The very real and very dangerous threat of war, the threat of U.S. invasion of Iran, possibly leading to world war, make it urgent for the U.S. working class to oppose in every way any threat of such an invasion and steps to initiate such a war. The working class has no stake in such a war.

What would be the purpose of such a war? Who would benefit from it? In whose interest would it be carried out? It would be for the benefit of those very oil companies that only a week or two ago reported the highest profits in their history. Such huge monopolies as Exxon with a 120% increase in profits (in other words, they more than doubled), Mobil reporting 130%, Sohio reported 191% (almost triple its profit), and Texaco 211%, more than triple the past years profits! This while people have frozen to death in their homes because they could not afford to pay their heating bills, and while all gas and oil prices have gone sky high. These oil companies have to admit that the main part of their profits are gained outside the U.S., in other words based on the superprofits gained through plunder of colonies and semi-colonies.

Exxon, the Rockefeller-owned company, biggest oil company in the world, swelled its profits immensely from this plunder. It is the $22 billions brought in by the Iranian oil industry under the Shah, flowing into the hands of the Rockefellers and other U.S. monopolies that is at stake. It is the $13.9 billion of exports by the U.S. to Iran, that is at stake. It is to regain and protect these billion of dollars in superprofits that the U.S. government is threatening invasion of Iran. The proletariat of the U.S. has nothing to gain by such a war, because these superprofits fatten the very monopolies that exploit the working class in the U.S. Anything that strengthens them aids them in increasing the exploitation of the proletariat. It makes the burden of living under the yoke of this decaying imperialist system even heavier.

While the oil companies are not the only section of the U.S. bourgeoisie that has extensive interests to protect in Iran, they do have the lion’s share, and are representing all the other monopolies who share in the superprofits, including construction companies, the Telephone Co. (American Bell International), and monopoly bourgeoisie of Japan, West Germany, France, and Great Britain, who also have billions of dollars of...
The bourgeoisie always calls on the proletariat of its nation to go to war to slaughter the workers and peasants of another nation, so that the bourgeoisie can grow fat. It whips up frenzies of patriotism, stages "incidents" to justify retaliation, and spreads lies to try to win the support of the masses for these wars of plunder. The working class is railroaded into murdering workers of other lands in wars to decide which great imperialist power will receive the greatest share of the take. It is essential for the working class to know the truth about the events in Iran. It is essential to cut through the lies of the bourgeois media as well as the opportunists distortions of the so-called "communists".

The labor aristocrats, the officials of labor unions and the highly skilled, highly paid workers, such as construction workers in trades like electrician, iron worker, skilled trades such as welders, and other specialized skills, also have a stake in maintaining U.S. imperialism in Iran. They receive crumbs from the superprofits in the form of high salaries and privileges, and when they go to a colony or semi-colony they are able to receive at times double what they make here in the U.S. For example one of the largest defense contractors in Iran was the Bell Operations Co., with huge contracts for a helicopter plant in Iran. A share of the $575 million for this contract would go to the construction workers brought from the U.S. to build this plant, as well as to the skilled welders, specialized mechanics, and technicians to build and service the helicopters. When this contract was suspended last December, this represented a loss in the crumbs available for the bribery of this strata of the working class. For the sake of regaining these crumbs, for regaining telephone company contracts to lay down cable for a nationwide telephone system, to build the helicopter plant, to build nuclear plants, these labor aristocrats promote the call of the bourgeoisie to war.

The aristocracy of labor has been leading in the defense of the U.S. bourgeoisie, refusing to load ships or service planes for Iran. The postal workers union has stated it will refuse to process mail for Iran. Uniting with some of the most reactionary forces, such as the Zionist Jewish Defense League (JDL), the coup attempt, and demonstrations around the country that have been displys of the most disgusting chauvinism, and reactionary patriotism. They have used racist epithets against Iranians, have called for deportation of all Iranians, and have viciously beaten Iranians, including the brutal killing of an Iranian student.

