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In the Far East and the Far West

(Introduction to the Letters Published Below from Comrades Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh to the Spanish People.)

In the Far East of the Asiatic Continent, as well as in the Far West of the European Continent, war has begun without being declared, a war of a fascist horde of brigands against the freedom of peoples and world peace. "The guns have the floor!" was the insolent announcement of the chief of the Italian Blackshirts. "For Germany, the Basque coal mines are more important than any talk about peace," declared the leader of the German Brownshirts at the same time with unconcealed cynicism. "There is no hope of any diplomatic solution of the Sino-Japanese problem," smirks the Japanese military-fascist clique provokingly. German pilots raze Spanish towns to the ground, Italian divisions carry death to the Spanish provinces. Japanese regiments set fire to Chinese towns and villages, annihilating the sons and daughters of the Chinese people.

Fascism is setting the world alight in the Far West and the Far East. But the governments of the bourgeois-democratic countries and their statesmen make diplomatic invocations, imagining thus to divert the flames from themselves. They refuse to shed the illusion that the conflagration has broken out "by accident." They refuse to admit that it was purposely set alight by criminal incendiaries, and that in other countries inflammable material is lying ready to be used at the first opportunity by the same forces as launched the war in Spain and China. They refuse to admit that the war in Spain and the war in China are most closely connected with each other that really they constitute one war, which is flaring in the Far East and in the Far West, the war of the fascist conspirators against the freedom of all peoples, against the justifiable aspirations of all working people to a worthy human existence.

The heroic fighters in Spain have never seen either Peiping or Shanghai. They know little of the conditions in which the Chinese peasant, riksha or coolie, the Chinese proletarians, are fighting for their existence. They are hardly able correctly to pronounce the names of Chinese people and of the Chinese towns which they read every day in the newspapers. But their instincts tell them with unquestionable clarity that they are conducting one and the same struggle, that they have risen up against one and the same enemy. Under the walls of Madrid, think the heroic fighters in Spain, we are also fighting for the liberty of Shanghai, and the struggle of the Chinese people against the Japanese aggressors is at the same time a struggle against the German and Italian fascists who have invaded Spain. In the militant songs of the Chinese people there can be proudly heard the word "Madrid," and the names of Spanish fighters for liberty; while the Spanish army feels itself closely linked up with the anti-Japanese People's Red Army that is fighting under the leadership of the Chinese Communists. Every victory of the fighters for liberty on the Tagus and Manzanares strengthens the position of the fighters for freedom on the Yellow River and Yangtze River. On the threshold of Asia and Europe both these people are defending the peace of all continents.

Over lands and seas the Chinese people send greetings to the Spanish people. The President of the Central Executive Committee of the Chinese Soviets, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, and the Commander-in-Chief of the anti-Japanese People's Red Army, Comrade Chu Teh, have sent fraternal letters to the Spanish people. Mao Tse-tung writes:

“The cause for which you are fighting is also our cause.... Many comrades in the ranks of the Chinese Red Army would also like to go to Spain there to participate in your struggle.... Were we not now occupied with the Japanese invaders, we should certainly have joined you and taken our places in the ranks of your foremost fighters.”

Chu Teh writes:

“Every Chinese worker and peasant, every Chinese Red Army man, understands full well that the war in Spain is a war of international importance. Your victory will deliver a mortal blow to the fascist interventionists—the fomenters of world war.”

These letters were written before the Japanese seized Peiping and Tientsin and began open war in China.

In their fiery indignation against Japanese imperialism, the Chinese people have joined the front of liberty which stretches from Madrid to Peiping. The battle-cry of the heroic Chinese Communist Party, which is calling for national unity against the mortal enemy, is finding a tremendous echo. Millions of Chinese workers and peasants, of Chinese intellectuals, a definite sections of the Chinese bourgeoisie, are coming together to save China. The Spanish workers, peasants and intellectuals are closing their ranks in order to save Spain. In the struggle against German and Italian fascism there is being hammered out the Spanish People’s Army; in the struggle against Japanese imperialism there will be hammered out the Chinese People’s Army.

