The prospects of a new imperialist war and what to be done in relation to it has become the center of attention of world opinion today. The events in Iran (See page 2) and Afghanistan (See page 1) have made clear that we are moving toward an all-out war. Thus, it is a most urgent duty of communists everywhere to grasp in order to develop the line accordingly. We are to take up all international issues we are to join the “red army” to fight against the U.S., to fight against the imperialist war. 

DIFFERENT KINDS OF WAR

Communists recognize the fact that there are different kinds of war. In brief there are (1) imperialist wars of aggression, like the one the US waged against Vietnam or like the Soviet Union is waging today in Afghanistan, (2) inter-imperialist wars for the redistribution of the world among the imperialist powers, the First World War and the early stage of the Second World War enter into this category, (3) imperialist wars of aggression against socialist states, like the German invasion of the then socialist Soviet Union (SU), (4) civil wars in which the working class and its allies fight for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the building of socialism, such as the one we have to wage in the US and has to be waged in all advanced capitalist countries, and (5) wars of national liberation, such as the one driven by the peoples of the third world (Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, etc.) against the imperialist powers.

WHAT KIND OF WAR ARE WE CONFRONTED WITH

Unless we substitute gymnastics with dialectics, or we become convinced by the revisionist CPUSA and their fellow travellers of the US, instead of being under the influence of the warmongering US bourgeoisie, we are to take an active and bold role in the tasks of communists. But the fact is that every war has to be analyzed in its concrete historical context and develop the line accordingly. Thus, in the case of the war in Vietnam, we opposed it, while in the Second World War communists favored the participation of the US in the struggle against the nazis. Far from it, our task is to convince the American people not to ally with our own bourgeoisie, not to go to war to defend the interests of the big monopolies that run this country.

THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT THE THIRD WORLD

The fact that we are within the US, we must, have a lot to do with the position we are to take on all international issues. In the Third World, the exposure of the Soviet Union is key to move forward the national liberation struggles, to safeguard independence, and to advance in the road to new democracy towards socialism. Many revolutionaries in the third world are not aware of the social-imperialist character of the SU and see it as an ally, not as the enemy that is trying to substitute US imperialism. US imperialism is being exposed in those countries, it has been identified as the enemy.

Therefore, in the third world, exposure of the SU, without meaning to become pro-US imperialism, has to play a primary role in the tasks of communists. But here, let's repeat it again, independently of the existence of honest forces who...
Support demands of the Iranian people

The LPR-ML has been active in the struggle in support of the Iranian revolution for many years. We have supported the struggle to overthrow the Shah, and since the November, 1979 take-over of the American embassy in Tehran and the taking of American hostages, we have been supporting the just demands of the Iranian people. As part of that work, the New York Committee to Send the Shah Back to Iran. In order to briefly establish our views on this question, the work we have been involved in and what are the tasks ahead, we are presenting an interview with the representative of the New York Committee to Send the Shah Back to Iran. To a great degree the line of questioning responds to the fact that similar questions have been raised by us people we have come in contact with in doing this work, or by comrades who have written to us.

What is your understanding of the present US situation?

The present conflict cannot be seen, in isolation from the historical development of relations between the US and Iran. The hostage situation is a by-product of those relations. The US is responsible for many crimes against the Iranian people. They backed the toppling of the democratic government previous to the Shah and brought about the Shah to power. All the crimes of the Shah against the Iranian people we are committed with the backing of the US imperialism. Our struggle is an uninterrupted struggle for the Shah to be thrown out of the country. The Iranian masses want that butcher back in Iran to make him pay for his crimes. They also want the wealth back. For the US not only opposes but, slapped the Iranians on the face by bringing the Shah under pretext of "humanitarian reasons". The act of direct provocation, a real violation of international law that re confirms the right of nations to extrajudicial extradition, was what precipitated the taking of the embassy. The Iranians were not pro voked by the US, but rather respond to the US' well-thought-out provocations.

