

Summary of Communist Labor Aims (about 1949)

- 1.) Improved wages in relation to the higher living costs.
- 2.) The fixing of a minimum wage.
- 3.) Effective achievement of the 45 hour maximum work week, payment for the seventh day, vacations, payment for extra hours, and all the other minimum guarantees of the Labor Code and the other social guarantees of the Constitution.
- 4.) Revision and improvement of the social legislation, especially in the aspects which limit the right to strike, and to guarantee an effective freedom of the unions to organize politically.
- 5.) A "better organization and functioning" of the Tribunales de Trabajo.
- 6.) Absolute independence of the labor organizations from the State and from the employers. This means a constant fight to maintain union independence from all forms of subjection, from the corporate unionism of fascism, to the practical subjection by the authorities.
- 7.) The struggle for labor union unity by means of intensive work among the rank and file of the unions "in order to create a feeling of unity among the workers, this being the principal aid to the organic unity of the labor movement."
- 8.) The creation of a workers' university and recognition of the obligation of the employers to create schools for technical training.
- 9.) The prevention of unemployment by means of an industrial plan put into operation by the State and tariff protection for existing industries.
- 10.) Effective "democratization" of the Guatemalan Institute for Social Security and the extension of social security to other areas of production.
- 11.) Fight for safe and healthful working conditions.
- 12.) Opposition to the intervention of the State's organs of repression, (i.e. the Police) in labor conflicts.
- 13.) Free labor organization for the workers of the State.

The following objectives for the improvement of the lives of the campesinos:

- 1.) The right of the campesinos to possess the land upon which they work and, until this can be achieved, low land rentals.
- 2.) The incorporation of the campesino massed into the economic, political, and social life of the nation by means of agrarian reform.
- 3.) To promote the organization of campesinos into cooperatives in order to raise production and improve living conditions.
- 4.) The extension of social security to the campesinos.
- 5.) Return of the lands to those campesino communities which have been despoiled of their lands.
- 6.) The improvement in the sanitary conditions in the rural areas, especially to combat the endemic diseases of the campesino population.
- 7.) The recognition of the right of all campesinos to have the benefit of protection by the State, agricultural credit and other aids to agriculture.

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For the improvement of the indigenous populations:

- 1.) The guarantee of communal lands belonging to Indian communities.
- 2.) The return of communal lands taken from the Indians by the latifundistas in past years.
- 3.) The liberation of Indian communities when these are enveloped by latifundios.
- 4.) Agrarian reform must take into consideration the situation of the Indians with respect to their national characteristics and personalities.
- 5.) Incorporation of the indigenous populations into the rest of the population by democratic proceedings and equal opportunities for their development.
- 6.) The development of the indigenous economy, facilitating access to the markets, establishment of credit facilities, the mechanization of their industries, etc.
- 7.) The establishment of a national museum of Indian folklore.

For the artisans:

- 1.) Stimulation of the cooperative organization of artisans with help from the State in order for them to pass into modern industrialism.
- 2.) Displaced artisans should be aided by the State in order to effect their transition to an industrial economy without undue hardship.

For white collar workers, teachers, students, and professionals:

- 1.) The stimulation for the further development of a "middle class".
- 2.) Cheaper rents and the construction of public housing.
- 3.) Absolute respect for the political ideas of public employees, restricting this right only when their activities prejudice their effectiveness as servants of the State or sabotage the work of the Revolution. All this should be guaranteed by a Statute for the Public Employee.

For national capitalists:

- 1.) The development of a national capitalism by means of the cooperation of the capitalists with democratic principles. This point "should merit the special consideration of the State because of its importance to the economic liberation of the country".
- 2.) "It is in the interests of the nation that a social class develop to substitute for the class of latifundistas who are responsible for the backwardness of the national economic and social life.

For the youth of Guatemala:

- 1.) The construction of more schools, the elimination of quotas for admission to the schools, and a cheapening in the price of textbooks.
- 2.) The creation of agricultural grants to prepare campesino youth.
- 3.) The regulation of child labor, the recognition of their right to shorter hours and the creation of recreation centers for them.

For the women of Guatemala:

- 1.) The free and equal access of women to all fields of activity and their participation in the organs of the State.
- 2.) Improved protection for the mother and the abandoned mother.
- 3.) The fight against prostitution by preventing the unemployment of women.
- 4.) Equal vote for women without restrictions of any nature.

The popular demands:

- 1.) The maintenance and extension of all democratic liberties.
- 2.) The rejection of all kinds of abuses of power and limitation of individual guarantees on the pretext of fighting communism.
- 3.) Strict application of the Constitutional principle which prohibits the direct or indirect interference by the Church in the political or labor affairs of the nation.
- 4.) Energetic means to be taken against speculators who raise living costs.
- 5.) Price control of the primary necessities in order to alleviate the hunger of the people.
- 6.) The cheapening of the costs of light, electric power, water and other public services.
- 7.) The development of a national hospital plan.
- 8.) Combat the causes of beggary and alcoholism with a policy of work and employment.
- 9.) The lowering of the prices of periodicals and the creation of popular public libraries.

Cultural demands:

- 1.) The education of the poor children as the basis for the economic liberation of the families.
- 2.) High salaries for teachers.
- 3.) "Education in the country should rest on national principles, preventing the introduction of foreign institutions in the direction and administration of national educational affairs".
- 4.) A literacy campaign for the Indians in their own languages, the development of alphabets in their languages and a national program for rural education in these languages.
- 5.) Schools must be strictly kept in the hands of the laity.
- 6.) The continuation of extra-school education by means of cultural missions, theaters, mobile expositions, radio programs, concerts, etc.

For the development of the national economy:

- 1.) The economic transformation of the country should begin with democratic agrarian reform which will be under the direction of a special institution to carry out the following functions: The division of the latifundios, including lands owned by the state, donating the lands to poor campesinos, mechanization of agriculture, the opening of new regions to cultivation, irrigation projects, diversification of production, the administration of rural credit, etc.

- 2.) Plan and promote the industrialization of the country toward national economic independence, beginning with the formation of an Institute for Industrial Production. "The industry will be founded upon an expanded production of the raw materials of the country which will facilitate agrarian reform. Industrialization will be sustained by national capital and foreign investments ruled from continuing to hold back our economic development and compromising the political independence of our country." A revision of those concessions already in existence.
- 3.) The stimulation of international trade of national products and the limitation of the importation of foreign articles which are produced in the country.
- 4.) The development of a Guatemalan Merchant Marine.
- 5.) A banking policy which effectively offers credit to national industries.
- 6.) The establishment of scholarships for the preparation of technicians. Under equal circumstances, these should go to the sons of workers.
- 7.) The creation of a National Coffee Institute to help prevent fluctuations in the market from adversely affecting the nation and the wages of the workers.