October marks the fourth anniversary of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. The formation of the RCP, USA was a giant step forward for the working class and oppressed people in this country. For since that moment, the Party has been a political vanguard, totally dedicated to and capable of leading the masses of people, breaking the chains of slavery, to break free from the degradation, exploitation and oppression that is life under资本主义. The working class has produced its own political party, its political vanguard, capable of fighting the leadership of the exploiters with its twists and turns of the class struggle to transform society and, together with the proletariat of every country, working to remake a world that embodies the highest and most noble interests of the liberation of mankind—communism.

A successful revolution requires more than the conscious and objective situation, more than militancy and sacrifice of the masses. Without a political vanguard guided by the science of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, the working class and the masses of all nationalities will be thrown away and the heroism of the masses will not be realized.

Such a political party does not appear as if by magic at the decisive moment. It is the product of the class struggle and is tempered and matures amidst the struggle of the working class and the revolutions of all the working classes. The RCP, USA is the product of the struggle of the U.S. working class and basing upon the strengths of the working class, it concentrates the experience of the whole world proletariat. Its birth and development, in particular, the emergence of a series of vital struggles in the political sphere, have taken place in the U.S. over the past ten years. The Party and its leaders have been more and more determined to fight these struggles. None of these struggles have been easy. Debates among leaders of the vanguard group and the masses would paint them, but rather reflections of the class forces shaping society. And the outcome of each of these battles has been decisive in laying the basis for the further advance of the movement.

The roots of the RCP, USA trace most directly back to the period of the 1960s and the tremendous turmoil, ferment, and revolutionary battles which swept the U.S. The Black people's struggle, especially as it developed into the revolutionary movement of the mid and late 1960s, served as a clarion call rekindling revolutionary fervor in the working class and the masses of all nationalities. The struggle against the Vietnam War, unprecedented in U.S. history, awakened millions to political activity and increased the revolutionary potential of the masses. Features of the imperialist enemy came to be recognized by broad sections of the population. Through all this, a new generation of U.S. revolutionaries emerged.

But the revolutionaries of the 1960s were cut off from the working class and the revolutionary vanguard, Marxism-Leninism. This was due especially to the fact that the old Communist Party of the U.S. maintained as a line that Black people's struggle, as a whole, was a red one. It had degenerated, leaving the U.S. working class with no vanguard, no ideological-moral momentum in the struggle of the masses against capitalism. As the working class, in the main, was still dormant, and had not awakened to political activity or understanding the political meaning of the ruling class' propaganda and maneuvers. Many revolutionaries rejected Marxism-Leninism as a sterile dogma and saw no revolution in the struggle of the masses. They hoped that the struggle of the working class, which in the main, was still dormant and had not awakened to political activity or understanding the political meaning of the masses' struggle, would be made a handbook of the revolutionary line by the party.

But the masses, in the main, were not capable of leading the struggle by themselves. The masses also, like the struggle of Black communists (by which they meant the U.S. negroes), was not capable of leading the struggle of the working class. The Black Panther Party, which had emerged as the most far-reaching revolutionary organization—the forerunner of the Revolutionary Union (RU), the organization which played the central role in the development of the struggle, was open only to those who were people who promoted such a line.

The first major struggle within the RU was a battle to rid its ranks of this kind of poison. The struggle ended positively and from the necessary task for the new generation of revolutionaries to carry out: revolutionary leadership among the proletariat to themselves to the proletariat. This struggle was led by Comrade Bob Avakian, who as the most far-reaching revolutionary leader of the period, capable of and responsible for integrating the general principles of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of making revolution in the U.S.

Although the RU was a small organization then and was dismissed in most quarters as a tiny sect, the waging of this struggle was vital to the further advance of the revolutionary struggle. Within a few years, the RU would be "guerrilla groups" most aantal, or, more commonly, fall into "safe" nationalistic revisionism.

The most serious issue of that time was the question of how the movement was to be competitive for the worker who was breaking the chains of slavery. It did not happen automatically, but it must be strengthened to wage all the struggles for the further advance of the movement. This was the greatest test yet faced by our Party. But like the previous struggles, the Party has continued to gain strength and to fight from the masses. And it can lay the basis for an even greater national struggle. But it will not happen automatically, but it must be strengthened through the experience of the masses. For in so doing, the Party can lead and direct the workers in the fight for the further advance of the revolutionary struggle.

Today the situation in the U.S. is one of a gathering hurricane. All the signs of a giant storm of conflict among the masses are present. The time is right for the working class to take the offensive, for the further development of the work of the revolutionary vanguard and the place of the RCP, USA, as the vanguard Party.

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