

Notes of the speech of the Deputy Chairman of the SPL, Ingars Burlaks, at the meeting of representatives of the European Communist Initiative on February 16-17, 2019.

(Istanbul)

Dear Comrades! Socialist Party of Latvia stands strong for protecting the historical contribution of the working people of Latvia through the fight for socialism, examines the achievements and mistakes of the Soviet period.

1) We uphold the point that the events of the summer of 1940 were revolutionary events that led to the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship and the conquest of the government by the working people, the beginning of the construction of socialism.

In June 1940, according to the agreement concluded between the fascist government of Latvia and the leadership of the USSR, additional troops of the Red Army entered Latvia. This had a great, but not decisive influence on the overthrow of capitalism, as bourgeois historians try to present the situation today. Not a single statement of violation of Latvian sovereignty by the Red Army was recorded. The Communist Party of Latvia numbered only 900 people, half of which were in prisons and concentration camps, but it had close relationships with the workers, was able to organize mass proletarian demonstrations that paralyzed the efforts of the local bourgeoisie. On July 21, in the massive demonstration of 100.000, the workers of Riga demanded to resolve the issue of Latvia's accession to the Soviet Union.

We are interested in the experience of that period, which clearly demonstrates the possibility of a rapid change in the balance of forces, the need to preserve revolutionary nature of the party and communication with the working people during periods of reaction, and the rollback of the revolutionary movement.

2) The example of Latvia confirms the rightness of the forced measures taken by the leadership of the USSR to liquidate the bourgeoisie as a class, to decapitate the "fifth columns" in the 1930s. The Great Patriotic War at the same time became for Latvia the arena of fierce class fight. Despite the fact that part of the "fifth column" was interned and moved outside of Latvia a week before the war started, in a country where the Soviet government had won only a year ago, there were a lot of Nazi collaborators and accomplices. It has to be noted that a significant proportion of the rural population (first of all, the rich, who had large areas of land and means of production) actively supported post-war nationalist gangs.

The class character of the fight is also confirmed by the fact that the workers, the Soviet and

party activists, the land-poor and landless peasants backtracked together with the troops of the Red Army deep into the USSR. The class composition of the voluntary formed in 1941 201 Latvian rifle division vividly shows the forces that joined the banner of proletarian internationalism and the defense of the revolution: 62% of workers, 29% of Soviet employees and 9% of peasants”.

The permanent job of the SPL is to protect the historical heritage of 1940-1945, to publish numerous books, brochures and documentaries, to restore monuments to Soviet partisans.

3) The inclusion of the Latvian SSR in a single economic complex of the USSR, the restoration of a war-torn economy, industrialization required a huge number of intellectual and physical workers, an experienced Soviet and party activists. For objective reasons, the Latvian SSR, with a population of 2 million (one million of which are villagers), could not provide itself with qualified personnel. For this reason, there was a significant increase in positive migration balance. A reasonable and balanced approach to the national question regarding the arrivals from other union republics mistakenly was not accepted. On the contrary, their appearance in the republic was used by part of the highest party and Soviet workers for nationalist and separatist purposes. The decisions of the XX Communist Party Congress and the revisionist “de-Stalinization” policy started in Latvia served as a speech of so-called “national communists”. Attempts were made to significantly limit the positive migration balance. While Latvia was becoming one of the most industrialized countries of the USSR, the thesis on the “need to focus not on the development of heavy industry, the production of “means of production”, but light industry, to meet the needs of the citizens of the republic” was put forward, which was in fact an attempt of violation of the single national economic planning, separation of the Latvian SSR from the economy of the Soviet Union.

However, the Communist Party at that stage was still able to reflect the separatist actions, and the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia which was held in 1959, defeated the leaders of "national communism" ideologically.

4) We are continuing to study the opportunistic processes initiated by the 20th CPSU Congress, the economic reforms carried out in the mid-60s, culminating in open counter-revolutionary restoration of capitalism in the USSR and in Latvia.

In our country, the organizational forces of the counter-revolution were formed in October 1988, as the Popular Front of Latvia (PFL). It should be noted that by this time there was an ideological split in the CPL. The position of part of the then leadership of the CPL did not hinder but welcomed the creation of such a structure is the evidence of that. It should be

noted that even then the steps of the bourgeoisie were outlined to de-industrialize the country, destroy the industrial working class, crush thousands of cohesive labor collectives. This took place under nationalist slogans about the need to preserve the size of the indigenous population, through the reduction of labor migration, "reliance on local labor."

In April 1990, there was a split in the Communist Party of Latvia. 242 delegates out of 700 left the hall where the congress was held, who formed the Independent (bourgeois) CPL, supporting the secession from the USSR and the restoration of capitalism. It should be noted that, unlike Lithuania and Estonia, the majority of the Communist delegates continued their work, the congress remained on the platform of the CPSU, and separatism and nationalism were seriously rebuffed.

However, in the decisions and resolutions of the congress there was no grounded, scientific resistance to the economic course of restructuring, false statements and conclusions were made in the spirit of "the treatment of socialism by capitalism".

Dear Comrades! We heartily thank the CPT for the organized meeting, the opportunity to analyze the historical conditions of building the socialism!

Power to labor, not to the capital!