

THE YOUNG SOCIALIST

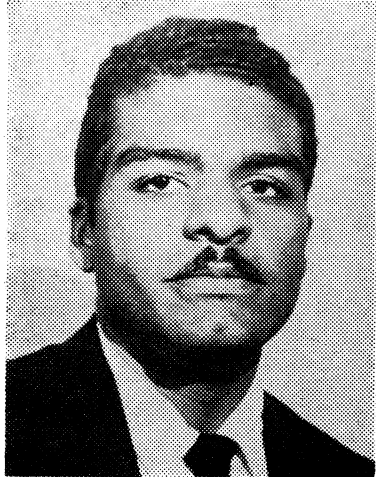
Ten Cents

Voice of America's Future

Vol. 6, No. 1 (49)

November, 1962

No War, Demand SWP Candidates On Radio, TV



Leroy McRae

In an Oct. 23 statement, Leroy McRae, YSA and SWP candidate for attorney general of New York state, condemned Kennedy's aggressive and war-like blockade of Cuba. "This move," he said, "constitutes an overt act of war. To stop and search ships of foreign nations on the high seas is directly in violation of international law. Kennedy has gotten us into a situation where the slightest incident can result in nuclear war."

HITS WAR MOVES

On the same day, Carl Feingold, candidate for U.S. Senator, spoke on radio station WNYC and WPIX TV to voice the SWP's opposition to Kennedy's war actions. Hitting first the undemocratic method by which Kennedy committed American troops to this action, and the people of the world to its potential consequences, Feingold went on to refute the distortions of the mass news media.

BRING TROOPS HOME

"In effect, Kennedy has taken us into the first steps leading to a full-scale war," he said. "Only the rich corporations and Wall Street banks will profit. . . . Why should we be dragged into a war to defend anybody's profits, either in Cuba, Asia, or any other place in the world?"

In closing, Feingold called for the dismantling of U.S. foreign bases, including Guantanamo, and removal of all troops from foreign soil. He demanded an end to the cold war and to the war-drive against Cuba and urged that all questions of war and peace be decided by the people themselves through a national discussion and referendum.

Richard Garza, candidate for governor, stated that the SWP would devote the full energies of its campaign, including remaining radio and TV time, to oppose war with Cuba.

Interview
With
Yevtushenko

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Hands Off Cuba!

Statement by Nat'l Exec. Committee Of the Young Socialist Alliance

Acting behind the backs of the American people, and in opposition to their wishes, President John F. Kennedy has taken a course of action which threatens to culminate in a full-scale nuclear war. He set in motion a series of aggressive moves against Cuba and the Soviet Union which brought the world closer to the brink of atomic holocaust than it has ever been before. The Democratic administration, with complete bi-partisan support, toys recklessly with the destruction of the human race and the possible extermination of all life on earth.

The mounting of a blockade against Cuba by U.S. warships is clearly an act of war against that country. To halt Soviet ships bound for Cuba, with the intent to search them at will, and to meet resistance with force, is a clear act of war against the USSR.

The American people, the millions whose lives were placed in grave jeopardy by these actions, were not consulted. Kennedy acted unilaterally, taking upon himself the right to decide these grave questions of war and peace. Numerous public opinion polls have demonstratively indicated that the American people do not want a war over Cuba. A Gallup poll, for example, published on Oct. 14, shows only 10 per cent of the American people favor a direct attack on Cuba, while the majority are against any belligerent action.

Knowing the sentiments of the American people, and hypocritically catering to these sentiments in his Indiana speech only a week before, Kennedy went ahead with plans to unleash these acts of war. In a highly theatrical atmosphere of intrigue and crisis, the President suddenly charged the establishment of "offensive" Soviet missile bases in Cuba, a charge calculated to inflame a war-hysteria and to cover his aggressive intentions.

Anyone who is inclined to take charges of Cuban aggressive intent at their face value, solely on the word of the President of the United States, would do well to remember that a former President brazenly lied to the American people and to the world when he was caught red-handed sending U-2 spy planes over the Soviet Union. On another occasion, Kennedy's own trusted henchmen, Adlai Stevenson, boldly denied U.S. complicity in the invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Kennedy says he will permit the Cubans to have weapons he decides are "defensive" but not those which he decides are "offensive." The basis of this distinction itself is a fraud: Kennedy is well aware that not the size of a weapon, but the use to which it is put determines its offensive or defensive character. The machine guns of the invaders at Playa Giron were offensive weapons, as are the rifles of the U.S. troops now concentrated near Cuba's shores. Whatever the size of weapons the Cubans have to ward off these aggressors, they remain defensive.

John F. Kennedy arrogantly presumes to dictate to the Cubans what kind of weapons they may have, what manner of defenses they may build. Neither the U.S. government, nor any other government or agency has this right. The Cuban people alone have the right to determine their future and are not obliged to recognize any negotiations in which Cuba does not directly participate. The fate of the Cuban people must not be allowed to become a pawn in the hands of Kennedy or Khrushchev.

Nor is Cuba obliged to open itself to inspection by the United Nations or any other body; all attempts to disarm Cuba in the face of hostile U.S. threats must be condemned, including such attempts made through the United Nations.