What about the hostages? Do you favor their release or not?

Yes, we are for their release and in fact we have been working for that for many years. We have no doubts that some of the hostages are not the "diplomatic" personnel they are supposed to be, but CIA operatives, as the Iranians declare, are for a peaceful settlement of the question. This would be in the benefit of the Iranian people. The Iranians need to consolidate the revolutionary gains already made, as well as advance their revolution, while being alert to the threats of both superpowers to their sovereignty and self-determination. Facts like the present one can be used by international counterrevolutionary forces to attempt to overthrow the Iranian government. And undoubtedly, each of the two superpowers count with numbers and still powerful fifth columns in Iran.

On what basis do you see the release? Are you for their unconditional release?

No way. The release he submitted to was not ratified, and would have to necessarily involve concessions by US imperialism. We have never vacillated in our basic position and we will keep the three basic points as the solution to the crisis.

1) Send the Shah and all his wealth back to Iran.
2) Hands off Iran. No military inter vention, no economic sanctions, no inter ference in the internal affairs of the Iranian people.
3) End the attacks on the Iranians in the US. Stop all deportation procedures.

The Committee are part of the three points as principles of unity, although for mulated in a different way. The US accept these demands, which are the basic demands of the Iranian people, themselves, are the basis for the release.

Send the Shah back! How is it no longer a demand? Are you saying that Carter should order the Panamanian government to extradite the Shah?

We are not asking that, and on the con trary there will be no attempt by the US government to meddle in the affairs of other countries. It is up to the Panamanians to decide how to proceed. Nonetheless, it would be nato to accept any aggression that might be launched in Pan ama in the first place. Without the back ing of the US that would not have happened.

Furthermore, the Shah Back is a just demand that can be raised to any government that gives its support to the crimi nal. The Panamanian people themselves are raising the demand, louder than us, and the same would happen wherever the backing effort goes. The Shah is an international criminal and everybody should be on his case.

Is there good political unity in the Committee? What are some of the areas of disagreements?

In relation to the issue at hand, unity is the primary concern. We have raised our practice the principles of unity of the committee and have been able to, despite differences, present a consistent position on the issues. On the political line of the Committee, there have been struggles, but consensus has prevailed. At the beginning, some forces tried to pull the Committee away from the Com mittee We, as well as other forces, fought against that tendency and the Committee united in that all the right of each organization and individual in the Committee to have their own position on the US threats to Iran, and not will not tolerate any attacks whatsoever against the present leadership of the Iranian people. It is certainly not that the US imperialist bourgeoisie has suddenly become good hearted and decided to help Pakistan. In the past, the US was a strong, uncontested, superpower, and was able, through econo mic and military boycotts, to control parts of the world. This situation has changed, and it now finds itself in a consid erable disadvantage, in part due to the military and political defeats and its internal crisis, plus it finds itself threatened by the Soviet Union, by China, by the Afghani resistance. It is finding it increasingly difficult to get concessions out of countries that are recently independent. For example, in 1979, Carter did not stop trying, but the US bourgeoisie as it becomes weaker, will be forced to grant even more aid and even more concessions itself, and this is to the bene fit of the countries involved.

Further, someone can correctly argue that stopping the Russians is not enough because that would not solve the con ditions of oppression and exploitation the Pakistani workers and farmers have been living under. That is true. But a Soviet takeover would not solve that either. On the contrary, it would make it even harder for us because we cannot oppose but support that military aid be granted to Pakistan and demand more.

At the same time we oppose the way in which such aid is being offered. We are for aid to be used to strengthen the Pakistani resistance, an emer gence that doesn't bring attached to it a greater dependence on US imperialism. Thereafter, we are against aid to the Panamanian worker while opposing all attempts to use it for greater imperialism domination. When Pakistan has problems, they do not seek more peanuts and opposes US imperialism meddling in the internal affairs of Paki stan, he objectively opposing both super powers and weakening them both. Such a stand is to be supported. At the same time...

