

Support the Rebels in Poland

The following is the text of a leaflet by the RCP, USA distributed in the wake of the declaration of martial law in Poland.

Martial law has been declared by the revisionist rulers of Poland, with the full backing and support of the Soviet Union. This self-proclaimed "natural ally of the oppressed" has once again sponsored an attempt to brutally suppress them. As in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, Kampuchea — these Soviet exploiters of just rebellion against U.S.-style imperialism have again openly bared their imperialist nature. And now the U.S.—that sponsor of mass murder and oppression from Chile to Vietnam to El Salvador—is itself donning the costume of "natural ally" of the oppressed Polish workers. In combination, this double imperialist spectacle is disgusting. In Paris, in a gigantic demonstration of support for the Polish people, a sizeable section of the crowd chanted "From Chile to Warsaw—Same Struggle."

In Poland itself, in the face of the arrests of thousands of Solidarity leaders

Forward with the World Revolution

and the threat of jail terms—even death—for striking, the workers have already mounted significant resistance and more is stirring. These are crucial days in Poland, and events there are connected by a thousand threads to the profoundly important and rapidly developing events throughout the whole world. The ever-sharpening drive toward world war between the blocs of imperialists—in the West, led by the U.S.; in the East, by the Soviet Union—has provided the stage on which events in Poland are set.

Revisionism

The true features of the brand of communism now in power in the Soviet

Union and throughout the states allied with it, notably in Eastern Europe and in particular Poland, have been mercilessly revealed: this is revisionism, *capitalism* with a socialist signboard, which enslaves the workers and oppressed people. It is social-imperialism — socialism in words; imperialism in deeds — and, like its Western counterpart, it faces today an immense economic and political crisis throughout its bloc and around the world.

Poland is a key link in the Warsaw Pact. It possesses the biggest army outside of Russia and is a developed capitalist country in its own right with an economy completely intertwined with the Eastern bloc. Poland's

technical base has been consciously geared up for war by the revisionists. It is these imperialist relations which lie behind the Soviets' "fraternal socialist relations" with Poland, relations set increasingly on a war footing.

U.S. Rulers—No Right to Speak

On every level, the West also has its clutches deep into Poland. For some time, the U.S. in particular has consciously pursued a strategy of driving wedges into the Soviet orbit and gaining economic and political influence in order to strike when the time is right to pull even entire states away from the Soviets. All this is openly discussed and brazenly defended, especially in the context of world war.

Poland has accumulated a massive debt to the West, exceeding \$28 billion. The red bourgeoisies of the Eastern bloc have invited the red, white and blue bourgeoisie to share their feast. Coupled with the economic crisis in the West, this has played an important part in Poland's particular economic problems. Politically, the West has bent every effort to plant the flag of "freedom" — that is, of Western-style imperialist democracy instead of Soviet-style revisionism.

The concern voiced by U.S. Secretary of State Haig that the "political experiment in Poland must continue" is indeed touching. It is also thoroughly transparent. After all, there was another "political experiment" a few years ago in Chile. In that situation, the U.S. didn't shed tears; it shed blood.

But at the same time, the U.S. posture has been double-edged in recent days. It has contained an important element of *approval* of the martial law set. This double-edged nature of U.S. policy is due to complex imperialist interests: on the one hand they definitely do not want the workers' struggle getting out of hand; on the other, they have openly worried that the Soviets will get away with suppressing it without paying enough of an international political price. In their cause, the U.S. has been aided immeasurably by the Catholic Church, with the Pope and the Cardinal of Poland appealing to the people not to "start a civil war," to "avoid bloodshed" and to obey the military.