What UN intervention means was graphically illustrated in the Congo whose people were disarmed, their leader, Patrice Lumumba, foully murdered, and their nation returned to imperialist domination. Those who seek such a future for Cuba must be fought as enemies of the revolution.

Kennedy claims to take his war-like actions because of the alleged presence of a Soviet military base in Cuba. At the same time, the United States is maintaining an encirclement of nuclear bases around the Soviet Union. U.S. troops ring China and are stationed in large numbers in South Korea, Southeast Asia, and are now engaged in a bloody war in Vietnam. The only foreign base in Cuba is one which the U.S. maintains by threat of force, against the will of the people of Cuba, and from which a long series of provocative actions have been carried out. These bases do indeed constitute a serious threat to world peace, and must be dismantled and removed from foreign soil.

Kennedy claims that Cuba has been guilty of aggressive intentions against the United States. Are our memories so short as to enable us to believe such an outrageous falsehood? No one can deny that it was the government of the United States which first undertook economic and military sanctions against Cuba, that it was the United States which unilaterally cut the Cuban sugar quota, which broke diplomatic relations, imposed a travel ban, and embargoed shipments of goods to Cuba. It was the United States which trained, aided, and financed an invasion of counter-revolutionaries in April of 1961.

It was the United States which encouraged and permitted armed reactionaries to carry out acts of sabotage against the Cuban revolution, which undertook close and provocative spying on Cuba, and insisted in on its "right" to violate Cuban airspace almost daily.

If any doubt is left in the eyes of colonial and oppressed peoples of the world as to where the aggression came from, Kennedy's present actions are swiftly dispelling it.

(Continued on page 2)



THESE ARE THE PEOPLE Kennedy wants wiped out. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans gather in Havana on Jan. 1, 1962, to celebrate the anniversary of their revolution. No other government in the hemisphere has won such solid support from its people.

Kennedy Fails to Block Racist Attacks in South

By Leroy McRae

The case of James Meredith, the young Negro student whose courage and determination forced the federal government to act in Mississippi, had an effect of focusing attention, for a brief period at least, on the foul conditions in that racist-ruled state. Many saw clearly for the first time the utter lawlessness of local and state authorities in the South.

The Kennedy administration, having secured Meredith's admission to the University of Mississippi, seems content to let its action end there. The troops, employed reluctantly and belatedly to begin with, for the most part have been removed. The violence of the racist mob seems in the process of being relegated to the status of an "unfortunate occurrence" which ought to be forgotten as quickly as possible.

But the racist violence which accompanied Meredith's admission to the university was not an isolated incident. A whole pattern of terror against Negroes and civil rights activists by white racists has shown itself repeatedly earlier this fall. Negroes attempting to register to vote and the young people who assist them have been harassed, beaten, arrested, and even shot, with the full knowledge and connivance of the racist authorities.

The federal government cannot claim to be unaware of these incidents. The Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating Committee, with headquarters at 135 Auburn Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Ga., has been conducting a voter registration drive in Ruleville, Cleveland, Green-

wood, Liberty, and other white-supremacist strongholds in Mississippi for over a year. SNCC repeatedly has appealed for federal protection from racist violence. None of these urgent appeals has been heeded by the "fighter for civil rights" in the White House.

One example of the many incidents which gave rise to such appeals occurred in August in Greenwood. Three young voter registration workers were in their headquarters when they happened to notice several policemen conferring on the street. One officer talked briefly with an unidentified white man and then left.

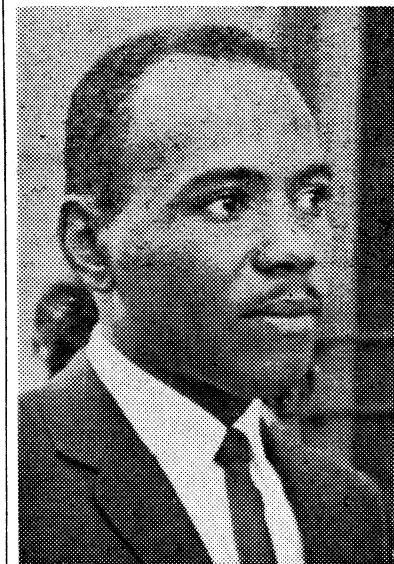
Shortly thereafter a number of cars filled with white men, some of them armed with chains and guns, pulled up in front of the building. As the three young Negroes heard a rush of footsteps on the stairs, they fled over a roof into a nearby home. They notified the FBI who told them that an agent would come, but none appeared. A few days later, another group of whites entered the office and ransacked it.

SNCC wired President Kennedy: "Request you send Federal marshalls to Greenwood, Mississippi to protect voter registration workers. If no federal intervention is forthcoming in Greenwood and other Delta cities, there is great danger of more Emmett Till cases."

Early in September, two young Negro girls, students at Jackson State College, were shot by racist nightriders in Ruleville, Miss. Both of them were taken to the hospital, one reported in critical condition from head wounds. Ruleville is in Sunflower County, the home of Sen. Eastland.