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Koch Attacks Minority Rights to Education

Again, another crime is in the process of being committed. The crimes of Black, Puerto Rican and other oppressed nationalities are the victims. And, indeed, the victims of New York City, Ed Koch, is the vicious criminal.

What is it now? In his attempt to avoid all the big protests in an election year, (very dey of him, 1983 is an election year for mayors), Koch "balanced" the city budget one year ahead of time. And it is nothing but an all-out attack against national minorities.

All throughout the country, in fact, oppressed nationalities are the most affected victims of the capitalist crisis in the US. The cuts in essential services, the rising prices, the intensified police repression, the KKK, etc. are all sympto- toms of the crisis that affects the working class, and most heavily its oppressed nationalities.

The case of New York City and specifically the cuts in education which we will focus on here is an example of what's happening in the rest of the country.

SOME FACTS

Although Koch’s "balanced" budget means cuts for practically all services, the cuts in education are, in comparison, especially outrageous. For Koch and the capi- talists he represents, children of the oppressed are more expendable than cops. Of any of the services given by the city, let's see.

1) Within the next two years NYC public schools will have lost 7,000 jobs, 4,000 this year, the majority of which will be teachers and 1,500 of them paraprofessionals. Concretely, the classrooms already crow- ded classrooms will be even more crow- ded, an average of 5 less teachers in each school room and 4 less for each child, and thus, less learning. Besides, the great majo- rity of paraprofessionals are people from oppressed nationalities and, thus concretely means less opportunity for the children to benefit from the aid of people who can better understand their problems and talk in their language, and also, more economic hardships for their families and less family support for the children, reflected in increased learning problems in the children.

2) Fifty public schools will be closed, 40 of them this year, and 10 in the Hunts Point area in the Bronx. Concretely, this means children will have to walk longer distances from home or parents will have to pay more transportation in order to ta- ke the younger ones, plus, facilities already designed for smaller number of students will now have to accommodate even more, thus seriously affecting their learning.

3) $311 million less will be assigned to public schools in next year’s budget. Con- cretely, this means less books, less paper and pencils, less books and after school programs, less special reading and math programs, less learning materials like visual aids, films, etc., less lunch programs, and so on with all the things that are so badly needed right now. And all of that, of course, means more stress and less learning. And considering that right now children often go through the school year without enough food or clothes or even with- out readers and many of the necessary ma- terials, the news of less materials is like depriving of food an already starving child.

Koch’s crime against the children is even more outrageous in the context of what is currently happening in educational systems. In NYC, 90 of 10 children are behind the grade, or even behind the grade. Added cuts can only worsen the situation. And with a 45% drop-out rate, Koch is only encouraging more youth to hit the streets, since less and less badly needed attention will be given them, less opportu-

ny to really get something out of school.

It is clear that Koch doesn’t give a damn about our children’s education. Because otherwise, why all the cuts affecting their education, while the Livingston St bureaucracy has been left unatcted? Why such an imbalance between cuts in education and cuts in everythin in else in this supposedly "balanced" budget?

Clearly, Koch is not out to destroy any chance for education that was left for poor children in the city. He is out to make what is left of the decentralized laws by strengthening the central (money control- ling) board and undermining all efforts by parents and community to have a say in the education of their children. He is out to break any kind of unity between teachers and community by making teach- ing more and more difficult for teachers, and learning more and more difficult for the children, and then blaming each other for the failures. And finally, he is out to hurt the teacher’s union and by so doing set a threatening example of what is yet to come for all the other municipal em- ployees who are entering into negotiation with the city precisely at this time in which Koch has decided to “balance” his budget.

