The Soviet Union's invasion and occupation of Afghanistan is plain and simple, an imperialist act of aggression and the con-demnation of all freedom and peace loving peoples in the world. The Soviet Union (SU), furthering the role of the superpower in the world, uses the political and military advantage it has in many countries in Eastern Europe, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Angolan, Ethiopia, South Yemen and their great political and military advantage over many others. And they have got ten thousand strong political and economic forces, as well as military, means. They took Angola using the Cuban as their mercenary forces, just as they are doing in Ethiopia as Kampuchea today are using their Vietnamese lackeys. And now, conscious of their great political and military advantage over their principal imperialist rival, they are using their own forces to impose its yoke over other nations.

The SU today has its imperialist grip over many countries in Eastern Europe, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Angolan, Ethiopia, South Yemen and great influence on many others. And they have got ten thousand using both political, economic, as well as military, means. They took Angola using the Cuban as their mercenary forces, just as they are doing in Ethiopia as Kampuchea today are using their Vietnamese lackeys. And now, conscious of their great political and military advantage over their principal imperialist rival, they are using their own forces to impose its yoke over other nations.

But today's increased Soviet control over more areas in the world is, at the same time, the continuation of a period in which more and more people, realizing that the SU is not really socialist, will begin to break from their political influence. Some countries who have traditionally lined up with the SU, fooled by their "and" and their phony words about socialism are beginning to see the light. Many of them voted at the United Nations vote of 104 vs. 18, condemning the Afghanistan invasion.

At the Islamic Conference too, held in Pakistan last month, 35 Moslem countries unanimously approved a resolution condemning the invasion of Afghanistan as a gross violation of the charters of the United Nations.

This was a significant and devastating blow at Soviet Union's influence in those countries.

Undoubtedly, the Soviet aggression, with all its negative implications, has its positive aspect in that it strips the SU naked, with its bloody claws showing. It is the SU itself that is ripping off its "socialist" mask, and there is nothing it can do or say to patch it up together again, because as time goes on they become greedier and bolder in their imperialist actions. They are completely doomed to fail as the events show.

Unfortunately for the world's peoples, Afghanistan does not represent at all the end of a practice, but rather the prelude of bigger imperialist acts of aggression.

The prospects of a new imperialist war and what is 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 raised the issue of smearing and the war to all. Thus, it is a most urgent duty of communists to establish clearly what are our views on the question of war and the tasks ahead in the struggle for Peace, Freedom, and Socialism.

The question of war and the struggle against it is not new for communists. Under imperialism, wars are inevitable, and the danger of it, although in different degrees, is always a threat. Therefore, we will not take the time now to expand questions like the different kinds of wars, a historical analysis of the First and Second World Wars, etc., but we will concentrate on the present danger of imperialist war and what we consider should be the general program of US communists regarding that danger.

We leave then, for another occasion, a lot of very relevant questions that obviously have to be grasped in order to develop a correct Marxist Leninist line on this fundamental question. To avoid possible misunderstandings, we will briefly state our general views on such questions so that the reader can see where we stand.

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 stages of the Second World War entered 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 those conducted 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 part of the swamp that considers the SU a socialist country, it should be clear that we are confronting the motion towards an inter-imperialist war for the redistribution of the world's market among the two super-powers. Although it is possible for the character of the war to change, such was the case of World War II, and if so, communists are to change their positions accordingly. It would be a further reason for fiction writing to establish our line based on what is possible though not happening.

Therefore, it is important that right from the start US communists establish our opposition to the US drive for war, to oppose each and every one of its war preparations, also make clear our opposition to the other superpower and its war preparations. We take no sides in the struggle between the SU and the US. We oppose them both. Obviously, the fact that we are communists within the US, part of the US multinational working class, poses a particular task for us. That is, to concentrate on the exposure and opposition to US imperialism. Only ideologists, or people on the lookout for theoretical justifications for class collaborationist stands, can argue in the other direction. Besides being incorrect, making the exposure of the Soviet Union the main task is something that falls on its own weight. Where are the thousands of Americans that want to join the "red army" to fight against the SU? We ask this because making the exposure of the SU the main task for US communists presupposes that the American people, instead of being under the influence of the warmongering US bourgeoisie, are being convinced by the revisionists, CPUSA and their fellow travelers of the goodness of the SU. But this is not the case.

While communists oppose the first three types of war and support the latter two, the fact is that each and 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. Case 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, smears, 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...
have been manipulated by the reactionaries and have not taken consciousness yet of the true character of the SU, it is the lack of consciousness about what US imperialism is all about that must be our main concern

SUPERPOWERS’ CONTENTION IS GEARED TOWARD WORLD WAR

Since the 60's, the US and the SU have been engaged in a fierce competition for world hegemony. That contention has been manifested in many ways and fields. It has been accompanied by a guerrilla war in Afghanistan. It has been technology. It has been "peaceful" and also violent, although not the conventional kind - a conflict between the two superpowers has occurred Little by little, the SU, who at the beginning was behind the US in every aspect, has been overtaking the US in all fields. In fact, what we have witnessed in the last two decades is the decline of US imperialism and the rise of Soviet social-imperialism. This has placed the SU on the offensive and the US on the defensive.

Indisputably, the SU is the more aggressive of the two superpowers and the main source of war in the world today. While US imperialism was not able to do anything to stop the Iranian and the Nicaraguan revolutions, the SU was able to orchestrate the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and Laos and now Afghanistan, show what is to be expected of the "natural ally" of the oppressed nations of the world.

