We won’t be cannon fodder in imperialist wars!

A MARXIST–LENINIST VIEW

The answer given by the youth of this country to President Carter’s proposed registration and re-mobilization of the draft has been a strong, militant, resounding NO. No to registration, no to the draft, no to imperialist war.

Tens of thousands of our youth have taken to the streets to show the big monopoles that they are not willing to serve as cannon fodder in their imperialist wars. The battle is only beginning, but judging by the broad mobilizations with which the resistance to registration has started, there is a mass movement in the making which will rally hundreds of thousands in this country against the draft and against imperialist war.

It is encouraging that despite the influence of the social democrats, crypto-nuts and Trotskyites, the anti-draft movement has been able to put forward a series of correct demands that can unite the most diverse sectors of the revolutionary and progressive movement in this country.

Under the banner of opposition to the draft of both men and women, recognition of the right to self-determination of oppressed nations, and of opposition to the war, this movement has the potential of uniting broad sectors of the people in the US in a basically anti-imperialist direction.

Obviously, not all is so positive. The influence of social-democracy and revisionism is really strong. That influence is felt symptomatic of the crisis affecting capitalism and is especially blatant in cities like New York, where the crisis is more deeply felt.

Consistent with this, all New York City policemen will be getting bullet proof vests. They will be allowed to carry a mace spray dispenser and will be provided with a shot- gun when in a one-man patrol car. At the same time a crackdown on “illegal weapons” is announced, legislation to legalize the death penalty is again underway and the mass media has developed a campaign of hysteria creating very favorable conditions for the “legal” lynchings of suspects, policemen, etc.

The pretext being used for all this is the death of four cops so far in 1980. But the real reason is the need of the ruling class to intensify the militarization of its police force in order to deal with the rising militancy and anger of the masses that are fighting the attacks of the bourgeoisie on our standards of living and our most basic democratic rights.

When compared with all the citizens that have been killed, brutalized, illegally arrested, etc., by New York’s “finest”, the death of four cops is peanuts. Especially when some of those cops were killed in the process of beating up and possibly killing their killers. In at least one of the cases the cop was shot with the extra gun he was carrying. This is a very common practice all around the US. Policemen carry guns other than the official piece, and sometimes use them to kill people. Obviously, when investigations are carried out, cover ups are easier because the bullets are not from the policeman’s official gun. But even when policemen are shot in the course of armed robbery or other common criminal acts, this does not change the fact that policemen are not victims of violence in this country, but all the way around—they are the main perpetrators of it. They are not the victims, but in the great majority of the cases they are the ones guilty of inhumane and despicable crimes.

The great threat to the safety of the people—especially to Blacks, Latins and other oppressed nationalities—which for their militarization of the police represents, should not be belittled. Neither should the mass hysteria campaigns developed by the press go unchallenged. The ruling class is preparing the conditions for more and greater repression against the people and the time to step up the denouncing and fighting against such attempts is NOW.

Take the mace for example. According to police officials the mace would allow cops to make arrests in a “more humanistic” manner.
Veterans are a very important sector of the anti-drift movement. Here a Vietnam veteran tells anti-war demonstrators of oppressive conditions faced in combat and the necessity to develop a great mass movement against the imperialists' strategy and at the same time allows MLs to put forward particular points of view the rounds issued by this movement.

3 to stress and need to provide concrete support for national liberation struggle this has to be raised and it is a matter of correctly fighting for the interests of the working and oppressed people today (opposing the registration and the draft) without sacrificing the propaganda and agitation for the long term goal the dicta- torship of the proletariat and socialism. We have to make the struggle against the draft basis of unity to develop a great mass movement against the imperialists' strategy and at the same time allows MLs to put forward particular points of view the rounds issued by this movement.

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We must then bring this issue into the shops and trade union meetings. Not only because there are many workers of recruitment age, but because it is the sons and daughters of workers that are faced as future cannon fodder in the event of war. The working class is the most revolutionary class in our society and its participation is a determining factor of how successful the anti-drift ant-war movement will be. Special attention has to be placed on women who work in factories directly, and on high school students. The latter, after graduating or dropping out of school, will be confronted with college, no college education, etc, and the draft will appear to many of them as the only alternative left open.

To develop a relentless struggle against social democracy, revisionism and Trotskyism within the movement. It is crucial to develop this struggle correctly so as to help us win over people to the correct line rather than isolating us from the masses in struggle. We are not to expose the opportunists and ask the genuine figures to walk out with us. First and foremost, we have to actively take part in the struggle without sacrificing our independence and initiative. This is the crux of the matter.

It is not a matter of trying to oust marxist leaders, of "smearing" in a speaker or of having people unite with us under an incorrect program. It's a matter of putting forward a program of struggle that can, in fact, lead the movement in a revolutionary path.

It's not a matter of denouncing the Trotskyites, because they support the only correct orientation of the Democratic Party, but of pointing out how at each step these forces come out against the anti-war movement, but also help us show the promises the agitation among the genuine figures for this country.

So, let's move forward, let's get to work in the anti-drift movement, let's make it part and parcel of the struggle against US imperialism. Let's make sure that the spontaneous struggle of today is the conscious struggle of tomorrow.