

Spanish fight for National Independence

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Spanish fight for national independence

[From *Vanguardia Obrera*, organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist).

IN THE HIERARCHY of the repressive forces, things are not as they were. From "total control of the situation" they are now tense and insecure.

The times of "Franco's peace" (the peace of the cemeteries) are over. Those were the times in which they could curb the revolutionary movement, the movement that was slowly building up at which was still not generalised and which was weak politically.

Things started to change before Franco's death - Burgos 1970, the May demonstrations of '73, the revolutionary general strike in the autumn of '74, the armed actions in '75. The old terrorist apparatus of the dictatorship was widely used; "anti-terrorist" legislation was introduced and still remains, leading to a permanent state of emergency. But in spite of all these measures the apparatus started to crack.

The first conclusion of Franco's successors was that the political police, the Civil Guard, were not able to cope with the situation by themselves. The mass movement was taking on such proportions that the old error was insufficient to stifle it.

More than 150 million hours have not been worked during 1976 because of strikes involving over 5 million workers. The masses have taken to the streets by the hundreds of thousands. In March, Vitoria's workers went from a general strike to pre-insurrection in response to the massacre carried out by the anti-riot brigades". The organisation of the masses in pickets

(for extension of strikes, solidarity and self-defence) has increased enormously. These pickets are opposing systematically and with increasing strength the repressive forces and the fascist gangs.

The tensions and changes at the top of the repressive forces do not represent a struggle between the "ultras" and the "reformists". That is a fairytale, the fairytale of social democrats and revisionists who

It is false that repression has diminished, quite the opposite! What is different is that it does not paralyse the masses any more. What is happening is that the people are being tempered in struggle, and the struggles are aiming at higher levels of combat.

Those who are taking the key posts in the repressive forces, are not "liberals" but specialists in repression and counter-revolutionary war, as well as secure servants of the Pentagon.

Facts are proving the correctness of this analysis: the scrapping of the Tribunal for Public Order (TOP) because it is useless, the increased budget of the repressive forces, the training of the Army in street fighting, the transference of responsibility for the Civil Guard from the Ministry of the Interior to the Army ...

Thus the changes that are taking place are only preparations for military repression on a big scale. What is clear and important is that the ruling class and its US masters are not preparing for "democracy" but for crushing the popular movement.

All these changes are aimed directly against revolution and the people. They are being carried out behind the smoke-screen of the "road to democracy" put forward by the fascist monarchy in order to expand its otherwise limited social base; and the oligarchy is being helped by the loyalty of the so-called "democratic opposition" made up of social democrats, revisionists and opportunists - all of them anti-popular forces.

The task for the people, struggling for their rights, is to arm themselves to protect their interests and overthrow the monarcho-fascist dictatorship, and to obtain national independence by establishing a Peoples' Federated Republic.

« VANGUARDIA OBRERA » SEMANAL



try to present the generals of Franco and Juan Carlos' Army as "responsible for democratic freedoms". They only show that the official language has changed. They do not talk any more of "spiritual and permanent values" but of "democracy", when in fact it is all a cover for the feverish arrangements that are being made to prepare the Army and other repressive forces in techniques of counter-insurrection, i.e. civil war.