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Struggle Halts Maximum Sentence

Criminal Verdict Hits Moody Park 3!

Just as the people will never forgive or forget the murder of Joe Torres, people will never forgive or forget this verdict.



Houston, Texas—Friday, May 11, 1979, at 6:35 p.m. in the Harris County Court, a crime was committed. That crime was the verdict in the trial of the Moody Park 3. Travis Morales guilty of felony riot. Mara Youngdahl guilty of felony riot. Tom Hirschi guilty of misdemeanor riot. "This is the kind of injustices that people rose up against on Cinco de Mayo," Travis' voice filled the courtroom as the pigs dragged him out.

Monday, May 14, 1979. Shortly before 4 p.m. the jury returned from deliberations. According to Texas court rules, it is considered proper to rise for the jury. Nobody moved. Judge Jo Kegans croaked, "Will the defendants please rise" for the sentencing, and the Moody Park 3 and the courtroom filled with supporters rose as one. The rebellion and all who stood with it had been put on trial. The sentence: Travis Morales, five years probation and a \$5,000 fine; Mara Youngdahl, five

years probation and a \$4,000 fine; Tom Hirschi, a \$1,000 fine.

The same jury that found the three guilty also did the sentencing, and their decisions reflected the powerful impact of social forces which pulled the jury in opposite directions—the power of the capitalist state and the power of the people's movement, and the jury's own vacillation in the face of this. The state got the guilty verdict it wanted—a guilty verdict against the Houston Rebellion, but for now they have not been able to throw the Moody Park 3 into prison as they viciously sought to do.

This trial has been from beginning to end a stunning exposure of the stinking sewer of American "justice." As Travis said at a press conference after the sentencing, "We are outraged that we ever had to go to trial. In the last three weeks, it's become crystal clear that the only reason we were on trial was for raising what the prosecutor called the dangerous, destructive slogan, Justice

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REVOLUTION IN IRAN



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER
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WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER IN EL SALVADOR?

San Salvador, El Salvador—As millions of Americans watched the evening news on May 8th, they witnessed government troops in San Salvador, El Salvador, step out from behind their vehicles, lower their weapons and take aim. The target was a crowd of 300 unarmed and peaceful demonstrators who were sitting on the steps of the city's Metropolitan Cathedral. A volley exploded and the cameras shot back and forth between the troops who fired again and again, and the people whose bodies were being torn up by the bullets of these murdering dogs.

The demonstrators had gathered in support of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc, an organization which had seized the cathedral as well as the French and Costa Rican Embassies demanding the release from government clutches of several leaders of their organization.

Two days after the massacre 20,000 marched in a funeral procession, expressing not only mass outrage at these killings but seething anger at the government and the wretched conditions of life in El Salvador today. As the footage of this cold-blooded act was beamed into American homes, the message accompanying it was clearly that another one of these typical Latin American dictators, unpredictable and self-seeking, was acting in no unusual manner. But what the cameras didn't show was the hand of U.S. imperialism directing the fingers on the triggers.

El Salvador is a hell-hole for the people and a paradise for imperialism. For decades, El Salvador has existed as a neo-colony of the U.S. It is dominated

by U.S. and secondarily Japanese and European capital—100 corporations whose interests determine that the masses will be repressed. Far and away the largest investor, the U.S. controls the economy of El Salvador and has reduced it to near total dependence—for example, by forcing San Salvadorian peasants to grow cash crops for export like coffee and cotton, while most of the food must be imported. And while El Salvador has the most developed industry of any Central American country, it has one of the lowest standards of living. The benefits of this haven for runaway shops from the U.S. go to the imperialists and not to the people, who make 30¢ an hour if they're "lucky" enough to have a job at all. And over half of the population is not.

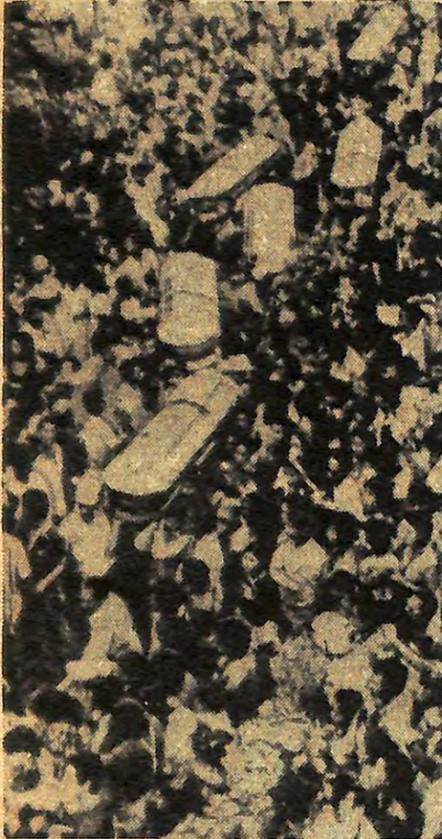
To protect all this from the people, the latest lackey in El Salvador is General Humberto Romero, who was bought and paid for by the U.S. He was Carter's hand-picked candidate in the elections of 1977, which he won due, in the main, to the "votes" he received from thousands of people in the rural areas who had been dead for years! Thousands demonstrated in San Salvador the night of the election protesting this fraud, and Romero ordered the troops to open fire, killing more than 200. In 1978 he effectively banned all publications and organizations which were opposed to the regime. The prisons were filled with political prisoners, and torture was commonplace.

In an attempt to slicken up its image,

this same year the U.S. cut off direct military aid to El Salvador along with other Central American countries, under the catchword of "human rights." But this certainly did not stop American weapons from getting into the hands of Romero, as Carter would have us believe. El Salvador, along with Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, formed an umbrella organization called CONDECA (Central American Defense Council) which now gets its military aid from Israel. And where does Israel get the guns? From the U.S., of course. Further, the agreement between Israel and the U.S. calls for U.S. approval of any funneling of these weapons to another country.

In El Salvador, these weapons go to the army and paramilitary organizations like ORDEN (Order), which is paid by the government to be a shock force against the peasant organizations. In March 1978, ORDEN attacked peasant demonstrations, murdering 29, wounding 50, arresting 100's, and forcing thousands to flee their homes. But as the 20,000 who poured into the streets last week show, this brutal repression is only giving rise to greater resistance by the El Salvadorian people.

Just as in Iran where the murder of thousands only brought millions more to see the bloody hand of U.S. imperialism and rise up against it, so in El Salvador the murder of demonstrators is already coming back to haunt Romero and his masters. And as conditions for the masses worsen, more nightmares are definitely in store for these criminals. ■



Funeral Protest for slain demonstrators in San Salvador.

"Next Time We'll be Violent"

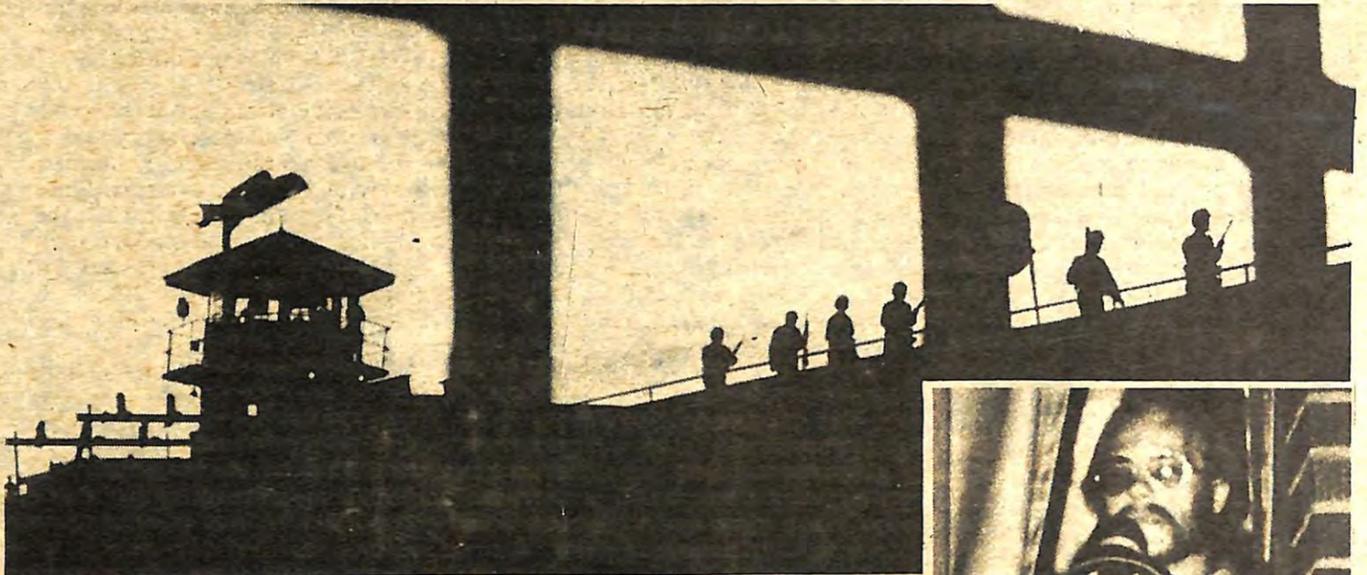
REBELLION AT WALLA WALLA PRISON

Walla Walla, Washington, May 9—State troopers in full riot gear line the walls. Guards with stripped down carbines pace while the prison TAC squad practices formation on the lawn. The governor makes plans to airlift in the National Guard as every pig in eastern Washington converges on Walla Walla state penitentiary.

Inside the walls nothing less than a festival of the oppressed is under way. Three white inmates have taken ten hostages and seized control of one of the buildings. Prison officials admit to a support rally of 400 inmates in the part of the yard the prisoners call "people's park." How many more are truly there is unknown. In righteous defiance they are shouting and chanting, demonstrating in support of the bold action of their fellow inmates.

"I am not a slave, I am not an animal, I am not sub-human," said one of the three in a telephone interview. Another, Shane Green, called the seizure a "political action" as he presented their list of thirty-five grievances. "We want to call the public's attention to the oppressive conditions in the prison." Their list of grievances covers all aspects of life in this capitalist hellhole.

Carl Harp, one of the three, declared, "Crime is a community problem that plagues the poor and working-class people. We live in a country with a bureaucracy that's fascist." Describing the vicious beatings he received while in segregation, he said, "There ain't no rich people in there."



"I am not a slave. I am not an animal. I am not sub-human," said one Walla Walla prisoner.

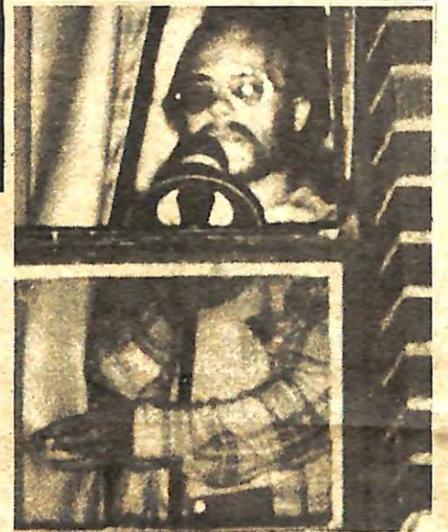
Above: TAC squad turns prison into armed camp in desperate attempt to end rebellion.

The bold and carefully planned action galvanized the support of the entire prison population. Even hostages, mostly prison counselors, spoke in support of their demands. While the three controlled the building for most of the afternoon, occupiers of the yard outside became more militant.

Around midnight the three agreed to surrender on the condition they would be allowed one hour with representatives of the press. Following their press conference the hostages were

released and the three were taken to the Hole. But outside their supporters refused to disperse. Moves by the TAC squad were met by a fusillade of rocks and bricks. Recreational equipment was burned as the prisoners both kept warm from the fires and used the debris to increase their arsenal. At 2 a.m. the TAC squad lobbed three tear gas canisters into the yard. Still the inmates refused to disperse. The next morning the prisoners are still rallying in the yard. In fact, it takes two more days and the institution of a lock-down by prison officials to get the last of them into their cells.

One Chicano inmate talking to the *Revolutionary Worker* that morning said about the mood inside, "The sentiment is supportive of the action. Even the quiet guy in the corner. One guy's been in there since I was three months old. He remembers the '58 riots. I was there in '76. We shut it down for 46 days." When asked if he thought the authorities would come down hard on the guys in the yard, he responded, "They know better. They're scared of retaliation. The three will suffer." But



he continued with a glint in his eye, "Maybe we'll shut down until they let them out of the Hole. It can happen if the guys inside want it to happen. We've done it before."

Meanwhile prison officials are in a panic. The superintendent scurries back from his convention at El Paso. The press is turned away until their slick P.R. man arrives from the state capital.

Less than two months ago the administration was congratulated in the pages of the *Seattle Times* for having "restored order" and for being "back in control" after the involuntary transfer of nine inmates who were dubbed the leaders and troublemakers. The

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PHONY GAS SHORTAGE: Priming the Pump for WAR

Is there an oil shortage in this country?

This question is being asked and debated by millions across this country. A vicious con game is being run on us. The current "gas shortage" has been manufactured by the oil companies in cooperation with the rest of the capitalist class. They began months ago by operating their refineries well below normal capacity, producing less gas and thus bringing down supplies on hand. Now they are throwing around statistics about "increased demand for gas," "heating oil shortage," "shortfall of crude from Iran." But a few stubborn facts blow their whole story away.

Their refineries have only been running at 80 to 85% of capacity while normally they run at 95% of capacity. The big oil companies' refineries in the Caribbean are only running at 60% of capacity. And this is occurring while crude oil supplies have remained the same or even increased.

Last January the U.S. imported 8.154 million barrels a day (mb/d) while this January (right after the Iranian revolution) they imported 8.702 mb/d while domestic production has remained virtually the same at around 8.35 mb/d. This is all by the oil companies' own statistics.

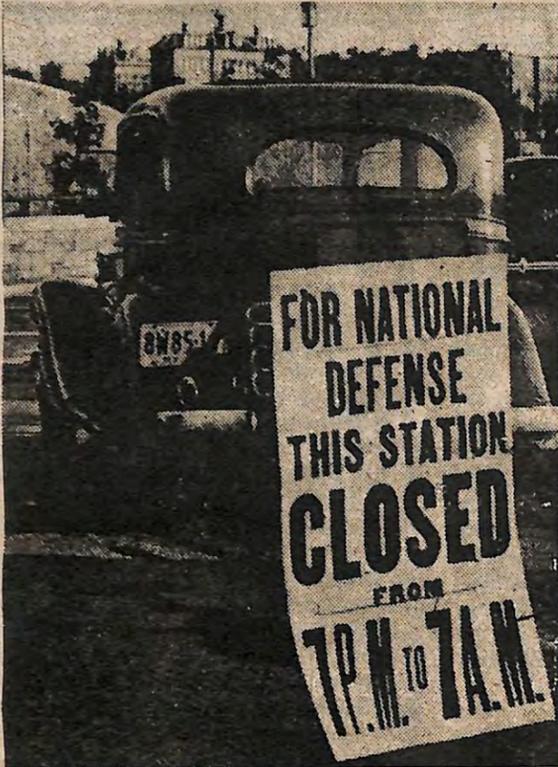
They have been going around saying that the Iranian revolution is responsible for cutting their supply of oil by 2 mb/d, but a CIA survey recently leaked out shows that in January and February of this year world oil production actually rose from 57.3 mb/d last year to 60.1 mb/d.

With most oil companies claiming a gas shortage of only 5%, the current shortage is more than accounted for by the fact that their refineries have been intentionally run at 10% to 15% below normal for months. Is there a "gas shortage"? There is only because they have deliberately created it.

Profit Junkies

And why have they created it? To psych us up for war, and even more immediately as a means to cope with big economic and political problems they face as they head toward a showdown with the Soviet Union. They are caught in the contradictions of their system very much like a junkie who needs more and more dope, and the more he takes the more he rots. On the one hand the oil companies are drawn to maximize profit by importing more and more oil from the Middle East which is cheaper to get than domestic oil and has sold for

Dollar running on Empty



With war looming on the horizon, this is the scene they want us to get used to... again. Carter said it straight out "The country needs a few demonstrable shortages" to convince the American people this crisis is for real. "There's less fuel in the future and you'll pay more for it."

more. On the other hand these imports are more and more feeding a massive balance of payments deficit which is weakening the U.S. dollar and causing serious economic and political problems for them and their allies—Western Europe and Japan.

For years the U.S. capitalists have grown fat, sucking up profits not just from Middle East oil but from every corner of the globe. They have been No. 1 top dog exploiter bleeding other countries dry and forcing them to submit to U.S. economic and political domination. The dollar was king. But now this very position is turning into its opposite and the very means that they have used to stay on top are turning around on them.

Their allies, Japan and Western Europe, have been hit hard by the decline of the dollar, and this has caused a lot of dissension in the U.S. bloc of countries, which has the U.S. worried as war with the Soviets approaches. Oil imports have had a substantial effect on eroding the strength of the U.S. dollar. As one U.S. energy strategist put it, "Continued high U.S. oil imports are an important contribution to political tensions within the Western commun-

munity...the tensions within the Western alliance could become almost impossible to handle—and at the very least would make concerted action on other fronts [ie., war—RW] far more difficult to obtain."

