

Notes on..... Union of Revolutionary Communists (Marxists-Leninists-Maoists)

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With its political roots in Peruvian solidarity activities at the beginning of the century, the emergence of a *Unión de Revolucionarios Comunistas* (marxista-leninista-maoísta) of Chile bears the marks of that experience and priorities active during 2001-2003. Criticism from fellow gonzalists in the CPChile, with whom they shared a distant relationship in the *Comité de Apoyo a la Revolución Peruana* - CARP Chile - is that they are “dedicating themselves only to speaking about ideology”:

“the indefinite 'Maoists' of the URC have settled in the cities to speculate in their newspapers, despising the peasantry, coming to argue that in Chile due to the particular capitalist development, it is not defined whether the path is from the countryside to the city or to the other way around, that the peasantry is a minority, that the Mapuche national minority must fight for their self-determination ... deep down they don't want the violent revolution, they prefer the virtual revolution.”

The reluctance to engage in open party building was seen in historic positions that had some proposed joining the ranks of the revisionist party and organizing there as the red fraction, while others did not want to start the reconstruction of the party because they did not have the theoretical training. Admittedly the disappearance of the PCR caused a significant disruption as the UCR militants

acknowledge there was no organic continuity of Maoist cadres, and everything had to be forged through work, and adoption and adaptation of other models. These were considered and the URC (mlm) maintained the organisational network, but ceased its public appearance as a party while maintaining involvement in an anonymous but clearly communist publication, *El Pueblo*.

There is clear evidence of a Peruvian ‘Gonzalist’ sympathy and influence in the adherence to “revolutionary jefatura”, and describing, and in the context of Peru “the traitorous revisionists of the people disguised as communists: Patria Roja and Movadef.”

It retains a focus on the dangers of revisionism, and the need for revolutionary *jefatura* (leadership) promoting Luis Emilio Recabarren as the model leader of the Chilean revolution:

“It is up to us to recognize his role and defend him, both those who openly attack him and those who distort him, raising him only as a trade union leader to hide his role as combatant and truly communist leader.”ⁱ

In commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, this Chilean leftist paper *El Pueblo*, echoed arguments and examples used by sections of the Maoist world communist movement,

“Today, revolutionaries commemorate the historic triumph of 1949, arguing that Maoism lives and guides the protracted people's wars in Peru, India, Turkey and the Philippines, along with a growing communist contingent that is developing on all continents of the planet, raising, defending and applying Maoism.”ⁱⁱ

Modelled on *A Nova Democracia* of Brazil, *El Pueblo* newspaper appeared in 2011. In its coverage internationally, it clearly is politically aligned to the Communist Party of Brazil (Red Faction), carrying statements and reproduces notes from the Gonzalist blog Dem Volke Dienen (Serve the People). It is explicitly Maoist in its promotion of political education, making available the popular study text, *Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Basic Course*ⁱⁱⁱ by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) on its website.

The editorial board describes its mission:

“*Periódico El Pueblo* is a monthly printed publication that seeks to support and disseminate the struggles of the people, both in Chile and the world. In this way,

it seeks to interpret current events, contributing to raise the ideological and political debate to transform our society.”^{iv}

It first appeared in 2011 and described its purpose as

“to contribute to the ideological and political development of the people, the latter understood as the set of social classes oppressed by the three mountains: imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism (a form of capitalism that imperialism allows to develop in its semi-colonies) and semi-feudality . It is important that the mobilizations of the masses become politicized and link their economic demands with the political struggle as two sides of the same coin. This is because the main demand of the Chilean proletariat and people is the conquest of power through revolutionary violence. Without it, any conquest achieved will be taken away.”^v

With the public disappearance of the Union of Communist Revolutionaries of Chile, internationally the same forces began to sign joint international declaration using the name Red Fraction of the Communist Party of Chile/ *Fracción Roja del Partido Comunista de Chile* and was associated with an initiative of the Gonzalists tendencies working towards a Unified Maoist International Conference.

These Chilean “Gonzalists” made contact in a letter to the Red Sun organisers and were candid about their previous lack of information on the Peruvian positions – “We learned about the People's War led by the PCP from highly distorted information that in the 1980s came through the reactionary press” - it was only in 1994 that they had access to the Interview with Chairman Gonzalo-relying on what they gleaned from the accounts of academic sendeologists from whom they learnt the existence of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement / RIM.

The Chilean “Gonzalists” made themselves known internationally addressing a Conference in Hamburg held in December 2010. This was the final event in the series of conferences realized by the Peru People's Movement that year. The Conference, a continuation of the meetings held in Stockholm (Sweden) in April, Madrid (Spain) in May and in September in Milan (Italy). They were to develop the debate within the International Communist Movement, unite the Maoists of the world who shared their analysis against new revisionism, against capitulation, parliamentary cretinism and the imperialist plan of "peace accords"

- and for making the evaluation of the application of Maoism, for the new power and people's war until communism.

“We have reached a stage where propaganda tasks demand more and better theoretical foundations from us to develop an accumulation of forces that allows us to take a leap.”

They explained their evolution since the PCR was liquidated in 1981. There were a number of false starts, and in 1994 betrayal by an important member of the leadership that saw the pre-party organization that existed until then practically disappeared. There was no organic continuity, there were no Maoist cadres, and everything has had to be forged through work. “It has been a real problem to form Maoist cadres without cadres. The law of hit-and-miss has been our tireless ally.”

“In relation to the RIM, and in particular to the CoRIM, we must recognize that at the beginning we did not understand very well the debate that was taking place with them, especially if the problem of the authenticity of the peace letters and those who attributed them to Chairman Gonzalo did not present neither conclusive nor new evidence; but neither did we consider the arguments (found on the internet) that accused these letters as bullshit to be entirely reliable.”^{vi}

URC/ red faction were supplanted in their orientation towards the Red Sun grouping by fellow (and rival gonzalists) Chilean group that declared itself the reconstituted Communist Party of Chile whom offer an alternative pole of attraction for gonzalist-aligned militants.

REFERENCES

ⁱ *El Pueblo* n° 70, June 2018

ⁱⁱ <http://elpueblo.cl/2019/10/15/70-anos-de-la-revolucion-china/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://foreignlanguages.press/colorful-classics/>

^{iv} <https://elpueblo.cl/>

^v <https://elpueblo.cl/2011/04/01/a-proposito-del-primer-numero-de-el-pueblo/>

^{vi} See *Red Sun Magazine* issue 34 at www.redsun.org