

RESISTANCE



POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION M-L
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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 institution 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 monopolies 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

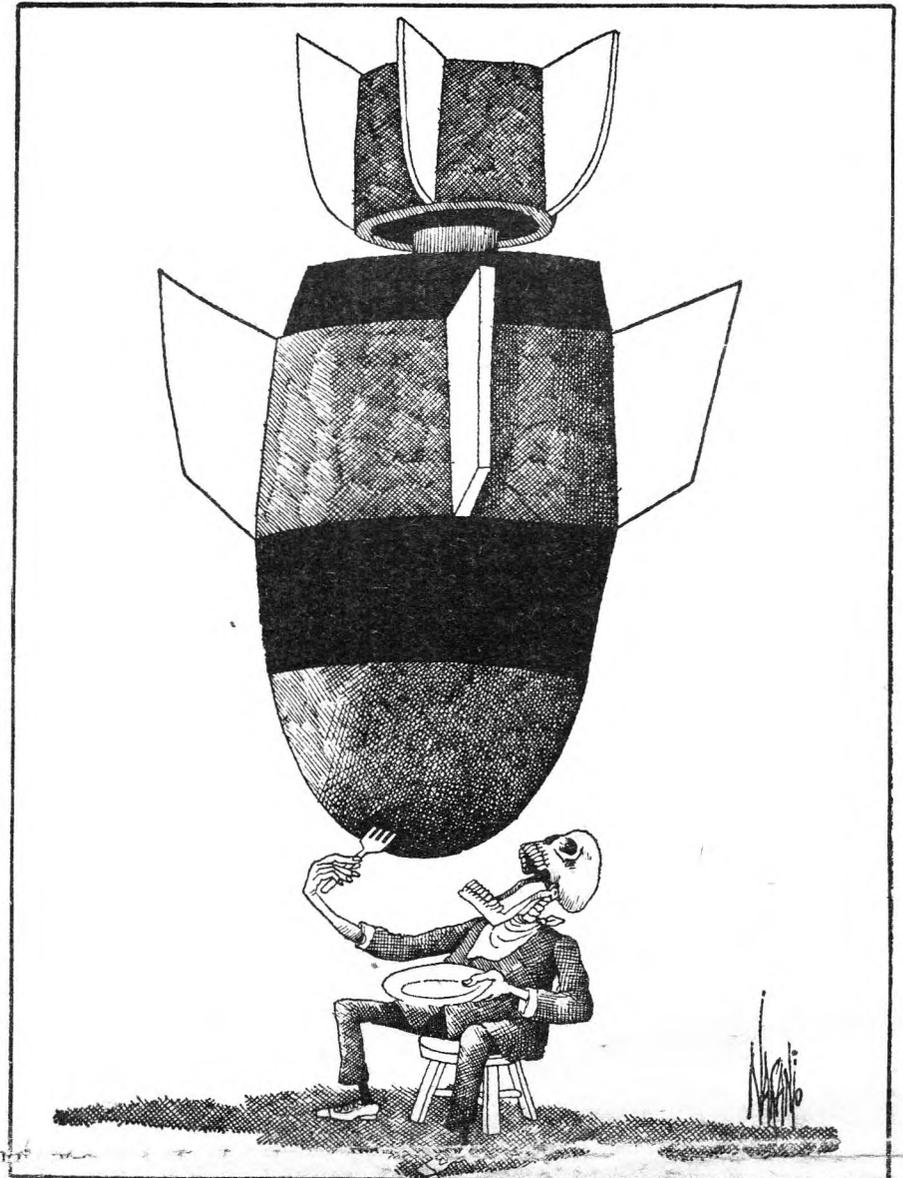
influence of the social democrats, revisionists and Trotskyites, the anti draft movement has been able to put forward a series of correct demands that can unite the most diverse sectors of the revolutionary and progressive movement in this country

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

It is encouraging that despite the

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CANNON FODDER

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at each step, and there are many attempts to deviate the resistance movement towards a reformist path. They try, for example, to sabotage the efforts of taking up the right of oppressed nations to self determination to its logical conclusion—concrete material and political support for national liberation movements. As a matter of fact, the need to develop consciousness on this question is one of the tasks of Marxist Leninists within this struggle.

