

PCTP / MRPP announcement

Arnaldo Matos had a “moving” farewell ceremony

Published: 25 FEB 2019 / <https://www.dnoticias.pt/pais/arnaldo-matos-teve-uma-comovente-cerimonia-de-despedida-DE4413151>

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the Creative Commons Common Deed. You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proof-readers above.

In an atmosphere of great unity and at the same time of intense emotion, a farewell ceremony took place today at 1 pm, comrade Arnaldo Matos, before the funeral procession for the Olivais cemetery began.

About two hundred workers, workers, students, women, attended the headquarters to participate in this ceremony, many of them traveling directly from various parts of the country - among others from Porto, Faro, Portimão, Beja, Grândola, Mora, Amareleja - as soon as they received the terrible news of the Party Founder's death and the time of the funeral.

Manuel Alegre, Colleague of comrade Arnaldo Matos at the University of Coimbra and in the military, made a point of coming to the headquarters to express his regret for the death of a great companion who throughout his life never failed to appreciate and relate to him.

At the ceremony that preceded the funeral's departure to the cemetery, General Ramalho Eanes and Vítor Ramalho began to speak, following the Daughter of Arnaldo Matos who recited two poems by Herberto Helder and Carlos Oliveira.

General Ramalho Eanes made an expressive, elevated and felt evocation of the coexistence and relationship with comrade Arnaldo Matos in the period of 30 months in which the military mission in Macau and in the north of Mozambique took place, in the company of special hunters who both joined, beginning for pointing out that it was the passage and stay in Macau that allowed “Ensign

Matos, my best ensign” to establish close contact with the experience of the Chinese revolution and Maoism, through the purchase of the books of the Communist Party of China on that revolution.

Ramalho Eanes also praised the comrade's intelligence and culture, his loyalty and directness and the firmness of his ideas and the fact that he was a fighter who put his ideas into action, revealing that the friendship between them lasted even after returning to Portugal , intensifying contacts after the 25th of April, and confiding that Arnaldo Matos would call him a few times to the Presidency to invite him about some of his decisions.

Vítor Ramalho, on the other hand, conveyed his deep regret at the loss of a great friend he met at the Faculty of Law in 1967 and with whom he then participated in all the main student battles to fight against the fascist dictatorship, also integrating the list Ao Trabalho, headed by comrade Arnaldo Matos, who came to win in 1969 the elections for the direction of the Academic Association.

Personal friendship and camaraderie relations were reinforced with the support provided by Vítor Ramalho to Arnaldo Matos at various times of the underground, welcoming him into his home and to his son Arnaldo, who would be mortally run over at the age of 10.

At the close of the session, Comrade Carlos Paisana intervened, on behalf of the Central Committee, beginning by directing feelings of condolences and solidarity to the Family of Comrade Arnaldo Matos.

Recognizing that talking about a man of intellectual and political scope such as that of Comrade Arnaldo Matos was one of the most difficult and undeserved tasks he had been entrusted with, he referred to him saying that his firmness, tenacity, quickness of reasoning, superior intelligence, exceptional ability to direct and command, deep knowledge of the characteristics of those he directed and, in general, of his interlocutors, erudition and amazing culture in all fields, uncompromising in the demand for rigor and perfection in the execution of tasks, to all this, comrade Arnaldo Matos added the fact that he was an indefatigable and fervent Marxist fighter who dedicated his whole life and permanently put his thoughts at the service of the working class and the struggle for the communist revolution and for a classless society, a society of equals.

After examining the main phases of comrade Arnaldo Matos' revolutionary political trajectory, from attending the Faculty of Law of Coimbra, to the founding of MRPP in 1970, passing through the troops and the Faculty of Law

of Lisbon, comrade Carlos Paisana showed that the death of comrade Arnaldo Matos, as happens with all great revolutionaries in a society where there are classes and class struggle, will certainly be celebrated by capitalists, fascists, revisionists and all kinds of reactionaries, but it constitutes an irreparable loss and a huge emptiness for the exploited and oppressed and for the revolutionary proletariat and Marxists.

In a great expression of regret, but also of determination to continue the fight in which comrade Arnaldo Matos committed himself and for which he gave his whole life, the International was sung at the end of the commemoration.