

(Note: The following is re-printed from the Nov. 1 issue of the *International Bulletin*, published by the Puerto Rican Socialist League.)

SAN JUAN—The Sec.-General of the Puerto Rican Socialist League (PRSL), Juan Antonio Corretjer, made the following statement about the unjustified and unjust attack by the Young Lords Party of N.Y. on our fraternal Progressive Labor Party (ML) of the U.S. and their reference to the PRSL (ML) and to comrade Corretjer himself:

In 1932 Puerto Rican members of the Lower Harlem Section of the old Communist Party of the U.S. and the Puerto Rican Nationalist Junta of N.Y. (affiliated to the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico) ended up in a tragedy after a senseless campaign of mutual insults. One night the police, taking advantage of the known dispute, assigned a so-called "communist" to assassinate a Nationalist during an El Barrio street meeting. Angel Manuel Feliu, a Nationalist, native of Utuado, was knifed to death while the so-called "communist" under the shadow of police protection, disappeared and, it was said, escaped to Cuba or Mexico.

The only ones who gained by the dispute and the tragedy were the class enemies of both parties and the repressive forces that persecuted them. To which side the victim belonged is secondary, even though it was more useful to capitalism to present the murderous "communist" as the assassin and the Puerto Rican patriot as the victim. It was natural that communists and nationalists clash in El Barrio in 1932. No matter how Puerto Rican one is, in the development of the struggle for independence a moment is reached in which one has to take sides; *either one is a Communist or a nationalist. It is impossible to be both at the same time.*

It was natural at that time, as it is now, that there be Puerto Ricans who fight for the independence of Puerto Rico under nationalist ideologies—and for that reason, bourgeois or petit-bourgeois ideology. It is also logical that other Puerto Ricans fight as we do—for independence according to working-class ideolo-

gy, Marxism-Leninism, under the flag of proletarian internationalism. Puerto Rico is a capitalist society, divided into classes. Such a class society inevitably projects its ideologies on the independence movement.

The struggle for independence is a specific form of class struggle. Either one struggles for an independence which benefits the workers only by means of taking power in a revolutionary way, the liquidation of private property and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, or one fights for a Nationalist independence, multi-class by necessity, which defeats foreign capitalist power in order to benefit a new dominant class whose power will establish private property.

The same difference will be reflected ideologically. Marxism-Leninism is a unified theory—not a multi-class hodge-podge of ideas. Without this unity, all that remains is a petit-bourgeois attempt at reconciling the unreconcilable. But one cannot be a 20 or 80% Marxist. One is a Marxist-Leninist standing on its fundamental philosophy—dialectical and historical materialism and its proven practice, which is its party with a Marxist-Leninist orientation, founded in the class struggle that fights for political power for the working class; the taking over power by force; liquidation of private property and establishment

of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

"A Marxist," says Lenin, "extends the recognition of the class struggle to recognition of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The transition of capitalism to communism may embrace a diversity of political forms; but the *essence* of all of them necessarily is one: the dictatorship of the proletariat."

The extension to the U.S. of the Nationalist struggle for Puerto Rican independence is a consequence of, (1) the Puerto Rican emigration, forced and stimulated by U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico; and (2) the influence of the Irish Nationalist struggle in England upon Albizu Campos.

Marxist-Leninists of the PLP as well as ourselves in the PRSL-ML take the world (as Marxist-Leninists must) as a reality. We examine it accord-

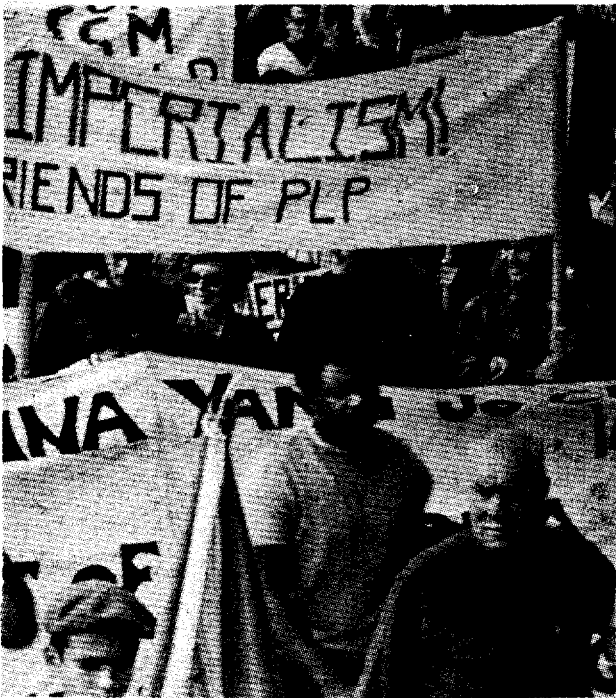
Words to the Young Lords: Nationalism or Communism

Juan Antonio Corretjer

ing to scientific fact and social practice. No matter how insignificant anything might seem, or how unimportant it may appear, we never approach it frivolously. That is why the PRSL-ML takes so seriously the mistaken and unjust attack made by the Young Lords Party of New York on the comrades of PLP and its reference to the PRSL and to myself.