The Decline of the U.S. Dollar

The tumbling value of the dollar and the "balance of payments deficit" connected with it is both a reflection of and a major contributor to the economic crisis facing the U.S. As an article in the March 12 *Business Week* appropriately titled "The Crumbling Cornerstone of the Alliance" stated: "As long as the dollar remained strong and at the center of the international monetary system, it was relatively cheap for U.S. business to invest and operate overseas. Since the dollar began its decline in 1971, the cost of doing business abroad has risen sharply. As a result, the prospect for continued expansion overseas by U.S. manufacturing business has darkened considerably.

They also speak of "the dollar's shrinking role in the world's long term financing." In other words, their superprofits and "big boy on the block"

position are threatened.

From World War 2 up to the late 1960s the U.S. shoved lots of dollars (worth less and less) on Western Europe and Japan and forced them to use the dollar as a standard for their economies. While the dollar's dominance has weakened, it is still key. So for these countries, a weakening of the dollar hits them doubly hard. In their dealings with the U.S., not only do they have to take dollars that are constantly worth less, but the more dollars they get the less they are worth because it worsens the already bad U.S. balance of payments crisis. So any disruptions caused by the balance of payments problem are magnified in other U.S. bloc countries. Needless to say this makes them uptight and weakens the U.S. grip on its bloc as dissension spreads. An example was in the early 1970s when there were "currency wars" between the U.S. and West Germany especially.

The upshot of all this is that to keep its grip on its war bloc, the U.S. must at least make a serious effort at dealing with its balance of payments deficit and therefore cut oil imports, which accounts for \$53 billion spent abroad this year alone.

Capitalists' Oil Import Strategy

While the capitalists continue to fight among themselves to a degree that makes the fights on the gas lines look like child's play, they have pretty much united on a policy to deal with the oil imports situation they face. That policy was summed up by Carter, "There's less fuel in the future and you'll pay more for it."

A key part of this policy is the deregulation of domestic oil. Through a complicated maze of rules and regulations, domestically produced oil has been held to a price about \$5.00 under the current world market price per barrel. Deregulation will allow the oil companies to charge the world market price which will help cut imports in two ways (they hope): one, by forcing the price of gasoline up, thus discouraging consumption, and two, making it more profitable for the companies to sell and explore for more domestic oil.

Around this point there has been a lot of debate with a number of puffed-up statements coming from various politicians threatening the oil companies with the wrath of the people if they fail to plow the additional profits they will get from deregulation back into new do-

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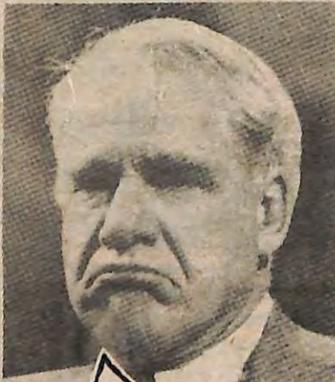


"No baloney, folks... this time the gas crisis is for real..."

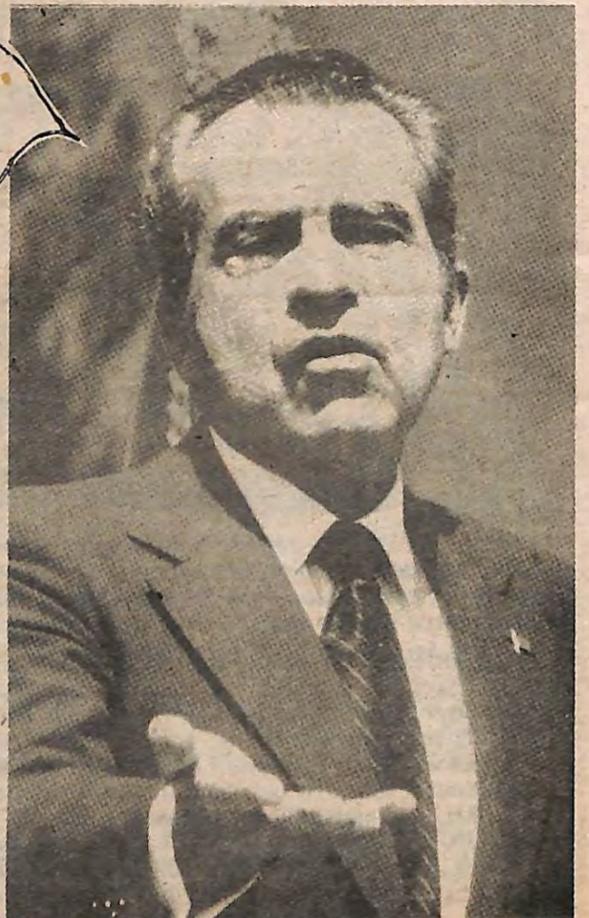


"Carter's soft on the oil companies. But if I were President..."

"My Fellow Americans... Believe your leaders. Would your government lie to you?"



"... (Hrumpf)... We in the Defense Dept. -er, uh, Energy say: Give the President wartime rationing powers."



Boston Pigs Say: Another One Dead — So What?

In the last three months, 11 Black women in the Boston Black communities have been murdered. People in the Black community are terrified and angry. Their frustration is like a volcano with a cork on it. What kind of system forces people to live in ghettos where "you can't go out of your house and you can't stay in," as one neighbor of Louise Hood, the eighth victim, put it? What kind of system forces you to live in ghettos where you are virtually a prisoner?

The *Boston Globe* matter of factly reported the first murder next to the dog track results. The dogs that won and the dogs that got killed was their message. This same day Walter Cronkite on national news reported with alarm that a seven-year-old daughter of a corporate head in Grand Rapids, Michigan had been kidnapped.

Likewise the police standard operating procedure could do nothing. The mother of the first victim told how when she first went to the cops to report her daughter missing, she was told there was nothing they could do to find her unless she denounced her as "a bad girl." Another woman said, "They think all Black women are prostitutes." And more than one or two women told how the cops always approach them to "come and sit in the car with them." To these pigs Black women are no more than trash. When some kids found the body of the sixth victim behind a Kentucky Fried Chicken, the cops came over and kicked her dead body and said, "Yeah, she's stiff." It's no wonder many think the murderer is a cop.

But as the murders increased, this blatant racist way of dealing with the life and death of Black people whom they consider worthless couldn't get over. Hundreds of people were jamming community meetings demanding answers. The ruling class had to try to put a lid on the rising rage in the Black community. They had to come up with an answer. They did. Cops, cops, and more cops.

At one of the first meetings, they televised poverty pimps and phony community leaders calling for more cops and Mayor White begging the city council for more cops. When a reporter for the *Revolutionary Worker* stood up and denounced them and spoke of the need for revolution amidst the cheers of the crowd, the TV lights were cut off.

The people in the audience called out, "Put that on TV."

More recently the police have set up information centers in the heart of the community. Of course they give out no information except the police emergency number and warn people not to talk to others, just to them. It's clearly there to try and keep a lid on things, to keep tabs on the people and make sure the volcano doesn't erupt. One young Black woman went there asking for information about getting a permit to carry mace and was told she didn't need any—she could just "go to one of those joke shops downtown" and get some fake tear gas.

As if this wasn't vicious enough, the circumstances surrounding the last murder were more than outrageous. It totally exposed the purpose of this so-called information center to solve crime. The body of this young Black mother was virtually dumped on their doorstep and set afire. It burned directly in front of the pigs in a vacant lot strewn with rubble and debris, itself a symbol of the ghetto. They couldn't have missed it without trying. But they did miss it. Calling on the cops to stop the murder of Black people is like calling on Jack the Ripper to stop the E.A. Slasher from cutting throats.

The exposure of their inability to control or stop this terror has the ruling class of Boston uptight. They now run long articles on each murder in the *Globe*. They have made six arrests. Any Black man with a record is a suspect. As one woman said, "The cops are just going around and picking up any Black man." And she added, "I don't trust them." The suspects are just scapegoats. Yet these pigs and politicians call large press conferences and slap each other on the back, praising their "great" work. They run long interviews with police chiefs, criminologists, and footage of arrests.

People are taking matters into their own hands and putting loaded guns beside their doors and patrolling their communities. One young Black man summed up the sentiments of many, "All the pigs have done is add more horseshit to the community." It's hard to decide which is the greater outrage in this situation—the brutal depraved murders of Black women or the abuse heaped upon the Black people of Boston by the pigs and city officials in the wake of these killings. ■

CPML Loves Cops From Coast to Coast



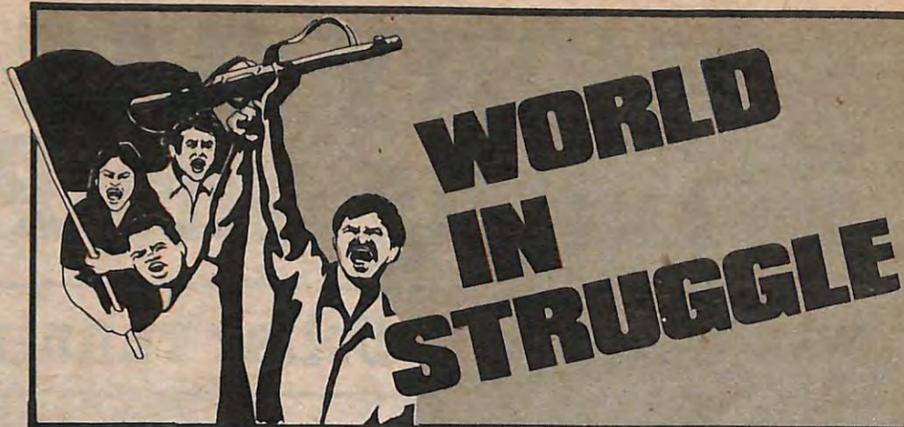
Recently, CPML has called for more pigs to be sent into the Black community of Boston (see article below). Here a CPMLer consults with Seattle pigs about how to stop an RCP picketline at a film shown in honor of Teng Hsiao-ping's Seattle visit.

In an article on the Boston murders in the April 9 issue of the *Call*, newspaper of the CPML, we find the following reactionary lines that could have been written by the Boston Police Chief himself. Check it out from this group that ludicrously calls itself "communist.":

"Many people in the Black community have commented on the city's

failure to take steps to deal with the rash of murders. Not enough police were assigned to investigate, nor were any extra officers put in the community. Police are supposed to respond in six minutes to an emergency call. In fact, relatives of the victims in most cases had to wait hours, even days."

This is, of course, exactly the same call the bourgeoisie has been making in



China Proposes Sino-Soviet Talks—"Why Can't We Be Friends?"

Peking, May 5—Deputy Foreign Minister Yu Zhan summons the Soviet Ambassador and proposes that the Chinese and Russians hold diplomatic talks to discuss (according to the *New York Times*) "such matters as commerce, technology, and improved governmental relations based on peaceful coexistence." To help move things along, the Chinese dropped their previous precondition that Soviet troops withdraw from 34,000 square miles of Chinese territory along their northern boundary before talks could be held.

Speculation is raging in the bourgeois press on the meaning behind the proposal. Is it to put pressure on the U.S. (let them know that China can always go the other way if the West doesn't deal them a good enough hand)? Or maybe to scare Vietnam with the prospect of a Sino-Soviet agreement preempting Vietnam's negotiations with Peking? Or do they figure that now's the time to approach Moscow from a position of strength, coming off their recent productive *tete a tetes* with the U.S. and Japan? It may be too early to pinpoint the immediate reasons behind this move.

But the line and logic behind it are easily predictable. Ever pragmatic and opportunist, the new emperors of Peking don't want to shut the door on the possibility of getting a better deal from the Russians in selling out the Chinese people. Sure, the Soviets are "the main danger in the world today"—exactly why, some in China would argue, we'd better come to terms with them quickly before the danger gets any greater. Because Russia has missiles and over a million troops poised on China's border, the pressure to swing to the Soviet camp is strong. And after all, since the modernization of China by the year 2000 has been set as the "historic mission" of the Chinese people, they'll want to avoid an invasion by the modern Soviet army at all costs. If tying China to U.S. imperialism's tail and joining that war bloc doesn't scare off the Russians, maybe China will have to grab on to the other tail. Besides, as we pointed out in 1977, "...the more the current leaders practice their Soviet-style line internally, the more likely it is for them to come to terms with the social-imperialists and patch up their differences." (*Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, RCP, Chicago, 1978) Birds of a feather, so to speak.

Soweto 11 Convicted of "Contributing to the Liberation of Blacks"

South Africa—Eleven student leaders of the righteous Soweto rebellion of June 1976, have been convicted of sedition and sentenced to various terms in jail by the kangaroo courts of South Africa. The '76 protest began with Black students' refusal to be taught in Afrikaans (the language of the ruling white minority) and became mass uprisings lasting over a year involving millions. Hundreds were murdered by the South African police.

The indictment against the 11 accused them of the "crime" of working "to create political, social and/or cultural awareness and solidarity amongst Black schoolgoing students with the ultimate object of contributing towards the liberation of Blacks in the Republic of South Africa..." A leaflet from the rebellion submitted as evidence in the trial read, "We are determined to free ourselves from the shackles of the oppressor." Not only will struggle mount to free the Soweto 11, but millions more will come forward to bury apartheid and its imperialist masters forever!



The cur on the left once had a pedigree—King of Kings, the Shah of Iran. Today, scurrying from country to country, he is looking for a new doghouse—any palace will do. And it seems his old masters in the U.S. are out to throw him a bone. Says the *New York Times* in a recent article titled "The Shah Needs a Home," "The dethroned Shah of Iran needs a place to live," and the U.S. "...has been a haven for the homeless, especially those who are not likely to become public charges"! Well, not everybody has such strict requirements. Even if he was down to his last penny, the masses of people would be more than happy to help the Shah find his final resting place.

Boston—more cops in the Black communities. In fact, a few pigs have been added to prowling the streets of the Black community in Boston. "Hurray," says CPML, while the masses in Boston are saying, "all the cops have done is add more horseshit to the community." The pigs have stepped up their harassment of Black people and arrested a number of "suspects" on the "evidence" that they were Black (see article on Boston murders in this issue). According to CPML logic this should be hailed as a victory—or would they say the cops should only be supported when they do

warm, human and progressive things in the Black community? Maybe the National Guard should be called in or would that expose the bloody hand of the law too much for these snivelers?

Further on in the article they write, "Neither the crimes against women nor the neglect of the police are anything new to the Black community." If the daily killings that go on in the ghettos across this country are examples of neglect, just how many pig murders and beatings would you consider adequate attention, CPML? ■

Talk Peace, Prepare for War

SALT II: THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

The U.S. and the Soviet imperialists have finally reached an agreement in the latest round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—SALT II. And posturing like the Prince of Peace, Carter went on TV to plug the new treaty as “the most important single achievement that could possibly take place for our nation during my lifetime.” Meanwhile his disciples, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown, are fluttering about like turtle doves, cooing out a “message of hope” for “a safer America and a safer world.” All that is left is for Bambi and Thumper to come scampering out as all the woodland creatures gather round and rejoice, “How blessed are the peacemakers!”

But as these wolves of U.S. imperialism and their counterparts, the Soviet bears, are changing into sheep's clothing to sell SALT II, something quite monstrous is waiting in the wings. The necessity of these contending capitalists to expand or die is driving them ever closer to World War 3 with all the horror and destruction it will entail. And for all their tear-jerking proclamations about how SALT II represents a “framework for peace,” in fact it is no more than a framework for all-out war, a means of setting the stage for the devastating drama that will be played.

Signal of War

Like so many arms “limitation” talks before it, the only thing SALT II has to do with peace is to signal that it is coming to an end. Every world war in this century was preceded by similar “earnest talks” on the subject of disarmament. When the imperialist powers gathered at The Hague in 1899 they codified some “laws of war”—prohibiting the use of poison gas, aerial bombardment, submarine attacks on merchant shipping, etc.—which set the terms for the first great world conflict and created the illusion for the masses that a gentlemanly atmosphere would be preserved in battle.

By the end of World War 1 these imperialist “gentlemen” had taken off the gloves and violated every article of this accord, much to the revulsion of the masses who were on the receiving end of the imperialists' gas, aerial bombs and torpedos.

