

Learn the Truth - Revolution in Portugal!

WHY DOES PORTUGAL MATTER?

What's happening in Portugal is that working people—factory workers, farmworkers, shipyard workers, bank clerks, and so on—are trying to take control of their own jobs, their own lives, their own country. **Right now, hundreds of factories, railroads and buses all over Portugal are controlled and run democratically by workers.** They decide their own hours, figure out how to divide the work and run the plants at their own speed.

Of course, the wealthy few who own and control our country—the Fords, duPonts, Rockefellers, bankers and newspaper publishers—want us to believe this is impossible. Because if Portugal's workers prove they can run things without bosses, it won't be long before many workers right here get the idea that we can do the same thing!

In many cases American and Portuguese workers are actually fighting against the same set of employers. **Among the US corporations with substantial investments in Portugal are: General Motors, Ford, Firestone, Goodyear, General Electric, Otis Elevator, Crown Cork and Seal, and many more.** So many thousands of Portuguese workers have the same bosses as US auto, rubber, steel and electrical workers.

WHY DO THE US GOVERNMENT, NEWSPAPERS AND TV CLAIM THERE'S A "COMMUNIST" TAKEOVER HAPPENING IN PORTUGAL?

The US government certainly thinks Portugal's important! **At least nine top-level CIA agents have been identified in Portugal. They include Chief of Station John S. Morgan, who carried out assassinations and bombings for the CIA in Brazil and Uruguay.** The CIA is financing fascist groups, active in riots which burned down union headquarters and left wing offices in northern Portugal. It has helped set up a breakaway movement in the Azores so that the US government can keep its huge air base there.

Newspapers and TV in this country would like American workers to think that what's happening in Portugal is that the Communist Party is taking over, to run Portugal like Russia or Eastern Europe. They want us to believe this because that makes it easier for them to get away with what the CIA is trying to do. They want us to think the Communist Party has taken over the Portuguese government, the Army and practically everything else. **They are lying.**

There is no "Communist Party takeover" in Portugal. What's happening is a workers' revolution which is trying to get rid of capitalism. **The Portuguese Communist Party is not leading this revolution—in fact, it is trying to hold it back.** The Communist Party leaders want government positions for their own power, but they are just as afraid of revolutionary workers as the capitalists are.

WHAT MADE THE REVOLUTION START IN PORTUGAL?

For about 50 years Portugal was run by a fascist regime. During this time the government of the United States, which

pretends to be so interested in democracy, was on friendly terms with this regime. Under fascism conditions were almost unbelievable. **Half of all Portuguese workers earned less than \$30 a week. Over a million had to leave the country to get work.**

The same fascist government ruled three colonies in Africa—Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. For fifteen years, liberation movements in these colonies waged armed war against Portuguese colonialism. It was these wars which weakened the fascist government and brought its collapse.

Since fascism was overthrown in April 1974, workers have chased fascist managers out of the plants. **Whole neighborhoods of working people have taken over the huge mansions of the rich.** They use them for decent places to live, for child care centers, for playgrounds for their children. In the southern areas, **farmworkers have taken over the land of huge land owners.** Ordinary working people in Portugal never had these things before.

Now after over a year, things have gone even further. **The United States and Western European governments are trying to strangle the economy of Portugal.** They set up an economic blockade. They are encouraging and aiding fascist forces. They want to destroy everything Portuguese workers have begun to create.

There is only one solution. Portuguese workers have to take power so they can really run the economy and defend their gains.

WHO IS LEADING THE STRUGGLE?

Portuguese workers have to rely on themselves. The present government, run by the "Armed Forces Movement," is weak and unstable. The revolution is actually being led by the most militant, best organized workers—the shipyard workers. They have organized revolutionary demonstrations. And they have led other workers in starting to create new organizations which will enable workers to democratically run the whole country.

These new organizations are called "Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors." They will include elected delegates from the factories, barracks and all other workplaces, chosen by the workers to represent their needs. The delegates can be replaced any time by the workers who elected them. These revolutionary councils have just started to form, but they are growing.

The organization that is most committed to building revolutionary councils is the Proletarian Revolutionary Party-Revolutionary Brigades, or PRP-BR. **The PRP-BR is working to make the councils so strong that they can actually take over and become a revolutionary government that will be controlled by the whole Portuguese working class.** To make this struggle successful, the PRP-BR is organizing to become a mass revolutionary party.

The Portuguese workers can win! With our help they will soon prove that workers can make a socialist revolution and build a society run by and for the masses of working people, not the privileged few.

To find out how you can help, and to hear the truth about the revolution in Portugal, come to the Workers' Power Solidarity Rally. Antonio Silva, a soldier and revolutionary from Portugal, will speak on how Portuguese workers are organizing the struggle.