DEFEAT STATEHOOD PLANS!

"In order for them to take away our homeland, they must first take away our lives!" That is the war cry of the Puerto Rican people. Puerto Ricans answer to the news that the Yankee imperialists are considering the possibility of enacting Puerto Rico as a "State" of the union. The people of Puerto Rico have a right to know what is going on at all about the Puerto Rican nation's potential and capacity to struggle. 77 years of continuous struggle against the economic, political and military control of their country by Yankee imperialists have tempered this heroic people. If the Yankee imperialists persist in their annexationist plans they are setting themselves at conflict at the hands of this Latin American country.

President Ford's announcement definitely establishes a new policy of the U.S. towards its colony, Puerto Rico. The purpose of this article is to explain the reasons for this change. Let us go book a little.

Since 1952, when the "Commonwealth" of Puerto Rico was established, until the early 1970's all sectors of the imperialist bourgeoisie declared themselves consistently in favor of this type of relations and statehood for Puerto Rico. This was no less in favor of the "Commonwealth" like the "Free, Associated State" as the best formula for the island's status, that in 1964 after the saner triumph of the "New Progressive Party" (PNP) party that advocates statehood for the island the U.S. bourgeoisie contradictedly declare that the fact that the statehooders were in power did not at all mean, for them, a change in relations. Before the 1973 elections in Puerto Rico. It was clear that the CIA was directly involved in the electoral order of events, millions of dollars had been provided by the "Popular Democratic Party" (PDP) which advocates the status quo to put it back in control of colonial government.

Today however, the PNP is again the party in control, with Carlos Romero Barcelo as the colonial governor. This is the same Romero Barcelo, mayor of San Juan in 1975, who was then denied entrance in People's China as part of a U.S. delegation of mayors -- clearly establishing China's firm stand against Puerto Rico's colonial status, which Romero Barcelo represented as a "U.S. mayor.).

Why do Yankee imperialists benefit from the so-called "Commonwealth" colonial status? These are some of the reasons:

1. While belonging to the U.S., but not being a part of the U.S. (such as the way in which the U.S. Super Puerto Rican ) status of the 20' s is a real paradise for Yankee investors--in Puerto Rico they make profits they run in the island, to the Puerto Rican, or U.S. government. After the "change of status" of 1952 tax exemption was maintained through a bill of the colonial congress, which allows 27 years in tax exemption to any Yankee investor who establishes a factory in Puerto Rico.

2. To keep Puerto Rico as a cheap source of labor is another weighty reason for the Yankee imperialists to maintain the "Commonwealth". According to the (unilateral) "agreements" between Puerto Rico and the U.S., any law which the U.S. Congress signs, applies there, unless congress decides otherwise. Naturally, one of the laws which Congress decided shouldn't apply, is the Federally established minimum wage. This means that the average worker in P.R. gets between 5/3 and 1/2 the salary of a worker in the U.S. doing the same job. Add to this 30% unemployment, a workforce which is less than 15% unionized, all of whom are grouped within "international" unions such as the Teamsters, etc.), and you can see why Commonwealth colonial status is preferable to Yankee capitalists. If P.R. were a state, Federal tax and minimum wage laws would apply.

3. Imperialism holds almost absolute economic, political and military control of Puerto Rico. More than 50% of its industry is owned by Yankee imperialists. The biggest buyer of North American goods in this continent 13% of the land is taken up by U.S. military installations. 39

The military aspect is of, course, very important. There are airforce, naval, and atomic bases in P.R. The military capability of these bases is so great, that P.R. is definitely a key point of military strategy in the case of world war, or a war of aggression like those the Yankee imperialists so often unleash. Also, her geographic position near Cuba, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Panama Canal, etc., makes of P.R. the seat of Yankee military power in Latin America. From there, came the greatest part of the troops which invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965. There, Green Berets are trained in anti- guerrilla warfare. During the Viet Nam war many planes were sent from the now dismantled Ramsey airport, to bomb, and deep napalm on the barren Vietnamese people.

4. Furthermore, all types of espionage, cultural aggression as well as intervention by the CIA, in the internal affairs of Latin American countries is coordinated from Puerto Rico soil. Military plots such as the aggression against the Cuban people in 1961. The Bay of Pigs, the overthrow of the Popular Unity Government in Chile, are part and parcel of the military and political role which Puerto Rico plays in the strategic plans of the imperialists.

