U.S. IMPERIALISM OUT OF PUERTO RICO! SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN NATION!

The exploited and oppressed Puerto Rican masses have a long, rich history of militant and heroic struggle against imperialism and for self-determination. The revolutionary traditions of fighting Spanish imperialism have continued under the domination of the U.S. imperialists since 1898. From the very beginning when General Nelson A. Miles landed U.S. Imperialist troops in Guanica, Puerto Rico there was armed resistance. The struggle against U.S. Imperialism has continuously shown itself whether in the form of strikes, demonstrations or armed attacks such as the attack on Blair House in 1950 and on the Congress in 1954.

Puerto Rican People Oppose Imperialism

Oppression, And Exploitation

All the bourgeois propaganda about the "passivity" and "docility" of the Puerto Rican people clearly negates the historically proven fact that "where there is oppression, there is resistance." The Puerto Rican people have stood firmly opposed to all forms of imperialist oppression and exploitation, in fact have historically led down their lives as in La Masacre de Ponce where hundreds of people were murdered by police as they marched in favor of independence. The Puerto Rican people have consistently repulsed the cultural genocide of U.S. Imperialism by fighting to maintain their cultural traditions and language in the face of continued imposition of the English language, by rejecting U.S. citizenship which was in fact imposed as a means to quell the revolutionary spirit of the masses, and to legalize the drafting of Puerto Ricans to fight in World War I. The drafting of Puerto Rican men to fight in Imperialist war was to be used as cannon fodder, to fight against other oppressed and exploited peoples such as in the Korean War and the Vietnam War has been historically struggled against by the Puerto Rican people. The U.S. bourgeoisie propagates their national chauvinism—consistently raising that "Puerto Rico is too small and too poor to make it without the United States." They must raise this flag in order to try and cover their blatant Imperialist domination of Puerto Rico. In order to quell the revolutionary, militant fighting spirit of the masses by spreading pessimism and demoralization.

The Imperialist Bloodsuckers Are Despised

The World Over

These imperialist bloodsuckers are despised the world over throughout the world wherever there is Coca-Cola, Exxon, Chase Manhattan and Mac Donald's there are signs U.S. Imperialism Out Yankee Go Home! reflecting the hatred of the world's people for U.S. Imperialism. In the United Nations as a result of the struggle led by China and Albania and supported by many of the Third World countries taking an anti-imperialist stand at the U.N. Committee on Decolonization was forced under pressure to recognize that Puerto Rico indeed is a classic colony of U.S. Imperialism. The U.S. Imperialists today find themselves hard pressed having suffered defeat in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and are continuing to suffer defeat throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and so they are desperately clinging to their neo-colonies and colonies such as Puerto Rico as part of their contention and collusion with the other Imperialist superpower the Soviet Union.

In order to do this more effectively Ford recently raised the question of statehood for Puerto Rico a question which has historically, periodically been raised in order to ideologically prepare the masses for the day when they actually do carry it out.

The U.S. bourgeoisie is united strategically that is they all unite on keeping Puerto Rico under imperialist domination—where they differ is tactically—that is, what is the best way to accomplish this—under the present "Commonwealth status or as a state. Presently the U.S. bourgeoisie gets 17 years "tax holidays"—companies can operate for 17 years tax free—and after the 17 years they change their name and have another 17 tax free years—it boils down to a completely tax free status. They have the "benefits" of not having to pay minimum wages—due to no minimum wage laws and the low level of organization among the working class. Puerto Rico is used as a military base, 13% of the arable land is used as military bases and Culebra for example is used for target practice. So clearly the U.S. imperialists are doing all they can to keep Puerto Rico in their greedy clutches, so that they can continue squeezing out superprofits by exploiting the working class in Puerto Rico, stealing its natural resources and dumping all their surplus products. Puerto Rico is the fifth largest consumer in the world of U.S. goods. Simultaneously, they carry out their ideological preparation. They have carried out systematic cultural genocide in Puerto Rico—by imposing the English language more and more and by im
posing all chiefs foreign – replacing traditional eating places with burgers, King – replacing the people with long sleeve shirts and sweaters, leather jackets and boots in 90° weather! Bring in bourgeoisie youth our culture, drugs, prostitution, homosexuality. These are all the reasons of the decadent influence of U.S. imperialism. They have carried out a historical process of cultural genocide, trying to change the national character of Puerto Ricans and break the revolutionary spirit of the masses, preparing the basis for any plebiscite they may have on Puerto Rican independence. They have been preparing for this for many Puerto Ricans to migrate to the U.S., bringing in bourgeois Americans and reactionary petty-bourgeois and bourgeois Cubans as residents of Puerto Rico.