A few days after this shooting, SNCC protested the killing of an unidentified Negro man whose body, tied in a sack, was found in a river in Goodman, Miss. Goodman is near the Tallahatchee river where Emmett Till's body was found in 1956.

Although no evidence as yet has been found that the killing was in retaliation for the registration drive, it illustrated and heightened the atmosphere of lawless terror that reigns in the state. Charles McDew, Chairman of SNCC, wired Attorney General Robert Kennedy urging the Justice Department to investigate the killing immediately. "Please send federal troops and/or Marshalls to help reconstruct Mississippi be-



James Meredith

(Continued on page 3)

Fifth Anniversary Of Young Socialist

With this issue, the YOUNG SOCIALIST marks the close of its first five years of continuous publication. An editorial in the first issue, in the fall of 1957, declared: "The forward march of America's Negro people; the outspoken demands among students for a restoration of civil liberties and academic freedom on the campus; the world-wide protest campaign against the poisoning of the very air we breathe with radioactive material; the militant actions of the young workers in shops and factories across the country—these will be the events we will report."

In the five years that have ensued, the YOUNG SOCIALIST has played an active role in these struggles of American youth for civil rights, civil liberties, and an end to war. Its constant aim has been to provide accurate reporting of the developing student movement and to advance it to a higher level.

As America's only Socialist youth newspaper the YOUNG SOCIALIST has consistently defended the Cuban revolution against the assaults of U.S. imperialism. We intend to continue this vital task and to redouble our efforts to bring the truth about Cuba to American youth. President Kennedy has requested that the press impose a self-censorship and print nothing which would harm or hinder his drive toward war. This is a crime against the American people who have a right to all the facts. The YOUNG SOCIALIST will continue to do its best to help make those facts known.

A fund drive is now in progress to help us continue and improve the paper. If you feel the need for such a paper, please help by contributing.

Fight for Right to Travel Gains Widespread Support

by Mac Daniels

Twenty well-known Negro leaders spoke at a rally in Harlem Sept. 15 in defense of William Worthy. Worthy, a foreign correspondent for the Baltimore Afro-American, was indicted April 24 on a charge of having "unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly entered the United States [from Cuba] without bearing a valid passport." Speakers at the rally included Paul Zuber, of the Englewood, N.J., movement, James Farmer of CORE, Percy Sutton of the NAACP, Alex Prempeh of the Black Nationalists and Daniel Watts of the Liberation Committee for Africa.

The spirited audience of some 750 people cheered when Worthy said that the revolution had wiped out racial discrimination in Cuba. Two days after the rally, Worthy was given a sentence of three months in jail and nine months' probation. The conviction is being appealed.



William Worthy

In another action in defense of Worthy, a group of young people from New York traveled beyond the three mile limit in a rented boat on Oct. 12. They then returned to the U.S. Immigration Service Building in Manhattan where their demand to be arrested for having returned without a passport was rejected.

This action focused attention on the extreme range and vagueness of the power given the government through section 1185 (b) of the McCarran Immigration and Nationalities Act.

Passports may be lifted arbitrarily by the State Department, and Presidential decree or other means may be used to deny American citizens the right to travel to certain countries. As Worthy has pointed out, the consequence of such travel control as the ban on travel to Cuba is thought control.

"I know why I was indicted," says Worthy. "The illegal re-entry charge is a mere cover. I was indicted because I have reported the many positive achievements of the Cuban revolution, including the rapid elimination of all racial barriers." Worthy has also reported on the Chinese revolution and the colonial revolution in Africa.

In a cablegram to Attorney General Kennedy, Bertrand Russell, the noted British philosopher, has stated, "Restrictions on William Worthy and his indictment under the McCarran Act evidence disappearance of your civil liberties and disgrace America in the eyes of reasonable men. I urge you to quash the indictment."

A brochure on the Worthy case is available for ten cents from the Committee for the Freedom of William Worthy, Suite 301, 217 W. 125 St., N.Y. 27, N.Y. The committee, headed by A. Philip Randolph and AME Bishop D. Ward Nichols, also solicits contributions to make the facts of the case known.

SEOUL, Sept. 28 (People's Korea)—A spokesman of the "U.N. Command" announced that new guided missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads were shipped into South Korea recently, according to radio Seoul.

Student Peace Groups Demand No Military Action Against Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Sept. 22, between 15 and 20 students from Washington and Baltimore picketed the White House to protest a possible U.S. invasion of Cuba. Their signs stressed both the illegality of an invasion and the tremendous danger that such action would entail. Other signs pointed out that "Cuba is not the 51st State" and posed the question, "They said it wouldn't be done in April '61, can we believe them now?"

The demonstration was called by an ad hoc committee of members of the Washington Student Peace Union. Washington SPU had hoped to make the demonstration an official SPU action, but the national office in Chicago refused to give its sanction. National SPU did, however, agree to circulate a petition against an invasion of Cuba.

While this petition is more pronounced in its anti-Castroism than the leaflet of the Washington demonstration, both documents include the same basic demands: 1) renounce military action against Cuba; 2) resume diplomatic relations; 3) announce that the U.S. will adhere to the UN Charter and the 1948 Bogota pact; 4) explain to the Congress and public how an invasion could lead to nuclear war; 5) send food and medical supplies to the Cuban people; and 6) prosecute violations of the neutrality laws of the U.S.