These demonstrators have carried signs demanding, "Send in the Marines," and signs showing their support of the Shah, the vicious butcher of the Iranian people. The police have clearly supported these demonstrations, have stood by while these beatings have taken place, and then arrested the Iranians. Two of the most vicious displays, in Houston and Beverly Hills, were widely publized through the bourgeois media, offering encouragement to other reactionary elements to carry out similar actions. As if to show he is responding to overwhelming popular demand, Carter on Nov. 10 ordered all Iranian students to report to Immigration for investigation and possible deportation. Carter has also utilized this situation to prohibit the Iranian students the right to demonstrate.

**INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE TO BRING DOWN KHOMEINI**

There are a number of indications that this whole "crisis" is part of a plan of sections of the U.S. bourgeoisie to get rid of Khomeini through the instigation of an international incident, in order to install a regime more in harmony with U.S. interests. Before the Shah was overthrown, the U.S. told him to take a "vacation"! For the Shah went to Egypt, and eventually ended up in Mexico. Then out of "humanitarian" reasons this butcher was let into the U.S. under the pretext of needing medical treatment. The U.S. was well aware that bringing the Shah to the U.S. would result in sharp protest in Iran, most likely involving the U.S. embassy. But the U.S. did this anyway, provoking the embassy takeover in Iran. This resulted, as planned, in creating instability for the Khomeini regime and developing world-wide sympathy for itself. The stage is being set to prepare for military invasion, through creating a tremendous "popular demand" for intervention to free the hostages and show that the U.S. is still powerful. It is quite possible that the next step might even be the killing of the hostages to provide the justification for military invasion. It would not be the first time that such an "incident" has been provoked by the U.S. It would be a continuation of the traditions of the battleship Maine, the Tonkin Gulf incident, the Mayaguez incident in Kampuchea, the Puchó in Korea, etc.

Who are these hostages, whose safety has become a concern to such diverse supporters of U.S. imperialism as the Pope and Muhammed Ali? They are the remnants of the embassy staff that used to consist of about 1,000. This number has been cut down to 73 as of last week. The hostages are Marine guards, military attaches (as has been shown on TV and in the press), and undoubtedly include CIA and other intelligence officials, as well as a few embassy employees. In other words, mercenaries on a suicide mission. It is such military and CIA agents as those that have seen the trainers of the torturers of SAVAK, the secret police of the Shah. If workers went on strike or spoke out against the Shah's regime, or demanded better wages, they would be arrested, killed, or taken to prison, where they would be subjected to such tortures as being placed on an electrified grid, heated like a toaster, or such barbaric sadistic tortures as having a Coca Cola bottle shoved into the rectum. Intellectuals who were critical of the Shah's regime were also subjected to such tortures. In fact, no opposition was tolerated. These sadistic butchers were admitted political agents, trained, and directed by the CIA, ever since the Shah was put on his throne by the CIA in 1953. It is for these torturers and the merchants of death that the U.S. embassy -- from Pakistan, India, and Italy. They have not been mentioned, in the midst of this campaign to whip up reactionary patriotism.
Masry elements of the imperialist plot in operation today are similar to the CIA plot that put the Shah back on his throne in 1953. In an article called "How Our Man in Tehran Brought Down a Demagogue", that appeared in the June 7, 1953 issue of Fortune, many features of this plot were revealed, to brag about how "The CIA exercised power in Iran in 1953". It describes a plot to have the American spy, Mossadegh, who was a spokesman for more democratic bourgeois forces, and put in another Premier. This plan failed, and the Shah was forced to flee. Working be-

hind the scenes, the CIA agents in Iran, together with Iranian intelligence agents, paid off the Palace Guard for their support, and were "...whipping up sentiment against Mossadegh in the press, among the mer-

chants, and in the bazaars. Once the army moved, Mossadegh’s strength melted away. The Shah returned to his palace, triumphant." The CIA agent in charge, Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of Teddy Roosevelt, quietly left Iran. The conclusion was, "The Iran operation supplied the CIA with a useful model. ‘The lesson was,’ as one official recently put it, ‘that a clandestine outfit need not take open command of a coup, or revolution.

