

## FRENCH CP CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF PORTUGAL'S CP

Aug. 13 (IPS) — The Politburo of the French Communist Party (PCF), Aug. 11, issued a "solemn call to all workers of France and other countries" to "stop the arm of the assassins" who are presently assaulting the members and ransacking the offices of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) in Portugal's northern provinces. Simultaneously, dozens of PCF cells, sections and regional federations sent telegrams of support to the embattled Portuguese party.

The PCF call, which was affirmed two days later by its trade-union confederation, the CGT, will act to both mobilize international Communist and working-class forces in defense of the Portuguese revolution and to threaten French President Giscard d'Estaing with a revolutionary upsurge, should he commit himself further in support of Portugal's reactionary forces. Across Europe, the PCF call will give political focus to the mass strike developing throughout the continent.

For the first time in its history, the European Communist movement is beginning to unite to strike with one fist at the class enemy. Throughout Europe, Communist parties are already responding to the call: the Danish, East German, Italian parties, and sections of the West German parties have in one fashion or another expressed their support for the PCF's statement. One possible implication of the PCF's initiative for common action is that it will preempt the protracted discussions held in preparation for the

East Berlin conference of European Communist parties, heretofore delayed by the participants' inability to resolve "strategic" differences.

### Impetus for Action

In West Germany, while the Communist Party (DKP) itself has not printed or publicly supported the French Communist call, its youth organizations in especially the Hessen area have already taken to the streets to propagandize on behalf of the PCF's efforts and has called on other organizations to join the movement. In Denmark, the Communist Party has framed its support for the PCF with a united front offer to Danish social-democrats. "No return to the Cold War," says the CP, "we have to fight together against big capital."

In East Germany, the Communist Party's newspaper Neues Deutschland reports both the PCF proclamation and the splits which are now appearing within the French Socialist Party (PSF) under the impact of Portuguese developments. Pressured by this general motion, even the CIA-leadership of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) has been forced to cover itself. The PCI's newspaper, *Unita*, yesterday printed excerpts of the PCF's call, including reference to the international scope of the document. Elsewhere in the issue, the PCI leaders report that they are supporting the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) because they have to, not because they want to.

In France itself, the PCF's call is designed to force its "unity of the left" coalition partners, and primarily the PSF, to adopt an active class position in defense of the PCP, which they have so far only nominally supported against the fascist attacks. By denouncing the leaders of the Portuguese Socialist Party "who gave the signal for the anti-Communist campaign...resorted to falsification" and alluded to "a supposed threat of Communist dictatorship," the PCF places the PSF — which officially backs the Portuguese Socialist war-mongers — in a very uncomfortable position. A PSF refusal to participate in the Communist campaign would not only result in loss of membership but also atomize the already faction-riddled Socialists.

Beyond the PSF, the PCF also "invites workers, French democrats of all opinions to rise in unison against the fascist threat in Portugal, for the safeguard of democracy. It addresses itself in particular to Christians, who will not accept, in the name of a religion which is theirs, that hatred and violence be preached to prepare a new horrible crime against humanity." This demand that French Catholics clearly condemn the fascist ravings and incitations to murder of Braga Bishop da Silva has already been answered positively by two major Catholic newspapers. Today's *L'Humanite* reports that in central France, priests are playing a leadership role in the formation of anti-fascist committees.