Though small, this demonstration had a special significance for the student peace movement in that it raised the question of action on the Cuban question in concrete terms. Both Washington SPU and those members of the Baltimore SPU who participated

felt that the national movement ought to open discussion on Cuba within its ranks and begin taking action against possible military action by the U.S.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Members of the Student Peace Union were denied the right to demonstrate here at an Oct. 6 "bean feed" attended by President Kennedy which was sponsored by the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (Minnesota Democratic Party). After some 30 SPUers had picketed for a while alongside members of Students for Integration, they were stopped by police.

After consultation with the DFL state chairman, George Farr, a DFL spokesman informed the SPU members that they would not be allowed to picket and would be ejected from the Fairgrounds where the "bean feed" was being held. The reason given was that their signs and leaflets were "critical of and uncomplimentary to the President." SFI whose signs apparently were less critical, remained.

Among the "uncomplimentary signs" were "No Tests East or West," and "No More Invasion of Cuba." The pickets also called for an end to the war in Vietnam. After their ejection, the SPUers were forced to demonstrate on the far side of a deserted street across from the grounds.

In a letter to the *Minnesota Daily*, the SPU Executive Council emphasized that criticism is an integral part of a democratic system and strongly protested the Democrat's action in denying them the right to picket while allowing those less "critical" to continue.

Young Socialist

Ted Mellor, Editor
Thadd Beebe, Circulation Manager
Editorial Board: Chan Godfrey,
Ted Mellor, George Saunders

"A World to Win!"



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Official organ of the Young Socialist Alliance

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November, 1962

Hands Off Cuba . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Cuba is under attack from a powerful and violently hostile force, a force which has not hesitated to threaten her people with annihilation by atomic weapons. Could anyone expect Cuba to refrain from building her defenses? Kennedy's sanctimonious protests at the fact that Cuba is armed have a hollow ring in the face of the \$50 billion a year which the U.S. spends for war preparations.

Behind the lies, the hysteria, and the rationalizations of the U.S. government lies its determination to destroy the Cuban Revolution. Kennedy is acting in complete harmony with the desires and interests of the men who control both his party and his administration—the financial interests, the oil companies, the landlords and industrialists, who cannot tolerate the example the Cuban revolution provides for all of Latin America. Cuba is the first of the countries in the hitherto private preserve of these investors to overthrow imperialism and embark on the path of socialist construction.

The successes of the revolution in education, land reform, and economic advance has shown the way out of the poverty, disease, ignorance, and starvation that characterizes Latin America. This small group of powerful men, the imperialist owners of American industry, the investors in Latin America whose power depends on this poverty, disease, ignorance, and starvation, cannot tolerate the spread of the revolution to the rest of Latin America. And the revolution is spreading—not by Cuban arms or rockets or atom bombs, but by the shining example of Cuba itself.

The imperialists have tried every means to isolate Cuba, but the ideas of the revolution are gaining among the people of the entire hemisphere. The imperialists have reached the point where they feel that only direct and open aggression against the revolution can save their investments, markets, and sources of raw material.

For this they are dragging the country and the world into the bloody abyss of a third world war. The vast majority of American people and youth have nothing to gain from such a war. Rather, our interests are closely linked with the struggles of the Latin American people and of colonial peoples all over the world for freedom and a decent life.

The Young Socialist Alliance unequivocally condemns the outrageous crimes which the imperialist rulers of the United States have been and are committing against the Cuban people. We condemn their war-like provocations and actions against the Soviet Union and the countries of the Soviet bloc. We hold that these actions are in direct contradiction to the interests of the majority of the people of the United States and of the world. These actions, if allowed to continue, may provide the spark necessary to touch off a nuclear war which would mean the destruction of the entire world.

The Young Socialist Alliance calls upon all individuals and groups who stand for world peace to unite in vigorously protesting this dangerous and reckless course of the imperialists. Stop Kennedy's war drive! No U.N. intervention! Hands off Cuba!

United States Encirclement of the USSR and China



The above map, compiled from information readily available in the New York Times, shows the locations of major U.S. bases and troop concentrations ringing the Soviet Union and China. Below are the figures before the current build-up around Cuba.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Caribbean: 20,000 troops. | 10. Morocco: 5,000 troops, 6 bases. | 18. Okinawa: 50,000 troops, 5 bases. |
| 2. Cuba: Base at Guantanamo. | 11. Italy: 10,000 troops, 6 bases. | 19. South Korea: 40,000 troops, 11 bases. |
| 3. Greenland: 6,000 troops. | 12. Libya: 14,000 troops, 1 base. | 20. Japan: 40,000 troops, 14 bases. |
| 4. Iceland: 4,000 troops. | 13. Turkey: 8,700 troops, 2 bases. | 21. Alaska: 31,000 troops, 5 bases. |
| 5. West Germany: 26,000 troops, West Berlin: 6,500. | 14. Mediterranean: 35,000 troops, 2 bases. | 22. Hawaii: 42,000 troops, 6 bases. |
| 6. Great Britain: 35,000 troops, 18 bases. | 15. Thailand: 4,000 troops. | 23. Pacific fleet: 55,000 troops, 10 bases. |
| 7. France: 50,000 troops, 18 bases. | 16. Vietnam: 8,000 troops. | |
| 8. Azores: 1,900 troops, 2 bases. | 17. Philippines: 10,000 troops, 5 bases. | |
| 9. Spain: 10,000 troops, 5 bases. | | |