The intelligent way to control events is to recruit the right people, drill them carefully, and maneuver them into the right spots.’ "

The CIA exercised power in Iran in 1953. It des-

cribed events of the seizure of the embassy.

Thus the stage is set, and the embassy is seized, with all the military personnel involved, without a shot, with-

out a weapon in sight, apparently without any resist-

ance. The web of international bourgeois intrigue reveals how important Iran is to U.S. interests, and that they suffered a blow as a result of the revolu-
tionary upsurge of the Iranian masses that overthrew the Shah. Although he had been given every weapon he requested from the U.S. and despite the repression and torture under his hated regime, this loyal partner of the U.S. was overthrown.

The Iranian revolution, although it was defeated be-

cause of the fact that the masses called to power, was nevertheless a blow against U.S. imperialism. Losses were suffered in the trillions of dollars of con-

tracts with U.S. companies, thousands of U.S. technicians and labor aristocrats had to leave the country, the U.S. no longer has the type of control over the oil resources it had before, the regime has become quite unstable. Iran has great importance to the U.S. also due to its location on the Persian Gulf, through which passes all Middle East oil. It is vital to U.S. imperialist interests to have a pro-U.S., stable regime in control of the Gulf. Iran is also located on the border with the USSR, and has long served as a base for intrigue against the oil fields, and as a base from which to launch missiles, etc.

The U.S. imperialists would face a very serious loss if the Russian Imperialists could gain control of Iran. The USSR is badly in need of oil — in fact recent re-

ports have stated that they will no longer be able to export oil to the Eastern European countries after 1980. Thus if the Russian imperialists were to gain con-

trol of Iran’s oil field, it would be strengthened in their rivalry with the U.S. In addition, the U.S. would lose the military advantages it has gained by being able to use the oil fields as a base of operations.

Presenting the USSR from gaining control of Iran has been one of the major goals of the U.S. imperialists.

REACTIONARY NATURE OF KHOMEINI REGIME—
THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION HAS BEEN DEFEATED

The Khomeini regime, up till its desertion in this last week by the Bazargan, National Front, forces have represented a coalition of the worst elements of the imperialist bourgeoisie and the U.S. and other imperialists. An-

other part of the coalition is those sections of the Iranian bourgeoisie which were in opposition to the Shah. Bazargan himself comes from one sector, the ba-

zaat merchants, who are threatened by competition from the imperialists. There is a large bazaar economy in Iran, in which various goods are sold in a public market. These merchants can be squeezed out very easily by a war, such as the Iran-Iraq, Roebuck.

In their economic interest as a section of the Iranian bourgeoisie to seek to hold back economic development and try to maintain competitive capitalism. They are ardently supporters of the Islamic Republic for this reason. Bazargan was also at one time the head of the national oil company, and represents the interests of sections of the Iranian bourgeoisie that want to negoti-

ate a better deal for themselves with the imperialists, particularly for oil, Iran’s most valuable resource.

It is exactly as Lenin said in speaking at the Second Congress of the Comintern: “There has been a certain approach of the bourgeoisie of the exploit-


ing countries and that of the colonies, so that very often — perhaps even in most cases — the bourgeoisie of the oppressed countries, while it does support the national movement, in full accord with the imperial-

ist bourgeoisie, i.e., joins forces with it against all revo-

lutionary movements and revolutionary classes. This was irrefutably proved in the commission, and we pointed out the only correct attitude was to take this dis-


tinction into account and, in nearly all cases, substitute the term ‘national-revolutionary’ for the term ‘bourgeois-democratic’. The only function of this change is that we, as Communists, should and will support bourgeois-liberation movements in the colonies only when they are genuinely revolutionary, and when their exponents do not hinder our work of educating and organizing in a revolutionary spirit the peasants and masses of the exploited. If these conditions do not exist, the Commu-