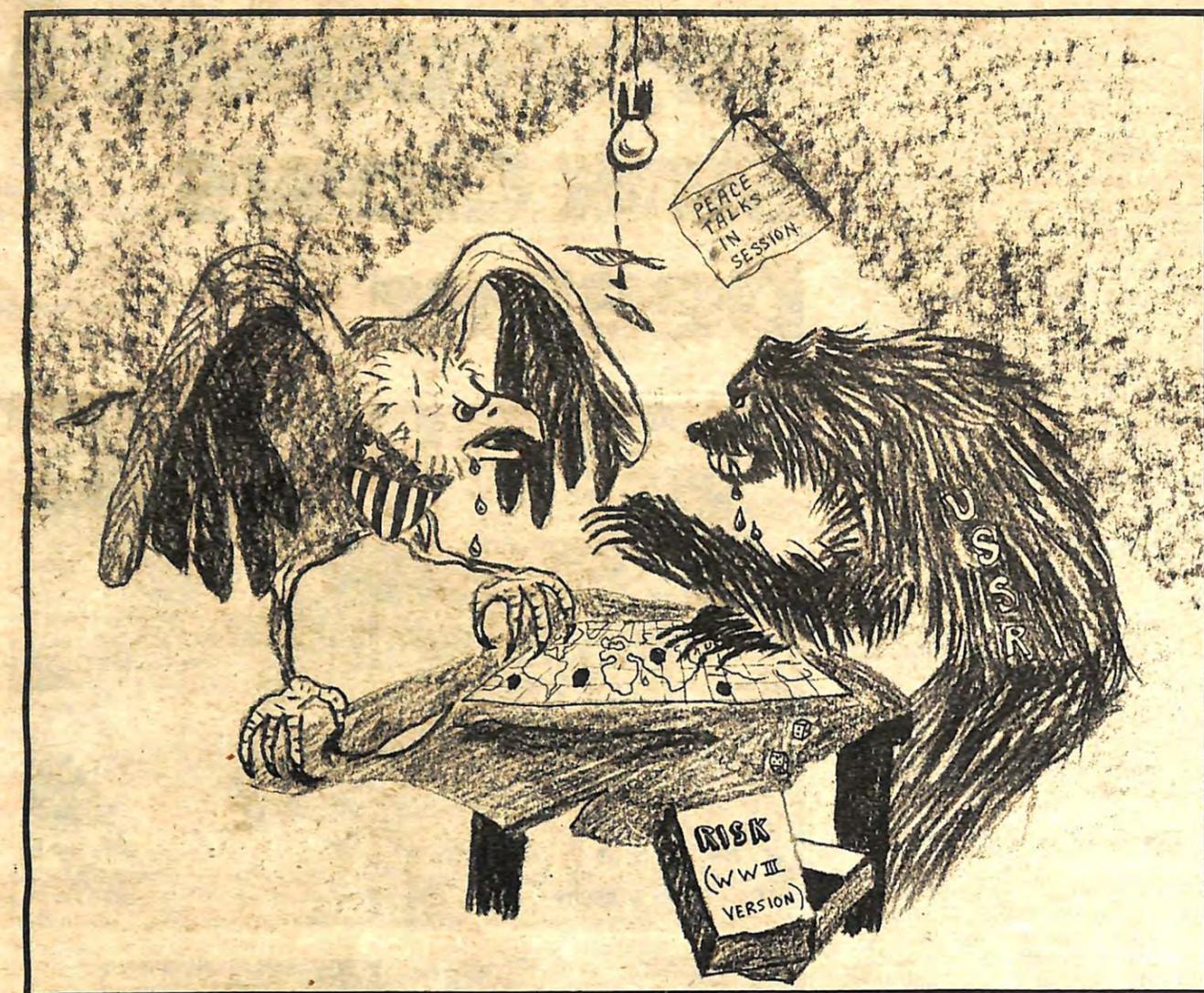
After World War 1 the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 set the pattern for imperialist arms limitation talks from that time on. It did not limit much of anything, but rather codified the relative strengths of different imperialists to keep the losers down and to prevent a costly and as yet unnecessary arms race. But as the imperialists plummeted toward World War 2 they were once again arming to the teeth.

And a sure sign of impending conflict was the convening of the Disarmament Conference of 1932-3. Once again, the imperialists put on a grandiose show of “peace” to rally the people behind the national flag while dickering and maneuvering for the inevitable holocaust that was to follow.

Sky's the Limit

So who do these jokers think they are kidding when they talk about limiting their nukes to save the world from the threat of war. Their think tanks are working overtime to figure ways to scrap the outdated concept of “deterrence” by “mutually assured destruction” (appropriately abbreviated MAD) and get down to the brass tacks of actually planning how to win a nuclear war. And in the process they are increasingly “thinking the unthinkable”: coldly calculating how many millions of deaths would be considered “acceptable” in a nuclear exchange.

The reason these negotiations took so long in the first place is that for the last six years these rival bandits have been plotting back and forth across the table how to screw each other out of the decisive strategic advantage. In 1973, before the Soviets had developed



MIRVs (missiles with multiple warheads) the U.S. proposed a freeze on MIRV production after they already had them deployed. The Soviets, being no dummies, countered with a proposal to freeze the total number of missile launchers in which they had clear superiority!

Far from limiting the expansion of nuclear weapons, the agreement they have now reached simply sets the terms on which even greater expansion will take place. While the treaty supposedly restricts the number of nuclear weapon delivery systems, the U.S. is “limited” to a total of nearly 200 more than it already has!

The Soviets, for their part, don't mind junking a few aged ICBMs from their top heavy arsenal to bring them within the 2250 total. After all, they will still be superior in explosive megatons, and while the U.S.'s B-52 bombers are counted under the agreement, the new Soviet Backfire bomber is not. Besides, the U.S. has agreed it will only be permitted to launch its feared Cruise missile from the air. This in turn is fine with the U.S. for now, since they have not yet discovered a way to successfully launch it by sea!

The utter hypocrisy of such “limitations” grows more and more laughable the further you read. Each side is allowed to develop one new land-based missile system and unlimited submarine-based missile systems, and to generally modernize and improve its existing arsenal. The heralded new “ceilings” would actually allow the U.S. to increase its present total of nuclear warheads from 8500 to more than 12,000 while the Soviets can double theirs from 4000 to 8000. Ah, what blissful peace!

The whole thing is absolutely insane. With this kind of “restraint,” we might consider ourselves lucky the treaty doesn't apply to tactical nuclear weapons or to “conventional” forces like tanks and fighter planes. And even with wide-open “limits” like these, Defense Secretary Brown is complaining that “even with SALT we will have to expand our defense efforts”!

Setting the Terms

If this is the kind of arms limitation the imperialists are talking about, one is

tempted to ask, “Why do they bother talking at all?” But the imperialists, both U.S. and Soviet, have very definite goals in mind with SALT II although disarmament is certainly not one of them.

For one thing, both superpowers have a common interest in putting some restrictions on the astronomical costs of the spiraling arms race which are threatening to unhinge their deeply crisis-ridden economies. As military spending in each country continues to soar, both sets of imperialist rulers are faced with the financial necessity of propping up their decaying social systems lest their ambitious plans for world domination be shattered prematurely by the spectre of revolution at home.

This is part of what Carter meant when he said the only alternative to the SALT treaty is “a dark nightmare of unrestrained arms competition.” But also cause for mutual concern is what Brown called “the pressure and uncertainties of an unbounded numbers race in strategic forces.” Or as Vance put it, “the uncertainty about Soviet arms that would otherwise prevail” without SALT II.

The imperialists on both sides of the world want to get a better idea of exactly what they're up against before wildly throwing a knockout punch. Along with spy satellites, monitoring stations and the like, each wants SALT to give them an adequate picture of what kind of nuclear hardware they will have to contend with when it's time to go at it for the entire world. Of course, both will display all the honor and honesty of grand-scale thieves, and neither can really predict the results of war.

Smokescreen of Peace

Even as they prepare for war, both imperialist superpowers still have a vested interest in preserving the illusion that each is only interested in the pursuit of peace while the other is the aggressor. The main political purpose of SALT II is to serve as window dressing for the masses of people who are the ones who will be called upon to march into the din of battle and who genuinely hate it and want to see it ended.

If the treaty is not signed, said Carter, “We would be looked upon as a warmonger, not as a peace-loving na-

tion, by many other people of the world.” Why is the commander in chief of the U.S. war machine so uptight about his image? Because the tattered facade of “detente” and “peace through negotiations” is still of value as both sets of imperialists attempts to rally the people behind them and take maximum advantage of what political opportunities are left to make further inroads into each other's turf. Senator Frank Church revealed the importance of this to the capitalists when he remarked that “detente would lie like broken pottery on the floor” if the treaty is not quickly approved.

This charade of “peace” will, of course, be played to the hilt during the upcoming Senate debate over ratification of the SALT treaty. Carter will be falling all over himself to come off as a lover of peace and to portray the “hardliners” as the ones who are really pushing towards war. This despite the fact that there is no fundamental political difference between the “softs” and the “hards” on whether to duke it out with the Soviets, only a matter of how and when. At the same time, however, the imperialists will use these negotiations to publicly display their awesome power, hoping to bludgeon the fear of instant annihilation into any who would oppose them.

We are the peacemakers!—these imperial bloodsuckers declare with a fistful of missiles in either hand. The question of peace is entirely in our hands! And after we have done everything we could to prevent the outbreak of war, surely you won't mind being chewed up and spit out as fodder for our blood-starved cannon! And when these dogs decide to go for the throat, they will laugh at the puny provisions of SALT II and go for broke as they hurl everything but the kitchen sink at each other across the world.

No matter how ceremoniously the imperialists adorn their nukes with olive branches, these greatest exploiters will never disarm themselves. SALT II is an ominous reminder that it is only the American and Soviet people, rising up in revolution, that will finally rip the weapons of destruction from the clutches of these profit-seeking monsters who, driven by the criminal workings of their system, would unleash mammoth violence upon the people of the world. ■

—War breaks out between Uganda and Tanzania. Two supposedly independent African countries invade each other's territory. Idi Amin runs for it and Tanzania comes out on top. The Soviet Union retreats and the U.S. rejoices.

—In the Horn of Africa the fascist Col. Mengistu of Ethiopia, with Soviet and Cuban help, ruthlessly suppresses the Ethiopian masses, drives back the Eritrean liberation forces in a new offensive, and prepares for more war moves against Somalia in their dispute over the Ogaden Desert.

—Angola becomes the first African country to join the CMEA (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance)—the main vehicle the Soviets have used to economically dominate Eastern Europe. 25,000 Cuban troops keep the MPLA in power. Angola becomes a staging ground for the Soviet-backed Katangese invasion of the U.S. neo-colony, Zaire.

—Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa; U.S. imperialists try publicly disassociating themselves from the apartheid regimes in the face of rising struggle from the people and worldwide condemnation. They look desperately for forces inside the liberation movements who will deal with them. Meanwhile, the Soviets offer guns and training to SWAPO (of Namibia) and the Patriotic Front (of Zimbabwe).

Every country, every liberation movement feels the heat—line up! Pick your poison! U.S. imperialists or Soviet social-imperialists—join a superpower war bloc now!

Gearing up for World War 3

The stakes are getting higher for the imperialists as the worldwide crisis of their system deepens. They must expand their "spheres of influence" (political, economic and military domination) and form blocs of countries to gear up for the world war they're headed for. Africa is very important in this contest of international gangsters, both for its rich source of raw materials and for its strategic location (bordering many vital shipping lanes and lying on the southern flank of Europe). For centuries, Africa has been subjected to colonial and imperialist oppression, but now especially the imperialists are using every tactic in the book to tighten their control. Today, in fact, this contention between imperialists—even more than people's revolutionary struggles—is dominating Africa.

What the hell does this mean for the African people? Is it possible to fight for and win real liberation anymore? How do you maintain true independence in the face of this superpower rivalry?

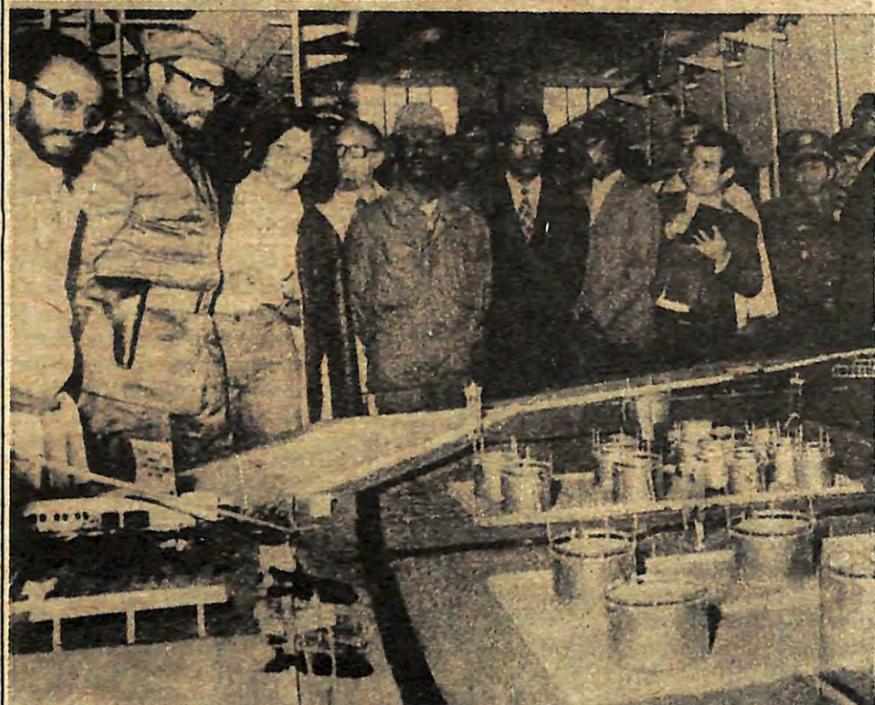
U.S. Dominates Neo-colonial Scene

The hatred of oppression has always burned deep in the hearts of the African people. There have been many tremendous struggles for freedom. The targets of much of this struggle before were the Western colonial powers such as Britain and France. After World War 2, with these countries greatly weakened from the war, the U.S. stepped in to take over. Confronted with rising opposition to colonialism and increasing demands for independence, it proved much wiser for the U.S. and other imperialists to grant nominal political independence while actually keeping a tight grip. This policy became known as neo-colonialism.

By the mid-1960s there were 30 independent African states established, but most of them were led by hand-picked Africans moving into the colonial mansions, limousines and offices to do the bidding of their "partners" in the U.S. or Europe. It meant little change in the lives of the African people.

In some cases where there were real attempts to take an independent stand against foreign domination, the imperialists engineered coups (as in Ghana) or assassinations (like that of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo). Mass struggle broke out against the U.S. junior-partner Portugal in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. U.S. puppets like Mobutu in Zaire were hav-

AFRICA: Superpowers Sink Claws Deeper



Andy Young attempts to recruit Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU into the U.S. orbit as Soviet lackeys Castro and Mengistu of Ethiopia discuss the expansion of the empire of their social-imperialist masters.

ing trouble staying in the driver's seat. Their man Haile Selassie fell to mass uprisings in Ethiopia. And in southern Africa, the racist white-settler regimes were being battered by wars of national liberation. The 1970s brought many headaches for the U.S. politicians and bankers.

USSR Begins Muscling In

Meanwhile, a new neo-colonial power began challenging the U.S. hold on Africa. The USSR, condemning the increasingly despised U.S. imperialists, came waving the anti-imperialist flag and offering military and economic aid to forces fighting the U.S.

Today, many liberation organizations, like the EPLF in Eritrea or ZANU in Zimbabwe, take a pragmatic attitude toward the Soviets, looking almost entirely at whether they offer support or not, and all the while refusing to acknowledge that the USSR is not a "socialist country that's made a few bad decisions," but is a social-imperialist country, that is, capitalism has been restored there and they are driven, like any capitalist country, to exploit and to expand. While it may not be wrong to take advantage of splits in

the enemy camp and accept some aid, relying on it is a recipe for suicide.

People's War—No Short Cuts

So the Russians come offering their millions in military hardware and thousands of Cuban soldiers to wield them. They offer a short cut to the liberation forces: you can't rely on and mobilize the masses in a protracted people's war, mow down the enemy with the most modern of weapons and "internationalist" troops!

They seek out the forces that will jump at these offers, sometimes fomenting splits like arming and training mainly ZAPU of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, though now offering up some sugar-coated bullets to ZANU.

Witness Angola, 1975: one million dollars a day in weapons and 10,000 Cuban troops to the MPLA to fight a bloody civil war against two U.S.-funded factions and South African troops. This was the first glaring example in Africa of superpower rivalry twisting the people's struggles.

For its part, the U.S. hasn't admitted defeat! Its new strategy is to try to turn the greatest U.S. weakness (its ties with reactionaries in power) into a strength.

Jimmy Carter and his sidekick Andy Young try to pass the U.S. off as a friend of the African people and the best choice to negotiate settlements between, for example, South Africa and SWAPO in Namibia. They push conferences, elections, negotiations—"just by all means, let's do be cool." (Of course, while with one hand they seek out forces among the revolutionaries to do business with, the other hand continues to finance and arm South Africa and Rhodesia, often through third parties like Israel. The principle is that whoever climbs into power must be willing to let the U.S. keep exploiting the land and the people.)

The thing that both the U.S. and USSR have in common is that most of all, they don't want people's war waged and real liberation won! Count on me, I'll set you free. Then you'll pay the price. They play on the weaknesses of many of these forces in leadership who grab at the illusion of quick victory.

Freedom or Subjugation?

What is the price paid for imperialist aid? The political and economic handcuffs of neo-colonialism. In most African countries the subservience to imperialism is very upfront, but even in countries like Angola or Tanzania, which a lot of people think of as independent, the grip is very tight.

In Angola, as the Soviet ships unload the weapons, Angola's coffee crop is loaded back on. The number of Cuban troops there has climbed to 25,000 as any resistance within the country is crushed, people's organizations disbanded, and revolutionaries jailed. East European technicians run the mines, railways, and government bureaucracy—they leave the police force to the Cubans and Russians. Angola is used as a staging area for Soviet activity all over Africa. Meanwhile, Angola's President Neto is more than willing to let South Africa and Gulf Oil continue to exploit the Angolan people as they bring in the bulk of Angola's export money. This is not liberation!

