USCPA Convention

Endless War, No Friendship

Since the third annual convention of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPA) this September, the role of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) in the U.S. has come to something of a general public question. The September 15 issue of the Guardi-an carried an article on the meeting by Irwin Silber which we read as following: "the U.S. government is doing something about the issue of the U.S. government which it called a "forceful political rebuke to cadre and sup- porters of the Revolutionary Communist Party." By an effort, the USCPA also carried an article in the Cai, the organ of the October League.

The RCP has not made a practice of commenting on its activities or the internal struggles in the USCPA out- side the Association. We would let the CAI and Guardi-an articles pass but for the fact that the developments in the USCPA has formed a united front against the orient- ing are about ones that could seriously hinder the con- tinuing growth and development of that organization and therefore deserve some attention.

The real question at stake in the many particular issues that have been raised is whether or not the USCPA will continue to carry out its goal as laid out in the State- ment of Principles: "to build active and lasting friend- ship through understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of China." The RCP has argued consistently that the Association should be carrying on broad outreach about New China and its great progress to all of the American people as the best way of accomplishing this.

The RCP has fought for the Association's main em- phasis to be on the broad public and on the people's friendship work, while supporting recognition of the People's Re- public of China as the sole government of China and non-recognition of any government other than the PRC in the U.S. government. Under present conditions the latter task can be accomplished only by demanding, as the USCPA has been in its campaign since 1972, that the Shanghai accord and an end to U.S. interference in Chi- na's internal affairs, most importantly its propoging of the U.S. policy of "denuclearization."

Unfortunately, through the course of the Association's history a number of times opposing building broad-based support for the Sino-American friendship, the USCPA has held that in building friendship, the fact of socialist and working class rule in China should be avoid being revealed. As a result, the achievements of the revolution presented as "easy-to-under- stand" reforms—healthcare, women's equality, etc. Discussing the Sino-American friendship policy, and no are necessary but should be carried on among Amo- rican activists. This results in a position of pan- bearers for the masses, Marxism for the initiated—whic- nates the boat twice.

More serious is a "left" tendency which argues that the focus of U.S.-China friendship work should be on- among workers and the oppressed nationalities. On the surface there is much to agree with in this—a major job confronting the USCPA is doing more outreach into the working class and among the oppressed nationalities and recruiting more Association members from among these groups. In history, the USCPA has in the past dev- ing this task out. To cite just one example, the Cincinnati Association got a very enthusiastic response when it set up a large photo display and information tables in some of the busiest shopping malls where workers of various nationalities go. It is throug boldly and imaginatively extending broad outreach and educational work, by paying particular attention to reaching workers and mi- nority people with it that the Association as a whole can move ahead on this front.

Inward Turn

But those demanding a working class/minority focus do not put much stock in this. In fact, their whole line is to the contrary, but toward the USCPA inward on itself. They argue "at the only way to judge the effectiveness of the Association work in reaching these "focus" groups is by the number of individuals of working class or minority background who are members of the Association. We must thus go for- ward and fought for the slogan "Membership first, pro- gram second" to guide the organization's work. Further the "worker/minority focus" forces contend, is the current Association member who are, because of their petty bourgeois backgrounds and attitudes and particu- larly their "racism," the main roadblock to bringing in new members and support for the Association. This pro- ceedure to "broaden" the Association finally leads to the "rejection of the internal political struggle of the eff- forts, but winds up bluntly attacking the entire petty bourgeoisie which is supposed to be "already reached" and "overrepresented" in the local chapters and the na- tional organization. This is absurd.

The only stratum of society with any substantial rep- resentation in the U.S. China Peoples Friendship Asso- ciation is petty-narrow—radical or communist-minded veterans of the upsurge of mass struggle against Black Liberation, the Vietnam war, etc., in the 1960s. Many of these forces are among the most dedicated to build- ing friendship with the Chinese people and to say the Association couldn't use more people from this back- ground is unbelievably unsound-minded.

