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# Old communism irrelevant, says Swedish expert

JAKARTA (JP): Communism, at least the kind that was pursued in some Third World countries as a short cut to socialist development, has become irrelevant to most rapidly developing countries, an expert on communism in Asia says.

Dr. Olle Tornquist of Uppsala University in Sweden said on Thursday that with capitalism developing nationally as well as internationally, there is now a much larger working class to build upon in most developing countries.

"This makes old Third World communism, and its shortcuts primarily based on peasants, almost irrelevant in most rapidly developing countries," Tornquist said.

"The very basis for old class conflicts, between social democrats and people who earlier might have become communists is now fading away," said Tornquist, who wrote his dissertation on the rise and fall of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

Tornquist — an expert on radical popular movements in India, the Philippines and Indonesia — was a guest at a discussion organized by the Institute for Information Flow Studies on Thursday at Cafe Tempo in Jakarta. He was invited to give his views about the Democratic People's Party (PRD), which the military says resembles the PKI both in form and objective.

The PKI was outlawed in 1966 after it was blamed for masterminding a coup attempt against president Sukarno a year earlier.

The PRD has been blamed for inciting massive riots in Jakarta on July 27. Its leaders, including chairman Budunan Sudjatmiko, have been arrested and are currently under investigation.

Tornquist, whose dissertation on the PKI was published by Zed Books of London in 1984, described the PRD as a

of the Indonesian liberation struggle, who, as we know, were also inspired by Marxism and so on.

"Actually, the young PRD people primarily look for inspiration not in the old PKI but in movements like Sarikat Islam and in the thinking of Tan Malaka. And Tan Malaka, as we know, broke with old Soviet and China-guided communism and gave great importance to nationalism and religion, especially Islam," Tornquist said.

He said the PRD is nothing like the democratically-oriented communists in India which are mass movements at the grassroots level. The PRD differs sharply from the Philippine communists, who hold on to their Maoist ideas and who abstained from joining the broad pro-democracy movements during the People Power revolution in 1986, he added.

"Some PRD activists might have rediscovered Lenin, but unfortunately, I would say, they may rather come close to the kind of left radicalism which Lenin distanced himself from and labeled 'an infant disease'" Tornquist said.

"As far as I can see from my own comparative studies of popular efforts at democratization, this lack of grassroots mass organization and leftist radicalism are clearly problematic in processes of democratization.

"But that, again, is no reason for branding the PRD-people communists," he added.

Tornquist also noted that by hooking up with the Indonesian Democratic Party faction under Megawati Soekarnoputri, "they (PRD people) actu-

But they are hardly more communist than many of the officials still respected heroes

6221 what to relate to the recognized political system, and not work underground with conspiracies." (emb/16)