

# NORTH AMERICA NEWS

CANADA

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## A QUOTATION FROM CHAIRMAN MAO

If a man wants to succeed in his work, that is, to achieve the anticipated results, he must bring his ideas into correspondence with the laws of the objective external world; if they do not correspond, he will fail in his practice. After he fails, he draws his lessons, corrects his ideas to make them correspond to the laws of the external world, and can thus turn failure into success; this is what is meant by "failure is the mother of success" and "a fall into the pit, a gain in your wit".

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125. REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS HAVE A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM

Providence, August 20, 1972, (NAMN)--The following is the full text of the report delivered by the spokesman of RI Student Movement at the COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM forum held on June 10, 1972, as reprinted in "Rhode Island Student", Vol. III, No. 8.

Comrades and Friends,

This "Combat Cultural Fascism" forum, attended by progressive students and intellectuals is a very significant event in the history of the revolutionary work in Rhode Island. From an overall viewpoint it shows the cooperation of many people in planning and laying the groundwork for this forum to intensify the struggle against fascism in the sphere of culture and ideology. From the standpoint of building revolutionary organization, it reflects a growing sense of discipline based on the desire to serve the people and, in the spirit of the Internationalists and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, a desire to come under the supervision of the masses and to be open and forthright in developing ideological struggle and the raising of political consciousness among them.

The development of Rhode Island Student Movement has been a long struggle. In the earliest stages of our development, the struggle against "bourgeois hang-ups" appeared in many forms. The most prominent form being anarchism. There were certain people who wanted a "tea-group" instead of a revolutionary student movement, and others from a so-called "left" position who took up the practice of almost hitting people over the head if they didn't fit up to their metaphysical standards of what a revolutionary was. Both of these positions were rooted in opposition to our most basic need of strengthening the organization through building close ties with the people. Those who opposed this task--to strengthen the organization in order to arouse the masses--began to do two things. They would throw up their arms and blame the masses for their own mistakes, or they would carry out an adventurist style of work, i.e. jumping ahead of the present

level of organization. The result of both of these practices was isolation from the people. The struggle against both tendencies, particularly the rightist "tea-group" tendency, culminated in a split in RISM in April of 1971 during which a handful of backward elements, attacking the correct line of building a serious, disciplined organization through revolutionary practice and opposing all forms of anarchism, walked out calling RISM "bureaucratic". These people have not been heard from since.

After the split, serious summing up of the history of our movement began. Public meetings were held to pursue this question. A great deal of discussion and struggle followed about the lessons to be learned from our past successes and failures, and about the tasks at hand.

We saw the main task at hand to have two aspects. We saw the necessity to start from scratch and, under the slogan "divide the forces to arouse the masses," to develop basic discussion groups on the general question of American culture. The experience gained through practice during this time was instrumental in the development of the study and discussion groups which are here today.

The second aspect of our main task was to develop a workable program. We needed to develop a general program based upon the experience of revolutionary students throughout the country in the American Student Movement under the leadership of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist), and on our own experience. After working throughout the summer of



1971 on this program, it was published in August. This program stressed two major points. The student movement must be anti-imperialist. This is the main trend in the world today. Student organizations that do not grasp this will be of no consequence in the mass movement. The second point is that the anti-fascist struggle of the American working class is our own struggle. The American people have nothing without revolution, and there can be no revolution without a revolutionary political party. The building of such a party, and preparation of public opinion for it, must be our task also.

In January of 1972, the CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM was announced. This campaign made concrete the general tasks of the program which were:

--to wage class struggle in the classroom against all anti-scientific anti-working class ideas as well as fascist classroom restrictions. We saw the necessity for representing the proletarian revolutionary line in the schools and universities.

--to support mass democratic, anti-fascist organizations and develop fraternal relations with them, and to develop basic mass democratic study and discussion groups in order to further strengthen our ties among the masses.

--to hold mass-democratic meetings on political topics in order to popularize and develop our struggle against fascism.

--to distribute works of great communists and support and distribute organs of propaganda of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) and other fraternal revolutionary organizations, and,

--to produce and distribute Rhode Island Student to sum up developments within and report on the growing struggle against fascism in the university and across the country as a whole, in order to raise the level of this struggle.

At this time we began a protracted campaign, the first of its kind in R.I. This was the CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM. The purpose of this campaign has been to strengthen the unity of all progressive people in Rhode Island and across the country as a whole, in order to raise the level of this struggle from one of understanding fascism to ACTIVELY UNITING WITH OTHERS IN ORDER TO ORGANIZE OUR OPPOSITION TO FASCISM.

The development of this campaign, and particularly the planning of this forum today, shows that a significant attack against anarchism has been made. This struggle that has been with us since the earliest days of our organization still continues. We are now planning the further development of our Political Program based on the wealth of experience gained this year in building organization at many levels. With CONSTANT SUMMING UP OF EXPERIENCE and DEEPENING TIES AMONG THE PEOPLE we will certainly live up to the task of participating in building a true revolutionary party of the American working class, a revolutionary party which will arouse the masses and lead us in the struggle against American fascism.

