

For a Lasting Peace, for a Peoples Democracy!

## **Collapse of the Monarcho-Fascist Offensive in Greece**

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Published: **For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!** Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties, Belgrade. No. 18 (21) Wednesday, September 15, 1948 page 5

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The battle in the Northern Pindus between the Greek Democratic Army and the monarcho-fascist troops which began on July 24 is of the greatest significance for the liberation struggle of the Greek people.

The monarcho-fascists concentrated their main forces in this area and strove might and main to win a decisive strategic success.

They set themselves the task of annihilating the main forces of the Democratic Army and of smashing the national liberation movement of the Greek people. The American imperialists believed that the successful completion of this operation would put the seal on their domination of Greece and transform the country into their military strategic base.

The leaders of the Democratic Army divined the intentions of the enemy. By concentrating their reserves in the Smolikas-Grammos sector, they compelled the monarcho-fascists to switch their main forces precisely in this area. The intention of the Command of the Democratic Army was to draw the enemy forces into the Grammos area for the purpose of enabling their own forces in Roumeli, in the Peloponnese and Epirus to extend to the utmost the range of their operations, enlarge the liberated territory and to make conditions unbearable for the enemy in these sectors.

The results of the battle in the Northern Pindus reveal first the complete failure of the joint American-monarcho-fascist plan, and second that the plan elaborated by the Command of the Democratic Army was realised. The efforts of the monarcho-fascists to secure the annihilation of the main forces of the Democratic Army ended in complete collapse. Despite a tenfold superiority in manpower and equipment, and their complete domination of the air, the 70 days operations yielded the enemy the bare Smolikas and Grammos Mountains. These mountains cost them 30,000 men, one third of their total forces.

The Democratic Army carried out in the main the plan of the High Command. Its stubborn resistance compelled the enemy, after numerous failures on the wings, to change his plan and to regroup and concentrate his forces against the centre.

The monarcho-fascists were compelled to use up reserves drawn from the other sectors. An overwhelming numerical superiority enabled them to advance. But nowhere did they succeed in compelling a disorderly retreat of the Democratic forces. Not a single unit of the Democratic Army was annihilated or taken prisoner. Withdrawal was carried out in accordance with the plan of the High Command.

While the battle was in progress in the Pindus, the Democratic forces in Roumeli, acting according to plan, assumed the offensive in that sector. Territory taken earlier by the enemy was recaptured and the liberated area extended.

Simultaneously with this, other units of the Democratic Army which had been engaged earlier in the Smolikas sector, began offensive operations in Thessaly, where they are fighting successfully, inflicting losses on the enemy and enlarging the liberated territory. The splendid morale of the Democratic forces, and the impotence of the enemy troops who were tied down in the Pindus, have created a critical situation for the enemy in the Peloponnese. In Epirus too, renewed offensive action by the Democratic forces is causing difficulties for the monarcho-fascists.

In the course of the operations in the Northern Pindus, the monarcho-fascist chieftains and their American bosses bragged of their successes and announced that victory was just around the corner. Sophoulis crowned these announcements with this boastful declaration that the "fighting in Greece was finished."

The wishful thinking on the part of the reactionaries bears little resemblance to reality. For the latest efforts of the enemies of the Greek people to annihilate the Democratic Army have ended in dismal failure, and the crisis of the monarcho-fascists has entered into a new and more acute phase.

Summing up the results of the Pindus battle, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Greece declared that the Democratic Army would continue to grow and would become stronger. The Political Bureau called upon the people to intensify the struggle against the monarcho-fascists and their American guardians.

The statement of the Political Bureau ended with an extract from the resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> Plenum of the Communist Party, which said; "the end of monarcho-fascism is not far off, all that is needed is for every Greek to fulfil his duty to motherland."