

Greetings to all participants of this meeting and to the Communist Party of Greece, which organized it!

The October Socialist Revolution and the Bolsheviks carried out unprecedented civilizing work for the peoples of Central Asia, as these territories, thanks to the developed regions of Russia and Ukraine and a unified planned economy, even leaped from feudalism and pre-capitalist structures into socialism. In this region, local peoples received their statehood for the first time, as autonomous republics were initially formed – the Turkestan ASSR and the Kirghiz ASSR, and then, in the late 20s and early 30s, as a result of national delimitation, modern Soviet nations emerged: Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Tajiks, with their own fully-fledged union republics.

The entire region was heavily industrialized over 70 years, receiving modern industry and agriculture, and hundreds of new cities appeared. The introduction of settled life, culture, medicine, education, and the liberation of women from patriarchal and religious slavery led to an unprecedented transformation of Kazakhstan and Central Asia in history. The experience of such work shows a real example and the possibility of achieving a similar uplift for backward countries using similar methods in the event of the victory of a world socialist revolution, and overcoming one of the most important contradictions – the problem of uneven development.

Conversely, the destruction of the USSR and the socialist system turned into a real social, cultural, and political catastrophe for the local peoples, leading to the collapse of leading industries, the degradation of the agricultural sector, the return of medieval traditions and customs, and a decline in literacy among youth, especially among girls. The region now experiences a deficit in water resources, fertile land, and a shortage of electricity, as the unified system in these areas was destroyed, and the flagships of industry, key deposits, transport facilities, and power plants fell into the hands of local and foreign capitalists.

Ultimately, as a result of counter-revolution and the restoration of capitalism, local peoples suffer from a double oppression – from the exploitation by the local bourgeoisie and from foreign corporations extracting mineral resources. The consciousness of the youth is poisoned by nationalism, chauvinism, and forms of religious intolerance, which manifests in interethnic and even interstate conflicts over water and fertile land. Rosa Luxemburg's words "Socialism or Barbarism" are fully applicable to the post-Soviet republics of Central Asia.

The 108th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution took place amidst escalating inter-imperialist confrontation between different blocs and within these blocs themselves, and at a new technological stage of productive forces development, which further contradicts the production relations of capitalism.

This is particularly evident against the backdrop of the unfolding struggle for global hegemony between the US and China, which is manifesting not only in trade and tariff wars and technological competition, but also in the proliferation of local armed conflicts and so-called proxy wars in various theaters in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa. The interests of Washington and Beijing are clashing there now.

As during World War I, there is a probability that the ruling classes will attempt to resolve the accumulated problems related to overproduction, slowing or absent economic growth, and the existence of huge unsecured financial speculative bubbles and debts through an already large-scale war, where the objectives will be the same as 108 years ago. Namely, the struggle for the redistribution of raw material deposits and resources, for the redistribution of sales markets, for transport routes, and for dominance in the global capitalist system.

Instead of dividing colonies, there is a struggle for the expansion of spheres of influence and the imposition of neo-colonialism. And while individual figures like Trump often publicly espouse

peacemaking rhetoric, possibly dictated by the American ruling class's fear of nuclear war, the very logic of inter-imperialist contradictions is actually pushing them all towards a new arms race and the rearmament of their armies. This also expresses the quintessence of the scientific and technological competition between the US and China and their satellites.

Ultimately, there is an update of strategic missile technology, and we are observing the possibility of resuming large-scale nuclear tests as a new stage in a further escalation between the leading capitalist powers. It is interesting that the military power of some states sometimes does not correspond to their economic strength, which also suggests that one should not mechanically derive the GDP level from the state of their armies. The EU demonstrates this to us, where there is an attempt to catch up in this area with huge allocations for the military-industrial complex.

At the same time, regional powers such as Turkey are actively participating in this imperialist competition, having embarked on a revanchist path to restore the Ottoman Empire, which directly affects the situation in the South Caucasus and our Central Asian region. Ankara is playing a supporting role in the interests of the US, Britain, and NATO, creating a new military-political bloc within the Organization of Turkic States from the armies of Turkey itself, as well as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the unrecognized republic of Northern Cyprus.

