

‘Steadfast unity among democratic forces’ from the Deutsche Volkszeitung (13 June 1945)

Caption: On 13 June 1945, the Deutsche Volkszeitung, periodical of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany, calls for unity among all anti-fascist democratic parties.

Source: Deutsche Volkszeitung. Zentralorgan der Kommunistischen Partei Deutschlands. 13.06.1945, Nr. 1; 1. Jg. Berlin: Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands. "Feste Einheit der demokratischen Kräfte", p. 1.

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Steadfast unity among democratic forces

By Wilhelm Pieck

We are standing at a critical turning point in the history of Germany. The time has come to lead our German people out of the misery and national catastrophe into which it was plunged by the criminal Nazi regime. We must create a new Germany and tread new paths, allowing the German people to regain a dignified existence, securing the precious good of inner freedom and preventing a repetition of the imperial politics of violence and war that thrust our nation into such great suffering and destruction for the second time in the course of a lifetime.

Let us never forget in this context that Hitler was only able to come to power and unleash the Second World War because the German working people were split and it thus proved impossible to unite the democratic popular forces in the fight against Hitlerism and for peace and freedom. The past therefore teaches us with utmost urgency:

An end to the division of the working people! It is only through the unity of the anti-fascist democratic forces that the difficult task of reconstruction can succeed and the future of our people be secured!

There is no higher order of the day, no more pressing interest of all working people than the creation of the steadfast unity of anti-fascist, democratic and progressive popular forces proposed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany in its appeal of 11 June 1945.

Whoever has had the opportunity to form a true picture of the atmosphere in the widest sections of society in both town and country will subscribe to our observation:

The people want this unity!

They only regard as true friends and saviours in their time of need those who advocate unity from the bottom of their hearts. The German working people have, in contrast, no sympathy whatsoever with those elements who consider party quarrels more important than the most urgent interests of the people and who are trying once more to sow the seeds of division and discord among workers.

We Communists believe that this unity must be achieved and can be achieved.

It can be achieved because all layers of the working people share the same interest, which is to clear away as quickly as possible the rubble left by the Nazi regime as its terrible legacy and rebuild from these ruins a new, secure life founded on harmony, order and peaceful labour. And it is because this interest is shared by Communists, Social Democrats, Catholics and German workers without party-political orientation that we are so firmly convinced that there can be no insurmountable obstacles in the path of unity.

In its appeal to the German working people, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany has proposed a plan of action setting out the most urgent tasks at hand, which, in our opinion, could serve as a basis for an understanding among all anti-fascist and democratic popular forces. We suggest that the ten points that make up this plan of action be discussed everywhere among Communists, Social Democrats, Catholics, Protestants, Democrats and the non-aligned and we declare, at the same time, that we are by no means opposed to other suggestions, but will examine them seriously and objectively and will endorse them as long as they serve the interests of the working people and the cause of unity.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany proposes the creation of a

bloc of anti-fascist democratic parties.

This proposal is directed at social democratic parties, centrist parties and any other anti-fascist parties that may emerge. In doing so, we particularly emphasise that we will make no demands whatsoever that might affect the independent organisation of these parties or harm a party's reputation for freedom of decision.

This bloc of democratic parties for which we Communists are calling presupposes a relationship in which the individual partners enjoy equal rights. Competition should only arise in the zeal and energy with which the accepted common duties are pursued and in the honesty with which the task of building and consolidating anti-fascist unity is undertaken.

If such a spirit prevails right from the start, it will be possible to overcome all damaging individual interests and — with only the welfare of all layers of the workforce at heart — to help the country's common, truly national interests achieve a rapid and successful breakthrough.

Our appeal for unity, for the creation of the bloc of anti-fascist democratic unity of the people is primarily directed at the entire German workforce, which, through its size as much as its role in society, is destined, standing united, to form the backbone of the national unity of the entire working population.

We strive for close cooperation between working people in town and country, between workers, farmers, clerks, craftsmen and traders, but also with working intellectuals, scientists, researchers, engineers, doctors and teachers, as well as artists willing to dedicate their creations to the people.

Let us all set to work, with equal resolve and marching in step! We will then be able to look with confidence over the ruins towards the future. Combining our efforts, we will succeed.

Unity, the bloc of anti-fascist democratic parties, is the surest guarantee that the German working population will rise again to a new life, to a return to the community of free and peace-loving peoples!