

# **EAST EUROPE RESISTS SOVIET UNION**

Eastern Europe, the most important Soviet sphere of influence, has become a powder-keg of opposition to Soviet domination. In recent weeks, various forms of protest have erupted in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany.

For many years, the Soviet Union has ruled Eastern Europe with an iron fist. Brezhnev's talk about "brotherly love" and "complete equality" has only been a smokescreen for the hard reality of neo-colonialism in these countries.

More than 600,000 Soviet troops are stationed in Eastern Europe to perpetuate this enslavement and to prepare for aggression against the West. Under the watchful eyes of the Russian occupation army, Eastern Europe's raw materials are plundered, unequal economic exchanges are enforced, and the labor of the working people is brutally exploited.

But this intense repression cannot last long. The people of Eastern Europe have expelled one tyrant after another over the last few hundred years, including Hitler. In Poland, where the genuine Marxist-Leninists of the Polish Com-

unist Party are forced to work underground, massive strikes and workers' rebellions have rocked the country in the last year.

Most recently, the "Charter 77" movement in Czechoslovakia has kindled a new flame of rebellion against the Soviet occupiers who have remained in the country since their 1968 invasion. The "Charter 77" demands for political liberty and opposition to Soviet domination have aroused strong support among the masses. Recognizing this, Czech authorities under direction from Moscow have begun a crackdown against the activists in this movement.

Even in Bulgaria, a country long considered in the tightest grip of social-imperialism, a government publishing house has just published a book exposing Soviet strangulation of the economy.

The struggles of the Eastern European peoples and countries have ripped the "socialist" mask off Brezhnev and exposed the USSR's imperialist, fascist nature. But these struggles have also shown that Soviet social-imperialism is outwardly strong, but inwardly weak and filled with contradictions. Even while Brezhnev tries to extend his empire around the world, the most important building block of that empire is erupting in fierce opposition.

What is taking place in Eastern Europe today is a reflection of the fact that countries want independence, nations want liberation and people want revolution. No amount of aggression or repression by either superpower can stop the advance of this trend of history.