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Introduction to United Secretariat Statement on the
PST in the August 16 issue of Internationales,
the organ of the Swedish section

The declaration of the United Secretariat, which we are publishing below, presents its view of the general line that the Argentine sympathizing organization, the PST -- Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores -- is following today in the class struggle in that country.

The PST is one of the several sympathizing organizations in Argentina, but without doubt the biggest and best rooted in the working class. This fact, as well as the sharpening struggles in Argentina -- the introduction to a decisive confrontation of class against class -- make it doubly important for the International to make clear its position on fundamental questions of strategy and class alliances. It is necessary to clarify for the ranks of the PST but also for the entire Latin American vanguard that the Fourth International is not in accord with a strategic orientation that in the revolutionary struggles there is leading into a blind alley. An opportunist silence on this point would discredit the International in Argentina, in Latin America, and other parts of the world, hindering the construction of a real Argentine section of the International.

Earlier, the criticism of the PST by the leadership of the International -- and most recently by the majority at the Tenth World Congress -- was kept internal with the aim of best contributing to the correction of the PST's line. But the PST's present practice goes beyond anything that could be called a tactical mistake. It touches on a fundamental question of principle, and in such situations internal polemics are not enough.

The fact that the US expresses its view openly in this way -- in opposition to the view of one of its sympathizing organizations -- corresponds to the continual need to examine the political line of the organizations that pledge allegiance to the International. The PST was recognized by the Ninth and Tenth world congresses as a sympathizing organization precisely because of its basic agreement with the program of the Fourth International. On the other hand, the PST was not recognized as a section because of a deepgoing criticism already made of the party's political line and because of its insufficient loyalty to the International.

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The Political Bureau