

International Womens' Day

International Women's Day is a working women's holiday throughout the world signifying the solidarity of working women struggling against oppressive conditions and for full equality. International Women's Day has been actively supported by Socialist countries and Anti-Imperialist forces around the world, since 1910 when it was proclaimed as an international day of observance of women's struggles by Clara Zetkin. March 8th was the day selected for it, for it was on March 8, 1908, when thousands of garment workers from the Lower East Side of New York waged a protest demonstration against the system of capitalism and its manifestations directly affecting them - wage slavery - child labor - long hours - abusive management - unsafe and unhealthy working conditions.

Today the democratic rights of women are still being fought for in a day to day struggle by working class women, in the form of equal pay for equal work, the end to job discrimination in hiring practices and promotions on the job, free and safe voluntary abortions, proper education and equal access to free and safe birth control and free and low cost day care. 1975 has been a period of continued layoffs and Ford's vetoes and cutbacks in social programs such as day care, food stamps, Medicaid, housing and welfare having a critical impact on working women. This is because they are among the last hired and first fired. Therefore with the layoffs, minority women are the first to lose their jobs forcing more and more on unemployment, welfare and food stamps and other programs in order to survive. With the increased cutbacks it is making it harder for women to get on or stay on these programs. For example, Ford's cutbacks in the Food Stamp Program will not allow some families to get food stamps while others will have to pay more for them.

In 1975 JoAnn Little was finally acquitted. A Black woman who defended herself against a sexual attack by a racist jail guard in North Carolina. Her case

represented the triple oppression Black women face of race, class and sex. In another case, Dessie X. Woods and Cheryl S. Todd on June 17, 1975, defended themselves from a man who is known for his sexual attacks on Black women. They were charged with murder and armed robbery in Wheeler County, Georgia. The state is now in motion to lynch these women. Much support is needed for this case, financial and mass support. (Send to P.O. Box 11486, Atlanta, Georgia 30301). There are cases like this all over the United States and they can't be won without the mass strength and further struggle of the people.

Last year there were two coalitions formed to plan for mass activities for International Women's Day, one an Anti-Imperialist Coalition aimed at drawing the working class and 3rd world communities. The other led by the fake "communist" party CPUSA characterized by its leadership who are defenders of the U.S. monopoly capitalist system. The Anti-Imperialist demonstration was a militant one beginning in the historic Lower East Side. In the literature passed out at the demonstration by the coalition it was pointed out that imperialism is the cause of hunger, unemployment and women's inequality. The unity of the working class and oppressed nationalities is needed to fight this oppressive system and we must take up this fight everyday of the year. It was agreed after last year's demonstration that more work should have been done to bring out the masses of people to the demonstration. In view of this, work has begun to bring out the masses of people to observe this working women's holiday. It is as necessary now as in 1910 to raise the consciousness of the people and unite with all those who are willing to fight this oppression. Women, oppressed nationalities, and the whole working class must show resistance as long as there is repression.

The Anti-Imperialist International Women's Day Coalition will hold a march and rally beginning in the Lower East Side and ending at the United Nations building on Sunday, March 7,

1976. The exact route will be printed up soon, along with other information concerning the demonstration. The main slogans, around which there is still discussion are: 1. Full Equality for Women 2. Down With Imperialism 3. End Superpower War Preparations and 4. Support the Struggles of Third World Women and Peoples. The Anti-Imperialist Coalition also unites around the principle of unity of no united action with revisionists, i.e., no participation, in the revisionist led coalition for International Women's Day.

The Anti-Imperialist Coalition is putting forth a call to all anti-imperialist organizations to join in and help build a truly anti-imperialist coalition, one that will put forth an anti-imperialist and anti-revisionist line directly around International Women's Day. This is important because Imperialism, the world wide search for profit by monopoly capitalism through its lacky governments and transnational corporations, is under attack all over the world and is responsible for and is the root cause of the oppression of women in the first place. If we are to observe this working women's holiday then we must as Marxist-Leninists expose imperialism openly as the enemy of the people along with Soviet Social Imperialism which is socialism in words and imperialism in deeds. The Soviet Union is no longer a socialist country capitalism has been restored.* At this time these two superpowers (U.S.A. & U.S.S.R.) are in contention and struggle that will ultimately lead to war. And only revolution can stop the war! The super powers are each fighting for hegemony, bigger shares of the worlds wealth, raw materials, for new markets and for new spheres of influence. Marxist-Leninists must look at this for instance in analyzing the situation in Angola with the two superpowers posing a direct threat to the true sovereignty and independence of Angola. In looking at this we see the need to build a broad based anti-imperialist coalition and break away from the revisionist leadership.

In contrast to the revisionist, the anti-

-imperialist forces can struggle to unite around such demands as "Down with Imperialism," "Down With Soviet Socialist Imperialism the Main Danger In The World Today," "End Super Power War Preparation, Only Revolution Can Stop The War," "Workers of the World And Oppressed Nations Unite," "Super Powers Out of Angola." Also demands that speak to the democratic struggles of women, "Full Equality For Women, Our Way of Liberation Is Revolution," "Free and Public Day Care," "Equal Pay For Equal Work," "Low Cost Public Housing," and "Free and Safe Birth Control."

