

STALINIST BETRAYAL IN PORTUGAL

September, 1974

one class

A study guide for a single class based on the new Pathfinder Press pamphlet, Revolt in Portugal, by Caroline Lund and Baxter Smith, \$.35. This class can be used by itself or as a supplementary class to a series on Popular Frontism.

Required Reading: All of Portugal in Revolt

Supplementary Reading: From The Spanish

Revolution, 1931-39, by Leon Trotsky,

Pathfinder Press, \$3.95 paperback: "The Spanish Revolution and the Dangers Threatening It," pp. 111-134; "'Down With Zamora-Maura'", pp. 142-146

Questions

1. What were the objectives of the grouping around Spínola in carrying out the coup? What conditions compelled them to make concessions to the masses? Why did they bring the Communist and Socialist parties into the government?

2. What characteristics did the period after the May 25 coup in Portugal have in common with the period after February 1917 in Russia?

3. How did the provisional government display the essential characteristics of popular frontism? What was the attitude of the popular front

to the old state apparatus? to the liberation struggles in the Portuguese colonies?

4. Why must such a government oppose genuine independence for the African colonies? Is the "democratic" character of the new government responsible for those concessions that have been made?

5. Why can't such a government guarantee the "democratization" of Portugal, as the CP claims?

6. What was the attitude of the government toward labor struggles? What role did the CP play? What does this reveal about the class character of the government? How would you answer the Stalinist argument that strikes harm the "democratization" process?

7. What was the state of the armed forces at the time of the coup? How would revolutionists approach the ranks of the army? Why did a Popular Front perspective rule out such an approach in Portugal, just as it had done earlier in Chile?

8. Why is it important for revolutionists to demand that the CP and SP quit the government? Why can revolutionists demand that the reformist workers parties take power? How can such demands aid in building a revolutionary party?