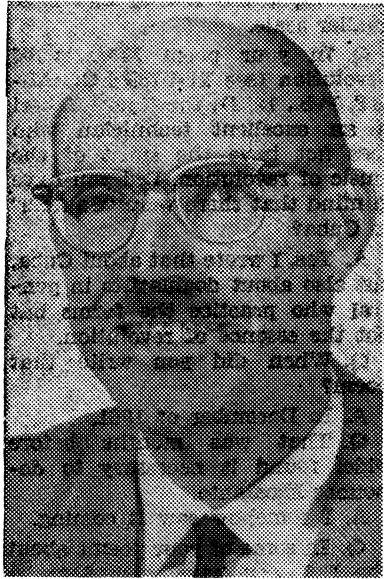
Suspended Teacher Opens Nation-wide Speaking Tour

One of the more odious features of the witch-hunt in the United States is the pervasive system of informers essential to its operation. Stoolpigeons, once universally treated with deserved contempt, have become national heroes, while decent citizens who refuse to inform on others are attacked and penalized.

An important test case in defense of the right to refuse to inform is now in the courts. Wendell Phillips, a former member of the Communist Party who presently holds membership in the Socialist Workers Party, is fighting to regain his teaching position at Fullerton Junior College in the right-wing stronghold of Orange County, California. He was suspended after a hearing in which he frankly answered all questions relating to his own past and present political affiliations. He refused to answer, however, those questions which concerned the political affiliations of others.

Phillips began a three-month nation-wide speaking tour in Denver on Oct. 7. He will speak on campuses and in public meetings throughout the country to make the facts of the case known, including meetings in Chicago, Detroit, Boston, and New York. "No less important than my fight for justice in the courts," he has stated, "is the hearing I expect to get from the academic community and the friends of freedom on the vital issues in my case."

The tour is sponsored by the Wendell Phillips Academic Freedom Committee, whose list of over 141 sponsors includes such outstanding figures as Dr. Linus Pauling and Dr. Edward Condon. The committee's address is Box 33176, Los Angeles 33, Calif.



Wendell Phillips

Violence in South . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

cause the Nazi-minded citizens have declared open season on Negroes," he declared.

Police brutality toward Negroes is common. An example is the severe beating administered to Welton McSwine, 14, in Greenwood by racist cops. The police beat him in the head and stomach with a black jack and then whipped him while questioning him about burglary of which he knew nothing.

All of these incidents, and their counterparts taking place throughout the South, point up the urgent need for effective federal action to protect Negro citizens and guarantee their rights. In the face of this need, Kennedy has removed most of the troops from Mississippi. In doing so, he is placing the fate of Mississippi Negroes and of these courageous fighters for civil rights into the hands of the White Citizens Councils and the KKK.

In spite of all the difficulties and dangers, SNCC is keeping up its activity in the heart of this racist police state as well as in other areas in the South. Several field secretaries have been arrested, threatened, and beaten by mobs. SNCC is also holding registration drives in Southwest Georgia where churches used in the campaign have been burned to the ground and registration

workers fired upon.

Kennedy has a duty to protect these youth who have declared their determination to "continue their work in the South, so that in turn the whole country may be changed." The troops are needed in Mississippi and must be kept there until every citizen is guaranteed his full constitutional rights, free from threats of violence. In failing to do this, Kennedy is showing callous and criminal contempt for the lives and safety of these heroic young people, and making a travesty of their constitutional rights.



BERKELEY, CALIF. YSAers discuss their ideas with students on the registration lines at the University of California. YSA members are active in the struggles of youth throughout the country.

Students Meeting in Conn. Talk Civil Rights, SNCC

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Students throughout the New England area gathered the weekend of Oct. 19-21 at Yale University to discuss developments and perspectives in the civil rights movement.

A national officer of the movement, Peter Countrymen, began the conference with a speech entitled "Where it's at." He felt that the movement is now in a position to deal with real and concrete problems of the civil rights movement. He stated that now the direction of our efforts should be toward the improvement of housing and job opportunities for the Negro. "In other words," he said, "we want real improvements that the Negro people will really feel. The goals of racial equality can only be achieved through social, political and economic gains."

With these thoughts in mind the students met in discussion groups concerning different aspects of the work for civil rights both north and south. The highlight of the conference was Saturday night's meeting on the Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating

Committee. Close to 200 students attended to hear reports on the work of SNCC.

Among those reporting was SNCC leader Charles Sherrod who spoke of the tremendous sacrifice and courage of the southern Negro for challenging the political and economic structure of Jim Crow. "They are the people we must speak with. You cannot speak with Kennedy," he said. He then pointed out that to expect help from Kennedy is "wishful thinking." "I wish all of you could come down South and see," he said, "see the humble people who have lived through years of racist fire."

