

A Proposal to Convene a Plenary Meeting Of the Steering Committee of the IEC

By Rolf Martens, SC Member in Sweden, February 1995

To the other members of the Steering Committee of the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr Abimael Guzman (IEC):

Also to all IEC activists, to all anti-imperialist organizations and periodicals and to all adherents of the political line of Marx, Lenin and Mao Zedong:

Comrades and friends,

Since the last and so far only plenary meeting of the Steering Committee, the leading organ of the IEC, on 28 February 1993 in Duisburg, Germany, in connection with the IEC Founding Conference, events have taken place which in my opinion make it necessary that another plenary meeting be convened as soon as possible.

What in particular merits attention is: Not only have certain political organizations which are alleged "supporters" of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) and "defenders" of the life of its imprisoned chairman, comrade Gonzalo (Abimael Guzman), shown a certain seemingly very strange behaviour, but also, obviously in connection with this, **the IEC Coordinating Committee** which was elected at the Duisburg meeting **has committed a flagrantly illegal act and still continues committing it.**

It's necessary in the present situation for us IEC SC members to contact each other and to reach agreement on joint action. The by-laws we decided on in Duisburg provide i.a. that a Steering Committee plenary session can be convened on the expressed demand of one half of its members. According to my information, at present there are 41 of us, in 21 countries in different parts of the world. (16 countries are represented by 2 members each, 5 by 1 each and there are 4 at-large members.) **Convening a plenary meeting obviously is technically difficult but not impossible.**

I call on all other SC members to express their support for the present proposal. Other comrades and friends I ask, please contribute towards making this proposal known, firstly, to those IEC SC members whom you can reach, secondly, to people in general, in as many countries as possible.

What events of particular significance to us participants in the international campaign to defend the life of comrade Gonzalo have taken place since February 1993?

The Fujimori ruling clique in Peru have continued to hold comrade Gonzalo in isolation, under severe conditions and under constant further threat to his life. In September 1993, they and their US imperialist and other reactionary masters started the infamous massive "peace and negotiations" propaganda manoeuvre aimed at sowing confusion and capitulationism in Peru itself and also internationally. Consistent supporters of the people's war in Peru and consistent defenders of comrade Gonzalo's life have fought a sharp struggle to unmask and beat that propaganda manoeuvre.

While the people's war led by the PCP no doubt has suffered serious setbacks, it still continues. The recent reactionary "border war" waged against Ecuador by the Fujimori regime obviously is a further sign of that regime's internal difficulties.

To a great extent, the international struggle caused by the "peace and negotiations" propaganda manoeuvre has been centred around **the reactionaries' attempts at suppressing all knowledge of the important declaration made by the Central Committee of the PCP on 7 October 1993.**

This declaration sharply denounced Fujimori's "new information" of a "call from prison for negotiations and peace" allegedly made by comrade Gonzalo and other captured PCP leaders as a reactionary lie and stated the determination of the PCP to continue the people's war. Mass media all over the world widely publicized the alleged "call" while completely omitting to mention this declaration.

This silence was shared also by some political organizations which formerly had seemed strongly to support the PCP. Particularly noteworthy was, and is, the **total blackout** concerning this vital PCP declaration which has been effected by the group of parties and other organizations known as the RIM (Revolutionary Internationalist Movement). This group of organizations claims to adhere to the ideology of Marx, Lenin and Mao Zedong. It's joined together by a common declaration, of the year 1984. Since that year also, the PCP has been a "participant" (as it's called) of this group.

Our united front organization, the IEC, from its very beginning has had close ties to the RIM. Its executive organ, which since the IEC Founding Conference consists of the Coordinating Committee, and its organisational centre have all along, also before the formal founding of the IEC, had the same address, in London, as the Information Bureau of the RIM and the (unofficial) press organ of the RIM. In its 1994 video "You must tell the world..." and in other information material, the IEC has portrayed the RIM as a staunch reliable defender of comrade Gonzalo's life.

On 12.4.1994, I wrote a letter to the Coordinating Committee of the IEC suggesting that we, the IEC, publish, e.g. in one of our Emergency Bulletins which each month are sent out to over 40 countries, the vital 7.10.93 PCP CC declaration, in order finally to get word about it out to many parts of the world where obviously it was still quite unknown. I requested that this suggestion be circulated to all other IEC SC members. To have suggestions thus circulated is explicitly stated by the IEC by-laws as one of the SC members' rights. In this case, however, **my suggestion was suppressed** by the Coordinating Committee. Despite renewed requests it has **not** been circulated.