A revolutionary line must base itself on a developing class, on a class on the rise, not on something temporary or short-lived. There is a reality in the life of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. which will not disappear—their *condition of being workers*. The impoverishment of the masses by capitalism, a universal law of the system, governs and will govern the life of workers in the U.S. until the system changes, until capitalism is defeated and socialism is established.

Puerto Rican workers share and will share, with all class brothers in the U.S., the suffering that



International Solidarity march; Juan Antonio Corretjer at lower right.

capitalism imposes on them, and should share also the glory of defeating capitalism and establishing socialism. To that end it is indispensable to develop an authentic Party of the U.S. working class, a Marxist-Leninist party of all U.S. workers, without distinction of race or national origin. Not to recognize this reality is to break with Marxism-Leninism, from what Lenin wrote about free determination and the Party; it is to ignore the work on the national and colonial question written by Stalin.

It is in the ranks of the political and ideological movement of the working class of the U.S. that Puerto Rican workers and their descendants living in the U.S. can render their maximum contribution

to the defeat of capitalism and the establishment of socialism. This is so because the fight for independence itself is part of the program to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. Intensification of the struggle for independence within the U.S. will make itself felt more promptly and with greater depth in proportion to the increase of Puerto Ricans in the ranks of the Communist, Marxist-Leninist Party in the U.S.

This does not mean that Puerto Rico must wait for its independence until the U.S. becomes a socialist country. It *does* mean that the task of the Puerto Rican in the U.S. will always be, no matter its organizational form or its ideology, strategy and tactics, an *auxiliary* force to the struggle for independence in Puerto Rico. For it is here, in Puerto Rico, where the definite form is to be given and shall be given to the struggle for independence and its victory. It also means that the Young Lords Party of N.Y. has to understand that the destiny of the Puerto Ricans who have emigrated to the U.S. will be no different from that of all other immigrant groups: Irish, Italian, Polish, Spanish.

The Lords represent a halt on the road to acculturation. That is why we watched them come to public life with keen interest and affection. That is why we applauded and continue to applaud their militancy. That is why, when we met Cha Cha Jimenez in Jayuya on Oct. 30, 1969, when later we spoke at length with him, when afterwards we spoke with "Yoruba" in N.Y., we thought the Young Lords by being just what they are, some of perhaps the most exploited sector of the Chicago and New York proletariat, by just organizing they will take the Marxist road.

It is a pity that they did not take it. It is nothing to despair about, either, "Nobody is born a communist," said Lenin. One becomes a communist by acquired convictions, by ideas learned in Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao. It is a pity also that they have launched an attack on the Party which has proved to be the authentic Marxist-Leninist Party and which for several years has given Puerto Rico the systematic and consistent revolutionary aid that the Party of the working class of the imperialist country should give the Party of the colony. PLP has always understood this. It is within this Party where the Young Lords will find their real friends. It is a pity, I repeat, that they have not understood this.

The Young Lords of N.Y. make a mistake in thinking they are children of the so-called Third World, a petit-bourgeois invention, anti-Marxist and counter-revolutionary. *There are only two worlds: that of the exploiters and that of the exploited; "bourgeoisie and proletarians."* says the *Communist Manifesto*.

In fact, we are greatly worried over the call made by "Yoruba" to attack those who sell *Challenge-Desafio* in El Barrio. It was this incredible call, so lightly given, which so lightly given, which immediately made me remember the senseless tragic experience of 1932.

The PRSL-ML distributes a minimum of 6,000 copies of *Challenge-Desafio* each issue in Puerto Rico. We aspire to be able to double this number. It is part of the propaganda task directed by comrade Jose Marcano. The strikers at General Electric (in Puerto Rico) have seen the positive results of this circulation. The PRSL-ML shares completely with PLP all of the Marxist-Leninist-Mao Tsetung Thought ideology.