Regarding the question of war, social democrats are basically bourgeois pacifists who oppose war in itself and adopt a pacifist attitude towards it. For them there is no difference between imperialist wars and wars for national liberation and socialist revolution. They do not recognize the inevitability of war under the imperialist system, and spread the view that it is possible to avoid war—by defeating war mongering politicians, through the election of so-called “pacifist” and “progressive” politicians. It is not mere chance that many of them promote the candidacies of Jerry Brown and Ted Kennedy, in opposition to those of Carter and Reagan, as a way of combatting the draft and the war danger.

The work of the social democrats helps to a great extent the work of revisionists, who also spread false illusions and reformist solutions to the problem. For them, all is solved with “detente” between the two superpowers and with the ratification of SALT II. Obviously, it is the task of MLs in this struggle to clarify the question of what is war, what are the different types of war, and what should be our attitude towards each one of these.

The anti-war movement creates very favorable conditions for the work of MLs. Objectively, it creates a pool of hundreds of thousands of young people who have been mobilized against the war for different reasons (EG they don't want to join the army, they don't think the reasons given for registration are correct, they don't feel the Afghanistan issue is sufficient reason, they don't believe in violence, they oppose it for religious or philosophical reasons, etc.), but the fact that they do oppose it gives us the opportunity to reach them through our work and propaganda and agitation. It is crucial that we utilize this opportunity in a correct way and not allow right or “left” errors to keep us lagging behind isolated from the masses in the struggle.

At this moment we see the tasks of communists within the anti-draft, anti-war movement as follows:

1 to participate actively in the different anti-draft coalitions that have been formed citywide and nationwide, in colleges, schools, communities, etc. This is so, independently of who has the upper hand in these coalitions.

2 to promote and defend the ML principle of uniting all those that can be united in this struggle. We have to oppose all sectarian attempts to narrow down this broad mass movement so that it serve as a front for one tendency or another. One of the areas in which this danger is greater is regarding the superpowers. The revisionists and many of the Trotskyites try by all means to get the movement to adopt its counterrevolutionary point of view of the Soviet Union as a “socialist” peace-loving country that respects the freedom of other nations. The specific case of Afghanistan and the rejection of the Soviet invasion of that country by many of the forces composing the anti-draft, anti-war movement showed how the revisionists and their followers are a source of division that deviate, split and therefore, weaken this movement.

Although up to this moment it has not been manifested in terms of a clearly defined line, there is the danger that some comrades who uphold the correct thesis of the three worlds mistakenly attempt to make opposition to both superpowers a basis of unity of this movement. We believe that unity has to be based on opposition to the draft and imperialist war. These two principles provide a broad

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 around the issues confronted by this movement.

3 to stress the need to provide concrete support for national liberation struggle,



Veterans are a very important sector of the anti-draft, anti-war movement. Here a Vietnam veteran tells anti-war demonstrators of oppressive conditions faced

gates, in particular those spearheaded against US imperialism. We have to concretely link our opposition to imperialist war with the struggles waged by oppressed peoples and nations of the third world for national liberation and against imperialist war. In fact, some of the coalitions (the one at Columbia, for example) have taken correct positions condemning the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the US attacks against Iran. We have to promote the understanding among our people on the role of the third world deterring imperialist war.

4 to concretely denounce the role of the Soviet Union in the world today. It is not a matter of merely talking about Soviet social imperialism (of which in fact we do have to talk about a lot in our propaganda and agitation) but of proving in concrete terms what it is that the Soviets are doing in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, etc. We have to combat the revisionists, Trotskyites and other opportunists who reduce imperialism to the US.