Another question then follows: If it all works so well for the Yankee imperialists, why are they now talking about making Puerto Rico a state? We will try to answer this briefly by dealing with all the aspects of the question.

The current international situation: The principle contradiction in the world today is between the two superpowers - the United States and the Soviet Union on the one hand, and the oppressed and impoverished people of the world on the other. The people of the third world and their struggles for liberation is the principal force shaping the world today. Revolution is the main trend in the world today. This trend can be measured by the slogans of Cheddi Kamoo "Countries want independence, Nations want liberation, People want revolution". As long as Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, and an integral part of the third world, in also an internal part of this force, moving history forward.

In their struggle to dominate the world each of the two superpowers try to maintain a tight grip on areas under their control while at the same time gaining influence in the areas under the control of the other super-power. In Puerto Rico, for example, the principal contradiction against whom all the forces that can be united must be united is Yankee imperialism.

The Soviet Social Imperialists, on the other hand, are attempting to increase their influence. Proof of this fact is the Conference in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico, which was held in Havana in 1975. (See our analysis of the Havana Conference). The influence of the Soviet revisionists in Puerto Rico is principally exercised through the revisionist Puerto Rican Socialist Party (P.S.P.) who holds the same theories of peaceful transition to socialism, the "Divided Nation theory, The multi-party vanguard, etc.).

The fact that Yankee imperialism is on the decline is a great concern to Yankee imperialists. The time in which they could parlay themselves as the Muslim All of the world ended a long time ago. In the 1960's the tiny Korean nation decisively defeated the giant North American imperialists. They were kicked out of Cuba in 1959 by the Cuban revolution. Fortunately this revolution was betrayed and today Cuba is a Soviet neo-colony. In the case of peoples like, Cuba, Cambodia and Viet-Nam inflicted a costly military defeat which sent the imperialists reeling from Indo-China. Doubtlessly, a small nation can defeat a large one if it is willing to struggle and sacrifice. The Yankee imperialists are fully aware of the fact that Puerto Rico is struggling to be freed and will continue to do so until victory.

The danger of a third world war being fought over colonialism, either revolution or war will bring about revolution. No matter in which of the two direction events unfold, Puerto Rico is an aspiring "third world" country. If P.R. becomes a state, the P.S.P., which controls it, is willing to do anything to keep it, including complete annexion.

The Soviet Social Imperialists, on the other hand, are equally willing to give Puerto Rico what they want in order to gain another power base in the Caribbean.

The danger of a third World War. Its strategic military value, the weakness of imperialism, the deep economic crisis which the United States is undergoing, the upsurge of the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples, the growing political power of rich oil capital in Puerto Rico, as well as the shadow of Soviet Social imperialism, is what motivates the Yankee imperialists to move to better secure their colonial possession. Puerto Rican Revolutions, therefore, becomes a threat to the enemy which has oppressed them since 1818 (The U.S.), they don't allow Soviet imperialism, disguised as socialist, to meet them through the back door. We are aware of the existence of serious Marxist-Leninist Groups that are fighting for the building of a Marxist-Leninist-Communist Party of the Puerto Rican Proletariat as their principal task. This party is to lead the United Front of all revolutionary classes (with the Proletariat as their vanguard) as well as the people's army, in a long and protracted war which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism, which will defeat Yankee imperialism.

The attempts of the Yankee imperialists to annex Puerto Rico will only hasten this process.

We soon will print the last article of our series on the Right of Self-Determination for Puerto Rico. In the we will put forward our concrete tasks in that struggle as well as a tactical plan which will help us carry them out.

FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PUERTO RICAN REVOLUTION

1. Analysis of the Political Declaration of P.S.P. (Published by L.P.R.)
2. Analysis of the Havana Conference (Resistance, Vol. 6, No. 23)
3. Self-Determination for the Puerto Rican Nation (Revolution, Vol. 7, No. 3) and Vol. 8, No. 11 - Part II
5. '30 September Journeys (Resistance, Vol. 6, No. 12)
6. On the Puerto Rican National Independence Dicta-
7. On the October 27 Rally at Madison Square

9. On the October 27 Rally at Madison Square