As the meeting neared its end Sherrod turned to the audience and asked that everyone hold hands and sing "We Shall Overcome." The audience stood up and led by seven southern freedom fighters began singing a whole series of freedom songs. In the background you could hear the Rock and Roll bands of the Yale fraternities.

YSA Nat'l Tour To Defend Cuba

In view of the current war hysteria directed against Cuba by the capitalist press, radio, and television, and the real danger of war which this poses to the entire world, the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance has called for an intensification of efforts to defend the Cuban Revolution and to halt U.S. intervention in that country.

As a part of these efforts, Peter Valdez, National Secretary of the YSA, has begun a nation-wide speaking tour to bring the truth about Cuba to American youth. Valdez was among the YSA delegation at the 1960 Latin American Youth Congress in Havana, and attended the mass demonstrations on the 26th of July of that year. A frequent visitor to Latin America, he spent a part of this past summer observing conditions in Venezuela.

CAMPUS MEETINGS

He will speak on campuses from Baltimore to Seattle, and in public meetings arranged by YSA locals in many cities to counter the misinformation and slanders about Cuba flooding this country and to defend the right of the Cuban people to live under any system they choose without interference from the U.S. "Kennedy's attempts to isolate Cuba and strangle it economically, while holding forces ready for a military attack, are crimes not only against the Cuban people, but against colonial and working people everywhere, to whom Cuba is an inspiration and a beacon," Valdez said.

Valdez is scheduled to participate in a panel discussion by Latin American students over a radio network on Monday, Oct. 29.

Truth about Cuba Available in U.S.

The bulk of the press in this country has not given an honest picture of the Cuban Revolution. In a deliberate attempt to prepare the American people for aggressive action against Cuba, it has suppressed and distorted the Cuban side of the story.

Nonetheless, a considerable amount of information is available. Pioneer Publishers, for example, has available English translations of a number of important Cuban documents, including the **Second Declaration of Havana**, Castro's historic speech denouncing Escalante and the bureaucracy and sectarianism represented, Castro's **The Revolution Must be a School of Unfettered Thought**, and other works by Cuba's leaders.

Of interest to students of the revolution are a number of pamphlets by Joseph Hansen, editor of the **Militant**, including **The Truth About Cuba, In Defense of the Cuban Revolution**, and **The Theory of the Cuban Revolution**. For a complete list, write to Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Letters to the Young Socialist

Canadians Hit Barnett

Editor:

I thought your readers in the United States might be interested in knowing that Governor Ross Barnett of Mississippi got a hot reception from Canadian youth when he came here Sept. 5. The racist governor spoke at a conference of the Washington State Bar Association, over the protest of several of its members, including two Negro lawyers who boycotted the meeting.

When he arrived at the plush Vancouver hotel, he had to scurry past about 40 pickets, who carried signs such as, "Democracy for Mississippi," "Down with Segregation," and "Second-rate fascists not welcome here." The pickets were led by a student who spent four weeks in a Mississippi jail last year as a freedom rider. Other demonstrators included members of the Combined Universities Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the New Demo-

cratic Party Youth, and other groups.

M. R. B.
Vancouver, B.C.
Attacks on Cuba

Editor:

Last week I received a leaflet from the Cuban Student Directorate, a counter-revolutionary student group based in Miami. This group openly brags that it has organized and carried out many acts of sabotage in Cuba. "These acts," they brazenly state, "encompass activities such as placing bombs, attacking Communist political figures, and the destruction of electric transformers . . ."

It is supposed to be illegal to carry out such attacks from the U.S. on upon any other country. Yet the government not only tolerates these outrageous crimes, but often acts as an accomplice in them. Here in the U.S., Cuban counter-revolutionaries have attacked un-armed pickets and even innocent bystanders with knives, hooks, and lead pipes, but they usually go unpunished.

All radical groups have got to stand together and protest these illegal attacks, both on Cuba and on supporters of the Revolution in the U.S. It is time to raise again the old slogan, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

A. M.
Staten Island, N.Y.
Students and Labor

Editor:

I am a student and a supporter

YSA LOCALS

- BALTIMORE: c/o Roger Sheppard, 1503 Park Ave.
- BERKELEY-OAKLAND: 1937 1/2 Russell St., Berkeley.
- BLOOMINGTON, IND.: P.O. Box 915.
- BOSTON: c/o Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave.
- CHICAGO: c/o Horowitz, 909 E. 55 St., MU 4-0182.
- CLEVELAND: E. V. Debs Hall, 5927 Euclid Ave., Rm. 23.
- DENVER: Box 724, Tabor 5-2779.
- DETROIT: 3737 Woodward.
- LOS ANGELES: 1702 E. 4th St., L.A. AN 9-4953.
- MILWAUKEE: c/o Ed Heisler, 2773 S. Superior Ave.
- NEW YORK CITY: 125 4th Ave.
- PHILADELPHIA: c/o Chertov, 2708 W. Sterner St.
- SAN FRANCISCO: c/o Mattingly, 2331 Market St.
- SEATTLE: c/o D. Freeman, 4527 12th Ave. N.E., ME 3-1207.
- TWIN CITIES: c/o Chelstrom, 327 14th Ave. S.E., Apt. 15, Minneapolis 14, Minn. FE 2-7781.