Or look at Tanzania. In the 1960s and early 1970s they took an independent stand, playing a leading role in the Organization for African Unity and supporting wars of national liberation in neighboring countries. 10 years ago they even kicked out the Peace Corps, a reactionary imperialist tool. Conditions in the world at that time gave them this maneuvering room—the U.S. was catching hell from all sides, especially Vietnam.

But in today's conditions of worldwide economic crisis and increasing rivalry between the superpowers, it means the reins are being pulled in on Tanzania. And the pressure is felt because Tanzania has been economically dependent on imperialist loans, investments and military protection ever since they were granted independence from Britain in 1961. Recently, imperialist aid has increased tremendously as the economy of Tanzania is in a shambles. Tanzania is not a typical African neo-colony; it has been basically independent. But it shows that in the final analysis economic dependency leads to political capitulation. They buckle under. The Peace Corps is invited back. They invade Uganda and help to set up a pro-U.S. government.

Proletarian Leadership Needed

In Africa today, events are increasingly being determined by the contention between the superpowers. What this alignment into orbits behind one or the other superpower shows is a truth that was demonstrated by Mao Tsetung in his leadership of the Chinese revolution, especially in its new-democratic stage. This is that the only force capable of leading the revolution through its various stages and to complete victory against imperialism is the working class. Even where the proletariat represents a small minority of the population, as it did in China, the struggle must be led by the scientific outlook of this class, Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, which as the Chinese revolution proved can first mobilize all the forces which oppose imperialism under its banner to thorough-

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Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions

Important New Book Released



On May Day, 1979 a bomb went off. A political bombshell fired off in the thick of a raging struggle going on literally on every part of the globe among communists and those who would call themselves communists. Written by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, this book is sure to be the subject of study and debate among revolutionaries and progressive-minded people everywhere. It is both a ringing defense and a comprehensive summation of Mao Tsetung's immortal contributions to revolutionary theory and practice—contributions which at this very moment are under very sharp attack, not only from the capitalists of every country who always hated this great revolutionary, but in China itself, and by other backstabbers and bottom dwellers in the communist movement internationally. In this sense, it can truly be said that this book is playing an historic role.

As the book appears, many magnificent achievements of the Chinese revolution are being wiped out systematically and at an accelerating pace by the new Chinese leadership. But Bob Avakian's book does far more than defend the lofty achievements of the Chinese revolution. Beyond this it is a sharp defense of revolutionary theory—Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought. And this is its greatest contribution. Lenin once said, "Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." Mao, who knew the central role of revolutionary practice—being a veteran of more than 50 years of twists and turns of struggle, also knew practice without theory gropes blindly. He wrote about "vulgar" "practical men" [who] respect experience but despise theory...if such persons direct a revolution, they will lead it up a blind alley." And when revolutionary theory is under attack, as it is today with the attack from many quarters on Mao Tsetung, it is the first duty of every revolutionary to dive right into the fight.

Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions leaps to the fore. Comrade Avakian sharply summarizes the contributions of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and then systematically presents and analyzes the contributions of Mao Tsetung. This book upholds principle at a time when various jackals and sharks rush to attack and discard Mao's revolutionary line because they hold the perverted belief that Mao has "lost prestige" since socialism has been overturned in China. Mao's line lost, so he must be wrong—or not worth risking anything to defend—so goes this twisted line. Comrade Avakian's book pierces this fog of vicious pragmatism, pointing out that Mao's line is correct. What it says about his theory of continuing revolution under socialism applies overall—"The correctness of this theory does not depend on the immediate results in any particular situation; it has been verified in practice, in the mass struggle of hundreds of millions of Chinese people, and will be further verified in the future in the revolutionary struggle not only in China but in every country." (p. 187)

"Back to Stalin"

Among those in the forefront of the reactionary efforts to stir up the mud holes of opportunist opposition to Mao's revolutionary teachings are Enver Hoxha and the Party of Labor of Albania, who formerly fought along with Mao against the Soviet Union when it went revisionist. In dumping Mao, they seek to turn the clock back in the international communist movement to the time of Stalin. Dump Mao, try Stalin. In fact, the Albanians do no service at all to Stalin, who was a great revolutionary, himself attacked and slandered by Khrushchev who came after him.

For one thing, the Albanians seek to make a principle out of Stalin's mistakes. And Stalin did make mistakes—mistakes which were in large part analyzed by Mao and are gone into in this book. But making mistakes in the course of accumulating experience in building the world's first socialist state is one thing. Making a principle of repeating them and consciously rejecting the great advances made since then, particularly by Mao in summing up such mistakes, is quite another. It's the difference between revolution and counter-revolution. As Comrade Avakian's book points out, history moves forward in spirals, and trying to freeze its advance at one point can only mean moving backwards.

There is true irony in Albania's love for Stalin, because, in fact, Hua Kuo-feng and Teng Hsiao-ping and the rest of the current reactionary Chinese rulers, who are so scorned by the Albanians, themselves carry out many of Stalin's errors in trying to combat Mao's revolutionary line. In particular, the book points out that all revisionists practice the "theory of the productive forces"—which Stalin tended to fall into—a theory which says machines rank ahead of man as the key force in changing the world, which puts production ahead of revolution.

Related to this, as the book points out, "The tendency to view socialism as a static absolute can be found in Stalin." Mao, on the other hand, stood for "the principle that seizing and exercising political power must not be viewed as an end in itself and that it is necessary to continue making the revolution." (pp. 193-4) And the theory of continuing revolution, and finding the form and the method to rouse hundreds of millions of people to do it—this is pointed to as Mao's greatest contribution of all. Mao showed in theory and practice that revolution does not have to be betrayed, and despite inevitable setbacks and even reversals, it will inevitably triumph.

For the Albanians, Mao was too "liberal"—he "allowed" too many contradictions to appear in China, even in the Communist Party—he was, in a word, wild. To the last charge, Mao might well plead "guilty as charged."

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May Day Marks Close of Mao Tsetung Enrollment

REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS TAKE STAND

Last October, the Revolutionary Communist Party announced the Mao Tsetung Enrollment into the Party. In the face of the reactionary coup in China and the sharpening of the world situation, we called on "every revolutionary fighter to pick up the banner of Mao Tsetung and the hundreds of millions who stood with him, to work with, join and help build the Revolutionary Communist Party as the vanguard of the proletarian revolution in this country."

On May Day, 1979 this Enrollment was successfully concluded. Many revolutionaries have indeed stepped forward. While this historic Enrollment and this specific call has concluded, this does not mean that the task of building the Party has ended. There still remains the ongoing and long-term task of expanding, strengthening and tempering the Party and as a crucial part of this drawing fresh forces into the Party's ranks. Following are three letters submitted by revolutionaries who responded to this call and were part of the Mao Tsetung Enrollment.

Comrades,

I am a 27 year old veteran of the United States Marine Corps. In all these 27 years I have seen nothing but suffering and misery in these United States of America. While growing up I used to think that it was because I was Black. In fact I once thought that only Black people caught all the hell in this country.

I always knew that there was something very wrong with America but I didn't know what. As I grew older I started asking questions about this society. Questions like: "Why is it that we Black people go through so much hell?" The answer I got was that the white man had all the money and controlled everything. But as I started moving around the country I saw that not only were there poor whites but poor people of all nationalities. The main thing that hit me was that there were rich people of all nationalities too.

But in seeing all this, I still could not find the unseen enemy. When the Black people took to the streets in the '60s, I felt that it was a good thing. I never joined any of the marches. I couldn't see anyone marching in the streets for their rights, getting beat and not fighting back.

When I went into the Marine Corps I got my first taste of unity. A unity of Black Marines who didn't go in for non-violence. Everyone wanted to do something about the problem but no one knew what. I found that the officers of the Marine Corps came down not only on Blacks but whites too. In fact they came down on anyone who wouldn't go along with the "system." Then I began to see things in a different way. The fact was and is that they come down on anyone who don't go along with the "system."

After leaving the Marine Corps and going through about seven jobs in a year's time, I was fed up. Fed up with

America, fed up with the sick lies. I went to a trade school under the GI bill. While there I met a communist. At first I thought he had something to do with the USSR. But in time I found this to be untrue. I started reading revolutionary works and, for the first time, I saw this country and the world as it really is. A country where people work hard every day to feed a handful of motherfuckers who do nothing. A handful who control all the goods that are made in society. They control the means of production, this is how they control society. The Army, Navy, police, etc. are only to keep the people down.

Now I know that it is the workers, the working class who must unite the people to overthrow and bury deep within the earth the rich class which rules over us. Now I know that revolution is the only way to change the evils of the country. This is what I learned from the RCP and this is why I want to join the RCP—to do my part in helping to make revolution in this country.

Signed,

An ex-veteran who knows where to point the gun

Comrades,

I write this letter filled with excitement, with anger, with a knowledge that the people's justice will come not under this present decayed system but under the dictatorship of the working class reached through armed revolution. I have just returned from the historic May

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L.A. Gas Lines .. a short story

"We Gotta Step out of Line for Real!"

This gas line doesn't look too bad, maybe only a 1 1/2-hour wait. So I turn the car around and get in line. Ten minutes go by, nothing moves. The line's so long I don't see the station. It's down around the corner and then some. I'm thinking to myself the effect this gas "shortage" is having on people's minds.

Goddamn it what am I thinking! A 1 1/2-hour wait's not too bad. It's ridiculous! But that's what a week or two of this does to you, sitting in lines that take two or three hours, and then stations close before you even get to the pump. After that 90 minutes doesn't seem so bad. It's like being robbed and feeling grateful the thief didn't steal your fillings.

I get out of the car, go over to the driver in front of me. "Excuse me, but is this line moving at all?" He doesn't hear me, he's listening to the news on the radio, so I repeat my question.

"No, uh-uh. It's not open yet, but it's supposed to open at four. At least that's what they did yesterday. They were open from four to six. It'll be another 15 minutes before we know whether they're even going to open. I hope we get up to the pump before they close again." The resignation in his voice is unsettling. It ticks me off, so I just walk away.

"Why you lying asshole!" I turn back to the guy when he says that. "You talking to me?"

"No, sorry. Listen to this on the radio. The head of ARCO is explaining the problem." Sarcastically he mimics the radio, "The problem with these California drivers is they panic and are all rushing to top off their tanks instead of buying gas like normal. Besides, they have too many recreational vehicles." He shuts off the radio with a vengeance. "Oh yeah, I drove to work this morning on empty, and I can't get enough gas to do anything but drive to work and back, and I may not even get enough for that. I'd like to top off that SOB's head."

There is a commotion down at the corner. The two of us go down to check it out. A crowd has gathered fast. A woman had a knife, threatening these people's baby if they didn't pull their car out of the line. The pigs came screeching up with three squad cars, disarming her by having two of them beat on her with their sticks. She had pulled a knife, I mean can you believe this, because the people had been in line with an even-numbered car on an odd-numbered day and wanted to switch it with their other car they had brought from home, and she wouldn't let them.

For one lousy tank of gas she was so bent out of shape she might have cut up this baby! She's been pushed over the edge by the phony situation that's been set up, has started thinking and acting just like an animal. "Look out for #1 and walk over anybody that gets in your way!"

One cop turns and orders everyone back to their cars. To his partner he says, "Let's get her out of here, and us, too. They had a near riot earlier in Compton. The niggers got mad because the station was closing with a hundred of them still in line."

Somebody behind me says, "I don't blame her. A guy tried to go down an alley and cut ahead of me last week. I was ready to go down with the sucker, but he backed off."

The girl behind him says, "You're as crazy as her. It's not worth it. The oil companies got us at each other's throats for the privilege of paying \$1 a gallon. You're like dogs fighting over a bone. If I don't get any gas tonight, I'm just not going to work tomorrow. That's all there is to it."

Can you believe it, this whole scene went down and the station hadn't even opened yet. This is going on in gas stations all over the city, and L.A. is no small town. They are doing well at getting everybody to blame everybody else.

I get back to my car. There's a young Black standing behind it with a five-gallon can, wearing an "I Hate OPEC" T-shirt.

The guy that had walked with me huffs, "Fortune magazine was right telling the army's plans for taking over the Middle East if necessary to keep our oil flowing."

"Our oil." I can't believe it. "It's not our oil, man, and it's not even the Arabs'. The big oil companies control it all. It's not enough seeing us fighting each other in line, you think we ought to fight and die in the Saudi desert. That's what the whole thing's about. Line us up, get us regimented and go off to war. For what? Texaco's profits?"

The I-Hate-OPEC guy cuts in, "I'll fight anybody for what I need. I got to have gas or I'll lose my job. If it means fighting Arabs or fighting Texaco, fine. I don't care, just give me my gas."

Just then the line moves. Everybody scrambles to their cars. Some people have to push them, they are already out of gas. A couple of days before a pump jockey had been shot because he wouldn't let someone fill up a gas can out of line. So now anybody with a can has to get in the car line if they want it filled. The line moves fifteen feet and

stops. Ten minutes later it moves twenty feet and stops. The car in front of me dies—out of gas. The driver starts pushing it each time the line moves.

An old man comes up the sidewalk carrying a big flashlight. He is shouting. "No more unleaded today, only premium." A pregnant woman two cars up leans over her door and starts crying. Someone throws a coke can at the old man, cursing him as if he was to blame. The I-Hate-OPEC guy looks at me. His lips are quivering with rage and frustration, clenching and unclenching his fist. "I'm going to lose my job if I can't get no gas. This is insane."

"Hey man, you're gonna lose more than your goddamn job. What are you wearing that stupid T-shirt for—you look like a chump." I am shouting.

"What's with you... you lookin' for a fight."

"Yeah. But not what you think."

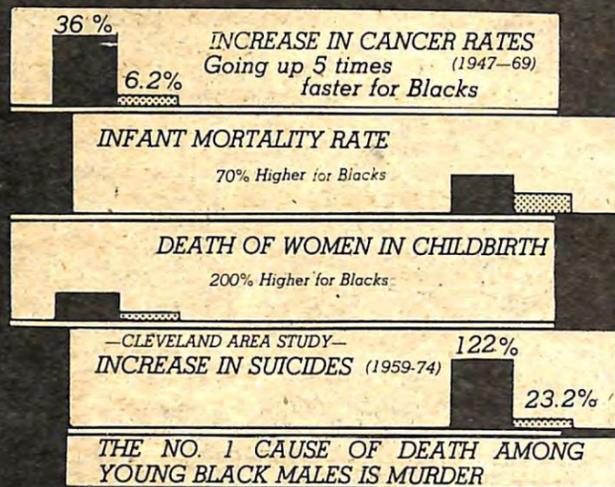
"Well just step outta line..."

"Yeah, step outta line. Get outta their stinking line. They're lining us up, buddy. They're makin' chumps out of us. We gotta step out of line for real."

"What the hell are you talkin' about?" OPEC-man looks at me like I'm crazy. The line starts to move.

"Revolution!" The word hung in the air for a second like a cartoon balloon and then popped in the gas fumes. Everything felt quiet for a minute—then I realized my engine had stopped. Goddammit. I smashed my hand on the trunk of the car. OPEC-man stood shaking his head.

I look him in the eye. "You got a better idea, buddy?"



THIS SYSTEM KILLS BLACKS

A recent news item was headed, "Death, Disease Soar for Blacks." The grim statistics begin to paint the picture of a system rotting at its foundation. Cancer claims the lives of thousands more than it did a generation ago, taking its toll through the air of the factories and inner cities. Children are poisoned by the lead paint of slum buildings. Shining, multi-million dollar medical complexes stand in the middle of neighborhoods where a pregnant woman can't afford to go to the clinic. Thousands of people are driven to lives and deaths of desperation—drug addiction, alcoholism, suicide and murder. For Black people it's the bottom of this hellhole. Whether it's a question of death by cancer or death by a police bullet, statistics for Blacks are higher, the result of the very conditions of life most Black people are forced into. A Black man today stands only a 50% chance of living to retirement age.

The news report dryly concludes that the chief cause of skyrocketing disease and death rates among Blacks is "environmental factors, such as poverty, drinking, smoking and hazardous jobs," as though it were something in the air or an accident of nature. This sickening situation is no accident, but it most definitely is environmental, the product of the putrid environment of capitalism. And you can't take a breath without being choked by it.

FOR SALE: FREE ENTERPRISE

You know things have gotten bad for the capitalists when they've got to start sinking their money into places with unassuming names like the University of Texas' Institution for Constructive Capitalism. As this outfit's assistant director explains, "Corporate executives are shook up and disillusioned with universities. They have all been called upon to defend free enterprise, and they know it's time for action." Or take USC's Center for the Study of Free Enterprise, whose primary objective is to "enlist top businessmen into political activities." It even turns out red, white and blue bumper stickers with the enlightening motto "The American economic system—It works when we do." Major capitalist enterprises such as Dow, Pepsico, Phillips Petroleum, etc. now underwrite over 30 such capitalism-boosting centers and chairs of free enterprise.

Not that the capitalists' hand in the educational system is anything new, of course. During the student movement of the '60s much was exposed about the educational system's role as brain-power supplier for the bourgeoisie. The boards of trustees read like the heads of Fortune magazine's "Top 500" cor-

porations and the society pages of Women's Wear Daily.