We recently shared in New York with the PLP comrades and the Canadian Party of Labor-ML an International Solidarity Day, the importance of which will be seen in the future. We pointed out the deep significance of this proletarian Marxist-Leninist unity of the three parties. Canada is the first world market of the U.S. bourgeoisie, which is also the owner of 60 per cent of its economy. Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony and a monopolized market, the second market of the U.S. in the Western Hemisphere. PLP is the Marxist Party of the imperialist country. Canada sells Puerto Rico \$34 million per year and buys \$5 million. Canada occupies the Northern frontier of the U.S. Puerto Rico is the key to the isthmus in the Caribbean frontier. A great

part of the future of the people of the world is in the hands of the U.S. proletariat which some day PLP will lead to the taking over of power in a revolutionary way.

The attention given by PLP to Puerto Rico shows the importance of the national question in the correct Marxist-Leninist thought of PLP. But the national question in Puerto Rico ceased to have a nationalistic solution. It ceased to have it forever. For the Puerto Rican workers, *socialism is independence*. We do not deny the importance of the independentist organizations that are not Marxist. But only the proletariat can be the vanguard of independence. Only a Marxist-Leninist Party can lead the proletariat to carry out its vanguard task. In Puerto Rico the nationalist solution once existed. It does not exist now. No matter how painful for the Young Lords, it can't be more so than it was. But I assure the Young Lords that that pain passes. A new joy, a new unending happiness fills our hearts and makes us willing and strong for a greater fight, when we know we have arrived at the universal truth of Marxism, the fatherland of the proletariat.

POLISH WORKERS FIGHT BOSSES

Shipyard workers were marching peacefully in the city (of Gdansk) Monday afternoon to protest increases averaging 20 per cent in the government price of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities.

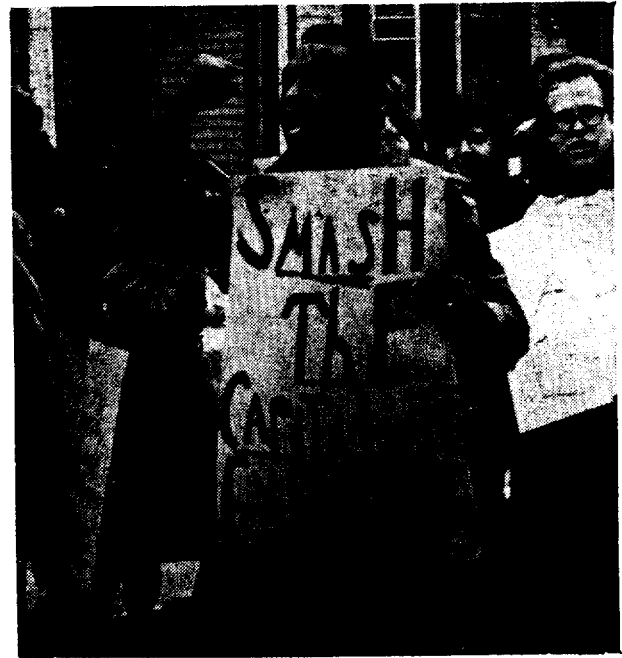
Police, seeing they were outnumbered by the demonstrators, panicked and started shooting. This triggered demonstrations all over the city. An angry mob singing the Communist Internationale attacked the Party headquarters and also tried to burn down the railway station. — *N.Y. Post, Dec. 17*).

Workers rebellions in Poland against low wages, higher prices and general oppression should be welcomed and hailed by all revolutionary forces the world over. These heroic workers, flying the banners of international communist revolution, prove revisionists (bosses who claim to be communists) are the same as bosses in the U.S., the U.S.S.R. and Rumania. "A boss is a boss is a boss," they are *all rotten*. We should rebel against — and defeat — all of them.

Hopefully, this important rebellion in Poland will spur the growth of a new vigorous communist movement there. Poland today is as "socialist" as the U.S. Only a few years ago Robert Kennedy was invited there as a guest of the Polish bosses who forced thousands to turn out to greet him. These rebellions show capitalist policies are coming home to roost, and true communists are helping to lead the way (not the right-wingers the CIA-directed fascist "demonstrators" in the U.S. are hoping for).

Unfortunately there are many in the communist

movement who have illusions in or create illusions about the Polish bosses. This is based on some minor differences between Polish and Russian bosses, just like those between French and U.S. bosses. Differences between bosses over how best to screw workers have never helped



Poland, the U.S., the world. . . the only answer.

workers. Anyone who encourages Polish bosses by sending "greetings," delegations, etc., hurts the workers and the development of a communist movement in Poland.

If it makes us "extreme leftists" because we can't get ourselves to believe that any boss is good, so be it.