



SEMINARIO

CONGRESO CULTURAL DE LA HABANA

FA-82

Jan/68

On the night of January 12, 1968 the one week long Cultural Congress of Havana came to an ^{official} end with a speech delivered by Prime Minister Fidel Castro in the Chaplin Theater.

It was the third speech of Castros that the majority of the delegates had heard. He had spoken of petroleum, Cuban economic development on ~~JANUARY~~ the January 2 Victory Day ^{and} of Havana parade, of the huge Green Belt project on the night of January 6. On the ~~xxxxxxx~~ 12 he addressed himself to the problems of imperialism, culture, doctrine and struggle.

He said that many had prophesized that the success of such a heterogeneous congress, with almost 500 delegates from 70 countries would be ~~xxxxxxxx~~ highly unlikely. It was said that the Cultural Congress "might become a site for controversies of every nature, for misunderstandings and it would be very difficult for intellectual workers to arrive at practically unanimous ~~xxxxxxx~~ conclusions".

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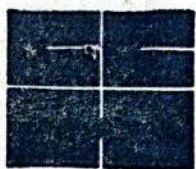
~~Kxxxxxxx~~

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Despite the fact that the Congress included participants of such different origins, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and activities and even doctrine, a whole series of fundamental problems were approved "with strange unanimity"

The Prime Minister attributed this fact that a "universal consciousness" is being developed today, the universal consciousness about the most profound problems of the contemporary world, the universal consciousness about the grave menaces that threaten all the peoples of the world, the universal consciousness of struggle, the universal consciousness of justice that spreads throughout the world.

He traced the birth of this universal consciousness to "the danger, the threats ~~xxxxxxx~~ threats of aggressions and the real aggressions



that many people's of the world - that practically the whole world - are suffering. As the acts of aggression, of oppression, of ~~subjugation~~ subjugation, of the dangers which hang over humanity have grown, to an equal degree has universal consciousness grown". He went on;

"We have read all the Resolutions concerning the different topics that were discussed. And it can be affirmed that the fundamental problems that confront humanity today, the most serious dangers, were discussed, and that they were discussed in a very correct way, according to our judgement.

"There are some facts about which, no one who has ~~any~~ the slightest conscience or humanity or feeling of justice can remain indifferent or indolent.

"Thus, for example, the aggression to Vietnam, that unprecedented event of our times, that act of genocide which Yankee imperialism brutally commits against that people, unjustifiable from all points of view, using the means of war and the means of brutality, that unquestionably bring to mind the actions of Nazism in Europe to all those who happened to live or to experience closely or ~~at~~ from a distance, or to read about it. They are reminded, for example, of all those acts which later constituted crimes of war and for which many were punished and in some cases executed, although not as many as should have been...

"Indignation and hatred on the one hand, and admiration on the other with regard to the events taking place in Vietnam have contributed most notably, perhaps more than any other fact of our times, to create that awareness of justice and universal morality which has been evident in this Congress

"There is not a single continent, not a single country in the world, there is not a single people, there is not one present day

problem in which the imperialist activity is not seen, is not felt, is not noticed. There is not a single vile cause in the world that imperialism does not support, as there is not a single just cause in this contemporary world that imperialism does not attack."

Prime Minister Castro spoke about how imperialism vents its
fury on ~~the~~ "the Third World. But he declared that "Yankee imperialism governs in Europe
to a much greater extent than even Europeans themselves imagen.
He then went on to explain some of the characteristics of U.S.
finance capitals penetration in Europe.

The First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba devoted a large portion of his speech to the ~~struggle against~~ ~~imperialism~~ to the forces combatting imperialism.

"And to be honest, we could say that we have seen many times how certain causes, which most affect today's world, how certain aggressions, certain crimes, have received more ~~and~~ protest and combativeness from groups of intellectual workers than from organizations of a political nature from which the greatest combativeness was to be expected. On occasions we have seen supposed vanguards in the depths of the rear ranks in the struggle against imperialism."