Against the “Berlin-Rome-Tokyo” axis, against the military bloc of the fascist brigands, there is rising up the front of those fighting for the liberty of the peoples.

“The cause for which you are fighting is also our cause!” These words of Mao Tse-tung to the Spanish people are uttered as though from the bottom of the hearts of the working people of all countries. The Spanish and Chinese people are fighting for one cause, for the cause of all peoples, for the cause of the whole of progressive mankind. The sooner and the more profoundly this is understood by all working people, the sooner, the more thoroughly they organize joint international aid to the Spanish and Chinese peoples, the sooner will the possibility arise of overthrowing fascism and saving mankind from a new imperialist war.

The Spanish people in the Far West, and the Chinese people in the Far East are equally close to the hearts of all progressive and liberty loving people, for the struggle of both these peoples is a tremendous factor in achieving victory over fascism.

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE C.E.C. OF CHINESE SOVIETS, COMRADE MAO TSE-TUNG, TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE

Spanish people and comrades in arms!

We, the Communist Party of China, the anti-Japanese People’s Red Army and Soviets, regard the war being waged by the Spanish republican government as the most sacred war in the whole world.

This war is being waged not only for the national existence of Spain, but also in the interests of the oppressed peoples of the whole world, for the Spanish government is fighting against the German and Italian fascists who, together with the Spanish rebels, are destroying world culture and foundations of humanity.

The Spanish government and the Spanish people are fighting against German and Italian fascists who are in alliance with the Japanese fascists who have invaded China.

The Japanese fascists are striving their utmost to bring about aggression in China. Having seized the four provinces of Northeast China, they have invaded North and

Central China. Without the aid of the German and Italian fascists, Japanese fascism would never have dared to hurl itself with such fury against China.

The Communist Party of China sends its warmest sympathy to the political parties united in the Spanish People's Front, and now calls upon the various political parties in China to adhere to a united national front of struggle against Japanese fascism. Our work is advancing rapidly and in the event of success, China will deliver a blow against Japanese fascism which will at the same time be a blow against fascism in Spain.

We are convinced that the struggle of the Chinese people is inseparable from your struggle in Spain. The Communist Party of China in its struggle against Japanese fascism desires to inspire and aid the Spanish people. The Communist Party of China, the anti-Japanese People's Red Army, the Soviets and the Chinese people are inspired by your defense of Madrid, by your struggle on the fronts. Our press in the Soviet regions daily publishes information and articles about your heroic struggle. We are firmly convinced that the unification of the various parties in your People's Front is the guarantee of your final victory. We have read and fully approve the ten points of the united front platform put forward by the Spanish Communist Party.

Your struggle calls to mind our struggle in the Far East. For, besides the common features already mentioned, traitors and Trotskyists have managed to penetrate into your ranks just as into ours. Only the most resolute struggle against these provocateurs will enable us to consolidate our fighting front. By fighting against the enemy in our own ranks in China, we are thereby helping you in Spain.

Over a hundred newspapers and magazines are published in China which give regular information, print articles and photographs expressing sympathy with your heroic struggle for democracy and liberty. We know that your victory will be of direct support to our struggle against Japanese fascism.

The cause for which you are fighting is also our cause. It was with enthusiasm that we heard of the creation of international brigades, and we were overjoyed to learn that both Chinese and Japanese are to be found in them.

Many comrades who are in the ranks of the Chinese Red Army would also like to go to Spain there to participate in your struggle. Not a single day passes without us discussing questions of your struggle and the general situation in Spain. Were we not occupied now with the Japanese invaders, we would certainly have joined you and taken our place in the ranks of your foremost fighters.

Many of you know that the Chinese Red Army has traversed the difficult road of a ten years' struggle. We fought without any means, we suffered from hunger and cold, were without arms and ammunition; yet in the end we achieved the victory we have today.

We know that your army is also experiencing tremendous difficulties. But we are convinced of your victory.

Our ten years of struggle have shown us that if the revolutionary people and their army are not afraid of privation and carry on an untiring and heroic struggle against their enemies, they will be victorious without fail. We, the Communist Party of China, the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese Red Army, the Chinese Soviets and Chinese people, express our very profound comradely solidarity with you, heroic men and women fighting for liberty and democracy in Spain.