nists in these countries must combat the reformist propa-


Bazargan, and the section of the Iranian bourgeoisie represented by him, clearly fit the picture drawn by Comrade Lenin. They united with Khomeini to bring the revolution to an end, to disarm the masses, and to institute an Islamic Republic. Under this republic, which has been praised as a “revolutionary model” by all the phony communists of the USSR, of China, and of Albania, medieval and barbaric measures have been instituted against the people. Floggings for adultery, shooting of a pregnant woman for adultery, stoning, cutting off the hands of anyone who refuses to give up arms, who refuses to pay the Islamic Republic, even demands for basic right measures are labeled as “communist” and are severely represed. The Khomeini regime is one of the most rabidly anti-communist in the world.

However, it is not possible to speak of a communist movement in Iran today. All the left forces represent one or another faction of the revisionists internation-

ally, whether Russian, Chinese, or Albanian. The Party of Labor of Albania went so far as to state that the proletariat had betrayed the Iranian revolution was a "model". They denied the Islamic na-

ture of the movement, calling it bourgeois propagan-
da. These phony communists sought to cover up the profoundly reactionary nature of the Islamic Republic
that has been set up, under which not even democratic
opposition can be abolished by decrees. As long as
private ownership of the means of production, continuing the exploitation
and development of the proletariat, which grows and
develops along with the modern capitalism. Similarly, the
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domestic oligarchy dominated by the Rockefeller group. This is why
the bourgeoisie cannot prevent this new imperialist world war only by over-
throwing the imperialist system and replacing it with socialism.

OIL COMPANIES HOLD WORKERS HOSTAGE

The economic motives behind U.S. imperialism’s fomenting the crisis in Iran have been exposed. In the past few
days, Carter announced the U.S. would put an embargo on oil in order to
cut off Iranian oil. This decision is motivated by the desire to gain control of the U.S. oil market and to
prevent any further increase in oil prices. The U.S. has been accused of using oil as a weapon to
force Iran to accept its demands. However, the decision to embargo Iranian oil has been criticized for
its potential to cause a global economic crisis and for exacerbating tensions in the Middle East.

IRAN AND U.S. STRATEGY FOR WORLD WAR THREE

The U.S. military strategy for a future world war is heavily invested in oil. Since the early 1970s, U.S. imperialism has had a plan to replace oil as the driving force of the U.S. economy. The plan, called “One and One-Half Wars,” envisions the U.S.$(XX)帝国主义 with an attempt to strengthen the positions of the Islamic Republic, Zionist or any other religious state. Communists recognize that religious ideas have a grip on the masses, particularly in the backward countries, and that this is partially due to the exploitation of the religious false consciousness. Engels points out the reactionary nature of Islam, describing the religious forces as “opium of the people.”

This situation is growing, the regime is becoming more unstable every day. Contradictions between the working class and the bourgeoisie are escalating. The imperialist aggression against Iran has been a catalyst in this process. The U.S. is utilizing the Islamic Republic, Zionist or any other religious state, to its advantage. The empire is trying to strengthen its positions in Iran by exploiting and manipulating religious sentiments.

Workers of All Countries Unite!

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To oppose the decadence of imperialism, the Islamic Republic offers a return to the Dark Ages. It seeks to maintain the masses subjected under the yoke of ignorance, the better to exploit them. The economic policy of this regime has been to nationalize much of

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What would be the purpose of such a war? Who would benefit from it? In whose interest would it be carried out? It would be for the benefit of those very oil companies that only a week or two ago reported the highest profits in their history. Such huge monopolies as Exxon with a 120% increase in profits (in other words, they more than doubled), Mobil reporting 130%, Sohio reported 191% (almost triple its profits), and Texaco 211%, more than triple the past years profits! This while people have frozen to death in their homes because they could not afford to pay their heating bills, and while all gas and oil prices have gone sky high.

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