As for the rest of the petty bourgeoisie, there is vast fertile ground for the Association's work which has barely been touched. Teachers, professionals, small businessmen, farmers—there is great interest in People's China in all these strata. The fact is that at present the time members of the petty bourgeoisie will tend to be the most attracted to Friendship work. More than workers, they have been socialized into an understanding of China through bourgeois or petty bourgeoisie "scholarly" sources, to analysis and reporting on New China and they tend to have the time, the opportunity to pursue so- such interests.

Special attention has to be paid to reaching workers, not in elective or ideological struggle to strengthen the As- sociation and insure that it does work as its charter states among all popular sections of the "American peo- ple." At the same time, fairly active or representative workers have not responded to the USCPA in the same manner as the petty bourgeoisie.

Even leaving aside the particular conditions sparking interest among professionals and others cited above, the general approach of advanced workers to China will not as a rule be theory or a stratum. The leadership of the 1972 Shanghai accord and an end to U.S. interference in Chi- na's internal affairs, most importantly its proposing of the U.S. policy of "denuclearization."

These questions have a clear and important place in the USCPA, but they are not and should not be the basis of activity or a stratum of interest. This too would run directly counter to the goal of building friendship broadly.

It is interesting that even those pushing the worker/ minority focus have been forced to tone down their as- sertions of how easily the Association could attract workers if it only wanted to. A workers' trip to China put the Association last year had serious re- cruiting difficulties and resulted in a definition of "work-er" so broad as to include practically anyone on this side of David Rockefeller. The leadership of the entire Southern region, who have been among the strongest advocates of this theory, has been forced in practice to admit that workers were unable to produce a single candidate for the trip.

The only result so far of this brave reality with reality has been a shift to a "workers/minority focus." As the RCP has argued, "the worker/minority focus." And indeed the question of the oppressed nationalities is a different one from the working class. These nationalities contain within them differ- ent classes, and their response to China tends to parallel those in American society as a whole. (Chin- eses-Americans, of course, a particular interest.) Mem- bers of various petty bourgeois strata and community activities in the Chinese community are ready take part in many local associations and the po- tential exists to increase this several fold.

Quotas?

Unfortunately one of the key decisions taken at the recent convention turned away from the path the USCPA should be continuing along and flew in the face of conscious opposition to this petty bourgeois and minority people. This was a vote to establish a quota system on trips to China whereby no Associa-

tion trip could leave without two workers and two mi- nority people on the list. This was in direct opposition to the oppressed nationalities to the Association and to friendship with China. Secondly, the quota system is based on the openly stated premise that the "white petty bourgeoisie." Association membership will not go more a finger to broaden the group beyond their own class and nationality unless they are then included in the club: "Do some outreach or you can't go to China your- self.

The results of this kind of scheme are not too hard to imagine—threats of trip cancellations, opportunistic re- cruiting, organizational infighting and further equa- lization of the USCPA's character as a club. It is true that the USCPA is not in any way an organization which is based on or profits from national oppression. As in any group fighting for a natural national liberation under a='#color: #000000; font-family: 'times new roman', times, serif; font-size: 12pt;'><br/>

Minority Caucus

The opportunities inspired and supported the con- struction of a minority caucus in the convention as a cutting edge to push through the quota proposal. It is an intentional attempt to further strengthen the mem- berly nationalities behind the line of "worker/minority focus" and served as to club to cow and quip-trip delegate who declines to delegate into the Sino-American friendship.

The RCP opposed the formation of the caucus and its recognition as "by the committee." To the committee the USCPA is not in any way an organization which is based on or profits from national oppression. As in any group fighting for national liberation under a natural national liberation, there is no barrier that can prevent the idea prevalent in capitalist society from manifest- ing themselves in various ways on the organization. This is a collective body of workers, letter writers,Stubborn schism, anti- worker class thinking, anti-commu- nism, class collaboration, the list is not all-inclusive, no one of these issues has ever been excluded, is domi- nant in the Association. The formation of caucuses around any of these issues has so far not been allowed. No official USCPA bodies, can only divide the Association and turn it further in on itself.

Patronage is the glue that holds together blocs of op- position organizations like the USCPA. Petty bickering over who will control trips to China and deter- mine who gets to go on them where the "capitalist" line in the Association has failed to exclude from the USCPA. As the USCPA has often been excluded from the official US-China policy talks. Should USCPA officials be allowed to divide the Association and turn it further in on itself.