Proletarian Revolution

In the midst of this cut-throat imperialist rivalry, the question that has been posed so sharply in Poland is the question facing the oppressed people



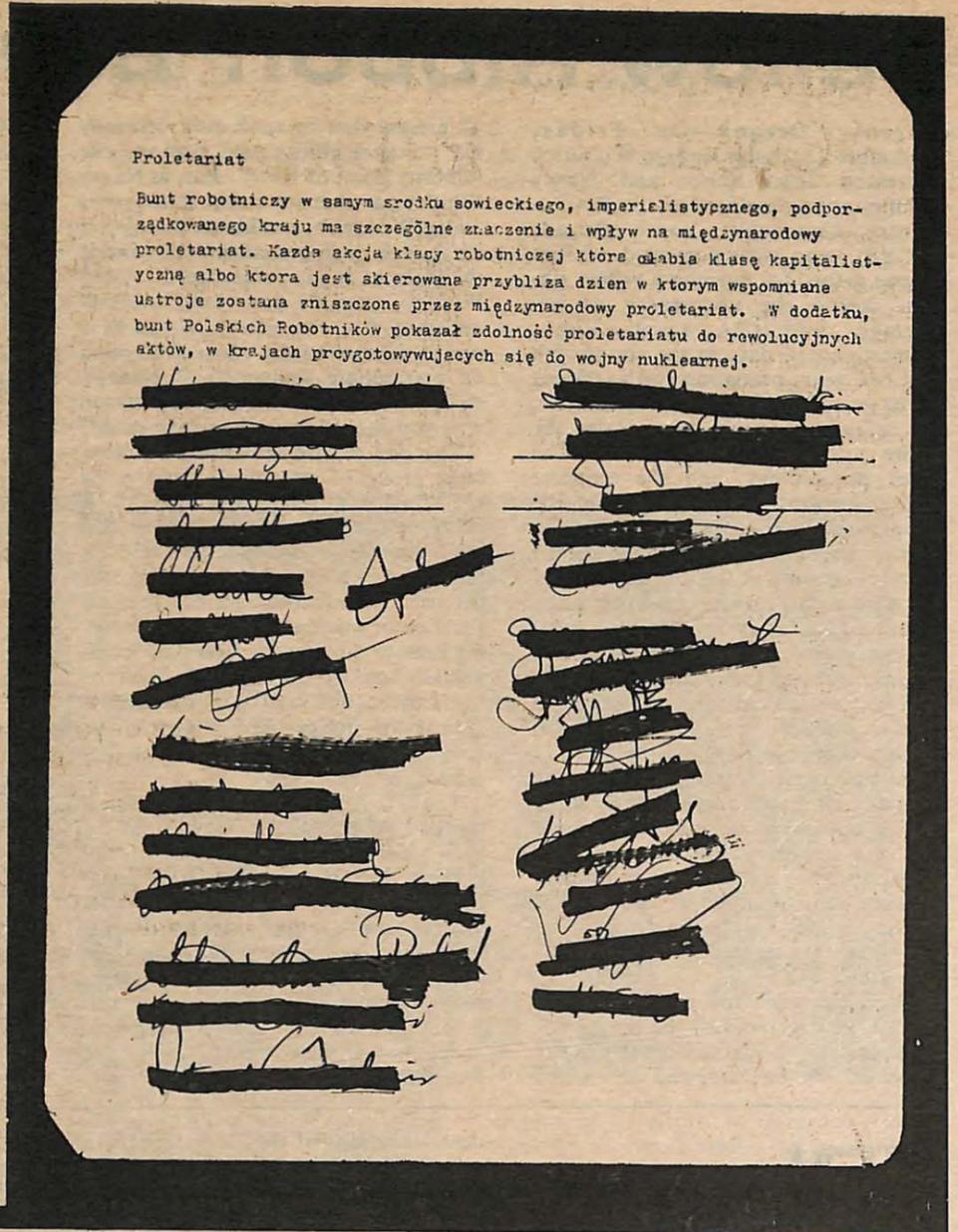
Gdansk, 1970 — During an upsurge of struggle, shipyard workers burn the city's Communist Party headquarters.