KOCHE'S RATIONALE

Education of the children is not worth the taxpayers’ money, he says according to the low less money will affect the quality of education. “The problem is that teachers don’t teach, principals don’t do their job, the kids don’t want to learn, and the parents don’t give a damn”, says Koch. So, with characteristic cynicism and shrug of the shoulders, he puts aside the problems of education and justifies the cuts as logical by pitting every- thing against each other and blaming them for the fail- ures, when in reality that is nothing but the product of this rotten capitalist sys- tem that puts profits over the needs of the people.

The mayor also alleges that because there has been a 10% decrease in student enrollment in the past several years, this has to be accompanied by cuts in personal- sale and funds. But what he conveniently forgets is that the decrease enrollment is on the one hand, mostly of white middle class children who are either going to private schools or fleeing into the suburbs. And they were located in the “better” neighborhoods and the “better” schools where classes were kept small anyway.

On the other hand, decreased enroll- ment also reflects deep frustration of pa- rents and children who no longer see need to have their children in what is called schools in NYC. Besides, the cost of living has greatly increased in the last several years, which means that schools now require more not less teachers need more money, and the educational system in gen- eral needs more money, in order to start to really get something out of the children, most of which are poor and oppressed nationalities children are demanding democratic rights — the right to a decent education? Why, NONE, of course.

A LOT OF STRUGGLE AHEAD

We cannot stand idly by while these attacks are going on. Already parents in different parts of the city are organizing themselves for the struggle ahead.

This coming May are the elections for local school boards, and here too the struggle can be waged. The campaign to elect board members committed to the needs of our children cannot be limited to past that. They can be of great use in organizing against the attacks against our children, in struggling against the cuts, and in forging the united front between parents, the community at large and teachers, that is necessary to be successful.

We can’t make any concessions on the question of lay offs or cuts back. Our accep- tance of even the smallest cuts will mean entering into the debate with those which, in turn, help the children to learn better. This common interest can be trans- formed into a class struggle against the capi- talist enemy. Similarly, if teachers support the demand for bilingual programs and other services needed by the children, parents and teachers will be able to unite on a concrete basis, more effectively move together against all cuts.

Let’s all move forward against the com- mon enemy the capitalists and their re- presentatives like mayor Koch who are the ones responsible for our children not being able to read, and for their denial of our most basic democratic rights.

NO MORE LAYS OFF AND CUTBACKS! EDUCATION IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE! DOWN WITH NATIONAL OPPRESSION AND RACISM!

AFGHANISTAN

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and not less important than this, is our co- commitment to support the Pakistani people taking up arms to overthrow Zia and esta- blish a free and democratic Pakistan.

OPPOSE BOTH SUPERPOWERS

As the decade of the 80’s opens up, there are many storms in the horizon. In their drive for world hegemony the super- powers are the whole world closer and closer to a Third World War. Events seem to indicate that what we are being confronted with is an inter-imperialist war, a war for the re-distribution of the world in the contest of the cold war, the working class and as- laces take no sides.

The fact that at this moment the SU is the more aggressive superpower, that the Soviet social-imperialists are on the offensive worldwide, while the US imperialists are on the defense, that the SU is a rung powerful in the world scene, while the US is in a declining one, are important facts to be taken into considerations in making projections on future world conflicts and in understanding alignment of forces, inter- nationally. They are facts to be considered in understanding contradictions in the one my camp, and especially, using one of them. These facts are to be considered in mapping out the strategy and tactics in our own revolution. But in the event of an inter-imperialist war between the SU and the US, the no room for doubts of more and more cuts, not only in education but in all other services. And our support for bilingual programs, and more and better educational programs has to be accompanied by our support for more teachers and professionals, better working conditions, etc., for them.

There is, in fact, a common interest be- tween teachers and students in that teach- ers can teach better in smaller classes, with more materials which, in turn, help the children to learn better. This common interest can be trans- formed into a class struggle against the capi- talist enemy. Similarly, if teachers support the demand for bilingual programs and other services needed by the children, parents and teachers will be able to unite on a concrete basis, more effectively move together against all cuts.

And what does it mean to Koch, and the capitalists he represents, if