PART THREE

THE EXPORT AND GLOBALISATION OF MAOISM
I toast a new period of fraternal friendship between China and Mexico. I remember that the only country on the American continent that had relations with China for many years, starting in the 17th century, was Mexico, then called New Spain. I recall the fact that the commerce between Mexico and China influenced various aspects of Mexican life, particularly in artisan production and in the popular arts, and I refer to the romantic legend of the *China Poblana* (Pueblan Chinese Girl), whose dress, modified by the taste of my people, became the costume par excellence for expressing the complicated and rich feeling of *mestizaje*, in the most popular and lucid national dance. Let me end by voting for the return of the China galleon to the port of Acapulco, not only to import and export valuable merchandise as in the past, but to communicate to Mexico the ideals of the People’s Republic of China and pick up the highest aspirations of the Mexican people.1

So toasted Vicente Lombardo Toledano at a banquet held by Zhou Enlai in honor of the Union Conference of the Countries of Asia and Australasia held by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in Beijing from 16 November to 1 December 1949.2 As a member of the executive bureau of the WFTU, Lombardo formed part of the meeting’s presidium. It was at this conference that Chinese and Soviet plans to promote the Chinese Revolution as a general model for revolution throughout the developing world were announced by Liu Shaoqi.3 It is in this context that we have to understand Lombardo’s commitment

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2 The countries sending union delegations were: Burma, Sri Lanka, China, North Korea, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, Mongolia, Pakistan, the USSR and Vietnam. Ibid., 106.