In this struggle the oppressed peoples of the whole world express their solidarity and boundless friendship with you.

As hitherto, we shall daily and hourly follow the progress of your struggles with keen

interest. We are glad of every one of your victories. We are convinced yours will be the final victory.

MAO TSE-TUNG

Yenan (Shensi province).

May 15, 1937.

LETTER OF COMRADE CHU TEH TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

Dear Comrades:

On behalf of the anti-Japanese People's Chinese Red Army fighting against the enemies of the people for the last ten years, I send to the heroic Spanish people and their army the most hearty and ardent revolutionary greetings!

Comrades, although we are in the Far East, at a distance from you, we are stirred every day when we read the news of the heroic struggle of Spanish comrades against the Italo-German fascists and rebels.

Your heroic struggle has already grown from an internal struggle against traitor generals into a war against the fascist interventionists. You are the fighting vanguard of the working people of the whole world in the struggle against fascism. You are fighting not only for the liberation of the Spanish people, but also for peace throughout the world. Your victory is at the same time our victory, because we have a common enemy in barbarian fascism.

Comrades, we experienced tremendous joy when we read the news of your victory on the Guadalajara front where three Italian divisions were routed. Your brilliant victories firmly strengthen our determination as well in the fight for national emancipation, and inspire us to conduct a still more determined struggle against the chief enemy of the Chinese People—Japanese imperialism. It is with enthusiasm that we welcome your great victory.

At first, comrades, you were in a very difficult position, but under the guidance of the government of the People's Front, and especially with the aid of the Communist Party, you have overcome tremendous difficulties. You have been able to win tens and hundreds of thousands of people to take part in the anti-fascist war. You have been able to bring about sincere collaboration between the various parties and political groups; you have created an heroic, fighting People's Army where iron discipline exists under a united leadership.

Comrades, all this is a great achievement in your struggle against fascism and is an essential condition for your final victory over fascism. At the same time all your achievements are a most valuable source of experience and a splendid example for the masses of the people of all countries in the struggle against fascism.

Our Red Army, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, has already been fighting for ten years against international imperialism and counter-revolutionary forces inside the country.

With a view to carrying on the struggle against the Japanese aggressors, we made a long trek, covering about 25,000 li (about 13,000 kilometers), crossing from South to North China. We proclaimed and are conducting a new policy of a united national front such as unites all parties, all political groups, all who have no desire to become slaves in a subjugated state, to fight against Japanese imperialism.

In the name of this new policy, the civil war which had been going on for over twenty years has ceased, and a struggle is going on to secure peace at home and unification of the country.

The Communist Party of China and the Red Army, which stand at the head of the masses of the people in the struggle for democratic liberties, are now striving to develop the struggle against Japanese imperialism rapidly and resolutely.

We are firmly convinced that, thanks to the new policy of the Communist Party of China, we shall overcome all difficulties whatsoever, that we shall drive the Japanese imperialists out of China and win final national emancipation for the Chinese people.

Among the Red Army-men, commanders and wide masses of the people we are conducting agitation regarding the heroic struggle and victories of our Spanish brothers, especially regarding the glorious victories of your international brigades, which are a strong inspiration to us.

Every Chinese worker and peasant, every Chinese Red Army-man, is possessed of a profound understanding that the war in Spain is a war of international importance. Your victory will deal a mortal blow at the fascist interventionists, the fomenters of world war.

Comrades, you are far away from us, but we are on the same sector of the struggle as you, we have one common enemy; you in the West are fighting against German and Italian fascism while we in the East are conducting a struggle against Japanese fascist militarism.

Both your victory and ours will mean death to international fascism.

Comrades, in close unison, forward to great victory!

Long live the victory of the Spanish people!

Down with German-Italian fascism!

Down with Japanese imperialism!

Long live the national liberation of China!

CHU TEH,
*Commander-in-Chief of the
Chinese Anti-Japanese Peoples Red Army.*

May 13, 1937.