So why this particular preoccupation with the halls of academia? "To construct a modern ethical and philosophical basis for capitalism," ac-

ording to a recent Newsweek article. More to the point, it's becoming increasingly difficult for the bourgeoisie to get over with their claims that the system of free enterprise is the best of all possible worlds, especially when the

whole damn thing is rotting away before our eyes. There is a pressing need for the capitalists to ideologically nurture an intellectual army loyal to the god of profit that will go about the business of philosophically defending the system—in other words, force feeding us new variations of their same old shit.

Another reason is that they don't have complete control over the ideas that get kicked around in the political science or history classes of their schools. As a reflection of the unrest in this country and the revolutionary struggles around the world, there is an interest among intellectuals to check out the revolutionary teachings of Marxism among other things. And this certainly can't go unchallenged.

Squeezed by soaring costs and declining enrollments, most colleges and universities welcome a piece of this "free-enterprise" department funding scheme. As a director of one such operation put it, "If you're facing financial problems, and the Six Million Dollar Man asks you to hire a mouthpiece to preach the gospel as he sees it, what are you going to do?"

Things to remember

- ① Profit is not a dirty word!
- ② Private property is sacred!
- ③ Capitalism can be made to work!

IT'S ROTTEN TO THE CORE!

**CINCY COPS
FREAK AT
BLACK RESISTANCE**

**"THERE'S
A WAR
GOING
ON"**



600 Cincinnati cops and their wives "demonstrate" at City Hall demanding an open hunting license on the people.

(Cincinnati)—A series of vicious shootings of young Black men by the Cincinnati police has brought the Black community here to the brink of open rebellion against the cops and the systematic national oppression they enforce as part of capitalist class rule.

On Friday, May 4, George Thomas, 28, went to a car dealer to co-sign for a friend's auto. Police accosted him there, claiming he was suspected of "receiving stolen goods." Thomas ran. The cops chased him over a wall and across a field. As Thomas tried to climb a chain link fence, one cop shot him in the back and then emptied his revolver into the dying man's body.

The news media reported another "criminal" killed "in the line of duty." George Thomas was the fifth unarmed Black man to be shot by the Cincinnati police in eight months. The toll—four dead, one crippled for life. The people were enraged.

The next day, Percy Wilson was approached by an armed cop on suspicion of assault. Realizing it was kill or be killed, Wilson shot first and officer Henze lay dead—the fourth cop to go down in a year. Throughout the Black ghettos of the city and among thousands of white working class people as well, feeling runs high that, as one youth painted on the wall of a project, "The only good ass cop is a dead one."

In July 1978, a cop named Burdsall went after two Black men, Wayne Reed and Russell Bell as they drove away from a King Quick. Burdsall pulled them over and approached them with his gun drawn. Reed dared to defend himself against this legal murderer (who only a year before, together with three other cops, beat a young white man to

death) and shot down Burdsall.

The cops went on a rampage in the Black community. They "accidentally" shot one youth in the back, paralyzing him for life. They ransacked homes and filled one man's gas tank with sugar. They beat, arrested and harassed hundreds. The Black people responded by marching on the pig station and demanded an end to police terror.

The manhunt for Reed and Bell ended, and the courts railroaded them both through. Both men were found guilty of murder and sentenced to die in the chair even though Ohio doesn't have a "legal" death penalty. Many were infuriated by the sentence.

"Two for One" Daniels

Then in March 1979, Greg Daniels shot two cops. The two had hounded Daniels most of his life and thought they had set him up for a kill. But Daniels, who had vowed to get them if they messed with him again, turned the tables on them and killed them both in a shootout before he died from their bullets. In the face of storm trooper tactics by police, two hundred people jammed his funeral and "two for one" Daniels was widely viewed as a hero.

With the most recent death of pig Henze, the cops and the city fathers have really freaked out. One cop whined to the press, "People have got to stop looking at the guys in white hats as the oppressor." City councilmen and newspaper editorials declared that the

people were "acting like there was a war on" and vowed to unleash even more violence against them.

Recently 600 cops and their wives marched to the city council demanding an open hunting license to kill people and 357 magnums and loaded shotguns in front of their cruisers to do the job. The City Council had already agreed to all their demands, and the march was an obvious and open attack on the Black masses. At the City Council meeting, the cops savagely attacked the people, who were there to denounce the cops. They smashed the camera of a Black reporter, fractured the skull of a Black legal worker who booed a police speaker, knocked down the head of the NAACP when he took down a police sign that read "Eliminate overcrowded jails, electrocute the killer bastards." They attacked members of the Revolutionary Communist Party who carried banners reading "Down with National Oppression" and "Cops Are a Tool of the Rich Man's Rule."

Two hundred Blacks demonstrated at the City Council meeting and an equal number of bitter and angry people attended the wake of George Thomas, the most recent victim of the Cincinnati pigs. At one point during the wake, an older Black man wearing a Mao button and waving a red flag got up before the crowd and denounced the police. He called for people to abandon faith in the system and the road of non-violence, and to rally around the RCP and the banner of revolution. Forty

people then marched through the neighborhood, chanting "Avenge the murder of George Thomas, Tear the System Down."

In the city's general hospital a hundred Black workers wore arm bands protesting police terror and throughout the city hundreds of others including many whites wore arm bands.

All of this has brought about a situation so explosive that the bourgeois press is forced to comment every day on the dangers of "racial tension" (i.e., resistance to national oppression). And in particular, the mayor and both local newspapers have attacked the RCP for trying to "stir up violence!"

What these legal murderers and mouthpieces for the capitalist class are so freaked out about is that the people aren't sitting still for their human target practice. They are terrified that some of their slaves are actually shooting back, and not only that but many people think that's righteous. The situation has gone from outrage to a mass desire for action to put a stop to the reign of terror by the police. And in the face of a big offensive by the cops, the media and the city council, the question of revolution is getting a mass hearing. ■

Embassy 5 Trial Starts May 24

The first round in the trials of the Mao Tsetung Defendants has begun. Amazing as it may be, the government is trying to say these trials are not political. Not political? January 29th saw hundreds strike a powerful blow for revolution and against the war moves that U.S.-China normalization represents when Teng Hsiao-ping came to brown-nose at the White House. The Mao Tsetung Defendants are those who were arrested in various welcoming actions. What could be more political than that?

One big contradiction facing the government has been revealed in the two trials so far. On the one hand they took a blow and for that they want to nail those responsible; on the other hand they don't want to admit they suffered that blow, and particularly they don't want any more exposure or political trials that would arouse people's interest, activity and revolutionary fervor.

The two revolutionaries who disrupted the state arrival ceremony on the White House lawn, confronting Carter and Teng, were acquitted. These were people who made it into that supposedly impenetrable fortress and who

provoked articles like "They waved Red Books, but it could have been guns." After the testimony of five secret servicemen filled with ridiculous lies, and after viewing the secret service video tape, similar to the TV footage millions saw, where the words of the revolutionaries were clearly audible and where Carter and Teng reacted visibly, and before any defense statement or testimony, the judge decided to acquit.

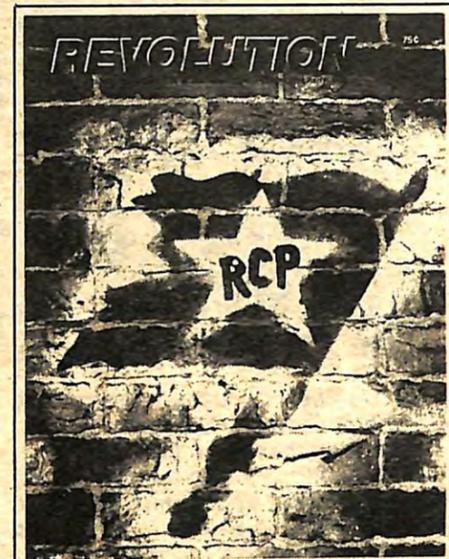
According to him, "I can't say they disrupted anything." Not political? The point here is to say that this as well as the other actions were irrelevant and ineffectual. The bourgeoisie will also probably use the acquittal of the White House 2, the only defendants up on misdemeanors (disorderly conduct for disrupting the President's speech) against the other defendants.

They will try to use this acquittal to show how their system of justice works and to reinforce illusions that there is democracy. How can you say this is political, they may cry. We let the two at the White House out. Now as for the others...

The contradiction will be even sharper with the Embassy Five. The shattering of the windows of the

Chinese Embassy, and the dousing of it with white paint symbolizing treachery, all done the Wednesday before Teng's arrival, made a profound political statement and was a clarion call to revolutionary-minded people around the country. The Embassy Five are charged with three felonies—destruction of foreign government property and two counts of assault. One is charged with four felonies, including a concealed weapons charge.

The State Department had to issue a public apology to China, and initially the bourgeoisie tried to set \$50,000 bail for the one with four charges and \$20,000 bail for the others. Also the judge at the bail hearing gave a big rap about how the high bail was because of the delicacy of the situation and the importance of relations with China. Even with this setting the stage, the D.A. tries to say, "Their motives are irrelevant. This is not a political trial." The prosecution's lies aside, the plans of the Party and the RCYB are to intensify the struggle politically as the trial begins. ■



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May 15, 1969 - the Battle of People's Park



Only a year earlier, in 1968, the small block of land was the site of old houses bordering the south side of the University of California campus in Berkeley. The university bought the land and demolished the houses. One of its expansion programs.

But the land just sat there for months. People in the community got sick of looking at the ugly, muddy, deserted lot. Students, kids, hippies and even businessmen got together and started fixing it up. The 250 by 450 foot lot became People's Park.

But the university *owned* the land, as it would prove in coming days. University chancellor Roger Heyns decided to establish his rightful authority in the matter and on May 14th announced that he would erect a steel fence around the park. Why? "To re-establish the conveniently forgotten fact that the field is indeed the university's and to exclude unauthorized persons from the site."

At 4:00 AM the next morning, 400 Berkeley cops moved in to "supervise" the construction of a steel wire fence and by noon thousands had assembled 1 block away on the UC campus. Everybody shared the common feeling: Who do these sons of bitches think they are? To hell with their god damn private property!

A speaker issued the call, "Take the park!" and people started moving down Telegraph Avenue. They were met by hundreds of cops brought in from all over the Bay Area as reinforcements who barraged the demonstrators with tear gas. A fierce street battle erupted growing into an area covering 30 square blocks.

Unable to rout the demonstrators, the pigs escalated their offensive. Alameda County Sheriffs, equipped with twelve gauge shotguns, fired repeatedly into the crowd. Many people in the streets were shot in the back, others shot standing on roofs overlooking the scene.

The fighting remained intense for hours before the battle of "Bloody Thursday" ebbed. When it was over, 60 cops were injured, but the struggle had taken more of a toll on the people. Many including two reporters were hit by shotgun pellets, at least five shot by thirty caliber bullets, other stabbed. Alan Blanchard was permanently blinded and James Rector died two days later from buckshot wounds. Captain Dryer, spokesman for the police, later explained why double-0 buck shot was fired at the people. "The birdshot ran out and the only thing left was buckshot."

Ordered by Gov. Ronald Reagan, the National Guard occupied Berkeley the next day and for a week demonstrations of thousands continued. At a vigil for James Rector, demonstrators on the UC campus were surrounded by the guardsmen as an army helicopter swooped in—Vietnam style—to drop CS tear gas (a gas outlawed for war-time use by the Geneva Convention)—all this for their fucking property! At another demonstration, 500 people were arrested and at yet another, 30,000 marched five miles through the streets of Berkeley protesting the state of war fomented by the authorities.

"Communism springs from every sphere of life," said a leaflet put out at the time by the Revolutionary Union, the main organization that helped form the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. People from all walks of life joined the struggle against the pious authorities and their sanctity of private property. Thousands who came directly into motion, and millions who fiercely debated the issues raised by People's Park, learned an important lesson during those few short days: The high and mighty would call in police, deploy troops, and gun down people in cold blood defending *just the principle of sacred private property!*



During the furious street fighting 200 demonstrators isolated 2 cops, showered them with bricks, smashed the windshield of their car, then burned it. But by the time the battle had ebbed, the people had suffered more losses than the pigs...

War Issue Debated in Berkeley

Berkeley, Spring 1979—This university town famous for its role as a hotbed of rebellion is coming alive again. In the last couple of months UC's Sproul Plaza has again become the site of demonstrations against the nukes, against the draft. There is no mistaking it, big questions are again in the air. And many of these are exactly around the growing danger of war.

In this atmosphere over 200 people actively participated in a day-long conference entitled, "World War 3, Is It Coming? What Should We Do About It?" held May 12 on the University of California, Berkeley campus.

The conference itself was held in that same rebellious spirit, the spirit of the teach-ins of the '60s when students walked out of lecture halls and demanded to learn what was really going on so they could be prepared to consciously deal with the situation. The conference

was initiated by the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and was one of a number of such conferences held round the country. A variety of student, anti-war and anti-nuclear organizations endorsed and participated in the event.

These different perspectives came out in the main presentations, which were given by the Revolutionary Communist Party, Berkeley Students for Peace, Daniel Ellsberg, and the right-wing Students for a Libertarian Society. Following the speeches, the floor was opened and the discussion and debate that followed were plenty lively, going on for nearly an hour beyond the scheduled lunch break. Later people went to different workshops ranging from one on the draft to one on nuclear weapons and one on Marxism vs. pacifism.

The views ranged from the RCP's

position that it was monopoly capitalism and its expand-or-die nature here and in the USSR that is the enemy that has to be dealt with, to the view of the right-wing Students for a Libertarian Society that the problem is big government and that capitalism is actually fine. The vast majority of people, though not Marxists, felt that the multinational corporations had plenty of blood on their hands. At the same time there were many differences on how to deal with this danger of World War 3 and its threat of mass murder and destruction.

The RCP's stand that the people must seize on the time of future revolutionary crisis, to pick up the gun and wage revolutionary war to smash the system that keeps itself alive with war, was put out strongly, and it raised considerable controversy. Didn't the threat of nuclear war change things? Could

violence really be ended through violence? Could war be prevented if enough people took a stand, if enough refused to be drafted?

The Students for a Libertarian Society, a reactionary group with a thin "progressive" cover that bills itself as the leader of the anti-draft movement, put out a big anti-communist rap. Their "big" opposition to the U.S. imperialists is that it's the U.S.'s supposed blunders that are causing "the rise of communism" around the world and they say that what is needed is a return to the *laissez faire* capitalism of the early 1800's. Their opposition to the draft does not exactly go very far—to them the volunteer army is fine—in fact, it has given Blacks and other minorities "the best jobs they ever had."

At the conference, Daniel Ellsberg said that conferences like this one, where healthy and serious debate and struggle could go on, were very necessary and important. Most all who participated were open and eager to thrash out the crucial questions raised at this meeting.

Moody Park 3!



Continued from page 1
for Joe Torres, and standing with thousands of Chicanos in their righteous rebellion last May in Moody Park."

Out for Blood

The state was out for blood. While they whined that this, the most significant political trial in several years in this country, was in "no way political," they ran their raggedy case on a barrage of red-baiting science fiction and hysteria. In the closing arguments to the jury the prosecutor Tobias said of the 3, "These people are dangerous. They can influence people. They and their followers are like a rattlesnake. To kill it, you have to sever the head and send these three to prison." He demanded the maximum penalty, 20 years for felony riot.

Two years ago almost to the day, Joe Campos Torres was brutally beaten and drowned by six Houston cops, who were let off once with a \$1 fine and then later given a one year sentence, not a day of which has been served. Now these pigs tried to use the fact that there was mass struggle against this outrage, and that these 3 had helped to lead this movement, as Exhibit A to throw them into prison. They tried to paint the Three as red hypnotists who somehow compelled the Chicano people of Houston to rise up on Cinco de Mayo last year and fight the police.

They paraded on the stand a nauseating collection of witnesses: a paid police informer posing as a "community organizer"; an ex-cop in jail for passing bad checks who openly admitted that he was hoping his "testimony" would get him in good with the parole board; a lying police reporter; and a herd of pigs who whined about being innocent victims of the Chicano masses—like Nazis crying about persecution at the hands of concentration camp victims. Prosecutor Tobias badgered defense witnesses: "Why are you wearing a red shirt? Why are all the people in the courtroom wearing red shirts? (They weren't.) Why does Mara Youngdahl drive a red car?"

No Thanks to Capitalist Justice

That the judge and the prosecutor weren't able to deliver all the blood the bourgeoisie was after in this case is no thanks to them nor their stinking capitalist "American system of justice." It was the political atmosphere that was created through the year-long struggle for Justice for Joe Torres that preceded the rebellion and the year-long campaign to defend the rebellion and free the Three that followed it that made it difficult for them to get just what they wanted from the jury.

The bourgeoisie finds real advantages to using a jury because that way they can hang people and still say "the people" did it. Since the prosecutor and the judge have so much to say about who gets on the jury and what they see and hear or not, the authorities can usually get what they want out of a jury. They did their best to hand pick a bunch of willing tools of reaction for this one—the prosecutor openly excluded

every single Black candidate and one of the two Chicano candidates in hopes that there would be no one who hated the oppressors' whip to interfere with his plans. Despite this the prosecutor had trouble getting over with the jury on the basis of red-baiting and fairytales about "nice police" who were victims of the masses.