Anti-Communism

The fact of these "amicable破裂" is anti-commu- nism, which has been directed mainly at the RCP (and Association members who have agreed with RCP posi- tions) or with various positions on the more general mem- bers of one local Association even produced and sent around the country a whole pamphlet attacking the Par- ty. This is a significant step forward and every provocation of this type because turning the USCPA into a battlefield for left sects is a sure pre- cipitation for strengthening the petty bourgeoisie.

Although those peddling anti-communism sometimes claim "It's just the RCP and its line we oppose," the object is really an attack on the USCPA as an or- ganization as a whole, and particularly the unity and dis- cipline of Party members in the organization. This is usually the same cadre who publish the "worker/minority focus" line which has been a political career see these as plans to be worked for even today.

Continued on Page 12
Continued from Page 1

Elections ... the masses of people that he could claim to represent their interests. After the primary elections, in which a host of Democratic senators applied for the job, Jimmy Carter, "the man from nowhere," got the nod.

Carter the Savior

From the beginning, Carter tried to present himself as the real alternative for the working people, trying to lay claim to the "heritage" of Franklin Roosevelt, appealing to the well-constructed and widely held myth that FDR fought for the little man and single-handedly brought an end to the Great Depression. In appealing to Blacks, Carter and his image-makers added a new twist: he was the representative of the "New South," the opponent of segregation and discrimination who was perfectly willing to lie to Black voters as well as whites.

Carter got plenty of help in trying to sell himself to the American people. Almost all of the top union leadership got into the act. According to the UAW, workers "could lose in the White House what they gained on the picket line." (Exactly what "gains" they are referring to isn't exactly clear.) The United Mine Workers officials turned their union newsletter into a Carter campaign brochure complete with pictures of John L. Lewis (balding and gaunt) standing beside Franklin Roosevelt, which supposedly was the key to the miners advances in the 30s. A host of Black "leaders," center-oriented whites in Georgia where the Black bourgeoisie is particularly strong, came out for him. Carter was salvation itself for Blacks. And in one of the more hypocritical exploitations of this type of treachery, the leadership of the United Farmworkers Union put out the signs to get farmers to camp out for a big grower. (See this week's article.)

But despite all the build-up, Carter never caught on among the vast majority of the ruled. Not only was his support no greater than that of Kennedy, but unlike Kennedy, Carter was totally unprepared. People had come to expect an awareness of the real issues and the integrity to bring the people into their own government.

Carter campaigned against unemployment, claiming he would provide jobs for everyone willing to work. But in fact, he was getting no point out (and how the only time politicians tell the truth is when they tell a lie) (that this was a fraud and that the anyway the government would be unable to em-
ploy a vast millions that were out of work without great new investments and throwing the entire economy into a shambles.

Carter promised a "Marshall plan for the cities," that somehow would reverse the pattern of decay in the big cities of the Northeast and Midwest. But where was the money to implement his fine sounding proposals? Support for the JCL and the moves towards nationalizing the iron and steel industry has begun to heat up. Ford, on the other hand, is not going to present himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who has taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later car
dried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.

The real significance of the election night demonstra-

Carter was quick to point out what Ford was saying: that things are basically all right the way they are, that unemployment millions in the millions is "acceptable". In 1976 the status quo is one thing that isn't selling.

When it came to foreign policy, Carter also tried to have cake and eat it too. He was for "triumphing the defense budget" but at the same time make sure that America was the strongest military power on earth. Ford on the other hand, was presenting himself as "experienced," "capable," "firm," the man who had taken a no nonsense, "get tough" line with the leafleters, wore buttons and some signed banners later carried by their fellow workers in the demonstrations. All this brought out by a call on the part of the fund raising appeal to all, will remain to be checked out in comparison to the performance of Jimmy Carter and the rest of the capitalist politicians.

A series of forums held by the Revolutionary Com-

Another class war anyway, victories over sections of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, often also included the possibility of change through struggle. Among a small but important section of the capitalist class, the alliance with the left forces of NDC and other forces were putting: that workers can influ-

ences the affairs of state, can win advances, but only through struggle for jobs and incomes building up their own movement and organization.