THE CARTER DOCTRINE: THE SAME IMPERIALIST GARbage

In his recent State of the Union speech, President Carter laid out the US bourgeois imperialism’s program of "limited sovereignty," in the same concept of "limited sovereignty," but in the US way, Carter says that the US, by an outside force or loss of control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the US. Such an attack will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force. For Carter, the people of the Middle East region don’t count. The US ‘vital interests’ (read OIL), is what counts, and nobody from outside that region, with the exception of the SU, has nothing to do with it.

And to show he meant business, Carter moved toward major increases in the "defense" budget, the establishment of multiple basing facilities, the development of a mobile rapid deployment force, military aid to Pakistan, the killing of SALT II negotiations, the boycott of Moscow Olympic Games, the decertification of all oil export technologies and the US embargo on grain and high technology items sales to the SU, the alloying themselves with the SU and the US on the defensive.

MAKING THE FIGHT FOR PEACE AND OPPORTUNITY THE SUPERPOWERS’ POINT OF DEPARTURE

Becoming far away from a revolutionary situation in the US, without a genuine Marxist-Leninist party to lead us in the struggle, and the very little, to say the least, influence of the genuine US Marxists among the American people, are things to be taken account when mapping out our tasks. The correct slogan of "beware the imperialists war GIVE US A WAR" would not create the conditions for us to really do so. Neither can the self-proclamation of another "party" help in the situation. The US bourgeoisie is driving towards imperialist war, there is a lot of great nation chauvinism and US imperialism pushing among the American people, large sectors of the working class included, and it is within that framework that we are to act.

We stand for peace. The time is working in favor of the oppressed peoples and nations of the world. The more time it takes the superpowers to unleash the war, the more revolutionary and progressive minded people the world over will have to prepare themselves to bury the superpowers in their own war of national liberation.

Being for peace at this moment requires that we oppose both the US and the SU. Opportunities of all shades who talk a lot about peace, but support the SU’s imperialism actions around the world don’t stand for peace, but for war. They are, objectively, and independently of their will, aligning themselves with the SU and helping their war preparations. The same holds true for those in the US who don’t oppose in a consistent and concrete way the US war preparations. We are to stand against the military budget, against the establishment of more US military installations in the Third World, against the location of more weapons and the continuation of the arms race.etc. We have already identified three major areas in which we can and should move immediately to build the opposition against the war drive as the US. These are opposition to the Draft, support of the national liberation struggles in the Third World and support and defense of socialist China. Of course, this does not constitute a fully developed plan of action on what form this opposition will take in order to be effective in the real world, and not remain in declarations. But it is definitely a good start.

OPPOSITION TO THE DRAFT

The registration of American youth to serve as cannon fodder in their imperialist war is the foundation upon which American militarism is built. Resistance to the draft has already been aroused spontaneously all across the US, and thousands have demonstrated against it. Of all the aspects of the Carter Doctrine this is the area of greater vulnerability for the bourgeoisie due to the mass movements against the draft in this country and the experiences of the Vietnamese in the US. We condemn that focusing on the anti-draft movement US communists would have a fertile ground to build opposition to the US war preparations.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES

The oppressed peoples and nations of the Third World are waging the most important battles against superpower aggression in the world today. The third world and not the advanced capitalist countries are the stormcenter of revolution today. We are to defend it against attacks from all quarters. This is especially important in view of the present stage of international opposition in which one of the superpowers, the SU, has troops all along the Chinese border and at the moment is pushing its Vietnamese lackeys to continue their provocations of People’s China.

DEFENSE OF SOCIALIST CHINA

It is our duty to commit ourselves the world over to resolutely defend those countries under the dictatorship of the proletarian Socialist China, which we are to defend it against attacks from all quarters. This is especially important in view of the present stage of international opposition in which one of the superpowers, the SU, has troops all along the Chinese border and at the moment is pushing its Vietnamese lackeys to continue their provocations of People’s China.

BREZHNEV DOCTRINE: LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY

Explaining the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Brezhnev states that "the interests of any particular socialist country has to be subordinated to the overall interests of the socialist community." Although this sounds very fine in words, in deeds that mean that the interest of every country under the influence of the Soviet is subordinated to the interests of the Soviet Union’s ruling class.

This theory of "limited sovereignty," makes the US the real winner of the "new" internationalism of socialist countries (US imperialism plays that role in relation to the so-called "Czar world") Thus, it is OK for the Soviets, or their mercenary troops, to invade any country as long as they do so to protect "socialism" And protecting "socialism" is what supposedly thousands of Cuban troops are doing in Angola and Ethiopia, thousands of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea and Laos and now thou-

other attacks on Black and Latino communities in New York City and house bombings all over the country. Under the murder by police in Basex in Brooklyn, the Coalition has held a number of programs and demonstrations like the one shown above, bringing to the public’s attention the need to struggle against those attacks. Police brutality has been intensifying as a result of the economic crises and it is happening nationwide in fact, all over the country, coalitions like the BLC have been forming, and waging struggle. If you would like to get in touch with the BLC, please call 212-368 0811.

The next activity of the BLC will be held on March 1st. It will include accounts of police brutality by victims of police brutality, a slide show and speakers and discussion on the work of the Coalition and its struggle against police brutality. The BLC is inviting all interested to attend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1980

1 P.M

296 E 4th ST (bet B&C)
Manhattan


V. I. LENIN