

THE AIMS OF THE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM (EMS) AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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This document is an extract of the speech given by J. Posadas on the occasion of a "Conference on the Common Market and the Socialist Europe of Lenin", 2-3 Dec 1978, in the presence of Trotskyist, left Labour and Communist comrades.

One of the most important conclusions to discuss in Britain is that the standard of living in the Workers States is constantly rising, and that it is constantly falling in capitalism. Technical capacity keeps improving, but culture and intelligence decline, decline and decline in capitalism.

It is not like this in the Workers States; because there, the development of intelligence, culture and human love are the goals of the State. In the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, a toddler can get lost in the streets without coming to any harm. Can you say that of life in capitalism? In the relations that capitalism induces, self-interest is king; the development of the anti-capitalist and revolutionary struggle attenuates this reality, but capitalism keeps reproducing it.

In the matter of the human relations, one can never insist too much on the difference between capitalism and the Workers State. Technology in the capitalist state is used to produce plenty, but it produces self-seekers even more. Compare this with the East German Workers State: At the end of the recent Communist Party Congress, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* was played, and tens of thousands of youngsters sang the chorus in the streets. East Germany is said to be 'backward', but in the Western world, what is being played every day is the Symphony of Death, like the Guyana massacre¹. Compare the two.

¹ This refers to the mass murder of 909 persons at the *Peoples' Temple Agricultural Project* led by **Jim Jones in Jonestown** and Georgetown, Guyana, on the 28.11.1978.

Capitalism prepares for war, and this absorbs all its scientific preoccupation. It postponed the launching of the atomic war many times already, but it goes on preparing. Although this is completely contradictory, it seeks to coordinate its competing parts - at least the US, Europe and Japan. The EEC is part of this, along with the European Monetary System (EMS) and their creature: 'the snake'².

It is to get a better grip on the capitalist crisis that the large European capitalist countries invite Spain, Portugal and Greece to join the EEC. The development programmes granted to the weaker economies are no favours. They are devices through which the strongest European countries control the competition of Spain, Portugal and Greece. For this purpose, they created 'the snake'.

Capitalism reorganises Europe as part of its war plans. To succeed in this, it looks high and low for ways to coordinate, subdue and manipulate its inherently competitive nature. Through their financial 'snake', the main EEC leaders want a higher level of political unity in Europe. They know that money and its fluctuations represent economic events, but they still hope for more political unity out of them. They speak of "European Monetary Union"³ but their actions impose the rule of the strongest capitalists on all the rest of Europe.

The EEC in itself is an anti-Workers State strategy:

The '*assistance to development*' granted by the EEC to Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, must not be confused with any kind of gift! It is a device. It lets the weaker economy enter the field of competition, and then it subjects it to the competition of the strongest. This way, one or two big countries control all the others, and stop them making new Workers States.

Beyond the fog of financial talks, summits and currency subterfuges, a banner bears the words: "No new Workers State

² Before the Euro, **the 'snake'** was a financial comparator allowing for agreed fluctuations between European currencies, and between these and the dollar. Editorial.

The EMS was started by France and West Germany at the Bremen Summit in 1978. It adopted the Ecu as a [financial exchange] currency. As an EEC member, Britain was implicated.

³ EMU meant **European Economic Community** at the time.

in Europe!". It stands among the EMS, the Ecus, the 'snakes' and the rest. The Common Market/EEC is a cloak under which capitalism hides the full extent of its crisis, and the full extent of its anti-Workers State preparations.

Do not think for a moment that the aim of the 'snake', of the EEC or of the EMS is to improve Europe economically or culturally. None of this. The aim is to regulate inter-capitalist competition, and capitalism can only do it through the strong dominating the weak. Even in the relations between the strongest (Germany, France and partly Britain), each wants to 'regulate' the other. The end result is mayhem and pure empiricism.

Human intelligence has no place in these circles. If a small bit of intelligence were to stroll accidentally in their direction, it would immediately be assaulted by hordes of independent, conflicting and competing economic interests. Each of these would then be observed serving any number other interests, private ones, property ones, market ones. They can get together, but that is to manipulate banking, create paper values, numeric ones, etc. As they do not even pretend to be concerned with human wellbeing, nothing they do relates to achievements in production, in productivity or in consumption.

The top priority and constant dream of capitalist functioning is 'more profits'. More profits for the strongest, more profits for the biggest, in a world preferably cleansed of Workers States. 'Europe' is a strategy to confront the Workers States. It is a strategy to confront the social system which the Workers States represent. This is the EEC, in a nutshell.

The choice facing us is degeneracy, or the Workers State:

Although France, Germany and Britain always decide, the EEC does grant elements of freedom to each EEC member. The EEC used this device to create structures capable of repelling the competition of the United States. Now it uses them to diminish the level of violence in the competition between the EEC and the United States. The constant factor behind all this is *competition*. This is why a 'United Europe' is impossible in the

capitalist system.

The term 'snake' used in EEC's financial circles evokes zigzags – and nasty bites. Unplanned economies can only be wavering and inconsistent. They adopt a 'snake' to limit the deviations between their competing currencies, but the stronger countries get bigger snakes. Countries like Italy get the little one. In short, the currency of the countries considered 'poor' can only deviate to the extent allowed by the rich.

The European workers will rightly view these 'snakes' as poisonous creatures adapted to the undergrowth of unemployment and 'productivity'. We are told that the European countries are in crisis. But what exactly *is* in crisis in the European countries? Is it the technical ability of society? Is there a lack of automation? No! The *capitalist system* is in crisis. There is no Workers State as incoherent as this! Yugoslavia displays aspects of capitalist crisis, but this is due to the re-introduction of market and self-management measures. The same goes for China, but again, this comes from the capitalist elements China has incorporated. Since turning towards capitalism brings crisis, it follows that the crisis comes from capitalism!

Capitalism is condemning human development to death. Take the case of 'developing' countries like Algeria. If it stays in capitalism, Algeria will not advance. World capitalism is not about to make any room in the world for 'developing countries' like Algeria. The reason is simple: capitalism has no more room for itself. In any country, it tolerates a mixture of capitalist and Workers State' measures only when it can do absolutely nothing else.

The capitalist system has an immense productive capacity, but it no longer needs workers. It replaces hundreds of millions of them by machines. Production grows, capitalism trains some technicians, and the rest of society falls to structural unemployment. More, the unprecedented productive capacity of capitalism keeps growing, but what it produces meets less and less the needs of the populations.

History is at a crossroad: One road keeps us in capitalism and brings degeneracy; the other road goes to the Workers State and brings human progress. And all the while that we are standing there, at the crossroad, capitalism poisons people, pollutes the environment, trashes human culture.

This is what capitalism does, not the Workers State!

The Workers State does the opposite, even Yugoslavia. In the Workers State, the economy advances and so does the level of culture. In the Workers State, technology advances and the human relations advance as well. This is what capitalism cannot do.

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