

CHILE - Lessons in Counter-revolution

President Salvadore Allende's government in Chile was overthrown by a military coup on Sept. 11, 1973. Because of the strategic importance of Latin America to the USNA imperialists and, therefore, the absolute necessity of close solidarity between the revolutionary movements of all the Americas, we must analyze and look at what has caused the setback in Chile.

Latin America is the stronghold of USNA imperialism. Without it the whole edifice of USNA imperialism would crumble. The USNA has \$13.8 billion invested in Latin America, and over \$1 billion in Chile alone. In the last 15 years USNA corporations have taken \$16.4 billion out of Latin America. And that does not include interest paid by those governments for so-called aid loans.

In the fall of 1970 Chile was entering a revolutionary crisis. The USNA backed regime of Eduardo Frei was becoming increasingly bankrupt and unable to control the masses of workers and peasants. The Chilean people were demanding nationalization of the

USNA mines and other interests. Land reform was desperately needed by every peasant in Chile.

It was in this atmosphere that the Socialist Party, headed by Allende, formed an electoral bloc with the Communist Party of Chile, headed by the arch-revisionist, Luis Calvaran. The Communist Party of Chile's main stated goal in this coalition was to show that the peaceful road to socialism is possible. (See People's Tribune, Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 17.)

Allende won the election. The Chilean comprador bourgeoisie and the USNA imperialists would have rather that he did not. But given the mood of the working classes, they had to allow him to assume office. Even at that, Frei and the Christian Democrats were able to wring every possible concession out of the Allende government. For example, before the Christian Democratic Congress allowed his government to take office, Allende had to promise not to introduce a radical land reform. Further, he was made to promise not to

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act outside the constitution nor to nationalize any property without compensation. In other words before the "Marxist" government could take office, it had to promise not to do away with capitalism. It had to agree not to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat. And most important, it had to agree not to dismantle the main weapon the USNA and their lackeys have in Chile, the Army.

A Marxist analysis of the State and particularly, the modern bourgeois State, shows that the army is the main organ of state power. History has proven that the main task any revolution has in order to be successful is to first dismantle the apparatus of State power, i.e., the army, police, courts, prisons, etc.

The Allende government, which was composed of "socialists" and "communists", completely ignored this basic law of revolution. Not only that, the government actually allowed the USNA to continue arming and training the Chilean armed forces. In the past year alone 13 million dollars in aid was given by Nixon to the army. And yet this government has been touted by every revisionist in the world for the last three years as an anti-imperialist government.

What better situation could Nixon have asked for? The imperialists are faced with a crisis in one of the key countries in South America and along comes a popularly elected "Marxist" government who not only agrees not to disarm the imperialist lackeys in its country, but agrees to strengthen them. This "Marxist" government not only does nothing to free the working class from bourgeois political control, but actually condones it under the guise of "unity against reaction".

USNA policy toward Latin America has not changed noticeably in the last 100 years. The imperialists have been successful in keeping the Latin American masses choosing between the "gorilla" (dictator) or the "democrat". The pattern is clear: first a government of out and out compradors like Frei; then when the revolutionary crisis starts developing, a petty bourgeois democrat comes forward to "free" his people from Yankee imperialism. Allende in Chile, Arbenz in Guatemala, Goulart in Brazil, etc. Then after a few years of sapping the revolutionary zeal of the people, a military "gorilla" is installed. This then lays the basis for the whole cycle to start over again.

The only other essential ingredient necessary is the modern revisionists. And of these, there are plenty to go around, both in North and in

South America. They chime in just like clockwork praising the Allendes, the Goularts, etc.

Every petty bourgeois radical and revisionist in the world came forward to praise the Allende government's "struggle" against imperialism. Of course, the Communist Party of Chile called for all out support of its policies. Right up to the very end they called upon the people to support the "patriotic" armed forces. Fidel Castro called his visit to Chile, "the meeting of the two historical processes," i.e., the parliamentary and the revolutionary. The Soviet revisionists constantly pointed to Chile as a "model" of the peaceful transition to socialism. In the USNA everybody from Gus Hall and the CPUSA to the Revolutionary Union and the October League (Marxist-Leninist) praised the "fierce battles" the Allende government was carrying out against the USNA imperialists.

In general, these people who call themselves Marxist-Leninists put forward the projection that an elected "Marxist" government in Chile posed a serious threat to USNA imperialism. They said that in order to support the Chilean revolution we had to have all out support of that government. They completely ignored two fundamental Marxist-Leninist theses. 1) Under the conditions of imperialism, voting socialism into power is impossible. In order to secure state power, the proletariat must dismantle the previously existing apparatus of violence and replace it with its own. And 2) the proletariat cannot achieve this without its own vanguard political party, independent of the bourgeoisie.

Allende's government was doomed from the beginning. Nixon and the imperialists are no fools. They waited until Allende proved himself unusable to both the bourgeoisie and the working classes and then stepped in to reestablish full control over Chile. From an eyewitness report, the result is the estimated death of at least 20,000 people and the wounding of numerous others.

Now is the real test of our proletarian internationalism. We must support our Chilean comrades in every way possible and take their case to the USNA working class. We must popularize and learn the lessons they are paying for with their lives. And we must see to it that the next time such a situation arises in Latin America, we are ready with our own Communist party to materially aid it.

We have no doubt that the Chilean people will eventually triumph and win their independence and socialism. We also have no doubt that despite Castro's betrayal, the Andes will become the Sierra Maestras of South America.

Victory to the Chilean People!