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Discussions with Yevgenii Yevtushenko

by George Saunders, YS Editorial Board

It is especially fitting at this time that we print these highlights of an extended interview with the celebrated Soviet poet Yevgenii Yevtushenko, who is now in Cuba making a film. His latest poem was an angry protest at the aggressive actions of the U.S. in blockading Cuba.

His remarks about the Cuban Revolution are useful as an indication of the sentiments of a significant section of young people in the Soviet Union and also as providing some interesting sidelights on Cuba. George Saunders had extensive discussions with Yevtushenko at the Helsinki youth festival and later in Moscow. We regret that we are able to print only a small portion of these discussions here. Future issues will feature more reports on discussions with Yevtushenko and translations of his poetry.

We had the opportunity to meet Yevgenii Yevtushenko, the outspoken and controversial young Soviet poet, when he visited the U.S. delegation at the Helsinki Youth Festival. We introduced ourselves to him as representing the YOUNG SOCIALIST which had published some translations of his poems.

He jovially agreed to grant an interview for our paper "because of the small size of its circulation." By contrast, he pointed out that the paper of the Soviet Young Communist League had a circulation of some eight million and a yearly income of hundreds of thousands of rubles. But he felt sure (as we do) that the day would come when we would attain such a level.

Our questions concentrated on three topics: his views on Cuba, on the U.S., and on the Soviet Union. We had been impressed by his poems on Cuba with their clear sympathy for the revolution and appreciation of its militant spirit. Some poems he had written about the U.S., which he visited around the same time he visited Cuba, had aroused our curiosity.

We will first give in question and answer form some of the high points of our discussion dealing with Cuba and the U.S. In a

future issue we will recount some remarks he made when we visited him in Moscow about problems of the Soviet Union and of his own development.

Q. From your visits to Cuba, what most impressed you about the Cuban Revolution?

A. What impresses me most is that the Cubans have stepped over the phase of dogmatism. Revolutions learn from one another. The Cubans have learned from our experience. While it took us twenty years to overcome dogmatism, they have stamped it out the minute it began to appear.

Q. You are referring to Fidel's speech about Escalante? You are acquainted with it and have read it?

A. Yes. In addition, the daring, gay and festive air of the Cuban revolution impresses me. This tiny island has become a continent of romanticism in the midst of the twentieth atomic century, this age of cynicism.

Q. You have met Fidel. Could you tell us something about that meeting?

A. I have met him not once, but many times, and have had long talks with him. The amazing thing about him is that, though he is the highest leader in the country, he walks around as though he were an ordinary person. If he sees someone whose face he likes, he will stop and talk with him. His bible is Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

I will tell you an incident to show what Fidel is like. I was strolling in Havana late one night and I stopped in a little bar on a side street. At the small table where I sat there was a half-finished glass and a copy of Plekhanov. I asked the bartender if someone was sitting there and he said no, that Fidel had just stopped in for a drink with a friend and gone off forgetting his book. And it was not the fact that he reads Plekhanov, but that he would stop in late at night with someone he met at a simple tavern, talk a bit, have a drink, and go off forgetting his book.

Once I asked if it was not a great danger for him to walk the streets so casually with no body-



SOVIET POET Yevgenii Yevtushenko (center), talks with American newsmen in Helsinki.

guard. Surely the enemies of the revolution would not hesitate to kill him if they got the chance. He replied yes, there was a danger he might be killed. But if he kept himself protected in his office and did not go among the people and talk with them any longer, he would be building a wall between himself and the people. And that, in turn, would be his death.

Q. Could one say, then, that the close ties of Fidel and his colleagues with the Cuban masses, and their ability as a result, to mobilize and lead the masses was one of the things most impressing you?

A. No, no. They do not lead the people; the people created them, and they express what the people desire.

Q. True, the Cuban people created these leaders through years of struggle, but don't you agree that, in turn, they lead the people, inspire it and draw out its every potential?

A. Yes, it is as though the people had molded Fidel and now he in turn is molding the people.

Q. Isn't this like the case of Lenin, a product of long years of the revolutionary movement in Russia, who in turn, played a key role in leading the people to socialist revolution?

A. Yes. One could say the same about me. I was molded by the

Soviet young generation and now, in my turn, I am trying to mold it.

Q. Would you agree, then, that one reason the revolution is able to survive in the teeth of imperialism is Fidel's ability to rouse every potential bit of support for the revolution in the masses?

A. Yes, that and Soviet aid. But let me say one thing about Fidel's leadership. That it is not the cult of personality. People do not stand in awe of him or worship him like an idol. When they meet him in the street they slap him on the shoulder and ask after the health of his son.

Let me tell you how I first met Fidel to show you what the Cuban revolution is like. I was attending a meeting that was being addressed by Armando Hart, Minister of Education. When they found I was a Russian poet, they interrupted him and made me take the stand. They wanted me to read a poem, but rather than speak with a translator, I tried to say what I could in the few Spanish words I had learned. When I had finished, Fidel stood up—he had apparently wandered by—and called on the crowd, "Let's show our appreciation for this Russian poet who has so heroically struggled with the Spanish language." And that's how I first met Fidel.