Fascist culture is not a mystery or the product of some ill-defined "human nature".

It is the culture offered to us and perpetuated by all the decaying institutions in this country which have no ties to anyone but United States Imperialism--the "mass" media, the churches, educational institutions, etc. Our country is now controlled by US monopoly capitalism. The "freedom of the individual" as promoted in our culture is nothing other than the freedom of the individual to serve this end. Any freedoms taken beyond that point are suppressed by those who depend on US imperialism for their existence. When one accepts and supports the status quo one cannot promote ideas which help to clarify issues, generalize experience and bring about real and long-lasting social change. This cannot be done because these ideas will help us to overthrow fascism, the parasitic rule of US monopoly capitalism.

Fascist culture attempts to prevent us from doing three things. It attempts to prevent us from seeing our own position and the nature of our enemy clearly in the context of history and social progress, it attempts to prevent us from taking any action based on a thoroughgoing analysis of American class society, and creates cultural roadblocks to unity under the slogan of "bourgeois individualism" --an individualism based on egocentrism.

The soul of fascist culture is the obscuring and denying of the role of the masses in history. The American working class is rising, and is very willing and capable of seizing state power from the small handful of US monopoly capitalists and their agents. Revolution is an historical inevitability and the only solution to our problems.

We students and intellectuals can not sit and dream up a genuine people's culture in the midst of modern American fascism. We can prepare the groundwork for a truly democratic America and a genuine people's culture only by destroying the decaying culture and ideology of the exploiting classes which have ruled us. This will help prepare material conditions for the final overthrow of fascism in all spheres of American society.

This forum to COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM could by no means be the final word on cultural fascism. Combatting cultural fascism means taking up the world outlook of the international proletariat as our own--the outlook of just struggle, principled unity on the basis of solving concrete problems, and revolution. We must change ourselves. The struggle against fascism goes on within us and without us. It is particularly intense among students and intellectuals where the old worn out carrot of a bourgeois career is still held out to us. To COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM is to break through the bindings of a culture which can offer us nothing but consumption and decay, self-service and, in the long run, acceptance and submission to fascism.

The fact that we have come here together signifies the beginning of a real attack on fascist culture. We are not sitting alone somewhere contemplating the cosmos. There is no "individual salvation". In the face of organized fascist oppression --OUR MAIN WEAPON IS UNITY.

Today we are uniting on the basis of exposing and repudiating fascist culture. This is a tremendous basis of unity. Fascist culture would have us asking "what can you do for me?" or, "how can I be amused a little longer?" We have no use for questions like this. We want to ORGANIZE TO CHANGE THE WORLD, not to discuss it endlessly or dissect it. Revolutionary students and intellectuals have a great role to play in the American people's struggle against fascism. The American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) has called upon us to take up the struggle in the cultural and ideological sphere. This is our own struggle. Friends and supporters of the Rhode Island Student Movement from all over Rhode Island have come together in the course of a common struggle to sum up experience, clarify lines, and learn from each other's experience in exposing and repudiating fascist culture and in building mass-democratic, anti-fascist organization-- the complete anti-thesis of what fascism offers us.

This forum is being held at a great time in history. The economy of US imperialism is approaching total breakdown due to the development of its internal contradictions. Competition between the US and advanced capitalist countries is growing more and more intense. Anti-imperialist revolution is developing and winning ever-increasing victories in the face of imperialist oppression and exploitation.

The American people are seeing the true nature of their oppressors as the US government falls more and more heavily on the force of arms to maintain its tottering rule. Greater oppression will only hasten the development of the revolutionary political consciousness among our people. The American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) has taken up the task of building a revolutionary party based upon Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in order to lead the American people in their struggle against fascism and for socialism. Chairman Mao teaches that "A single spark can start a prairie fire". Our prairie fire will be the mass-democratic, anti-fascist revolution of the American working class and people. The spark that we are creating is the spark of mass democracy. With deep ties among the people and the weapon of mass democracy, our oppressors will only become more isolated and frantic until the American people rise up and sweep them away in a revolutionary storm.

end item

126. ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT (M-L) AT R.I. STUDENT MOVEMENT FORUM TO COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM

Providence, August 20, 1972, (NAMN)--The following is the full text of the statement given by a representative of ACWM(ML) at the R.I. Student Movement forum to

Combat Cultural Fascism, as reprinted in R.I. Student, Vol. III, No. 8. A representative of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) addressed the progressive students, workers, and professionals gathered for the evening session of the Forum.

He began by speaking on three points that were repeated often throughout the day's discussion group presentations, emphasizing their political significance in light of our task today of arousing the masses against American fascism and through this, building the revolutionary Party of the working class and people, based on Mao Tsetung Thought, to lead the anti-fascist struggle.

