U.S., Iran Bourgeoisie vs. Iran Masses

Another Battle Over Hostages

As we go to press, a new round of behind-the-scenes intrigue is unfolding as both the U.S. imperialists and Iran's bourgeois forces try once again to find some way to throw a fast ball past the watchful eyes of the Iranian people. Both parties are desperately trying to find some steps they can take to get the "hostage crisis" behind them without unleashing a new storm of revolutionary struggle. Continued on page 18.

Class Struggle Rages Over Button Day

March 27 was button day nationwide. From the Revolutionary Communist Party and the National May Day Committee, the call went out to wear a May Day button that day, to wear it in defense of Bob Avakian, the Chairman of the RCP and, as the leaflet said, the most consistent, determined and far-sighted revolutionary leader in the country today. That day, the appeals court in Washington, D.C. was reconsidering his case involving up to 241 years in jail. It was also a call to defy all the reactionary attacks on May Day and the May Day Brigades, including 200 arrests nationwide so far. This day was openly declared to be a few for May 1st itself. 30,000 buttons in four days was the goal.

Button Day was a tremendous battle. By the time the dust had cleared on Thursday night, 10,000 buttons had been sold, and many were worn on that day. This was itself a significant gain; as was said last week in the RCP, it represented a class-conscious force emerging in this country. But as the same time it was clearly only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the numbers of "those who hate this shit," and it was well short of the 30,000 goal.

Why did this happen? What was behind this result? It was certainly not the objective situation in this country today that somehow put a limit of 10,000 on button sales—the experience of Button Day itself showed this. No, it was definitely a class struggle with the enemy to sell these buttons, so reach and mobilize in this way a force of people, but the determining class struggle in this case was one raging within the ranks of those who are the core of ac.

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"We must overcome two different kinds of ideological obstacles in building for May 1st. There are those people who don't clearly see the connection between the battle for May 1st and for revolution and are therefore held back from action; there is also the problem of some people who do see the connection and oppose May Day."

"Our purpose is welding all those who hate this shit into a class-conscious force. But there are some people who not only do not hate this shit themselves, but are afraid of those who hate it." 

"Those who represent the backward may be more arrogant, but those who demand change are more determined and have history on their side."

Bob Avakian
Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party

New Book Analyzes

Imperialism's Greatest Crisis

America in Decline

Chapter serialized in the Revolutionary Worker.
One Week Before May 1st

Red Flag—Internationale Day

On Thursday April 24, one week before May 1st, a mighty force will rip across this country. On that day, in factories, schools, housing projects, buses, everywhere the masses of people live and gather, red flags will fly—50,000 Red Flags! A wild and lofty sign of strength and determination for May 1st itself.

And that same day, at 1:55 Eastern time, 12:55 Central, 10:55 in the West and all the way to Hawaii at 7:55 AM—all at once the class conscious forces will rise together and, in straight up defiance of all the shit of this society, sing strong and loud and in dozens of languages, the Internationale, the anthem of the international working class. Throughout that day, and in the week to come, it will be as if a powerful bugle has sounded, signalling the charge toward May 1st.

The Internationale
Anthem of the International Working Class

Arise, ye prisoners of starvation!
Arise, ye wretched of the earth,
For nothing, not even condemnation,
A better world's in birth.
No more tradition's chains
shall bind us,
Arise, ye slaves; no more in thrall!
The earth shall rise on foundations,
We have been naught, we shall be all.

Refrain:
Tis the final conflict,
Let each stand in his place.
The international working class
Shall be the human race.

We want no condescending saviors,
To rule us from a judgment hall;
We workers ask not for their favors;
Let us consult for all.
To make the thief disgorge his booty,
To free the spirit from its cell,
We must ourselves decide our duty,
We must decide and do it well.

La Internacional
¡Arriba, parias de la tierra!
¡En pie, lamelaica legion!
Atrasa la razón en marcha,
Es el fin de la opresión
El pasado hay que hacer anicos,
Legión esclava, en pie, a vencer!
El mundo va a cambiar de base,
Los nada de hoy han de ser.

Ni en doses, reyes ni tribunos
Está el supremo salvador.
Nosotros mismos realizamos
El esfuerzo redentor.
Para hacer que el tirano caiga
Y el mundo siervo liberar,
Soplémonos la potente fragua
Que el hombre libre ha de forjar.

Refrain:
Agrupémonos todos
En la lucha final,
El genero Humano
Es la Internacional.

Button Day

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five organizers for May 1st, especially within the Party itself.

