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**Clarification on Tupamaros article**

Kyle Steenland, Buffalo, N.Y.: Your recent article about Uruguay (March 17) describes a new group ("Tiempo Nuevo") which has split off from the Tupamaros after a period of unsuccessful struggle within that organization.

The "Tiempo Nuevo" group's criticisms of the Tupamaros contain some distortions.

The Tupamaros suffered very severe defeats in 1972 and they have since carried out their own self-criticism. They do not cling to the fono theory.

It should be mentioned that the Tupamaros never advocated the classic fono theory of the rural guerrilla. The main strength of the Tupamaros has always been in the city. It is certainly true, however, that when the army took control in 1972 and began its intense repression, the Tupamaros lacked the mass base which could have protected them. This they have recognized.

The Tupamaros did not openly participate in the Broad Front (Frente Amplio) since they were clandestine at the time. However, they did lend their support. It was defeated in fraudulent elections. It is an ultra-"leftist" error to condemn the Broad Front, which was a coalition similar to the Popular Unity in Chile. A Broad Front victory, while obviously not sufficient, would have been a major step forward for Uruguay, opening new opportunities for revolutionaries.

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