

# Red Flag Flies Over Alamo

San Antonio, Texas. Thursday, March 20. At exactly 2:00 p.m. in the Long Barrack Museum, a slide show clicked on—a reenactment by the Texas army of the fall of the Alamo. At exactly 2:00 p.m., three members of the Texas May Day Brigade, two men and one woman, scaled the walls of the Alamo to raise the red flag of the international working class.

The Alamo. Notorious monument to national oppression. Internationally pointed to, along with the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty as symbols of the land of the free and the home of the brave. Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie with his infamous bloodstained knife and William Travis—captains of genocide against the Indians in the Southeast before they turned their attention to Mexican people and Mexican land. If you really want to see how thoroughly red, white and blue reactionary this place is, you just have to look at the picture of warhorse John Wayne that adorns a wall in the Alamo. History was turned upside down as the capitalists cloaked this monument to slavery and expansion of their capitalist empire in sanctity and hallowedness.

The bullhorn blared across the plaza area. A Chicano brother from California spoke from the rooftop. "We're from the Texas May Day Brigade. We've come to set the record straight about this Alamo. This is a symbol of the theft of Mexican land. A symbol of the murder of Mexicans and Indians. And a symbol of the oppression of Chicanos and Mexicanos throughout the whole Southwest." Some Chicano groundskeepers stopped work to join the crowd. People, originally shopping across the street, moved in for a closer look. Tourists stared in shocked disbelief. A buzz ran through the crowd. "Get those commies off there," one man yelled. Another man in his forties zigzagged through the crowd saying, "Revolutionaries, communists, just took over the Alamo. Know how they did it? They threw hooks up and scaled the walls... commando style!" He continued excitedly as he explained to a person in the crowd that, "May Day is the communists' rites of spring."

Suddenly to the left of the rooftop the ropes to a flagpole stirred. Some in the crowd looked quizzical for a moment, then one guy angrily half removed his suit jacket. With eyes bulging, temples pounding and the hackles on his neck standing on edge, he watched helplessly as his beloved flag, the Lone Star Texas flag, was lowered and thrown aside. In its place, rising like a second sun in the San Antonio sky, flew the blood red flag of the workers of every country. And next to it stood three brigaders, proud, determined, brandishing smaller red flags.

And the internationalist message was not lost on some among the crowd. Two Iranians expressed exuberant solidarity. One, a cook making \$4 an hour, stepped up. "I had a fight at work when the hostages were taken. I don't know if revolution is possible in the U.S. but this today is very good. I took my wife (an American) to Tehran on my vacation. I showed her the bloody walls in prison. I showed her what Shah did to my people. Now she is getting in fights too."

A 16-year-old from Saudi Arabia was inspired. "Wow, I didn't know there were revolutionaries in the U.S. My country suffers a lot too," he told an *RW* newspaper seller.

A Czechoslovakian warehouseman in his fifties said defiantly as police prepared for the assault, "I'd spit in those cops eyes." Later when the cops had finally driven off with their captives, he returned to an *RW* reporter and clasped his hands. "May Day is all over the world. This was good." And a middle-aged Mexican couple spoke for millions who live under U.S. imperialism in Mexico and around the world when they said, "Bueno, bueno, bueno," as they moved closer to listen.

Another brigader, a Vietnam veteran, took the bullhorn. "I've seen U.S. imperialism at work. I've seen napalmed bodies of men, women and children. I've seen the tanks roll through villages. That's why we raise the red flag," he spoke, pointing. "To say we are one class worldwide and we have no interest with our im-



Police finally reach May Day brigades on top of the Alamo after the Red Flag flew for nearly an hour.

perialist rulers. And we also raise it in solidarity today with the revolutionaries arrested in Beckley, West Virginia who were arrested for raising it in the coalfields," he added.

Suddenly a police helicopter swooped low. Failing to negotiate a landing on the Alamo, it hovered just to the right of the revolutionaries—attempting to intimidate and drown out the bullhorn. San Antonio pigs began clearing the plaza area. Some troglodytes in the crowd shouted, "Go back to Russia," and assorted caveman grunts. Some older Chicano workers shook their heads, "This is crazy. It won't change anything," but for the Chicano youth it was electric—the gleam in the eye, the clenched fists and the "right-ons" were widespread among them. Two Chicanas, a mother and daughter, discussed the truth that is hidden about the Alamo. "That's right, Mom," the girl said. "They tell us that Davy Crockett is our hero. The ruling class is very skilled at getting us to love our own oppressors." The mother became visibly angry. "They hide too much from us," she said.

But today, for nearly one hour, the truth

reverberated boldly from the Alamo. No, this is not a monument to freedom and democracy, except the freedom of the capitalists to steal land from the Mexican and Indian peoples. No, these men were not heroes. They were mercenary scum, bought and paid for to colonize the land to expand the brutal southern slave system over the blood and bones of Mexicans. No, the Alamo is no sacred shrine to be kneeled before. In fact the class conscious workers of all nationalities take joy in the victory of the Mexican army over the band of imperialist pirates and in the example of the men of the San Patricio corps (St. Patrick's corps), Irish men who deserted the ranks of the U.S. Army and went over to fight for Mexico.

A siren zinged as the San Antonio firetruck pulled up to the plaza. The police, upon finding all the gardeners' ladders chained and locked together, had called in help. A rustle swept the crowd as cops and firemen ascended the ladders. "Get the flag down," a patriot from the crowd yelled. The brigaders were handcuffed and moved to the back of the roof. A Texas flag was again back on the flag pole

as only half the crowd applauded. The brigaders were made to stand next to the flag pole in a feeble attempt to tell them, "See, we're back on top and we're going to stay there." But it was too late. The sight of the red flag on top of the Alamo had sparked some dangerous ideas in the minds of the people who saw it and all who would later hear the news. The brigaders were again brought to the rear, to a waiting ladder. The crowd gathered there too. One person yelled, "Throw them off the roof. We'll take care of them." A Chicana stepped forward. "They're not going to throw anyone off the roof. I saw where they threw a Chicano (Joe Torres) in the river with his hands cuffed behind his back. I lost a brother in Vietnam and they gave me a flag. I know what that stinking flag is all about." Some of her friends, a white couple from Milwaukee, boomed in response to cheers from the backward sections of the crowd as the brigaders were brought down. They bought a stack of *Revolutionary Workers* and left saying, "If there's not a May Day in Milwaukee, we'll be there in Chicago."

Another man grabbed an *RW* reporter by the arm. "This is great. I haven't seen shit like this since college." When he heard there'd be a May Day march in his state, he gasped. "Birmingham, Alabama! Hey, I'll be there," he said, grinning.

Word spread like wildfire across the local San Antonio radio stations. On one call-in show, responses like this were heard. "I locked my 17-year-old nephew in the house when I heard it on the news," one woman said seriously. "I heard last year this Mexican red Travis Morales (one of the Moody Park 3—*RW*) was stirring up Mexicans in Houston. Now I hear he's stirring them up to march on May 1st," another caller added.

From the rooftop of the Alamo, another powerful salvo has rung out just as the explosions in Birmingham, Alabama and Beckley, W. Va. were echoing across this land. Another powerful salvo was sent into the face of the imperialists. And this salvo has quickened the pulse of millions across this country who saw the news and who hate this system. From the seized Alamo came this battle cry to the working class and all the oppressed, "Take history into our hands. March on revolutionary May Day 1980."

**MAY 1st — WELD THOSE WHO HATE THIS SHIT INTO A CLASS CONSCIOUS FORCE!**