5 to combat anti-communism. We have to be very careful in our exposures of the Soviet Union so that we don't commit the error of feeding on the anti-communist sentiments that exist in wide sectors of the anti-war movement. Many are opposed to the actions of the Soviet Union but claim that the problem is in that the Soviets are communists. In this light their opposition to the Afghanistan invasion, the occupation of Kampuchea, etc. are positive. But it could be a serious right error not to combat backward ideas among the masses simply because those ideas may lead to positions that in general coincide with ours.

6 to raise socialism as ultimately the solution. The need for socialism, the need for a proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country is a demand that we are to propose as a point of unity for a mass coalition. But we have the responsibility, the unavoidable responsibility, may we say, of raising the question of socialism, of explaining to the people, in the course of the anti-draft struggle, that as long as imperialism exists imperialist wars will exist and therefore the draft for imperialist wars will also exist. Failure to do this would be a serious right error that would help the opportunist forces to maintain a grip on the anti-draft movement.

Our strategic goal of transforming the imperialist war to a civil war for the defeat and overthrow of our own bourgeoisie

thus 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 dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism. We have to make the struggle against the draft

We must then bring this issue into the shops and trade unions. Not only because there are many workers of recruitment age, but because it is the sons and daughters of workers that are marked 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-draft, anti-war movement will be.

Special attention has to be placed on women who must now face the draft directly, and on high school students. The latter, after graduating or dropping out of school, will be confronted with no jobs, no college education, etc., and the draft will appear to many of them as the only alternative left open.

8 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 people over to the correct line rather than isolate us from the masses in struggle. We are not to expose the opportunists and ask the genuine forces to walk out with us. First and foremost we are to actively take part in the struggle without sacrificing our independence and initiative. This is at the crux of the matter.

It is not a matter of trying to outmaneuver the marsh forces, of “sneaking” in a speaker or of having people unite with us under an incorrect line. 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 believe in the theory of “permanent revolution.” Nor is it a matter of denouncing the revisionists because they push the theory of “peaceful transition to socialism.” It's not even a question of denouncing the social democrats because they support a particular wing of the Democratic Party, but of pointing out how at each step these forces come out with proposals, slogans, resolutions, etc., that are incorrect, that weaken the struggle, etc.

9 to promote serious, open and above-board discussion on the different political lines that we, the ML forces involved in this key issue, uphold. We should promote joint work wherever possible, unified slogans, etc. This will not only help us in better combatting opportunism within the anti-war movement, but also help us improve the relations among the genuine forces in this country.

So, let's move forward comrades, let's get to work in the anti-draft 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!

TEACH-IN

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error played into the hands of the CPUSA and the petition was withdrawn as a resolution.

SUMMATION

Overall, we feel that our work in the conference was productive because of the line and tactics, the consciousness and genuine anti-imperialist aspirations of the people, the blatant opportunism of the CPUSA and the blatant actions of the two superpowers in war preparations. We plan to continue to work with various forces and will strive to help build this movement, continuing to build on the positive results of the conference.

We also learned that many of the young elements in this movement do not have a direct or clear grasp of the anti-Vietnam war or anti-draft movements of the 60's. Erroneous ideas from that time have not yet been rejected by this movement, such as reformism (write your congressmen), pacifism (mystical approaches to opposing the draft), etc. The absence of significant

working class participation, the lack of a genuine party, etc., will also take their toll and unfortunately, could result in unnecessary repetition of previous errors. We summarized that that history will need to be explained and summed up to this movement especially by the communist forces and that consequently, the Marxist Leninists must acquire a more detailed grasp of that history.

We see that the real qualitative step in advancing this work among the US people to postpone the outbreak of WW III would be the principled uniting of Marxist-Leninist forces. This should be clear to every one. In this vein, we and LPR will continue concrete efforts to break down whatever sectarianism and big organization chauvinism that remains in our movement. In this way, we can all struggle for unity on a correct line, approach and practice. Then our individual efforts can have a direct bearing in clarifying a correct direction to oppose superpower war preparations (especially those of the US) and aid in the establishing of a new communist party.