Even before Button Day, that was done. America is in decline and headed toward war—world war. Any reasonable analysis of the conditions—the objective situation in this country today—the Party's firm grasp on the revolutionary line on May 1st. This was made very clear by the results of Button Day.

Even—and especially—in the face of reactionary attacks, the revolutionary-minded people among the masses stepped forward when given a chance and Button Day spread. Inside one plant in Atlanta, backward fools made a fire out of some copies of the leaflet announcing the 27th. In response to this and on the spot, a revolutionary on the inside of the plant sold 27 buttons. It was all she had on her. Workers were buying the buttons in any language they could—whether they understood it or not. It didn't matter, they had to take a stand.

In many places, advanced revolutionary forces that had been suffocated by a deadly air of backwardness among the forces building Button Day broke through by the last day and showed some results. In Detroit, for example, more buttons (600) were sold on Thursday than on the previous three days put together, and struggle raged all day in some plants about wearing them or not. Buttons in the pocket one minute came out the next onto shirts when struggle was raised over what this was all about.

In Chicago, on Thursday, at one plant where many workers speak neither English nor Spanish, 50 buttons were sold in a couple of hours to one shift. A paddy wagon was there, a boss stood out front, the language barriers leaped; but it was clear that this was about
International Workers Day. Some people who knew no language but English, and without fear, just broke into song—the International, anthem of the international working class—and workers bought buttons, with a few short words like "This is good... right international working class."

There were wide gaps in sales, with a few people selling 50 or more buttons in an hour on a transit train, and just the same number of Revolutionary Worker newspaper, while other people, in almost identical conditions, sold one or two, it was a matter of line.

Where Bob Avakian’s name or picture was brought out in some places, it sharpened up the revolutionary stakes involved in Button Day, and sales shot up. In one place, a banner with his picture went up and intense discussion broke out about his case and the meaning of this action.

In some places, this was completely or largely liquidated—substituting instead some much more narrow and non-revolutionary "concern." In Battle Creek, Michigan, where there had been a sharp confrontation between cops and the Black community and May Day was becoming known and embraced, Button Day organizers got up a picket line at the police station on the 27th and the tip that was given did not even mention Bob Avakian or urge people to buy but two.

There were not "accidents" in the main, but the products of a political line—a non-revolutionary political line that is backing out and even jumping out in the face of the revolutionary potential for May 1st.

In area after area across the country, sharp struggle with the enemy is bringing forward the advanced, revolutionary comrades within the Party and the new advanced among the masses to do battle against the bourgeoisie, right over the heads of the backward and necessary. Those that have begun to look forward have sensed that there are those in the Party who grasp and uphold Chairman Bob Avakian’s revolutionary line, including on May Day, and that there are those who do not, and these masses are correct in what they see. The Party is not going to allow the enemy to suffocate the force of the advanced coming forward. It is high time to pull out all stops and ride over the inaction and sabotage cluttering the path. The revolutionary line is there to be fought against and not run away from it.

The Revolution is Being Baited Out Now

The heart of the revolutionary line and policy on May Day is clear. May Day is a major step in revolution, here and around the world. Revolution does not come out of nowhere. What we do today can be crucial. Lenin put it this way: "The revolution itself must not by any means be regarded as a single act, but as a series of more or less powerful outbreaks rapidly alternating with periods of more or less intense calm."

As Bob Avakian put it in his New Year’s article in the RW, “The work we do now, the battles, especially (the major political battles), will be the most crucial not only at hitting back, politically, at the enemy, and not simply as general preparation, but beyond that perhaps in deciding the outcome whether the resolutions for revolution do ripen... This emphasizes, again, that all we are doing now is or must be, exactly preparation for when the conditions do ripen and that (in line with the statement by Lenin referred to just above) our actions are, in another sense, a part, a very important part, of the whole process of revolution and have a great deal to do with victory or defeat when there is a qualitative leap in the situation.”

This is why May 1st is crucial. It is a political action, but it is like a major

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This is not a matter of some people's intentions, but of political line. It shows itself in the fact that while some people are finding that May Day all the more firmly, but some people, a handful, even if they become peaceful, they will not be able to commit suicide, they are very well and are driven to wildly opt out of the conflict.

That is why one question that is before us now is, whose Party is this? Is the Party of some people who are in the interest of the revolution and the proletariat, or is it a resting place for those who feel they have something to save—some basis for a movement to shake the masses down? Today these two forces are locked in a struggle.

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