The Party Leads The Struggle For Self-Determination, National Liberation, And Socialism

The coups and bourgeois parties P.P.D. and P.N.P. supposedly have different programs – PPM for statehood (the Party presently in power) and PPD for “Commonwealth,” but both serve the same bourgeois class interest. PPD for example the ‘Democratic’ party – historically has tried to sap the revolutionary spirit of the masses by raising the question of “freedom”! This reflected the revolutionary demands of the masses – but the PPD was incapable, and in fact never intended to struggle for or implement them. Both these parties are tied to the tail of the bourgeoisie and are therefore incapable of providing any real solution to the exploitation and oppression of the Puerto Rican people, because in fact the struggle for self-determination, national liberation and socialism can only be led by a genuine Communist Party.

PSP Works Hand In Hand With The Comprador Bourgeois Parties

Working hand in hand with these bourgeois parties the PSP and PPD is the treacherous, the oh so treacherous bourgeois party, the PSP – revisionists to the bone. Not satisfied with having propagated the revisionist absurdity “Bicentennial Without Colonies” they have rendered this more profound with their latest revisionist peaceful transition to socialism slogan – “Christmas Without Iberia.” The PSP’s Peace Party is in the revisionist theory of peaceful transition to socialism, cutting the heart out of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought, covering up that the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat is antagonistic, in fact trying to reconcile this irreconcilable contradiction, spreading illusions as if the U.S. would peacefully release the political prisoners. Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Andres Figueroa, Rafael Cancel and Irving Flores remain in jail until this day because they have refused all the peaceful deals the bourgeoisie has tried to make with them – trying to get them to renounce the liberation of Puerto Rico – they remain in prison today because they refuse to be bought, reflecting very clearly the antagonism of the contradiction Lenin long ago polemicized against trying to obscure the antagonistic contradiction between the oppressor and oppressed nations, he drew out – “…the petty-bourgeoisies, believing in ‘peaceful capitalism’, continues to this day advance all these demands in a utopian way, without seeing the class struggle and the fact that it has become intensified under democracy. The idea of a peaceful union of equal nations under imperialism, which deceives the people, and which the Kautskyists advocate, is precisely of this nature. As against this philistine, opportunist utopian the programme of Social-Democracy must point out that under imperialism the division of nations into oppressed and oppressed ones is a fundamental most important. (Lenin on the National and Colonial Questions). Work to build a hand in hand with the bourgeois parties, continuing in the tradition of the 1st and the 2nd International, many of the PSP revisionists recently in the selections that took place in Puerto Rico voted for the statehood Party under the guise that having a governor who is for statehood, will make the choice been statehood and independence clearer. This line is another form of the revisionist peaceful transition to socialism line – make conditions worse for the masses and maybe independence and socialism will be replaced! Clearly there is a need for a genuine Communist Party in Puerto Rico that will lead the struggle of the masses against U.S. imperialism and for national liberation and socialism, a genuine Party that will lead the struggle to smash the treacherous revisionist PSP and all other forms of opportunism.

Fight For The Voluntary Union Of The Oppressed And Oppressor Nations

The responsibility of the U.S. proletariat and its developing Bolivarian Party is to consistently support the right of the Puerto Rican people for self-determination, including political accession – by carrying out support including material aid for the national liberation of Puerto Rico – by continuing to build our Party, continuing to build our Party, including political accession as the chief form of activity and in fact carrying out propaganda and political exposures on the question of the Puerto Rican people, exposing the bourgeois politicians and for national liberation and socialism, a genuine Party that will lead the struggle to smash the treacherous revisionist PSP and all other forms of opportunism.

LIBERATION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN NATION!