But by this flagrant suppression **the existing Coordinating Committee has made itself illegal. It no longer represents the IEC.** Why was this suggestion prevented from reaching the other Steering Committee members?

Other bad, though not directly illegal, acts by the existing CC, e.g. the **suppression** also of an important **statement by our Bolivian chapter** of 7.2.1994 which expressly supported the 7.10.93 PCP declaration, point in the same direction: The friends whom we elected in Duisburg obviously are **under extreme pressure** from forces which wish not only to **liquidate the PCP** and to **cut it off from all genuine international support** - which also means further to endanger comrade Gonzalo's life - but, even more, to **prevent the RIM from deservedly coming under grave suspicion** in all parts of the world.

All who get word of the PCP declaration and compare it with the RIM's deafening silence about it must ask themselves: What lies behind this foul betrayal, what causes this "**Silence of the Sheep?**", as an article about it was headlined in No. 23 (April '94) of the magazine *El Diario Internacional*, or: "**Why Does the RIM Help U.S. Imperialism Encircle the PCP?**", the question asked in a leaflet by me of 12.8.1994. (*El Diario Internacional*, address: B.P. 705, 1000 Bruxelles 1, Belgium, telefax 32-2-6409715, states as its aim to support the oppressed masses in Peru and is edited by Luis Arce Borja, who is also at-large IEC SC member. During the last year or so, communication to it has been heavily interfered with. Its No. 24 /Nov. 1994/ reportedly analyzes "Operation Capitulation" in Peru.)

In fact, not only because of its recent action of flagrant betrayal must the RIM be viewed with grave suspicion. The very declaration, of 1984, on which it's based and which today has been translated into more than 20 languages, does **not** reflect the ideology of Marx, Lenin and Mao Zedong, as everyone with somewhat closer knowledge of that ideology and of recent history can clearly see, but represents such a distortion of that ideology and contains such untruths about the then recent past as it has been very much in the **interests of US imperialism and its partner/competitor Russian new tsarism** to disseminate. How then could, 11 years ago, such an experienced Marxist as comrade Gonzalo fall into the trap of allowing the PCP to become a signatory to this document? That is a difficult question. It will have to be put to him when he is liberated from prison or at least from isolation - an isolation which today among other things serves to help "protect" the RIM from that closer investigation of it which the Marxist-Leninists need.

The people's war in Peru, initiated by the PCP and during more than 12 years led by comrade Gonzalo, undoubtedly is a just cause. This should not prevent true friends of the PCP from criticizing that party's errors, including that quite grave one which today has become more clearly visible, and helping it, to the best of their abilities, to correct them. What consequences should be drawn by the IEC from the actions of the RIM? There's no reason not to accept the signature of the RIM to the Call of the IEC. The same goes for all organizations and persons. But our executive and organisational centre **must cease being**, as in practice it is at present, **a puppet or a hostage to the RIM.**

This is necessary, as long as there is no satisfactory answer to the question which obviously poses itself: **Is it the case, or is it not, that the RIM in reality is essentially a decade-long international operation by the CIA and/or other intelligence services who, utilizing the almost complete absence of experienced Marxist-Leninist parties after the overthrow of socialism in China in 1976-78, aim to stem up against, subvert and deflect the inevitably re-emerging revolutionary movement in the world?** As "hostage" to the RIM, an IEC CC today cannot be reliable.

The present ties to the RIM possibly also explain why the IEC so far has refrained from demanding comrade Gonzalo's freedom, a strange thing for any organization defending a political prisoner to do. Are there perhaps some people who fear "negative consequences" to the RIM if, as a result (in part) of international public-opinion pressure, liberation of comrade Gonzalo should possibly be achieved? In Duisburg, SC member from Germany Jens Scheer (who in July 1994 unfortunately died of a heart attack) suggested that we put forward this demand. This suggestion then was turned down. In my opinion, it should be brought up again and now approved.

Agenda suggested: In the above are given some reasons why a plenary meeting of the Steering Committee of the IEC should be convened, with - I propose - the following points on its agenda:
1) **Election of a new Coordinating Committee,** 2) **Transfer of the organisational centre of the IEC away from that of the RIM,** 3) **Demand by the IEC for the liberation of comrade Gonzalo,** 4) **Other questions** - no doubt many need to be discussed.

I ask the other IEC SC members to contact me for discussion on how, where and when to convene such a plenum.