This coalition has also endorsed the Multi-National Women's Conference sponsored by the Black Women's United Front to be held on March 6 in New York. The coalition encourages everyone to participate in both events. The discussion and planning meetings for the coalition are held every Sunday, 3 P.M., at the McBurney YMCA 215 W. 23rd St. (between 7th and 8th) N.Y., IRT 1, IND 1, IND AA, E trains and PATH. If you have questions or would like further information call Nancy (212) 768-7017. Housing and Childcare are being coordinated with the Multi-National Women's Conference for that weekend.

Last year at the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico the head of the Chinese delegation Li Su-wen said, "Clearly, the primary task at present in the struggle for women's emancipation is to fight imperialism, colonialism and particularly hegemonism of the two superpowers. Only when this struggle is carried out successfully, while giving due attention to solving the special demands and problems of women, can the cause for women's emancipation be pushed ahead steadily." With this task in mind join and build the Anti-Imperialist International Women's Day Coalition!

*For further reading: 1. Social Imperialism. 2. Restoration of Capitalism in the USSR. 3. Following Article In Peking Review, Number 51. (Reprint).

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will have no effect on the backward masses they need practical experience." "We are obliged to carry on a struggle within parliament for the destruction of parliament." "You say that parliament

is an instrument with the aid of which the bourgeoisie deceive the masses. But this argument should be turned against you, and it does turn against your theses. . . How will you expose the various parliamentary manoeuvres, or the positions of the various parties; if you are not in parliament, if you remain outside parliament. If you are Marxists, you must admit that, in capitalist society, there is a close link between the relations of classes and the relations of parties. How will you show all this if you are not members of parliament & if you renounce parliamentary action. The history of the Russian revolution has clearly shown that the masses of the working class, the peasantry, and the petty office employees could not have been convinced by any arguments, unless their own experience had convinced them."

"It has been claimed here that it is a waste of time to participate in the parliamentary struggle. Can one conceive of any other institution in which all classes are as interested as they are in parliament? This cannot be created artificially. If all classes are drawn into the parliamentary struggle, it is because the class interests and conflicts are reflected in parliament. If it were possible everywhere and immediately to bring about, let us say, a decisive general strike so as to overthrow capitalism at a single stroke, the revolution would have already taken place in a number of countries. But we must reckon with the facts, and parliament is a scene of the class struggle. . . the repudiation of parliamentary action by a great many of the new Communist Parties stems from their weakness. . . the vast majority of the really revolutionary workers will follow us and speak up against your anti-parliamentary theses" (pg. 68, 69,

70, 71 Lenin) CAP feels that the ideological struggle and discussions around electoral politics in 1975 were invaluable, but that the Congress of African People cannot do it alone, supporting candidates and in an active campaign, without the involvement of other Marxist-Leninist forces, in that coalition, not just social democrat types. Another factor contributing to this decision is the recent takeover of the National Black Assembly by the emerging Black petty bourgeois bureaucrat elite, a new comprador - petty bourgeoisie of anti-poverty officials, black studies instructors, smaller bureaucrats and elected officials, who have taken over the NBA and destroyed its' coalition character, through repression and fraud, liquidating all of the basic work and programs of the NBA and cutting all connections with the masses of Black people, and now despite an "anti-democrat platform" have raised Julian Bond as their presidential candidate, and negated the basic "Strategy '76" program outlined by vote of the Assembly. Bond, who is a homing pigeon of the Democratic party will lead these compradors straight back into the democratic party where they long to belong, much like the Gary convention and trip to the Miami Democratic Convention in 1972. CAP had seen the NBA as one of the basic organizations for such an electoral tactic as the "Strategy '76" was supposed to be, in order to make certain the thrust of this program had a strong base in the black community. The new compradors in the NBA stalled the "Strategy '76" the better part of a year (it takes that long to get on the ballot in some states) until they had taken over the complete leadership of the NBA, and were then able to raise someone like Julian Bond before the people misleading the masses into

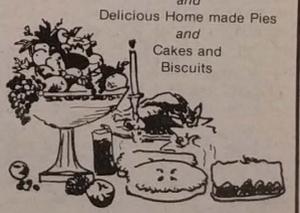
thinking that Bond will represent something other than the democratic party.

It is our understanding that the central task of all communists in the USA at this time is the building of an anti-revisionist Marxist-Leninist revolutionary vanguard party, but it is also necessary to build a new mass movement led by the working class and oppressed nationalities, from which the party will emerge. We saw "Strategy '76" as a non-sectarian vehicle of unity and struggle of anti-revisionist forces, who could bring together a broad popular front electoral campaign aiming a direct blow at all the misleaders of the mass movement (the petty bourgeois elected officials, labor aristocrats and revisionists), which must educate and

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