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Statement from Chicago Polish Workers

Right after martial law was declared in Poland, some *Revolutionary Worker* sellers went out into the Chicago Polish community (the largest outside of Warsaw) with the following statement in Polish. It is a paragraph taken from an August 22, 1980 *RW* article on the Polish workers' upsurge. This whole article, exposing the Polish revisionist rulers and the Soviet and U.S. imperialists, has also been translated into Polish and sold in the hundreds in Chicago. 39 Polish rebel workers have signed this message:

"This rebellion of workers in the heart of the Soviet imperialists' empire also has great significance for the international proletariat. Any actions of the working class and masses of people that weaken their own capitalist class or the imperialist superpowers, and, in any way, brings closer the day of their overthrow and destruction, serves the interest of the international proletariat. But even more concretely, this rebellion of the Polish workers has to be seen as a sign of the potential ability of the workers of the East or the West, and even in the superpowers themselves, to rise in revolution and thus prevent an imperialist-sponsored nuclear war, or to accomplish this revolutionary goal in the course of such a war." □



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over the whole world—*revolution and state power*. But for the seizure of power and the fundamental transformation of society to occur in Poland, there is a need for the complete overthrow of the existing order, and of all existing social conditions. In other words, the masses of people have come objectively up against the need for a proletarian revolution and a Marxist-Leninist, Maoist line to guide the revolution. This is true even if, ironically, many people engaged in the struggle think that they are rebelling *against* Marxism-Leninism and a Leninist state.

Who is going to run society? This question is not an abstraction or something invented by revolutionary communists. It is objectively posed right now by developments in Poland. Everyone—even bourgeois forces—is basically saying so.

In the absence of a real proletarian leadership and a Marxist-Leninist line, this question of power can only get resolved to the benefit of one or the other imperialist bloc. A proletarian revolution means concretely not only complete overthrow of the existing order and social conditions, but also a complete rupture with both imperialist blocs. And a proletarian revolution is the only way to bring this about. It can't be done with Western democracy. It certainly can't be done with the Catholic Church, or by nostalgia for the old days when Poland was ruled by the landed aristocracy (and at that time, for example, fought against the proletarian revolution in Russia when it was, in fact, a real revolution).

Revolutionary communism, proletarian revolution against bourgeois "communism" (and Western capitalism) is the only way forward; anybody who says anything else should be challenged to show how there can be a way forward out of this without taking that road.

But at the same time, the struggle in

Poland (or any other country) can't be isolated from the rest of the world, and revolutionaries have to proceed first by understanding the overall international situation and viewing things on a world plane. This stresses the importance of sharpening international developments. Poland shows how events in one country are bound up with the world situation, with the intensifying contradictions and struggle in the world, especially the increasing rivalry between the two imperialist blocs. This emphasizes the importance of real internationalism, not just as a fine idea but

concretely as the line guiding the actions of the masses of the people and the struggle of the proletariat in all countries.

Poland is a concentration point, a potential weak link in the chain of imperialism which a proletarian revolution might break. But the revolutionary forces are lagging behind. This shows the importance for people who are rebelling there—and those who support their rebellion—of grasping the centrality of the question of state power and the need for a Marxist-Leninist line.

As Lenin powerfully expressed it: "There is one, and only one, kind of real internationalism, and that is—working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in *one's own* country, and supporting (by propaganda, sympathy, and material aid) *this struggle*, this, and *only this*, line, in *every* country without

exception."

The present heroic attempts of the masses of Poland to break out, to find a solution, to organize their resistance must be supported. But, still more, events there show (again, even if not clearly understood) that objectively revolution needs a real Marxist-Leninist leadership and it needs serious preparation on every level. This is a lesson of great importance right now in every country. Even if there is some temporary suppression of the struggle of the Polish masses, the situation cannot long remain stable and calm. Poland is just one concentrated example of the fact of today that nowhere can things be put back in their previous order and stability restored. In Poland and the world in general, the future will not be calm and orderly; it will be full of upheaval, and the only road forward through all this is proletarian revolution. □

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