In questioning Tom Hirschi, the prosecutor made the pompous statement that this was no railroad, it would be a fair trial. The Three would be tried and sentenced by a jury of their peers, just as the police who killed Joe Torres were also tried and sentenced by a jury. Hirschi shot back coolly, "I doubt that the court prosecuted that case with the vigor it's prosecuting this one." This provoked laughter from everyone in the courtroom, and the enraged judge, who saw nothing funny in this exposure, immediately ordered the jury out of the room, and once they were out of earshot threatened the spectators that she would expel them if there was another "outburst."

After prosecutor Tobias screamed about red shirts everywhere, two jurors appeared in court wearing red shirts. While one of the jurors had done this accidentally, it turned out that the other one had actually gone out and bought a red shirt to wear on purpose. This created quite a stir in court.

After the trial was over, the jurors told reporters and others that from the minute they walked into the jury room, almost all immediately rejected out of hand the prosecution's rabid case based on red-baiting and charges of conspiracy and "inciting to riot!" Many of the jurors thought that the prosecution witnesses were outright liars.

Especially in the face of the tremendous pressure exerted by the authorities in Houston, this is significant and shows that due to the political struggle in Houston and more broadly the political climate in this country since the '60s, many people no longer have such faith in the integrity of the authorities and are unwilling to accept at face value the old McCarthyite ravings about revolutionaries. But given all this, why the hell did they convict the Moody Park 3?

Oppressor's Law

One of the jurors, Mrs. Don Wigley speaking to the press said that the crucial point in deliberating the felony charge was wording in the indictment that based guilt or innocence on whether the defendants should have anticipated that their actions would lead to public damage or arson. Under the "felony riot" law which was specifically designed to railroad political activists, it is a crime to be on the scene for any length of time at a gathering of six or more people where the "law" is broken.

Even though a few of the jurors openly stated their disagreement with this law during deliberation, the entire jury fell into weighing the guilt and innocence of the Three simply on law's terms. This shows that even though people don't trust the bourgeoisie as individuals, they still have faith in the

Travis Morales
Mara Youngdahl
Tom Hirschi

sanctity of the system of "justice." They still believe the school-taught tales of "impartiality" and think they have a duty to uphold the law.

But if this trial and this verdict and this sentence show anything, it is the class nature of The Law. Who the hell made up the laws in the first place? Which class do they serve? And what, as shown so vividly in the jury's verdict in this case, does The Law drive people to do—carry out the rule of the oppressor.

Some jurors who originally wanted acquittal and then caved in to a guilty verdict on the basis of the law let it be known that they would demand a probationary sentence if they agreed to conviction. They didn't understand what this would mean, especially for three revolutionaries who have been hounded by the state.

Five years' probation is that many years for the state to try to throw Travis and Mara back in prison, to serve out a five-year sentence. Since Travis has been arrested more than half a dozen times and the other two several times each since this case began, since they have been constantly harassed and threatened by the authorities, there is certainly no reason to think that now the bourgeoisie will leave them alone. Travis Morales still faces two more felony trials—one for a spray-painted slogan which appeared on an expressway wall and the other for "tampering with a witness" for brushing off an undercover pig who was harassing him in a courtroom.

And it is clear that the state will continue to hound the Three and try every means possible to get them behind bars. The judge—that "neutral arbitrator of justice"—was so filled with vengeful rage after the jury brought in the sentence that a young woman who stood up to protest the conviction and sentence was herself sentenced on the spot to six months in jail for "contempt of court." The prosecutor was livid, and screamed to the press, "We gave all the evidence we could to bring to the jurors' attention. If they feel that people who go out to burn buildings and injure policemen should get probated sentences, well, they're the ones who are setting the price of crime in this city." Shove it, Tobias. The court's set the price of "crime" when they set the price of a Chicano life at \$1.

Political Battle

Thousands had come forward to stand beside the Moody Park Three in this battle. People from all walks of life helped out in some way. In the factories many workers signed telegrams and banners and gave money. In the Chicano barrios the trial became a sharp and well-known issue. Many came out to march and picket, and new people became active organizers through this campaign. In Houston, as many Chicanos and others literally risked everything to testify in favor of the Three or to stand with them in some

other way despite the near certainty of official retaliation, it became clear that politically the city would never be the same.

At the same time there were some cowardly, cop-loving "communists" who stepped forward in this campaign to join with the bourgeoisie in lashing out at the Moody Park Three and the RCP. The Communist Party Marxist-Leninist and their junior running dog partners the League of Revolutionary Struggle went around saying that the Three were "isolated adventurers" who just wanted to use the Chicano people. They even reprinted slanderous accusations from the Houston daily press that a spokesman for People United to Fight Police Brutality, an organization initiated by the RCP to fight for justice for Joe Torres, had said "We don't care how many Chicanos get hurt in this struggle." These despicable sectarians were so blinded by their own selfish interests that they denied right up till the end that the bourgeoisie had singled out the Moody Park Three, and instead attacked the RCP for building a broad defense for them.

The bourgeoisie has had to pay a political price for this case. Through the many attacks and constant harassment against the Three and their supporters, and especially through this outrageous trial, many more people than before got a strong whiff of the stench of the "American system of justice." In their mad-dog rage to stamp out the sparks of revolution that revolutionaries have been fanning in the defense of the Houston rebellion, the capitalists have actually stamped out many illusions that there is any way out of this state of oppression other than by mass armed revolution. They went on the offensive to attack the rebellion, discredit it, extinguish the sparks it ignited in the hearts of the oppressed, and crush revolutionary leaders, but instead they have been more discredited, the attacks have been thrown back in their faces, the sparks have been spread—and so far they have not been able to rip off these revolutionary leaders.

The struggle around the Moody Park Three is not over. The defense has announced that it will appeal the verdict. It is necessary to snatch away from the capitalists this weapon of probation that they intend to use to keep the Three in their clutches. And it is necessary to expose the outrage of the attack that has come down in the name of "justice" and to continue to uphold the stand embodied in the slogans raised around this trial: Free the Moody Park 3! Drop the charges against all those arrested! Stop police terror—Justice for Joe Torres! Down with national oppression!

Message to Iranian Communists

Last week the Revolutionary Worker printed a message from the Union of Iranian Communists to the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA for May Day. The following is a message from the RCP to the Iranian comrades of the UIC on the occasion of the mammoth demonstrations which shook Iran on May 1st.

To the Union of Iranian Communists, and In Solidarity with the Communist and Revolutionary Movements and the Heroic Working Class and People of Iran, on the Occasion of the Celebration of May Day, 1979:

Comrades,

It is with great joy that we greet the powerful celebration of May Day held in Iran this year under the leadership of genuine communist and revolutionary forces and involving altogether 2 million workers and other revolutionary and progressive people in your country.

This May Day celebration in Iran, the first time in three decades that the heroic working class and people of Iran have been able to openly take part in this historic revolutionary festival of the international proletariat, is the result of the magnificent revolutionary struggle of the Iranian people, especially over the past two years. And, further, this May Day celebration itself represents a powerful political and moral force, giving tremendous impetus and direction to the continuing struggle of the Iranian people to consolidate and further advance the gains of their revolution, to complete the task of carrying through the anti-imperialist democratic revolution and then advance to socialism and, together with the working class and oppressed people worldwide, to the ultimate goal of communism.

Over the past two years, the revolutionary storm of the Iranian people's uprising has not only won monumental victories, especially with the overthrow of the fascist monarchy of the Shah, that butcher of the Iranian people and puppet and gendarme for U.S. imperialism; but further, the Iranian people's revolutionary struggle has struck a profound blow for the emancipation of the proletariat and oppressed people around the world and dealt a shattering blow to the U.S. imperialists and all other imperialists and reactionaries. It has taken place at a time when the international proletariat has suffered a severe and bitter setback—the seizure of power by revisionist traitors in China, after the death of Mao Tsetung, the greatest revolutionary of our time, and through the bloody suppression of revolutionary masses and the revolutionary leadership in China that was carrying out Mao's Marxist-Leninist line, headed by the so-called "gang of four" (Comrades Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan). The usurpers Hua Kuo-feng, Teng Hsiao-ping & Co. who have stolen power from the working class in China have shamelessly reversed the revolution in China and perverted it from a beacon and bastion of world revolution into a base of reaction. They have trampled on the revolutionary line of Mao Tsetung in all spheres—replacing the dictatorship of the proletariat with a fascist bourgeois dictatorship over the working class and masses and proceeding at a feverish and dizzying pace with the restoration of capitalism in China, while at the same time offering up China to the highest bidder among the imperialist powers, joining with imperialists and all manner of reactionaries in the international arena, and playing a vicious role for reaction in attempting to misdirect, subvert and set up for slaughter the people's revolutionary struggle throughout the world.

In the face of this, including its effect and manifestation in Iran itself as well as internationally, the Iranian people's revolutionary upsurge, erupting on an unprecedented scale in that country and engulfing society in a thoroughgoing way and with awesome strength, has forcefully exploded the lying propaganda of the rulers of the USA and all reactionaries, who, in addition to all their other degenerate deception, are attempting to use the reversal in China and the treachery of the new Chinese rulers to demoralize and intimidate the people into believing that there is no way out of the misery and degradation of imperialist domination and exploiting class society and that revolution is an impossible dream—or worse, a nightmare for the masses. The Iranian people's revolution has therefore not only knocked from its throne one of the powerful bastions of imperialism and reaction in the world and opened the way to firmly establishing Iran as a bastion of revolution, but has provided a brilliant example and inspiration for the working class and oppressed people

on every part of the globe. It has proven, once again, with the volcano-like force of millions, that wherever there is oppression there will be resistance, and that sooner or later, and especially as the crisis of the reactionary system deepens, the people will rise in revolution. This has been a great force educating and tempering the masses as well as the revolutionaries, including our Party, in the USA as well as in other countries. It has heightened our determination to further educate, arouse and mobilize the working class and masses of people in this country to prepare for and finally carry out the revolutionary struggle for socialism and ultimately communism, and as a crucial part of this to unite with and support revolutionary struggles worldwide, including as a decisive component in that process the heroic and continuing struggle of the Iranian people.

We are aware that right now the Iranian people's revolutionary struggle is at a critical juncture. The hated Shah and the regime of the reactionaries he represented has been overthrown, casting off a tremendous weight from the backs of the Iranian people and opening the way to their complete emancipation. But such complete emancipation remains to be fully achieved.

The U.S. imperialists and the domestic reactionaries aligned with them in Iran have not been thoroughly uprooted and they are today carrying out subversion and plotting to outright attack the Iranian people's revolution and drown it in blood. And not only must the Iranian people carry through the complete annihilation of these forces in their country, but they must also oppose and defeat all attempts by other imperialists and reactionaries, including the Soviet social-imperialists and their lackeys in Iran, to sabotage and pervert the struggle and subject the Iranian people to a new form of imperialist subjugation and exploitation. For all these reasons, as the genuine communist and revolutionary forces of Iran have consistently pointed out, the attempts of vacillating and reformist forces in Iran to compromise with U.S. imperialism, or other imperialist and reactionary interests, and to call a halt to the revolution at this stage, must be resolutely opposed and overcome, while continuing to unite all who can be united to carry forward the great struggle in which the Iranian people have already fought and sacrificed so heroically—to rid themselves and their country of all forms of reactionary domination, exploitation and oppression.

That such a great and historic task can only be carried out under the leadership of the working class is a fact which has been powerfully indicated by the decisive and central role played by the Iranian workers in the overthrow of the fascist monarchy and the continuing struggle to advance the revolution in Iran. But, of course, to fully realize its leading role, and to fully mobilize and unite the broadest ranks of the people to win their complete emancipation, the working class and the revolutionary struggle as a whole must have the leadership of the proletarian vanguard, the Marxist-Leninist Party. It is therefore with the greatest interest and encouragement that we learn of and hail the intensifying efforts of the genuine communist forces in Iran to forge the communist vanguard Party at the earliest possible time. We firmly support this struggle to build the Party in the crucible of the ongoing Iranian revolution, and we are confident that, on the basis of striving for unity around the correct, Marxist-Leninist line and through the determined fight against various forms of revisionism and all other kinds of opportunism, the struggle for the genuine Party of the working class will be crowned with victory in the near future, answering the most urgent requirement of the revolution at this time.

In this light, we are especially gladdened by the recent victories won by the Union of Iranian Communists in further consolidating its ranks around its revolutionary line and defeating the sabotage of opportunists—specifically those who have supported the revisionist rulers of China who usurped power there through their reactionary *coup d'etat* in October 1976, and would have imposed their revisionist line on the Union of Iranian Communists and the communist movement as a whole in Iran. In this struggle, as well as in other ways, the Union of Iranian Communists and other comrades in Iran have made important contributions to the cause of the international proletariat and the oppressed peoples of the world in the fight against imperialism and reaction, including the struggle in the communist movement internationally to unite on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, uphold the great contributions of Mao Tsetung and his development and enrichment of Marxism-Leninism, and expose and defeat revisionism and opportunism of all stripes. And we further rejoice at and draw inspiration

from the advances being made in building the unity of the genuine communist forces in Iran and extending and deepening their influence among the working class and broad masses—advances powerfully demonstrated in this year's May Day celebrations in Iran—which strengthen the basis for establishing the Marxist-Leninist Party and propelling the Iranian revolution forward in great strides in the decisive period ahead.

Comrades,

As we have proclaimed on May Day this year, not only in Iran, but around the world and here in the USA as well, flames of revolution are spreading. The imperialist system is sinking deeper into crisis and this is awakening and activating growing numbers of the working class and broad ranks of the people in every country in struggle against imperialism and reaction. At the same time the imperialists and reactionaries are not only stepping up their vicious attacks on the people but, headed by the two superpowers, U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, they are solidifying their rival blocs in preparation for an unprecedentedly destructive world war, in their desperate drive to redivide the world, protect and expand their empires and "spheres of influence" and prolong their blood-soaked rule and their predatory system.

The coming years will hold great trials, great upheavals and great possibilities for the working class and oppressed peoples of the world. It is the urgent duty of the communists in every country to intensify their work to prepare for and lead the masses in revolution and to unite the ranks of revolutionaries and the masses on the basis of the world-emancipating interests of the international proletariat and in resolute struggle against the common enemies of the people of the world—the two superpowers, the imperialist system, and all imperialists and reactionaries. Wherever the opportunity arises, wherever the objective and subjective conditions develop, through the operation of the laws of the system and the untiring work of the revolutionary forces, they must unhesitatingly seize the opportunity and lead and carry forward resolutely the decisive battle to overthrow the rule of the reactionaries and replace it with the rule of the working class, together with its allies, and advance to socialism. Our unwavering stand and consistent practice must be to prepare for and finally to wage revolutionary war, not imperialist war. And if world war is unleashed by the imperialists, then our response must be to once again intensify our work to oppose imperialist war and reactionary rule with revolutionary war, and hasten the extinction of this barbarous system and all forms of exploitation.

May Day this year, in Iran and in a less developed but significant way in the United States, as well as on every continent, has demonstrated the growth and tempering of the revolutionary movement and the Marxist-Leninist forces and the further awakening of masses of the people. It has itself constituted an important part of the overall struggle against imperialism and reaction and has played an important part in preparing for even more momentous and truly earth-shaking struggle in the years ahead. Next year in the USA, as announced at the May Day celebrations this year, for the first time in many, many years, May Day will be held on a work day and will mobilize on that day, May 1, 1980, thousands of workers and other oppressed people in this country around the revolutionary banner of the international proletariat. And in the future, May Day will continue to play a vital role all over the world in rallying the forces for revolution and in the growing revolutionary struggle of the broad masses. We fervently hope that, in the near future, May Day in Iran will not only witness the working class and its allies unfolding its banner openly, as it has seen this year for the first time in three decades, but that it will be celebrated in an Iran in which the banner of the working class flies over the whole country, signalling the advance of the Iranian people's struggle to the complete defeat of imperialism and reaction in that country and the establishment of the rule of the working class, together with its allies, and the triumphant march into the socialist future. And we are confident that the day will come when, not only in Iran, but also in the USA and around the world, the red flag of the international proletariat will fly over every land, marking the advance to socialism and ultimately the achievement of the historic mission of communism. It is in this spirit and with this determination that we send our warmest greetings and stand in the firmest solidarity with you on the occasion of the celebration of May Day, 1979.

Hail to the Iranian People's Revolution, Onward to its Complete Victory!

Full Support to the Genuine Communists in Iran in the Struggle to Build the Marxist-Leninist Vanguard Party at the Earliest Possible Time!

Long Live the Revolutionary Unity of the Iranian and American Peoples and the Working Class and Oppressed Peoples of the World!

Long Live Proletarian Internationalism!

Long Live May Day!

Forward to the Future of Socialism and Ultimately Communism Throughout the World!