The three points were: 1) the question of participation and unity, 2) the relationship between objective and subjective, and 3) how a small and weak force can grow to defeat a large but decaying force.

Concerning the first point, the speaker stated that conscious participation in finding out about things goes against everything the bourgeoisie teaches us. Through conscious participation alone, can we come to know the nature of things. He pointed out that we'd actually know very little today about revolution, communism, or the People's Republic of China if we hadn't participated consciously in the act of finding out about these things. He went on to say that conscious participation in struggle on a principled basis of unity with others is the key to opposing and thwarting social fascism (socialism in words, fascism in deeds) within our organization as well as fascism in general.

Concerning the second point, the speaker noted that fascist logic tells us that our general experience cannot be systematized and analysed in order to be used to further understand the world and change it. Fascist logic says that experience is merely disunited fragments of what goes on in the lives of millions of people, that understanding it is a matter of personal taste or definition and that experience cannot be summed up objectively. He went on to explain that fascist logic is incorrect because it fails to see the subjective aspect of our experience in relation to the objective situation. Our subjective experience is living, growing, struggling and building organization must be aligned to objective developments in the world. We must see our own experience in light of the fact that REVOLUTION IS THE MAIN TREND IN THE WORLD TODAY, and we must act in accordance with the general world revolutionary developments and needs, if we are to be victorious in defeating American fascism.

The ACWM comrade dwelled on the third point for some time, stressing that to correctly assess our weaknesses and strengths, we must fully grasp the truth that a small and weak, but correctly oriented force, can grow to defeat a large but dying force. He said that although we are small in number, we represent what is new and growing as opposed to what is



old, decaying and dying. And although our size is presently small, we are by no means alone, nor impotent. There are other such groups across America, directly under the leadership of ACWM (M-L) or inspired by the work of ACWM (M-L) that are grasping the need to arouse the masses of Americans against the growing fascism of American rulers, and who are actively working to build a Party that will lead us in our struggles. (News and reports of these groups can be read in NORTH AMERICA NEWS). All organizations from basic discussion groups formed to solve actual problems among people, to wider scale political organizations like RISM and activities like discussions, forums and campaigns, work to create an atmosphere in which ideas contend, contradict, get resolved and spread among the people, becoming a material force in changing the world.

An analogy was then developed between the ancient dinosaurs who ruled the pre-mammal earth, feeding off nature and producing very little and today's US imperialists who feed off the labors of the world's working and oppressed people, produce nothing themselves except slave laws, slave culture, and slave economy. As the conditions on the earth's surface changed making it difficult for the dinosaurs to live with the activity of small mammals, destroying the reptiles' ability to reproduce, so with ourselves today. We are small but active revolutionary forces destroying the imperialists ability to spread fascist and slave ideas. And as the conditions in the world change, becoming excellent for revolution and hopeless for reaction, our activity will develop to the extinction of bourgeois rule and the establishment of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in America.

Rhode Island Student Movement's campaign to "COMBAT CULTURAL FASCISM" must be seen, he said, in light of the larger War of Annihilation On the Cultural Front. In military terms, we are involved not in a war of attrition where the two sides are equally matched and battle it out till the complete defeat of one and the complete victory of the other, but in a war in which we start out small, win where we can and learn from our failures, annihilating the enemy in a protracted way.

\* Finally, the comrade dealt with the importance of recognizing the existence of fascism in the US today, that fascism is not merely something going on during the thirties and forties, but that American fascism has developed and now enslaves us. In the final analysis, it is only through developing struggle to defeat fascism, under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, can we be free. Communism is the direct opposite of fascism, and it's in building one that the other is destroyed. In this regard, the speaker warned that the revisionists will try to negate the force of MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT and confuse the people of the nature of fascism in order to salvage imperialism. He read this quotation from the Red Book of Chairman Mao:

"Whoever wants to know a thing has no way of doing so except by coming in contact with it, that is, by living (practicing)

in its environment...If you want knowledge, you must take part in the changing of reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change the pear by eating it yourself...If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution. All genuine knowledge originates in direct experience."

The talk was ended on the note that everything comes down to practice in building organization and in arousing the masses. We will come to know more about revolution only by increasing our participation in revolutionary struggles.

"Our task today is to continue to develop the work of arousing the masses and to take very seriously the sacred internationalist duty we have to BUILD THE PARTY based on MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT. Comrades and friends, our march will be a long one. Let us begin the long march to destroy the fascist enemy in the United States:

ORGANIZE TO CHANGE THE WORLD!  
AROUSE THE MASSES! BUILD THE PARTY!  
DEATH TO FASCISM!  
LONG LIVE THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST WORKERS MOVEMENT (ML)!  
LONG LIVE CHAIRMAN MAO!  
A LONG LIFE TO CHAIRMAN MAO!

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