

Appendix 3

(excerpts from the COC circular of March 2008)

Dear comrades,

In April 2007 the CPN (Maoist) evaluated that the basis for unity with the SPA had ended. The August 2007 EM adopted plans for a mass struggle aimed at leading to an insurrection and the party came out of the interim government. In the course of the mass agitation lakhs were mobilised and the enemy were forced to accept the demands put forward by the party. Following this the CPN (Maoist) has rejoined the government and is now fully engaged in the upcoming Constituent Assembly elections.

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The CPN (Maoist) could regain political initiative through the mass agitation and has rejoined the government on that favourable basis. But this decision marks a sharp shift from its earlier evaluation that the “basis for unity with the SPA has ended” and that the political situation “is in a revolutionary crisis”. At that time they had concluded that, the way things are developing, even if a republic emerges it would be one formed under US and Indian support and would not be automatically closer to new democracy. There is no explanation now of why the CPN (Maoist) thinks that this is not true of the present situation. Following the 2007 August EM it was explained that the new tactics was ‘using Constituent Assembly elections to further preparations for insurrection’. The mass agitation launched in September 2007 was supposed to be a precursor for the insurrection. Yet the January 2008 resolution of the CPN (Maoist) CC admits that failure to take up “...organisational expansion and consolidation and technical preparation has been the main weakness of this period.”

This indicates that it is failing to develop tactics to break out of the enemies’ ‘compromise trap’. As a result its resolution to develop political intervention in the direction of an insurrection is weakening. The COC evaluates that the present direction taken by is towards the right and it is confirming some of the concerns expressed by our party earlier.

Unlike dogmatic criticisms on the CPN (Maoist)’s tactics, our difference of opinion was not over its participation in the interim setup or the Constituent Assembly elections. In our letter to the CPN(Maoist) of 2006 October, in the context of examining its position on a transition government, the COC had written “In the political situation of Nepal where the attainment of the republic is widely understood as the scrapping of the monarchy, when there already is the history of a tendency in the top leadership level arguing for a sub-stage of bourgeois democracy, when party documents themselves say that the republic conceived by the party is not immediately a new democratic one, such blurring of ideological-political clarity will definitely give room for rightist tendencies to grow. This will increase if the enemy decides to do away with the monarchy and set up some sham republic, even incorporating some formal rights for oppressed sections (like in South Africa).” Further on, in its letter of September 2007 the COC had pointed out the error in repeated failure to take into account the possibility of the enemy being willing to compromise and accept its demands. The danger of losing direction and initiative emerging from this error was also pointed out. Its basis was noted as failure of the CPN (Maoist) in recognising the favourable factor in the international and national situation. Evidently the present wrong turn in direction are related to these mistakes. While criticising the present direction it is taking we must continue to defend what was correct in the CPN (Maoist)’s approach – particularly its tactical flexibility – and our struggle against dogmatic views on this.

According to media reports, the CA election campaign is marked with a lot of violence, mainly directed against the CPN (Maoist). Possibilities for sabotage still remain. But unless the present direction taken by the party is reversed, its success in the CA elections or success in developing a mass movement in case CA elections are sabotaged, will not necessarily lead to a revolutionary outcome.

At present we will not be doing open criticism, though we will continue to publicly air our concerns. In keeping with our internationalist duty we will struggle with the CPN (Maoist) leadership to rectify the wrong direction it is now taking and write to its CC. In accordance to our principled stand that the affairs of Nepal should be decided by the Nepali people and foreign powers should keep their hands off, we will be continuing in the Solidarity Committee for the time being.