"Аххххххххххх And when we see in the forefront a vanguard man or someone whom we assume to be one, it seems to us the most natural thing in the world; but when we see in the forefront of protest and struggle those who were not thought to be of the vanguard we admire them. And so we do not stop to measure the degree to which they fight but to see and verify the fact that when, in some countries, there is no one to take up the banners of justice, then there are worthy men who take up those banners! And the examples of these phenomena are not few!"

~~Hexbox~~ Castro spoke about the October Crisis and questioned



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the effectivity and militance of the peace movement of Europe in a moment when the whole world stood on the threshold of a thermo-nuclear war. "And the fact is that if there any (big mass
xxx"xxxxxxdxxxxxxxpressionxxxxxx and ifxxxxxxxxxxxxxxpressionxxxwewouldxxxappreciate thatxxxxxxxpressionxxxxxxxfrom
xxxxxxxnxxxxxxxlogxxx mobilizations, we never did learn about them."

"We had the impression - and if it is ~~axfx~~ false we would deeply appreciate that is be dispelled from our minds - that the slogan (fight for peace) was nothing more than a slogan, a past time and that the slogan was not capable of mobilizing any of the masses, that the slogan was not even capable of awakening the instinct of self-preservation in any of the masses.

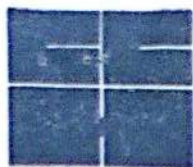
"Where were the vanguards? Where were the revolutionary vanguards?"

Castro also pointed to the recent death of Che Guevara.

"...who were the ones who raised his flag. Who were the ones who agitated throughout the world. But above all, who were the ones who raised his name in Europe, the ones who lifted and exalted his example? Who were the ones who mobilized themselves, painted signs and organized demonstrations all over Europe? On what sector did the death of Che Guevar make the deepest impact, It was precisely among intellectual workers! It was not in the organizations, not in the parties!"

Delegates to the Congress, members of the Italian Communist party ~~presented~~ formulated ~~what~~ they considered a clarification of ~~Ridex~~ ^{absent} Castros remarks about the ~~lack~~ ^{absence} of demonstrations during the October crisis and after the death of Che. One unimpeachable Italian source told me however that ~~with~~ ^{they} claimed that in Italy the Communist party had organized demonstration. The delegation met with a high Cuban party official ~~for~~ for many hours ~~exchange~~ ^{exchanging} to discuss

The night after Fidel's speech



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~~individuals~~

individuals. Just as in science the isolated researcher practically no longer exists nor can he exist, in politics, in economics, in sociology isolated researchers and the emergence of geniuses becomes more and more impossible in modern times.

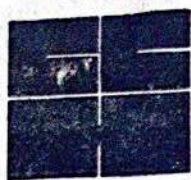
"~~And~~ ~~the~~ ~~development~~, there is in fact fact certain underdevelopment in the field of politic and revolutionary ideas. And from this is derived the enormous confusion that exists in the world today, the enormous crisis that exists in the field of ideas, that is, in the field of doctrine, in the precise moment when the attitudes and ~~attitudes~~ and revolutionary/feelings of the world increase.

"No one can say that he possesses the whole truth; no one can declare today in the midst of complexity of the world that he had the whole truth. We have our truths here, that have emerged from our experience, applicable to our conditions, and we have our deductions and conclusions but we have never ~~in~~ ~~supposed~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~masters~~ or monopolizers of revolutionary truths.

"Nevertheless, we have seen how revolutionary truths are found, how revolutionary truths gradually emerge as a result of analysis and the effort of many brains.

"And there is no doubt that this is the impression that the Resolutions of the Congress leave. And this is, in our judgement the most extraordinary thing: how such unanimous conclusions have been reached, how the points of view have been unified, and how a handful of truths have been expressed, ~~xxxx~~....

"What will the imperialists say...? They will perhaps say that this is a Vietnam in the field of Culture; they will say that guerillas have begun to appear among the intellectual



workers. That is, that the intellectual workers are adopting an ever increasing militant stand.