

# Hearst Kidnapping- 'Left' Terror Aids Fascist Drive

The recent kidnapping of Patricia Hearst, daughter of the newspaper tycoon, Randolph Hearst, by the Simbionese Liberation Army (SLA) has invited an upsurge in fascist attacks on the working class and the revolutionary movement. Though born out of the spontaneous resistance of the working class against the fascist drive, the Hearst kidnapping is being used by the imperialists to help lay the ideological base for fascism. Although we do not condemn the use of terror at certain periods of time in the revolutionary struggle, under present conditions it becomes a tool that the imperialists can use in their interests. While "tightening up" the state apparatus, they want to isolate the revolutionary movement from the working class and then smother the revolutionary movement, especially the Marxist-Leninists in that movement.

It was in an atmosphere of increasing repression that the kidnapping took place. In the San Francisco Bay Area the bourgeois attacks against the working class have been getting more and more violent. In January at San Francisco school board meetings where members of the Nazi Party were present, the police attacked not the fascist Nazi Party members, but rather the people who demanded that the Nazis leave the meeting. The San Francisco police also "escorted" the Nazi party members from the meeting to supposedly "protect" them! The issue at these school board meetings was how to integrate the San Francisco schools and the Nazis were there to make it clear that they did not want to see the schools integrated.

Also in January after a series of killings in San Francisco and Oakland of some six people in two weeks, police and the bourgeois press launched an attack against the Negro national minority community. By claiming that the suspects in the killings were Negro national minority, police engaged in an all-out search in the Negro national minority communities and the bourgeois press constantly tried to divide the Negro national minority and Anglo-American sections of the working class.

The "kidnapping" of the Atlanta "Constitution" editor, Reg Murphy, followed fast on the heels of the Hearst kidnapping. These have allowed the bourgeoisie through the mass media to wage a full scale propaganda campaign to try to unite the working class in sympathy for Patricia Hearst and Reg Murphy; and to discredit any grouping that claims to be revolutionary. The working class as a whole does not support the SLA and is saying that it does not want any food "tinged with

blood". On the other hand, the worsening conditions that the working class is being forced to live under have called forth thousands of people to stand in line for the meagre amounts of food that are being handed out.

Rep. Ichord, head of the Internal Security Comm., said that the kidnappings indicated that the FBI needed much more authority and power to be able to track down the terrorists. He called for a crack down on all "Marxist-Leninist" organizations, even though the kidnapping of Murphy supposedly came from the "right". (The bourgeois press said later that the Murphy kidnapping had no political motivation.) This shows that the imperialists are no fools. They know that they must destroy the Marxist-Leninist organizations which are becoming more and more entrenched in the working class.

What has been the response by the bourgeoisie in the Bay Area to the Hearst kidnapping? A Negro national minority teacher in San Francisco was arrested during the protest at the school board and is now on trial for supposedly "inciting to riot". At the first distribution of free food that the SLA directed Randolph Hearst to carry out, the food was literally thrown at the workers. In East Oakland where most of the people receiving food were Negro national minority the people responded by throwing the food back and immediately the police moved in full force to attack those who were protesting. The people tried to resist these attacks and as a result during that afternoon and evening the police patroed the streets, harrassed the youth and blocked off a section of one of East Oakland's main streets. The working class in the Bay Area is living in constant fear of further police attacks.

It is obvious that the actions of the SLA have hurt the revolutionary movement in the USNA. They have set the working class up for increased repression and are being used to try to divorce the revolutionary movement from the working class. The history of the revolutionary struggle is filled with many organizations such as the SLA. The errors of one such organization, Narodnaya Volya, are pointed out in the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) Short Course:

"The method of combating tsardom chosen by the Narodniks, namely, by the assassination of individuals, by individual terrorism, was wrong and detrimental to the revolution. The policy of individual terrorism was based on the erroneous Narodnik theory of active 'heroes' and a passive 'mob'.

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which awaited exploits from the 'heroes'. This false theory maintained that it is only outstanding individuals who make history, while the masses, the people, the class, the 'mob', as the Narodnik writers contemptuously called them, are incapable of conscious, organized activity and can only blindly follow the 'heroes'. For this reason the Narodniks abandoned mass revolutionary work among the peasantry and working class and changed to individual terrorism....

"By these assassinations of individual representatives of the class of exploiters, assassinations that were of no benefit to the revolution, the Narodniks diverted the attention of the working people from the struggle against that class as a whole. They hampered the development of the revolutionary initiative and activity of the working class and the peasantry.

"The Narodniks prevented the working class from understanding its leading role in the revolution and retarded the creation of an independent party of the working class."

Today we are also in the process of building an independent party of the working class. It is clear from the history of the struggle to build a revolutionary movement that it cannot be successfully waged by a group of isolated individuals. This struggle must be based on the organization of the working class to fight as one army against the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie is organized. It has the state - the government and the military - under its control and will continue to crush us as long as our class is unorganized.

We want to reemphasize that terror is a tactic that can be used in the struggle. But "Terror can never be a regular military operation; at best it can only serve as one of the methods employed in a decisive assault." (1) We do not want to belittle the "significance of heroic individual blows", however, the actions of the SLA are not those of heroes of the working class, but of people who are isolated from and contemptuous of the working class.

The key to stop the growing fascist repression is not kidnapping relatives of the capitalists, but building a united front against fascism and a Communist party to lead the united front. Then and only then will we be able to abolish capitalism itself once and for all.

1) Lenin, "Where to Begin", Selected Works, One Volume, Int'l Pub., N.Y., 1971, p. 39.