

EDITORIAL

by Gloria Fontanez

Puerto Rican people in the U.S. have a long history of struggle. From the day we arrived we've known the realities of the myth known as the 'land of honey'. The struggles to get employment, being forced to live in run-down rejected apartments, discriminatory policies of the U.S. government state, city, and federal agencies, the difficulty of learning a new language and being called spics because we would say, 'me no spicky english', being beat up by other poor peoples because they thought we were out for their jobs, being forced on the welfare rolls, unable to develop the skills necessary for permanent employment, being therefore constantly threatened with losing whatever jobs we would find; these and other conditions developed organizational defense and response.

In the early years of our migration many social clubs developed, e.g. Fajardeños Ausentes, as well as many civil rights organizations like the Bronx Hispanic American Commission, and later in more recent years, the revolutionary political organizations, like El Comité, PSP (MPI), and the PRRWO (YLP).

Undoubtedly, wherever oppression and exploitation take place, the people will rise in organized force to seek ways to defend ourselves and resolve our problems. This has been the general growing trend for Puerto Ricans inside the U.S., as has been true for all poor and working class people of America.

In the years of our development as Puerto Ricans in the U.S. many ideas have developed as to how and who will lead a successful struggle against the U.S. rulers.

In January 1970, the Young Lords Party (PRRWO) raised the problem in this way, Puerto Rico is a colony of the U.S. Puerto Ricans in the U.S., being Puerto Ricans are therefore part of the divided Puerto Rican Nation, which lives 1/3 in the U.S. and 2/3 in Puerto Rico.

True, Puerto Rico has been a completely dominated colony of the U.S. for 73 years. And although it's also true that we are Puerto Ricans in the U.S., it is false to say that we are part, yet divided from the Puerto Rican Nation.

When we made that analysis we were being unreal, and in order that we may change things we must view problems in a real way, so that we may find real solutions.

Why are we not part of the Puerto Rican Nation? First what is a Nation?

Revolutionaries before us studied this problem, and found that a nation 'is a historically developed, stable community of language, territory, economic life, and psychological make-up as it exists in culture.'

Nations like every historical phenomena, are subject to the laws of change, has its history, beginning and end.

Is Puerto Rico a nation? It most certainly is. a colonized nation which must and will achieve political and economic national independence.

What are Puerto Ricans inside the U.S.? When in Puerto Rico we were part of the Puerto Rican Nation. In the U.S. that changed, and we became a national minority within the American nation. In the U.S. we are in differently developed historical conditions, we are in a new territory, Puerto Ricans alone don't constitute a stable community of language, and we live under a new economic life, in the oppressor nation as opposed to the economic life of an oppressed nation like Puerto Rico. These are the fundamental reasons that prove the Divided Nation theory as false.

To believe in the Divided Nation theory leads to the conclusion that Puerto Ricans in the U.S. play a secondary role in the U.S. revolutionary movement, and a primary responsibility in the revolutionary movement for the liberation of Puerto Rico.

True, that although we were basically incorrect, the struggle waged inside the U.S. has educated many poor and working American people who have not known what the U.S. government has been up to in Puerto Rico, making clearer what this government and the wealthy it protects are doing not only inside the U.S., but outside its borders. In other words, it exposes even more clearly U.S. imperialism.

The mass mobilizations, propaganda, day to day struggles in the places of work, schools and community has directly supported the struggle being waged by the masses of Puerto Rico, who in the final analysis is the only force capable and who will overthrow the U.S. rulers and their puppets.

We must continue to demand the liberation of Puerto Rico inside the U.S., not only must the Puerto Ricans raise this banner but all peoples of the U.S.

This is not, however the primary responsibility of Puerto Rican people inside the U.S. The primary struggle for us here, as a national minority is to struggle and demand our democratic rights, at the same time that we join with Black, Asian, Latin, and White peoples to build an organization capable of defeating U.S. imperialism.

In this way we will best aid the struggle in Puerto Rico, as well as in the rest of the world, and will best understand what we must do in the real conditions facing us here in the U.S.

**UNITE ALL THOSE WHO CAN BE UNITED
TO DEFEAT THE COMMON ENEMY- U.S.
IMPERIALISM!**