CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RCP, USA

Snapshots: 25 Years in the Vanguard

Part 1

The great upsurges of the 1960s forge a new generation of revolutionary fighters. Influenced by Maoist China, a new generation takes up Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Spring 1969—the Revolutionary Union, led by Bob Avakian, publishes Red Papers 1, calling for a new party of communist revolutionaries to lead proletarian revolution in the U.S.

October 1975 — The Revolutionary Communist Party is founded.

"The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA is a party of struggle. A party of slaves who are determined not to be slaves any longer."

Bob Avakian, Our Class Must Free Itself and All Mankind, 1976

Revolutionary communists go deep among the basic people, to organize the proletariat as the leading force. May First, International Worker’s Day, is reclaimed as a revolutionary day of struggle.

1969—RU defends Black Panthers who are under heavy police repression and builds links between striking Richmond oil workers and revolutionary currents of the San Francisco Bay Area. 1972—RU builds countrywide support for the Farah strikers of El Paso. Mid-1970s—the newly formed RCP plays a leading role within the defiant movement of coal miners who launch waves of wildcat strikes.

San Francisco 1978—The RU plays a key role in the rebirth of International Women’s Day

Philly, July 4, 1976—Led by BUC, 3,000 march against U.S. Bicentennial under the slogan, "We’ve carried the rub for 200 years. Let’s get them off our backs!"

Coal miners “Right to Strike” movement

African Liberation Day, Detroit, May 27, 1978
May 1, 1979 — First issue of weekly Revolutionary Worker appears in English and Spanish under headline: "Create Public Opinion...Seize Power."

After the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, anti-Maoists led by Deng Xiaoping seize power in China and restore capitalism. This coup marks major turning point for communists internationally.

Within the RCP, a major two-line struggle comes to a head. Chairman Bob Avakian leads victorious year-long struggle against a revisionist headquarters who want to abandon the revolutionary road.

November 1979 — Facing a possible 241 years in jail, Chairman Bob Avakian conducts a national speaking tour. Tens of thousands become involved in a struggle to support Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants. Chairman Avakian is forced into exile. Three years later, the government finally drops all charges on Chairman Avakian.

January 1979, Washington D.C. — Ten years before the infamous Tiananmen Square massacre, RCP opposes Deng Xiaoping and exposes his anti-people nature when Deng arrives to cement an alliance with the U.S. imperialists. A fierce street melee between 500 Maoist demonstrators and 1,000 cops creates an international incident. 78 Maoists are arrested, including Chairman Bob Avakian. Charges on Chairman Avakian mushroom to 25 felonies.
May 1st, 1980 — Across the country, May Day is celebrated with fierce battles and bold internationalism. In the following years, there are repeated clashes and revolutionary manifestos on International Worker’s Day.

In May 1980, the Communist Party of Peru (PCC) initiates People’s War. Four years later, PCC is among participating organizations to form the RIM.

Hot autumn, 1983. RCP organizes “World Without Imperialism Contingent” which travels to West Germany to join the sharp battles against the installation of U.S. first strike missiles in Europe.

March 12, 1984 — Formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is announced. RCP is among participating organizations.

Symbol of the RIM

"The words of the Communist Manifesto ring out all the more clearly today: 'The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.'" — Declaration of the RIM

1980s. The RCP boldly steps up revolutionary preparations and leads sharp opposition to escalating preparations for world war.

The 1983 Mass Protestation War Crimes Tribunal, called by the RCP, unites broad forces in the worldwide hearings that exposed the oppressions and aggressions of the U.S. system. RCP national spokespersons and Korean war resisters, Carl Sha (centered from left), testify at New York hearing.

"Resurgent America" carries out aggression in Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama. Important resistance movements oppose these imperialist moves. RW reporter Jack Gardner travels to Panama after U.S. invasion in 1989.

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As war preparations escalate against the Soviet Union, the U.S. ruling class builds up rabid right-wing forces—to impose conservative, law and order, religious, white supremacist, English-only, anti-women measures on the people. The RCP works with others to fight this reactionary path—including by helping to build organizations like Refuse and Resist! and La Resistencia.

The RCP trains people to reject patriotic war appeals from the imperialists. In the proletarian community of Richmond, California, a poll of 3,600 residents conducted by the San Francisco branch of the RCP asks: "If you knew that they (the nuclear powers) were about to push the button (start a nuclear war) within a few weeks, would you be willing to take up arms against the system and your own government to prevent this?" The result: 62% answer yes.

The collapse to the Soviet system involves the transformation of state capitalism to a more privatized Western-style capitalism. Armed with this understanding, Maoists around the world counter the bourgeois claim that "socialism has failed" and "communism is dead." RCP upholds communist vision of a liberated human society. Chairman Avakian writes his book Phony Communism Is Dead...Long Live Real Communism. Around the world the RIM slogan is: "Mao More Than Ever."

To Be Continued: Part 2, Next Week