

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

I N T E R N A T I O N A L D I G E S T
AUGUST 1993

UNITY OF AMERICAN ML FORCES

The Freedom Road Socialist Organisation and the Socialist Organizing Network announced that after two years discussion they are to be united in a single organisation.

An editorial in "Forward Motion" states: *"We believe the unity of our two organisations represents another modest step forward for the socialist left. Essential to our unity is shared belief and practice on two central issues - the role of the working class and the cause of liberation for oppressed nationalities.....Our organizing will focus largely on two areas: on building the struggle of the poorer sections of the work force, especially people of color and women; and on developing organization among young people in the community and on campus."*

The Socialist Organizing Network has its roots in the attempts of the ML forces within the League of Revolutionary Struggle to resist the liquidation of a socialist orientation.

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DIVISION IN PHILIPPINES NDF

Arguments simmering for the past year erupted during April/May with a rift developing in the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. April 24 saw two celebrations for the 20th anniversary arranged by Europe-based supporters: one in Utrecht, and other in Brussels, hosted by the PTB and attended by the exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Jose Ma. Sison.

The roots of the split have to do with the concept of the vanguard party and what has been described as a return to "Maoist fundamentalism" led by Sison within the CPP. The internal conflict has been precipitated by a rectification movement launched within the CPP to correct "major errors" committed over the past decade.

In March 1992, the CPP's Central Committee approved a document entitled *"Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify the Errors"* that argued that errors had resulted from deviations from the basic line and principles of the national democratic revolution as enunciated by the CPP when it was reestablished in 1968.

Amongst the deviations identified were those of "insurrectionism", the error of building premature and unsustainable large military formations and the subjectivism of seeking quick military victory. The diversive and bloody anti-infiltration campaign "Kampanyang Aho" launched in Mindanao in 1985 was also heavily criticised in the document.

There was criticism raised of the relationship of the NDF to the CPP : the call was raised for the leadership of the working class through the CPP to be enshrined and institutionalized in the NDF constitution. Objections were raised to democratic pluralism as liquidating working class leadership and to the mixed economy provided in the NDF programme as this postponed the socialist revolution.

The politics of the NDF have been enveloped by the rectification drive as some activists, like NDF representative in Europe, Ricardo Rodriguez, were accused of using the NDF as a forum to discuss opposing views to the Party's rectification. NDF vicechairperson Luis Jalandoni had publically endorsed the

CPP's campaign last November. Subsequent to publically expressed dissent, Jalandoni disenfranchised opponents from acting as NDF representatives.

Rodriguez, supported by a majority on the European committee and by well-known activists like Byron Bocar, argued that it was an unconstitutional move as no NDF leadership body had taken an official stand on the campaign, and specifically that his suspension ignored the 1990 NDF constitution. Furthermore, politically the CPP cannot impose its rectification drive on, what they termed a "federation" of independent underground organisations.

The CPP has opposed the concept of the NDF as a "federation" as it would then be subordinate to the NDF and open to be out-numbered and out-voted by non-proletarian organisations. The NDF dissidents label as "Stalinist" the CPP loyalists who uphold the NDF as a united front organisation, as an appendage to the vanguard party. The CPP rejects the vision of those dissidents who say they are building the NDF as an organisation co-operatively with the CPP but seeking to define its own identity on its own terms.

The division in the European structures of the NDF has been reflected at home in the Philippines with criticism of the CPP's "factional moves". However the CPP inclined NDF publication "*Liberation International*" reinstated the case that the NDF is a "formal revolutionary united front organization" under the leadership of the CPP, the vanguard of the Philippine proletariat."

A year's subscription to "Liberation International" costs \$21 from:
Liberation, PO Box 19195, 3501 DD Utrecht, The Netherlands.

COMRADE RITA LEADS SENDERO LUMINOSO

Since the capture last September of Abimael Guzman, the movement's founder, the Communist Party of Peru, better known as the Shining Path, has reorganised its leadership. Maria Jenny Rodriguez, "Comrade Rita", is reported to head the Central Committee.

The political assassination of potential alternatives to the Shining Path has continued with the killing last December of Pedro Huillica, the 'communist' secretary-general of the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers, and in June this year, of a community leader in the Lima shanty town district of Villa El Salvador.

Jose Maria Sison, speaking at the International Conference to Defend the Life of Comrade Guzman in Germany last February, described Peruvian and Filipino communists as "*at the forefront of the world proletarian revolution. They have advanced on the road of armed revolution in their respective countries and are demonstrating to the proletariat and the people of the world that they can self-reliantly wage revolutionary struggle and march from victory to victory...consciously perserving in revolutionary struggle in order to gain ground for the world proletarian revolution, take advantage of the widening social turmoil in the world capitalist system and push the resurgence of the anti-imperialist and socialist movement at a new and higher level.*"

INDIAN MLs DISTRIBUTES THE RESOLUTION OF THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ML PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

JANASHAKTI, the publication of the CPI(ML)-Janashakti, reprinted the Resolution as a 'viewpoint' acknowledging the RCL of "Great Britain" as its source. The text was taken from *International Review* No.13