

What Is A Communist?

Many times when we are bringing the People's Tribune or a leaflet around, we in the Communist League are asked, "Well, what is a Communist, what do Communists do?" We are hard working people who are struggling and fighting for Socialism. We want the working and poor people of the U.S. and the entire world to be free, free from oppression and exploitation. Free from hunger, slavery, war and poverty. The vast majority of people, the working and poor people, should decide collectively what is best for their country; not a few stinking rich capitalist toads, who live off our sweat and who can't do without us to make their money and profits. Why should we live like this? The working class hates the rich exploiters. Hates them for the miserable living conditions, hates them for the crummy wages they shell out, hates poverty, war, hunger and no medical care, hates them for the divisions they have made between men and women and people from different nations. The advantage we have on our side is that we can do without the rich capitalist class. We don't need bosses to screw us over, we don't need lousy schooling for our kids, we don't need cops busting down our doors, and then our heads. If the rich capitalist class is no good we should get rid of it. And the working class has the strength to do it.

A Communist grows out of this miserable life of oppression and constant hardship. A Communist knows who our enemy is and from then on works to destroy that enemy and liberate the oppressed and working people. One Chinese Communist said, "Communists grow wherever exploitation and oppression of class by class exists, the oppressed will always rise and struggle against their oppressor." (from Iron Bars But Not a Cage) It's natural that if a bully keeps attacking over and over, the underdog surely will rise up, with the help of others in his same position, to smash the bully and be rid of him.

There is an ancient Chinese fable called "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountain". "It tells of an old man who lived in northern China long, long ago and was known as the Foolish Old Man of North Mountain. His house faced south and beyond his doorway stood the two great peaks, Thailand and Wangwu, obstructing the way. With great determination, he led his sons in digging up these mountains hoe in hand. Another greybeard, known as the Wise Old Man, saw them and said derisively, "How silly of you to do this! It is quite impossible for you few to dig up these two

huge mountains." The Foolish Old Man replied, "When I die, my sons will carry on; when they die, there will be my grandsons, and then their sons and grandsons, and so on to infinity. High as they are, the mountains cannot grow any higher and with every bit we dig, they will be that much lower. Why can't we clear them away?" Having refuted the Wise Old Man's wrong view, he went on digging every day, unshaken in his conviction. God was moved by this, and sent down two angels, who carried the mountains away on their backs.

"Today, two big mountains lie like a dead weight on the Chinese people. One is imperialism, the other is feudalism.

The Chinese Communist Party has long made up its mind to dig them up. We must persevere and work unceasingly, and we, too, will touch God's heart. Our God is none other than the masses of the Chinese people. If they stand up and dig together with us, why can't these two mountains be cleared away?" (from Five Articles by Chairman Mao Tse-tung)

Many people have said, "We know things are miserable in the U.S., and we should do something about it, because we could have a prosperous society, instead of a dying one. But what could we do against the gigantic U.S. Imperialist government?" If we take the lesson of the Foolish Old Man and the Chinese Socialist (cont. on p. 10)

Puerto Rico (cont. from p. 2)

difficult problem of linking up with the revolution in Latin America.

The only moral and political route to the gigantic revolution in Brazil is through Puerto Rico. There is no possibility of convincing the bigger and stronger nations of Latin America of our revolutionary perspectives and earnestness unless we make the emancipation of Puerto Rico a major aspect of our program.

We are not middle class do gooders, like the so called Communist Party USA and their left talking friends. They "support" the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico in the same manner as they support humane societies, protests against lynchings and the preserving of the forests. Our starting point is the tactics of the Anglo-American revolution. Our teacher is Marx, who fought for the independence and freedom of the Irish in the interests of the socialist movement of the British workers. This is our outlook. It is in the decisive interests of the Anglo-American workers that Puerto Rico be separated from U.S. imperialism.

Our practice and investigations have clearly shown that the revolution in the Americas will certainly be one hemispheric process. During the period of the revolutions against England, Spain and Portugal there were different social systems, different oppressors and different political goals. Today there is but one American market, one social system and one oppressor. The decisive task of the Marxist Leninist Parties and groups is to achieve a revolutionary unity. This is absolutely impossible without the

struggle for the emancipation of Puerto Rico.

