Vicious RU Attack on Union Militants

Maoris in a Muddle

Rumors are flying fast and thick among U.S. Maoris nowadays. Two years ago, one group of Maoris, the other of “waving the Red Book against the Red Book,” Now that the compiler [Lin Biao] of the book has been unmasked as a secret agent of “so- viet fascist social imperialism” and a pure product of empire, it is agita- tions in working itself into the pages of the Maori press, particularly the “Vice” and “Vanguard” with charges of “PL mentality” and of outright Trotskyism.

What is going on? It would be dif- ficult for even an insider to figure out, since the Stalinist ideology of political “discussion” consists of boundless in- numero and slanderer. Rather than politi- cal struggle to draw the line between revolutionary Marxism and various re- formist and crypto-fascist hordes, the heirs of the bad Marxism-Leninism are out of step with the General line.

Judging by public polemics and the statements of recent defectors from the Revolutionary Union (RU)’s leadership, it seems that the current vitiolosus and even more so a “corrective” line of Leninism that has always been used to justify its own existence.

These are central questions for se- rious Marxists. The fact that U.S. Maoris have functioning for years without a serious discussion of them is an indication of their political be- havior and the whole process of Soviet domination.

But this is not the main point. What is more revealing is a recent comment by the RU:

“...And we do not want the Trotskyists to attack us. This is a call for an honest discussion. We are prepared to listen to their arguments. We are not afraid of debate, provided it is conducted in a democratic spirit.”

According to this statement, the RU is prepared to engage in an open discussion of their differences with the Trotskyists. This is a welcome development and should be encouraged by all those who are interested in a genuine debate on the questions of the day.

The RU’s “Support” for Workers’ Movement

When the Revolutionary Union was itself undemocratically prevented from handing out a leaflet stating its position on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) it opposes the ERA at a Chicago Interna- tional Women’s Day demonstration this March, it suddenly discovered that “...each participating organization in a coalition has the right to disagree with certain aspects of an overall strategy, etc.”

However, let us go back to the RU’s conclusion that their Stalinist line is “principled.”

As we left the demonstration to return to the RU’s own offices, the RU´S “support” for the Women’s Rights movement was put to the test.

The RU’s Fake Left Turn

It is a deepening which is driving a core of the Maori groups into a frenzy, producing a dizzying merry-go-round of changing political positions. Most affected has been the Revolutionary Union, which has suf- fered a recent split among its three black members (reportedly in the direc- tion of the Black Workers Con- gress). In the complex jockeying be- tween the October 2nd and Easterly SWC, Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization (PRRWO), Socialist League (CL) et al., Avakian & Co. are attempting to take up rela- tively new positions. For the re- cent issues of Revolution have pub- lished articles critical of the trade- union bureaucracy, Stalinism and politi- cal sectarianism and for the creation of a Leninist party.

A couple of years ago Avakian would have denounced such positions as “Trotskyist” or “scabbing,” now he proclaims “it is essential to establish the vanguard Party as soon as pos- sible” (Revolution, May 1974). But in 1970 it argued that “work to begin building the united front should not wait for the formation of a Communist Fas- ty” (Red Papers No. 2). In Red Papers No. 1, the Panaficans were the vanguard; today the Trotskyists are the vanguard, and a bourgeois ideology besides.

What has happened to produce such a radical change in the RU? The RU was first outlawed to the right by the Klon- sky Family’s October League. The RU’S control of the RU has been confirmed by its recent handling of the labor bureaucracy is due only to its bourgeois and opportunist nature. RU’s its “left” positions simply reflect the verbal militancy displayed by any out-bureaucrat group in order to appear “on a piece of the action.” Moreover, they have nothing to do with the RU’s craven reformism. That is, the RU criticizes the OL for the latter’s “bourgeois, opportunist approach, but vitally crystallizing nine workers’ wild- cats and enforcing gangster Tony Boyle’s defeatist police.”

One example: the May issue of Revolution claims an articulately critical posture of pro-Meany/UFW leaders (who do you suppose they might be ?). The RU had previously attempted to get SL supporters, who did criticize the UFW top sides, expelled from the paper. (See “Meany/Chavez Abandon Strike, Turn to Boycott” in April 1974.) RU’s “opposition to the Meany/UFW” leaders is just so much toad paper.

The RU’s “Support” for the Strike

The RU has been following the same tactics as the Trotskyists, but with a twist. The RU has been supporting the strike of the UFW leadership, which has been leading the farmers in a struggle against the gangsters, scabbing, police attacks and on-again-off-again efforts to break the strike.

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