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Fourth International

Contribution on "Role and Tasks" from Argentina

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The documents *Report on the International Situation* and *Role and Tasks* (we still haven't been able to deal with *Climate Change*) have, from our point of view, a strong European content, something understandable given the weight of the sections and that the crisis is much stronger there than in other regions, but at the same time the documents point out that Latin America "is the region of greatest social conflict" and that "there are countries which are developing processes of partial breaks with imperialism."

We share these characterizations, and we add that Latin America has been the center of resistances to neoliberalism, but we believe it appropriate to take into account in the final version of the documents that, under the pressure of the systematic world crisis, if there were to be an advance in anticapitalism in some region of the world, it would probably be in Latin America, and more precisely in the countries of the South.

So, for this reason we think it is necessary that the documents dedicate more space to Latin America, that they reflect a little more the situation in the region, not only because of the high level of conflict that exists, but also because of the orientation which it is taking.

Resolution Project Role and Tasks

Amendments and additions that we propose:

Point 1. paragraph "In conclusion..." replace with:

"In conclusion the crisis expresses the failure of the neoliberal phase of capital to reactivate the development of the productive forces at a world level, nor has it been able to impose a relationship of forces favorable to capital. As an ideology, it shows itself incapable of offering a solution, which is why the G-20 proposals are a return to the past that blew up with the crisis, wrote an end to the Washington Consensus, but placed the IMF in the decision-making center with its clearly neoliberal priorities." "All of the contradictions inherent in this social system are going to explode" should be replaced with "are going to come under stress."

Point 2: paragraph "Latin America" replace with:

"Latin America has been the center of resistances to neoliberalism and continues being the continent with the most explosive social situations, even though among the countries these are uneven. There is a bloc of countries that brings together processes of greater radicalization and patriotic repudiations with imperialism, which in their development can advance to decidedly anti-capitalist positions, such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, and others still hard to predict such as Paraguay and El Salvador, all of which find a reference point in Cuba. Other countries maintain post-neoliberal politics such as Chile, or the neo-developmental variant such as Argentina, or the social-liberals such as Uruguay and Brazil. This latter, despite its strong differences with the United States"above all in its defense policies, in its membership in UNASUR and in its agreements with Venezuela"still collaborates in fundamental policies of Washington and hopes to achieve regional leadership with its help. While Colombia, Peru and Mexico remain decidedly neoliberal.

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"The declaration of the Assembly of Social Movements which took place in the FSM-Belem and the recent Assembly of ALBA-TCP, which in its final declaration condemned capitalism calling for going beyond it, as well as the First Multinational Summit of Social Movements, are a sample of the radical potential of the southern region of Latin America."

"The new situation presented by the renewed imperialist aggressivity in the region—Fourth Fleet, coup in Honduras, new military bases in Colombia, direct intervention of the American embassy in the most important union conflict in years in Argentina—indicate an intention to break with the current policies of equilibrium and [show] the necessity of elaborating an international response."

"The activity of the sections and group of the Fourth International in Latin America should take these tendencies into account and define a tactic of intervention in a process which is characterized by the sometimes converging and sometimes contradictory interrelations between the governments that make up ALBA and the social movements with important experiences of self-organization and self-management."

Continuing: "In a series of emerging capitalist countries..." It may be that in Europe this characterization has been assimilated and forms part of common usage, but in Latin America it is closely linked to neoliberalism, we propose that it be replaced with "...dependent capitalist countries of greater industrial development" as the expression that best characterizes the situation but do not use terminology quite linked to the neoliberal ideology.

Point 4.

Subpoint 4: "A left which is conscious.....and that therefore cannot govern..." add "with the political representations" of that with which it desires to break.

Subpoint 7 "A left that integrates new social movements.....and above all new generations." This may be a translation problem but it would be good to eliminate "...because they cannot do new things with old material." Take into account that this is referring to people.

Add a subpoint: "A left that promotes all forms of empowerment by workers and by the popular classes that encourages thinking, deciding, and doing things for itself and on the basis of its own decisions."

Point 5. then the paragraph that ends "...in Africa and Asia things are heading in the same direction" add "Nevertheless in the countries of the South of Latin America the construction of broad anti-capitalist parties should integrate from its beginnings a clear stand for socialism." It is by way of this process, add "...complex and diverse..." that we can make new advances. This is the question...

Punto 10. at the end of the first paragraphy and before "The Youth Camp" add:

"The Fourth International should make efforts to have a greater presence in Latin America. To look for the forms and means to help groups which in various countries sympathize with our positions but for the moment don't have the organizational capacity, nor the finance nor the training and whose weakness is clear when compared to other organized left forces that exist in the different countries."

Buenos Aires, November 12, 2009.

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