

Recently, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party issued a challenge for a debate to the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, U.S. Zone (PSP) over how to use the occasion and challenge of the Bicentennial to advance the struggle.

This proposal was made because the leadership of the PSP has played the key role in the formation of the July 4th Coalition which has put forward demands and propaganda which only serve to misdirect the struggle of the masses and weaken the revolutionary movement. In particular, the PSP leadership has promoted a political line that pretties up the nature of imperialism in general and hides the growing danger of world war between the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR. (For more on their role, please see *Revolution*, May 15, 1976 and page 1 of this current issue.)

It is important to unite with many of the forces that are being drawn into the demonstration initiated by the leadership of the PSP. Broad unity is necessary, but such unity can only be built solidly on the basis of a line and program that advances the struggle for revolution—not a line that promotes reformism and can only lead to the formation of a “loyal opposition” to the imperialists. The RCP has issued the challenge for the debate in hopes of clarifying the two different lines behind the different demonstrations. So far, no reply has been received.

(Note: When the debate proposal was made, the coalition initiated by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Revolutionary Student Brigade was known as the July 4th Coalition. When it became clear that both groups had the same name, and that this was causing

Debate Challenge To PSP

confusion, this coalition changed its name to the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition in the interests of clarity.)

“To the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, U.S. Zone,

“The momentum is building towards July 4th. In the face of growing resistance to the attacks their decline brings and in the face of a growing knowledge that their rule is rotten through, the wage-slave owning descendants of the slave-owning founding fathers hope for big results from their red, white and blue barrage.

“Their aim is to paralyze people in the face of this increasing plunder with lies of national unity, common interests, ‘freedom,’ and the rest. Their aim is to diffuse the growing anger and fight of the people and to continue to ‘solve’ their crisis on the backs of the people. Their aim is to beat the drums of patriotism and ‘pull together to solve our problems,’ to gear up for the coming war as they try to hold and even expand their empire. In all this they are doomed to fail.

“More: The period leading up to and including July 4th can be a time for big advances. The situation can be turned on the wounded beast. Many programs are being put out reflecting many forces, many interests attempting to chart paths forward in response.

“The Revolutionary Communist Party has answered

the call by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and helped form in March the July 4th Coalition under the general slogan ‘We’ve Carried the Rich For 200 Years—Let’s Get Them Off Our Backs!’ The situation is excellent to answer their challenge. We understand that PSP is also participating in a coalition with the same name, putting forward the road forward in a different way and this has led to some confusion.

“For this reason, but mostly to clarify how the struggle against imperialism can best develop, we think a public discussion at this time would be a good thing. We propose a debate between representatives of the PSP and the RCP over how to use the occasion and challenge of the Bicentennial to advance the struggle. This should be over the basic questions: the nature of the struggle, its friends and enemies, the danger of war and the international situation, etc. We would see this as a broad mass event to be held in New York City in the very near future.

“The struggle is developing in definite directions. Things are beginning to become clear throughout the world. Further clarification is demanded on the above questions. We hope you agree on the urgency of the need for this debate and will take it up.

Central Committee

Revolutionary Communist Party” ■