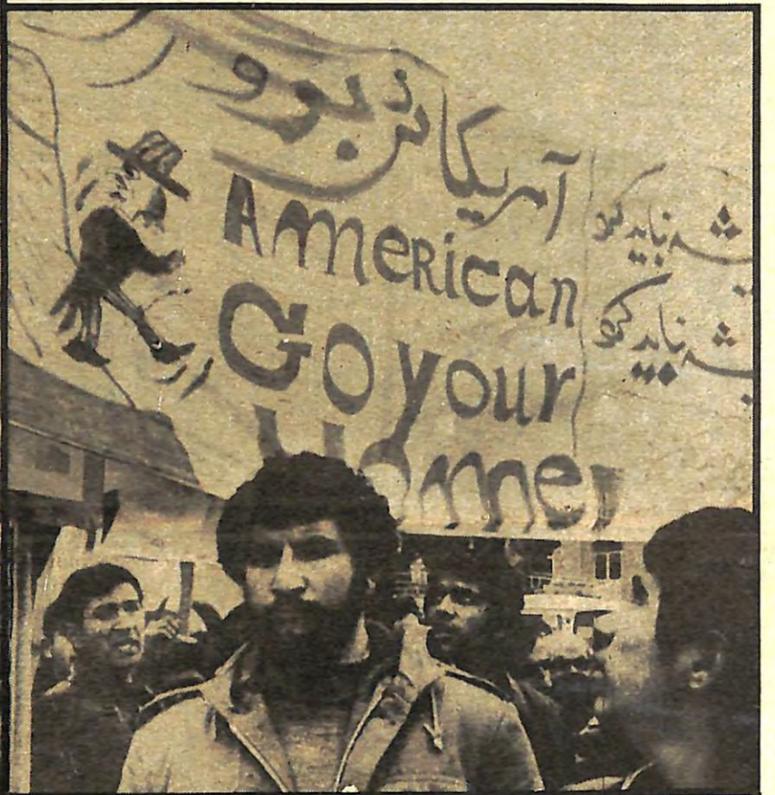
The Central Committee, on Behalf of the Entire Membership, of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

**Revolution in Iran
Scenes from the February Insurrection**

THE THUNDER...

AND THE STORM BEGINS

*Revolución en Irán
Insurrección de Febrero
El Trueno...
Y Se Descarga la Tempestad*



As the Shah is forced to flee abroad, Iran erupts in a festival of the oppressed. Statues of the hated despot start toppling and the people dance in the streets of Tehran.

January 16—16 de Enero

El sha es forzado a huirse al extranjero. En todo Irán se desencadena una festividad de los oprimidos. Los monumentos del odiado déspota son derrumbados y la gente baila en las calles de Terán.

The Revolutionary Worker thanks the Iranian Students Association for their help in compiling these photos.

Armed street battles in Tehran and other cities break out on the most massive scale yet.

January 28—28 de Enero

Batallas armadas estallan en las calles de Terán en la escala más grande hasta la fecha.



The insurrection has begun! Rebel soldiers and armed civilians pursue the Shah's fleeing army near the Doshen Tappeh Air Base captured the night before.

February 10—10 de Febrero

¡La insurrección ha comenzado! Soldados rebeldes junto con ciudadanos armados persiguen al ejército del sha que intenta huir, cerca de la Base Aérea Doshen Tappen en manos del pueblo desde la noche anterior.

Groups of revolutionary fighters attack the army from all directions.

Grupos de luchadores revolucionarios atacan al ejército desde todos lados.

February 11—11 de Febrero



February 11—11 de Febrero

Coke bottles, symbol of U.S. imperialism, are put to good use as molotov cocktails—No Deposit, No Return.

Botellas de Coca Cola, símbolo del imperialismo EEUU, sirven para algo muy necesario—cócteles molotov.

Woman revolutionary trains on captured anti-aircraft gun at Tehran University, insurrectionary headquarters in the capital.

February 11—11 de Febrero

Mujer se entrena en un cañon antiaéreo en la Universidad de Terán, el cuartel de la insurrección en la capital.



Victory! After storming the Imperial Guard's base in north Tehran, the revolutionary forces triumphantly seize thousands of weapons and prepare to carry the struggle through to the end.

February 12—12 de Febrero

¡Victoria! Después de asaltar la base de los Guardias Imperiales en el norte de Terán, las fuerzas revolucionarias triunfantemente se apoderan de miles de armas en preparación para llevar la batalla hasta el fin.

El Obrero Revolucionario quiere agradecer a la Asociación de Estudiantes Iranies por su ayuda en compilar estas fotos.

Felonious Use of Flag As Rag



Detroit—Ali was working on his car at the gas station across from the Fleetwood plant on Fort St., repairing the left fender. A cop pulls up and busts him. His crime? "Sitting on and wiping your greasy hands on the American Flag!"

This criminal was whisked away to the Fort St. precinct, put behind bars where he remained all night. "F--king Arabs, don't you love this country and the American Flag," was all the lofty turnkey could blabber all night long.

The following morning in court the arresting officer and the judge couldn't quite find the right law with which to convict this dangerous element. "Felonious use of the Flag as a rag" isn't written into their law books—yet. So they let Ali go with a warning, only to re-issue a warrant for his arrest four days later on the misdemeanor

"Disrespect for the American Flag."

The facts in this case are still not all in. Apparently the rag—or rather flag—was lying there on the ground, a few feet away from Ali, obviously having long since lost its place adorning someone's patriotic mantle and instead was being used for the much more useful purpose as an oil rag.

As for "sitting on the Flag," Ali's only comment was, "In Lebanon we *shit* on the Flag" (the flag of the Lebanese capitalist ruling class). In Lebanon the fight of the masses is more advanced than in this country, so their treatment of their enemy's flag is at a higher level, something to look forward to as the revolutionary movement in this country intensifies. In the meantime, using the red, white and blue as a grease rag is a step in the right direction.

Hacks' Tight Grip on Rubber Strike

Contracts covering thousands of rubber workers at Firestone, Goodyear and Uniroyal expired on April 20th. On May 9th, 8,000 struck 12 Uniroyal plants after the government "forced" the company to back off from an agreement already reached with the United Rubber Workers Union. The story is that Uniroyal agreed to a 40% wage increase over three years, but then the government stepped in and threatened to cut off government contracts if the company went through with this agreement. (It was a violation of the 7% wage increase guidelines.) Of course, convincing Uniroyal to lower its wage proposal was

about as hard as convincing a leech to suck blood. This was indicated when the company reaffirmed that it "pledges to uphold the wage guidelines."

The striking workers are up against big obstacles. Uniroyal owns a number of non-union plants which continue to supply tires, including its Ardmore, Okla. plant which produces 50% of its radial tires. And for URW president Peter Bommarito, who alone is a big obstacle the workers face, the Uniroyal strike is mainly a question of bluster.

His much fanfares target-company strike "strategy," striking one com-

pany to put "pressure" on the others, is a hype and aimed at allowing him to appear like a man who will "deliver" when the only thing he wants to deliver is the workers into the hands of the capitalists. In defending Uniroyal as the target, his hacks even suggested that Firestone not be dealt with too harshly because of all the money they've lost on the Firestone 500!

But the rubber barons certainly don't plan to go easy on the workers, and whether or not this struggle can advance and break the tight grip Bommarito has placed on it will be seen in coming weeks.

Walla Walla

Continued from page 2

transfers themselves were a stark indictment of the reign of terror on inmates of this capitalist dungeon. At 4 a.m., three of the nine were escorted in double handcuffs, waist chains and leg irons by members of the governor's security force armed with shotguns and submachine guns to the governor's private plane.

Only when the prisoners threatened to kick in the instrument panel and one prisoner tore an arm off his seat did the guards reveal their destination: the federal prison at Marion, Illinois.

The transfers only added fuel to the fires of brewing unrest. Conditions that had led these leaders to come to the fore only spurred others to rise to the occasion. The butcher shop medical care did not improve. The cells made for two continued to house four. The brutal beatings from the guards increased. The officials were "cracking down," but on May 9 they choked on their words as all their "tough measures" fell flat on their face.

Faced with these attacks the inmates did what the capitalists feared most—they rebelled. The capitalists are terrified of the prisoners' struggle because it sparks a light of rebellion from their darkest holes. The prisons, like courts and the cops, are their final recourse: the club they use to keep people in line.

One state senator said about the rebellion at Walla Walla, "I don't think this has anything to do with crowded conditions there." According to him the reason for the uprising was "You have animals in there."

This is the ruling class view of prisoners—animals to be caged or beaten into submission. But the prisoners would not be beaten into submission. Risking their lives, the prisoners' bold actions focused the eyes of the country on the living hell of capitalism's prisons. The actions of the Walla Walla inmates stand as an indictment not only of the criminal conditions in the prisons but also the capitalist system of justice which spawns these hellholes.

At Walla Walla the tension continues to run high. The three inmates are still in the Hole, although the general lock-down was lifted after three days. As one prisoner put it, "If they didn't end the lock-down, it would be a good way to get the whole place torn down." The prisoners remain angry about their brothers in the Hole and the fate of the list of 35 grievances which the prison has refused to publish in full. The possibility of a prison strike hangs heavy in the air.

For all those who suffer under the rule of the capitalists, the uprising of the Walla Walla prisoners is an inspiration and a call. Prison rebellions have always been an important part of the revolutionary struggle overall. And they will intensify and deepen as the revolutionary movement makes further advances.

No amount of beatings, leg irons, or lock-downs can hold back the inmates of these capitalist dungeons from rising up over and over against their sub-human conditions. As one Walla Walla inmate promised, "The next one will be violent."

Death Row Inmate Writes

"...Everyday We Die Another Death"

Dear Comrades of *Revolutionary Worker*,

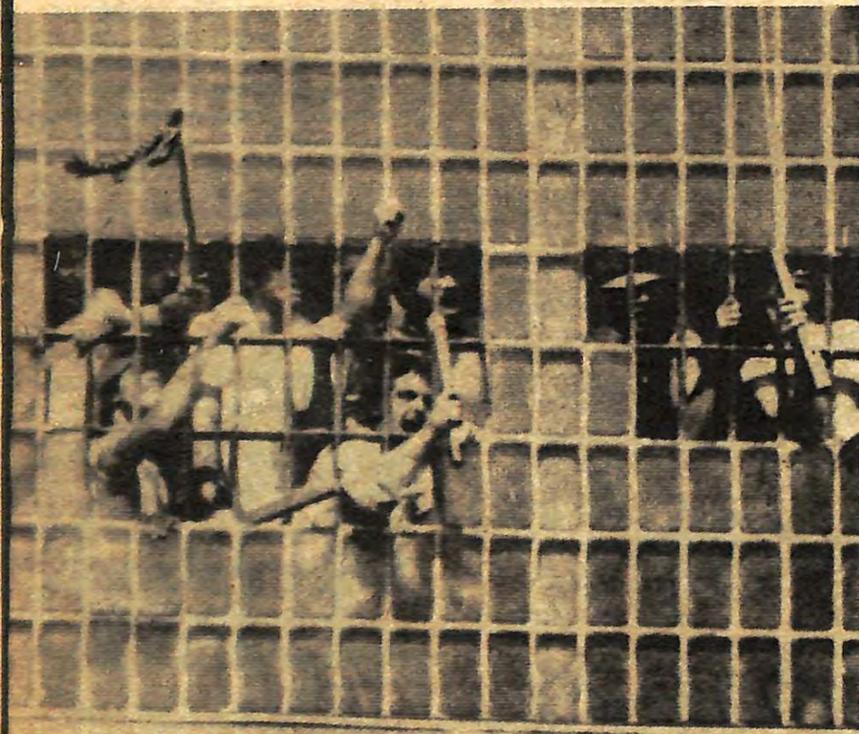
I got my May 1 issue of *Revolutionary Worker* today and found so much truth—I commend you comrades on printing it the way it is. The oppression continues here at Walla Walla—though I can only speak for death row—I know of the oppressive forces throughout. There is a desperate need for total awareness by the people—in all areas—Prisons are hidden under so many guises from the People, a need for people to show their displeasure with the state committing murders

through capital punishment as well. Here at Walla Walla there are six persons—the appeals process is getting now so that it won't be long before a lot of quick replies to the appeals will come—persons in Washington and other states are in imminent danger of being murdered by the state in the very near future. Everyday the persons on the row die another death; the conditions on death row in Washington are very bad, i.e., box car cells, pig harassment, no contact with others, no outdoor exercise and fresh air, no type of recreation, just to name a few of the oppres-

sive tactics employed by the swines here. I would like to request a copy of Mao's Red Book; if I could. I haven't any funds—but if you could send me one it would be of great benefit to me in my studies—Also if you have any catalogue of other literature—I have lots of time to study, you know, and through educating one another we educate the masses and that's revolution. At this time I will leave. Keep up the good work.

In revolutionary love,
A prisoner at Walla Walla

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls



Rebellion in NYC Tombs, 1970

Contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and need the *Revolutionary Worker* and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other Party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought behind the prison walls, the *Revolutionary Worker* is establishing a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654

What does DEER HUNTER mean by Bonds of Male Friendship?

Mystical Trash, Reactionary Politics

Letter to the Editor

Comrades,

The review of the *Deerhunter* which appeared in April in the *Revolutionary Worker* contained a sharp and thought-provoking analysis of the line and purpose of the film. What follows are a few observations which I hope can add to and deepen the criticisms of the *Deerhunter*.

The *Deerhunter* is not irrational. It is anti-rational.

Following the victory for the *Deerhunter* in the Academy Awards, the widely publicized VVAW protests, and Jane Fonda's denunciation of the film as a racist Pentagon version of the Vietnam War, criticism of the movie mounted to such an extent that the *N.Y. Times* art section ran a major article about the backlash against the film. They also ran a sharp attack on the film on the editorial page entitled "Gook Hunter," written by an Australian journalist, which condemned it not only as a slander of the Vietnamese people but as an insult to the American GI's who fought the war and who resisted it. Early bourgeois reviewers such as Vincent Canby who had hailed the film as anti-war were held up to some ridicule. In sorting through all the "that's not the way it happened" criticism in the bourgeois press, a few interesting observations came to light. One reviewer pointed out that a scene in the POW hut where an NVA soldier is holding a pistol to the head of the young South Vietnamese prisoner is the unmistakable carbon copy of the famous photograph of the ARVN general executing the young NLF fighter. This exposes just one example of one of the director Michael Cimino's Big Lie techniques—a way to associate a false image with a "true image" burned in the minds of most Americans, and thrust it's even unconscious verification of the

"truth" of what is appearing on the screen. Michael Arland of the *New Yorker*, when reviewing the Academy Awards, attacked the Russian roulette sequence in the film, not only as essentially false but concealing a "creative emptiness and merely a form of visual bullying." He then goes on to say that a young friend of his disagreed with him, admitting that perhaps what is portrayed in the film is not factually true, but it "is the poetic truth" of the war. When asked how he knew since he had never been to Vietnam, Arland's young friend hesitated a moment and then replied, "I know because of the film." Arland's young friend leads me to my point. Essentially Cimino does not expect the ideological message he is hawking to stand or fall on "the facts." That is, he didn't expect that people wouldn't notice that his portrayal of the war is a complete lie from beginning to end. Had he been seeking the credentials of realism, he would have been more subtle. He would not have used such trappings as Russian roulette, which not even the American Legion had ever charged the Vietnamese with employing against American GI's! Cimino lies so brazenly that it is not enough just to point to the facts. Criticism must go deeper because Cimino goes deeper. He wants people to reject what they know, to will to forget what they know and accept the lure which is set out for the audience, which is shortly—in ignorance there is bliss, decked out in a mystical veil. This is the anti-rational theme of the *Deerhunter*. In an ideological sense, Cimino wants us all to blow our brains out.

In this context it should be asked—if Cimino simply wanted to portray red-blooded American boys, why then did he set the film in a town of Russian immigrants and lay such heavy stress on the Russian Orthodox wedding ceremony and devote about 40 minutes to a wedding party which had more the atmosphere of a 16th century Russian peasant celebration? There are Russian Orthodox chants and songs in the church, then four or five Russian folksongs at the party, which is the scene of drunken chaos, plus a tinge of barbarism that contributes to what an approving reviewer called the "inchoate stirring quality of the film." If all this is merely to provide the ethnic touch so fashionable in films in recent years, then why the mystical symbolism surrounding the hunt?

In an early scene where the boys are leaving the factory for the last time, Michael observes a sign in the sky—the "sun dog"—promising good hunting for that weekend. Stan, played by actor John Cassales who is supposed to be an asshole, tells Michael he's full of bullshit for promoting that hocus pocus. Michael fixes him with a cold stare and quietly intones, "Would I bullshit you about something like that, Stan?" The audience is left feeling irritated with Stan for being such an asshole. Michael is the leader of his little group and as a character like all the others, he has a clearly defined symbolic role to play. He is a leader of a cult centering around the deer and the mountains, and the code of bringing down the deer with one shot. He has an ideology, a worked-out mystical line. He is a heavy male supremacist, a line made both symbolic and concrete by his refusal to allow women on the hunt. Stan, who is portrayed as filthy and contemptible because he is always after women, who are also portrayed as filthy and contemptible, with one exception, suspects that Mike is a homosexual, a suspicion that he blurts out during a climactic scene in the mountains. This male-bonding, latent homosexuality theme is so thick in the movie that a *New Yorker* critic, Pauline Kael, whose entirely myopic view of the film's real purpose did not deprive her of a few scattered and partial insights, enthuses that the film is "the fullest

screen treatment so far of the mystic bond of male comradeship," [outside of the all-male triple X strip on 42nd street, to be sure] but all this has nothing to do with "gay liberation" as we shall see.

