIONS, THE OBSTINATE ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THEIR BEING KNOWN OR TO DIMINISH THEIR MEANING, DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR ENEMIES, WHICH ARE AFTER ALL THE PERENNIAL ENEMIES OF THE SOVIET REVOLUTION AND OF SOCIALISM, ARE PREOCCUPIED BY THE POLITICAL WEIGHT OF OUR AUTHONOMOUS CHOICE OF POSITION, OF THE PROOF THAT WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY LIKE TO BELIEVE AND WRITE SO THAT THEY WOULD LIKE.

"... THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS POSITION, FOR AS MUCH AS IT COUNTS, IS THEREFORE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ONE OF THE OBJECTIVE DATA NO POLITICAL OBSERVER CAN IGNORE.

"P.S. THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE VALID ALSO FOR THE HUNGARIAN COMRADES WHO ARE IN POLEMIC WITH US AND ATTRIBUTE TO US LITTLE SENSITIVITY AND SHORT MEMORY, JUST IN REGARD TO THE 1956 EVENTS IN THEIR COUNTRY.

"WE CAN ASSURE THEM THAT WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEM, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEIR CAUSES, JUST AS WE REMEMBER OUR FIRM SOLIDARITY AND THEIR TENACIOUS EFFORT IN THESE RECENT YEARS FOR AN EFFECTIVE ACTION OF RENEWAL AND TO GIVE BACK ITS REAL MEANING TO SOCIALISM.

"WE AND THE HUNGARIAN COMRADES MUST NOT FORGET, HOWEVER, THE DANGER AND THE DAMAGES OF FALSE UNANIMITIES, OF FORMAL ADHESION, OF GIVING UP THE SEARCH OF AN EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF REALITY AND Q LASTLY OF THE AUTHONOMOUS RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARTY.

"WE HAVE ALL SUFFERED FOR THESE REASONS, WE WISH TO HOPE TO HAVE EXTRACTED SOME TEACHING FROM THEM.

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