Q. What do you think of the fact that Fidel led a socialist revolution, not through the Communist Party, and that he had to denounce Escalante, an oldtime Party member, to preserve the revolution?

A. Communism does not lie in just a name or a party card. Dogmatists can exist in every party. What counts is not whether you can go through the formalities of

revolutionism but whether you act in the spirit of the revolution. A person can be a true communist who never read Marx or belonged to a party, just as some of the best Christians never go to church.

Q. Do you think the development represented by Escalante was like the rise of Stalin in the Soviet Union?

A. Yes, it was similar but on a smaller scale.

Q. In your poem *Mozarts of Revolution* (see YOUNG SOCIALIST, Feb., 1962), the figure Salieri is an excellent technician who does not have the spirit of the music of revolution. Did you have in mind that there were "Salieris" in Cuba?

A. Yes, I wrote that about Cuba, but also about dogmatists in general who practice the forms but not the essence of revolution.

Q. When did you write that poem?

A. In December of 1961.

Q. That was months before Fidel found it necessary to denounce Escalante.

A. I somehow saw it coming.

Q. In some of your poems about the U.S. you have seemed to be fairly uncritical. Now, after having seen in Cuba what U.S. domination meant under Batista and how the U.S. government attempts, as at Playa Giron, to destroy the revolution, what do you think of U.S. imperialism?

A. In the U.S. I saw a poster in front of a theater with caricatures of Hitler alongside of Khrushchev and Fidel with a red, white and blue rope around each one's neck and a caption saying "who's next?" But just next door to this in the apartment of a poet I saw hanging a portrait of Fidel, saying "Venceremos!" I prefer only to see Fidel's picture.

You see, in Stalin's time the Soviet people were closed off within their borders for nearly 20 years with no knowledge of the outside world. Practically the only persons to travel abroad or enter our country were official diplomatic delegations. And the Soviet people were given a one-sided view of Americans. All Americans were pictured as either wearing a stovepipe hat and striped pants with large bellies, smoking a cigar, or else as some kind of raucous holligans in Hawaiian shirts.

I feel the most important thing right now is for the Soviet people to learn that the American people are ordinary persons like you and me, like the fine people here at the Festival. And so in my poems I portray the good things about America.

Youth in Action

NO MORE WAR! The New York Committee for a General Strike for Peace has issued a second call for a world-wide general strike. Beginning Nov. 5, a week-long series of actions is planned. Included are picket lines at the offices of defense contractors such as General Dynamics, builders of Polaris submarines, and demonstrations at the New York Stock Exchange and the National Association of Manufacturers. Continuous peace walks will take place during the week, and will reach high points with larger marches Nov. 5 and 11. Participation in the Veterans Day parade is tentatively planned. The General Strike Committee headquarters is at 61 West 14th St., N.Y.C., CH 2-3595.

ON THE CAMPUS: Freshman and sophomore enlistments in Army and Air Force ROTC at the University of California at Berkeley have dropped more than 80 per cent since the program was made voluntary rather than compulsory. . . . A Fordham University student has revealed in testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee that he and a young woman acted as

spies for HUAC at the World Festival of Youth in Helsinki. They reported to Rep. Francis Walter (D.-Pa.), chairman of the witch-hunting committee, that the U.S. contingent, of which they were members, was made up of communist sympathizers, leftists, and pacifists.

HANDS OFF CUBA! The day Cuban President Dorticos addressed the U.N. General Assembly 300 people demonstrated to support him outside the U.N. The picket line, called by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, was attacked by Cuban counter-revolutionaries (*gusanos*) who were picketing against Dorticos nearby. Earlier six students on their way to the F.P.C.C. demonstration were attacked by 35 *gusanos* carrying rocks, knives, and pieces of pipe. Two of the students, including one who had been assaulted, were arrested and charged with various misdemeanors. Medical attention was withheld while the cops interrogated them. . . . After the stepped-up U.S. attacks on Cuba began, over 1,500 people demonstrated near the United Nations on Saturday, Oct. 27. For two hours they expressed their opposition to the aggressive ac-

tions of the Kennedy regime with such slogans as "Hands Off Cuba!" and "No Blockade—Don't Invade!" The demonstration was called by the F.P.C.C. and was supported by other organizations including the ad hoc Committee to Halt World War III. The demonstration was originally scheduled to take place in Times Square. However, after N.Y.C. Police Commissioner Murphy banned any demonstrations in Times Square during the Cuban crisis, and after the American Civil Liberties Union withdrew its promised support of the constitutional right of free assembly, the meeting was shifted to the U.N. Candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in the New York state elections participated in the demonstration carrying signs reading "Dismantle Guantanamo!" and "Disarm the imperialists!" Before the U.N. demonstration began, a meeting of several hundred was under way in Harlem under the leadership of the Harlem Anti-Colonial Committee. A contingent from that meeting, which took place near the Hotel Theresa, where Castro stayed when he came to the U.N., marched to the U.N. and joined the F.P.C.C. line.

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