"Male comradeship" is closest between Mike and Nick, his younger roommate and protegee. Nick is a little scared of Mike, who in an early scene ranks him out for not having been prepared completely for the hunt. Nick is ashamed, but tries a feeble rebellion. "I don't think that much about one shot anymore, Mike." Then he tries to express some softer romantic sentiments about the beauty of the trees, the lakes and so on, as the music swells on the soundtrack. Then he stops as Michael looks away and says, "I guess you think I'm an asshole, huh." Michael brings up the subject of Vietnam, openly linking the hunt as a form of preparation for the war.

Nick's character essentially is dual character—devoted to Mike, but without his steel-like toughness, an innocent good guy, not fully initiated, despite Mike's patient training, into the cult that will allow him to survive the horrors of war. He's a little too soft. Steve is the other guy going to Vietnam with Mike and Nick. He got jammed into getting married to a girl who was pregnant by another man. In a superstitious ritual at the wedding where the bride and groom drink from a twin goblet of wine—"Don't spill a drop and you'll have good luck for the rest of your life"—the bride, of course, spills a drop on her wedding gown, unnoticed by anybody. This dooms Steven to lose both his legs at the waist, a sick ploy in the film, associating women with castration as well as every other form of filth. But all this character development occurs prior to the hunting trip itself, where a scene occurs which fuses several of these themes into one reactionary message. After the party is over and Mike, for some reason, runs stark naked through the streets of Clareton, Pennsylvania with Nick hot on his heels, begging him to promise to bring back his body to the good old U.S.A. if "something happens over there," the hunting party still drinking non-stop without sleep and still in their wedding suits drives off into the mountains.

The prodigious ingestion of alcohol by these guys rivals Cimino's Vietnam footage in straining the imagination. But even this is not merely to reinforce the old stereotype of the beer-swilling working class slob. It's another form of the theme of the obliteration of consciousness, as the highest goal to which we should aspire. Finally, high in the mountains when they start to change into their gear, asshole Stan has forgotten his boots. "Hey Mike," he whines, "lend me your spares, willya." "No, Stan," Mike coolly responds, "Not anymore. You've got to learn. Every time you come up here you don't have any boots, you don't have any parka, you don't have any sleeping bag." Stan persists and the other guys say, "Aw c'mon, Mike, give him the boots." "No way." Stan whines some more, then Michael explodes. Holding a 30-06 rifle cartridge, he waves it and utters a key line in the movie. "Look, Stan, this is this. This isn't something else, this is this. From now on you're on your own."

This very scene illustrates the truth of the *Revolutionary Worker* review, a critique which no other critic of the movie has even come close to. "Michael's discipline and training as a hunter in ordinary times prepare him to survive in extraordinary times, the war that is to come. Contrary to what some film critics have said about how this is a movie about the horrors of war, it is a movie about preparing for war. The message is that you better be ready to fight and survive and hold on to what you've got—i.e., America." The rifle cartridge, of course, is a symbol for the coming war, a war which the line of the movie contends invalidates all the

bullshit that might be OK in ordinary times. In ordinary times, you allow for the whiners, the complainers, the guys who don't have their shit together. In ordinary times it's OK to dig the trees, the lakes, the forests. In ordinary times, you don't have to be all tightened up around line—the line of the bourgeoisie represented in the film by Michael. But in war time all bets are off. Nobody wants to hear your bullshit about right and wrong anymore, sucker. Nobody wants to hear what you want, asshole. Nobody cares what you think, fool. Get tight and get ready, and don't forget your fucking boots.

It is in the light of this military psychology that all the crap about the mystical bond of male comradeship finds its rationale. The bourgeoisie has always presented the ultimate "male experience" to be pouring your life down a muddy foxhole for them with your best buddy screaming in your arms.

And that feeling of unity, that mystical bond is supposed to be cemented in the following scene of Mike and Nick in the pristine purity of the mountains, Nick following Mike like a puppy as Russian Orthodox chants boom out in Dolby stereo. Mike does have a higher understanding, Mike does understand what he's doing, Mike does bring down the deer in one shot. With Michael, as with his junker car, to quote Nick from an earlier scene, "We feel safe."

The film presents the coming war as an abstraction stripped of context or cause, simply a test that must be met, a test of courage and will. One reason that Cimino's treatment of Vietnam was so wildly out of touch with reality is not only in terms of the political portrayal of the Vietnamese as savage animals but also that he needed to bend everything to provide an ideal symbol which he found in the Russian roulette tortures carried on in the isolated POW hut. The situation there allows no escape, no possible way out. Your only hope for survival is to be a hero like Michael or to blindly follow him, even to the extent of putting a gun to your head when he tells you to, pulling the trigger when he tells you.

Not only the *Revolutionary Worker* but other reviewers have commented on how could it be that the three guys who go to Vietnam appear to be oblivious of the anti-war movement, that no trace of it appears in the entire film. Again, this is not only or even mainly a simple slander on the working class as ignoramus or even an attempt to edit it out in the hopes that at least the younger audience won't realize such a movement ever existed, though this is an aspect. The entire film functions within an allegory in which such a movement isn't possible because the rational consciousness necessary to give rise to such a movement has been negated. What takes its place is mystical idealism; that the boys knew nothing is the symbolic thing and that they knew nothing affirmed and held up as a positive good. The *tour de force* at the end, the singing of "God Bless America," is the carefully acted and meticulously directed cap of three hours of ideological preparation designed to make the audience wish at least that they can sing "God Bless America" and believe it as those fine people did.

The exaltation of mysticism and ignorance of the masses is not a new thing for the petty-bourgeoisie in the service of the imperialists. T.E. Lawrence, the British soldier assigned to influence the Arab movement in World War 1 in a direction favorable to the British imperialist war effort and who became known as Lawrence of Arabia, was obsessed with the nomadic people, with their customs, with what to him was an "exhilarating primitiveness." He wrote intensely of his petty-bourgeois fascination with what he perceived as a relationship between the ignorance of the nomadic tribes and their wholeness and completeness in unity with the desert and with god. "This creed of the desert

Continued on page 20



**Young?
Confused?
Discover War!**

Bantam Books recently came out with a series of 15 World War 2 paperbacks specifically written for youth because, they say, the '60s and early '70s were "a rather confusing period in our history" and "young people are looking for role models of individual achievement." Coming out once a month until they total 60, the books use World War 2 as an example of a "good" war—a way to have American youth "rediscover glory" through "an upbeat view of war." This, incidentally, is the generation they expect to do the bulk of the fighting with World War 3 approaches.

Deer Hunter

Continued from page 19

seemed inaccessible in words and indeed in thought. It was an easily felt influence, and those who went into the desert long enough to forget its open spaces and its emptiness were inevitably thrust upon god as the only refuge in a rhythm of being. The desert dweller could not take credit for his belief. He had never been either evangelist or proselyte. He arrived at this intense condensation of himself and god by shutting his eyes to the world and to all the complex possibilities latent in him which only contact with wealth and temptations could bring forth. He made nakedness of the mind as sensuous as the nakedness of the body."

Director Cimino indeed attempts to make nakedness of the mind sensuous, if it is invested it with a misshapened nobility. His themes are not original by any means. Most of them are dusted off from fascist and neo-fascist ideology and there is a lot of evidence that he

drew heavily from the work of the Nazi film queen Leni Riefenstahl, director of "Triumph of the Will" and other fascist propaganda and "classics." It is significant that the Deerhunter was made the way it was made today. It is interesting that the professional reviewers, many of whom pretend to have liberal or left credentials, first completely misunderstood the movie, then did a double take, offering some criticism while still not getting to the essence of the film's line. One observer quoted in the *N.Y. Times* said that if the Academy Awards had been held a week later, the Deerhunter wouldn't have won. Pauline Kael even notices some of the fascist themes in the movie—mountain symbolism, the blond-haired Nordic Valkyrie ("Battle Maiden" in Norse mythology) played by Meryl Street, the scene after the hunt where the boys mellow out listening to a Chopin nocturne reminiscent of rooms

full of Hitler's lieutenants swooning to Wagner—blithely treating them as artistic devices, oblivious to what these little similarities really pointed to. Except for the *Revolutionary Worker*, nowhere in the critical literature, which narrows its anti-U.S. aggression critique to anti-racism, has any hint of the film's relationship to future war preparations been brought out, thus leaving out mutual war preparations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The critical confusion is not staged although there is probably some looking the other way, an unwillingness to draw full conclusions or stick one's neck out with rash statements about preparing for World War 3. The fact is the critics ain't hip.

The Deerhunter is a new phenomenon, a radically different undertaking, and a significant reflection in the superstructure of the rapidly changing freedom and necessity for the U.S. bourgeoisie in preparing for war. The objective basis today for the Deerhunter's anti-rational mysticism to influence lies in the level of consciousness prevailing among many people today. People are conscious in one

sense and unconscious in another. They are conscious of the pain, the poverty, the desperation, the broken dreams, and the bleak future of their life under capitalism. They are unconscious, though this is changing, of the possibility of making revolution which can sweep away the entire system of capitalist exploitation and usher in a future so incredibly bright that to people today it seems inconceivable.

Revolution is not only possible but is the historic mission of the proletariat armed with the science of revolution. This is the opposite outlook from the Deerhunter, a film in which, as one reviewer pointed out, a bottle of Rolling Rock beer takes on sacramental significance. We must indeed prepare for the coming battle so that we can blow away Michael and stuff his antler trophies straight up his "hard ass." The proletariat won't forget its boots and we won't forget guns either, most of which we will steal right out from under the noses of the bourgeoisie. But most of all we will not forget our ultimate weapon, the weapon of Marxism, and the conscious dynamic role of man.

J. O'Riley

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WORKERS DAY

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Gas

Continued from page 3

mestic production. This is what Carter's "windfall profit tax" is supposed to guarantee.

But deregulation by itself will not cut imports to the extent the situation demands. Enter the Great 1979 Gas Crisis.

Gas Crisis 1979—Get Ready for War

A few years ago Jimmy Carter said, "We need the moral equivalent of war" to deal with the "energy crisis." Actually this energy crisis has a lot to do with getting ready for the real thing, war itself. Not only are they trying to force the masses of people to bale them out of their oil import woes, but this stage-managed gas shortage fits right in with their needs to whip up patriotism and national chauvinism for war. Beyond this they aim to get people used to rationing and the rest of what comes along with being on a war footing. It's a kind of dress rehearsal. As Attorney General Griffin Bell said recently, "I don't know what we'd do in this country if we ever had a real crisis."

We are barraged with their "blame it on the Iranian revolution" and "screw OPEC" charges. "You see, it's those nasty sheiks in OPEC, they charge too much," they scream in mock outrage. They paint the picture of a big giant (themselves) at the mercy of a handful of bearded despots. But this is truly standing reality on its head. In fact, right now OPEC is basically in the U.S.' back pocket. They have acted almost completely in accordance with U.S. wishes in the pricing policies in recent years. Since 1973-74 the OPEC price rises haven't even kept up with inflation

and have been right in line with U.S. oil companies' interests.

Still, despite all their efforts they have not been able to convince most people that the gas crisis is for real. Even their own polls show 68% of the people do not believe there is a shortage. And there is a lot more going on in the gas line than stabbings and fist fights. People are asking a lot of questions like, "Do we have to live this way?"

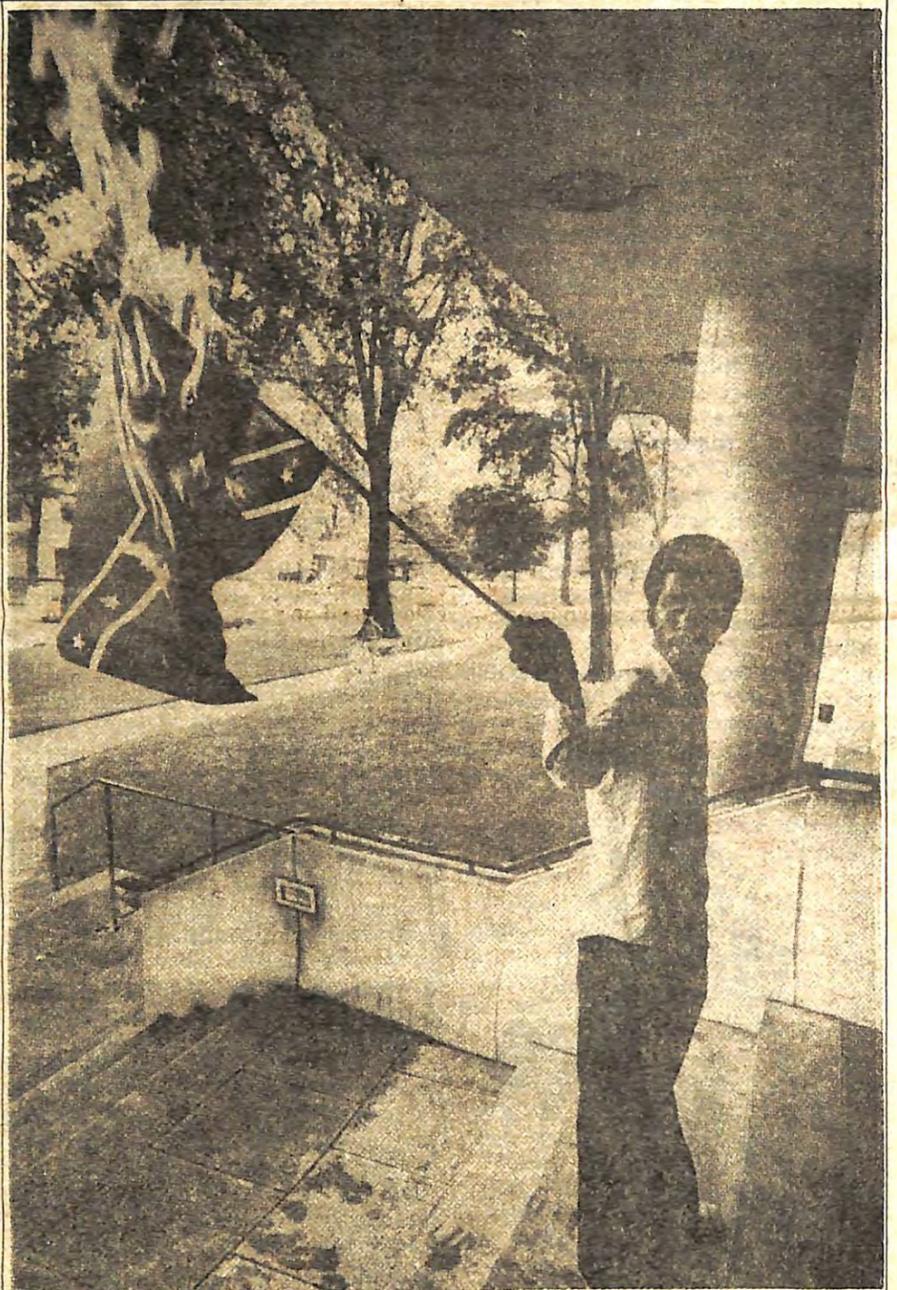
As an L.A. cop squealed after he busted people selling the *Revolutionary Worker* and agitating at a gas line for "inciting to riot," "You can't do that. Don't you realize it is a powderkeg out there?" Yes, we do realize it is a powderkeg, and the very workings of this system are bringing things to a head.

Book

Continued from page 7

As Mao himself put it, "Which is better—a stagnant pool, or 'the inexhaustible Yangtze [river] comes roaring past'?"

In one of the most penetrating and liberating chapters in the book, on Mao's contributions on philosophy, this outlook of Mao's is gone into deeply—his consistent use and development of the basic Marxist outlook of materialist dialectics. As the book puts it, "The ceaseless emergence and resolution of contradictions as against all notions of absoluteness and stagnation—this Mao grasped as the driving force in the development of all things, in nature, society and thought, and this understanding runs like a crimson path through Mao's writing and actions." And then, in a remark that rakes Enver



Slavery's Flag Torched

Greenville, S.C.—The 10th of May is Confederate Memorial Day in South Carolina. It is a day when the rich slave-driving owners of the textile mills and garment shops look longingly back to the good old days when their ancestors sipped mint juleps as the slaves were worked to death in the fields. Ceremonies are held to honor the heroic slaveowners who fought for their bloody "right" to enslave Black people—and were stomped into the dust of history in the Civil War.

This May 10th the modern slaverowners' Dixie dreams were shattered rudely. A group of revolutionaries led by the Revolutionary Communist Party marched to the Greenville Public Library, where an exhibit of Confederate trash was on display. Here a confederate flag is put to the torch.

Hoxha and Teng Hsiao-ping as well as all the anti-communist stereotypes heaped on communists by the bourgeoisie, Comrade Avakian asks, "Can anyone even conceive of Mao as a stodgy bureaucrat or comfortable veteran resting on his laurels!" (p. 323)

Hoxha, Teng, Brezhnev and all the revisionist reactionaries who are trying to spread deadly poison throughout the international communist movement can just soak in their stagnant pool—this book says it loud and clear—revolution is roaring on!

In light of all this, the real meaning of the explosive power of this book gets

clear—it's the power of advanced revolutionary theory, of Mao's contributions and of Marxism-Leninism as a whole—a real atom bomb force revolutionizing the world. Especially in a world of deepening crisis and threatening war—we've got to have a guiding line, a light for seeing in the dark. This means taking up working-class ideology, made even more powerful by Mao's great contributions, and this book is a fighting weapon in this struggle. *Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions*—anyone who's even thinking about revolution has to read this book.