Apart from the tactic of changing the colonies from a reserve of imperialism to a reserve of proletarian revolution, there are overwhelming moral considerations. In order to be worthy of socialism, the workers of this nation must cleanse their conscience of the rape of Puerto Rico. The conquest and overthrow of a legitimate government, the resulting misery, squalor and starvation there distorts the morality of the Anglo-American workers and makes it impossible for them to move in their self interest.

The Anglo-American workers are rising up against the oppression of imperialism. The strike waves, the uprisings in the cities, the powerful womens movement, the peace movement, the struggle for bread and housing testify to the depth and strength of this movement. We have no doubt that the working class will carry out its tasks with honor. We are at that stage of our development where we must raise the question of Puerto Rico in the same militant and decisive manner that we raise the Negro question.

At the moment, the Marxist Leninist leaders of the Puerto Rican revolution are being tried for "conspiracy". One of the Comrades has already been sentenced to a term of five to eight years at hard labor.

The Communist League will not shirk its international responsibilities to Puerto Rico. We will do all in our power to defend the comrades on trial. We intend to popularize the Puerto Rican question in a new and proletarian way.

Communists (cont. from p. 6)

revolution, the question is easily answered. The U.S. Imperialist government is the weighty mountain on our backs, and the Communists and the masses of oppressed people, standing up together and digging together can clear this mountain away.

The heroic people of Vietnam are one of the best examples of how the U.S. Imperialist government can be fought against. The struggle in Vietnam is led by the Communists, and the heroic fight of the oppressed people is defeating U.S. Imperialism. In

South Vietnam there was the fighter Nguyen Van Troi, one of many who has given his life for the Vietnamese people, and the oppressed people throughout the world. In a book, The Way He Lived, his widow tells about Nguyen Van Troi: "The thugs accused him of being an agent of the Communists, after trying to smear Communism with every kind of slander, they charged him with being a Communist-inspired saboteur and terrorist. To this Troi replied that he had never seen the Communists do harm to anybody, but on the contrary since he had been a boy he had seen Yankees pouring in in an ever greater numbers, that the skies over Saigon echoed with the roar of their planes, and that they had been killing the people with their bombs and bullets. Then he added sarcastically; If you rascals keep calling me an agent of the Communists, I'll look on it as an honor. The Communists have been working for the good of the

people. Only the toadies of the Americans have reason to feel ashamed of themselves."

To be a Communist is to serve the people. The test of the words and deeds of a true Communist is if they go along with the highest interests and are strongly supported by the overwhelming majority of the people. Working in the interests of the working and poor people--working everyday to free ourselves from capitalist oppression. Knowing that the only way we can be free, the only way there will be democracy for the people is to get rid of the oppressor, the rich capitalist class. "There cannot be, nor is there or will there ever be real 'Freedom'...as long as there is no freedom for the workers from the yoke of capital, and no freedom for the toiling peasants from the yoke of the capitalists, landlords and merchants." (Lenin) A Communist is dedicated to the liberation of the people and works entirely in the peoples' interests.

There is a difference in a person who in words calls himself a Communist, but in deeds isn't a Communist. Here in the U.S. there is a Communist Party, the CPU.S.A. They call themselves Communists, but their actions only help the ruling class. These so-called Communists do not work in the interests of the overwhelming majority, all they do is set back the working class struggle. If the Communist Party U.S.A. was working in the interest of

the people we would have kicked out the rotten government and set up a socialist society where workers have all the political control, years ago. The CPUSA is not a Communist Party, it is a revisionist party, working against the overwhelming majority of working and poor people.

Another example is Russia since the death of Stalin. The Russian government hides behind communist phrases and calls itself a socialist country, but if you look at the real situation, at what goes on in Russia, you can see that Russia is in deed not a socialist country. The Russian government is a rotten revisionist bunch of capitalists who work against the interests of the Russian workers and peasants.

One thing that should always be remembered in judging anyone or any organization is to listen to what they say, but most important, watch what they do. How do their deeds or actions go along with what they say?

In the Communist League, we try and set the example of a good Communist in the way we work, our practice. Our words or theory come from Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. And our action, our deeds, come from our interest in the socialist revolution, the revolution is our lives. It is better to die working to liberate the working and oppressed people than to live like a slave under capitalism!