A unified military-industrial complex has already been created within the Organization of Turkic States, the production of Turkish weaponry has been established in all participating countries, their armies are transitioning to NATO standards, and airspace has been opened for Turkish Air Force and transport aviation for troop deployment to third countries. It is evident that the creation of this military-political bloc, auxiliary to NATO, is aimed at containing China in the region, pushing Russia out, and isolating Iran.

As an example, one can point to the construction of a Turkish military base near the capital of Azerbaijan and close to the Caspian Sea coastline. This, along with the constant exercises of the Organization of Turkic States troops in this region, completely undermines the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, which prohibits the presence of foreign armed forces. Furthermore, the presence of a Turkish military contingent and the emergence of a new bloc disrupt the North-South strategic route, which is important for Russia and Iran.

The US is also actively participating in this game, having effectively seized the Zangezur corridor in southern Armenia under the guise of a 99-year lease. This corridor is now officially named the "Trump Route" with the aim of controlling commodity flows from China to the EU. However, the main objective of this acquisition is to establish the Trans-Caspian transport route for the export of rare earth, precious, and non-ferrous metals, as well as other strategic resources from Kazakhstan and Central Asia, for the needs of the American and European military-industrial complex and high-tech production, in order to maintain the competitiveness of the West.

On November 6-7, the "Central Asia – USA" conference was held in Washington within the "C5+1" format, where Trump imposed onerous agreements on the heads of Central Asian republics regarding the extraction of rare earth metals by American corporations. Leading deposits of these metals and tungsten have already been seized by American capital. This is naturally aimed at destroying China's monopoly in their extraction and production, as well as compensating for the loss of these deposits in West Africa, whose countries have fallen under the influence of Russia and China.

Naturally, this leads to an inevitable shift in the balance of power in Central Asia, which is fraught with escalating conflicts in the struggle for spheres of influence and resources, as well as for control over transport routes between the US, EU, UK, and Turkey on one side, and China, Russia, and Iran on the other. Therefore, we are already observing trade wars within the EAEU between Russia and Kazakhstan, and the halting of goods flows from China to Russia through Kazakhstan as a result of Astana's accession to Western sanctions against Moscow.

External players will now try to influence the internal political machinations and the balance of power within the ruling classes of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, which could lead to political instability and a struggle between internal factions encouraged from abroad. This is a vivid and clear example of inter-imperialist contradictions and clashes over the redistribution of resources and spheres of influence, which inevitably leads to new armed conflicts, inter-ethnic, and even religious clashes.

In January 2022, workers in Kazakhstan organized the first-ever nationwide strike, which in many regions escalated into an open rebellion with demands for the nationalization of industry, price reductions, the release of political prisoners, the restoration of rights for trade unions and parties, and freedom to hold strikes and rallies. However, this uprising of the popular masses was suppressed in blood by local punitive forces with military support from the CSTO. It is interesting that this was done for the sake of imperialist consensus and the preservation of the current system of exploitation of resources and laborers by all capitalist players, regardless of their bloc.

But now the situation has changed, and, incidentally, the President of Kazakhstan, at Trump's request, joined the 'Abraham Accords,' which are aimed at affirming Israel in the region and creating a chain of hostile states against Iran from the north. All of this is already tied into the existing conflict in the Middle East and is drawing Kazakhstan and the region into this confrontation on the side of the West. It is clear that the opposing side will also respond in various ways to avoid creating a new front for itself.

Against this backdrop of resource division and the establishment of new transport routes, Kazakhstan and Central Asia are experiencing an unprecedented suppression of workers' rights and trade unions. There is a rehabilitation of Basmachi and participants of the Wehrmacht's Turkestan Legion and Muslim SS units, and attempts are being made to ban communist ideology and vilify Soviet history. Such a reaction is a necessary condition for the further plunder of resources and the transformation into dependent neocolonial territories.

Unfortunately, in this situation of conflict between leading capitalist powers and the growing threat of World War III, the communist movement is in a severe crisis, as many parties have abandoned the class approach and are taking one side or the other in this confrontation, or are fostering illusions of 'market socialism' or 'Socialism of the 21st Century.' The task of true communists and the workers' movement remains to preserve their political independence and put forward a revolutionary internationalist program of struggle, in order to prevent the deception of the masses and preserve the ideas of the Great October Revolution.