

# U.S. IMPERIALISM OUT OF PUERTO RICO! SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN NATION!

The exploited and oppressed Puerto Rican masses have a long, rich history of militant and heroic struggle against imperialism and for self-determination. The revolutionary traditions of fighting Spanish imperialism have continued under the domination of the U.S. imperialists since 1898. From the very beginning when General Nelson A. Miles landed U.S. imperialist troops in Guanica, Puerto Rico there was armed resistance. The struggle against U.S. imperialism has continuously shown itself whether in the form of strikes, demonstrations or armed attacks such as the attack on Blair House in 1950 and on the Congress in 1954.

In order to do this more effectively Ford recently raised the question of statehood for Puerto Rico a question which has historically, periodically been raised in order to ideologically prepare the masses for the day when they actually do carry it out.

The U.S. bourgeoisie is united strategically that is they all unite on keeping Puerto Rico under imperialist domination - where they differ is tactically - that is, what is the best way to accomplish this - under the present "Commonwealth status or as a

## Puerto Rican People - Oppose Imperialism, Oppression, And Exploitation

All the bourgeois propaganda about the "passivity" and "docility" of the Puerto Rican people clearly negates the historically proven law that "where there is oppression, there is resistance". The Puerto Rican people have stood firmly opposed to all forms of imperialist oppression and exploitation, in fact have historically laid down their lives as in La Massacre de Ponce where hundreds of people were murdered by police as they marched in favor of independence. The Puerto Rican people have consistently repulsed the cultural genocide of U.S. imperialism by fighting to maintain their cultural traditions and language in the face of continued imposition of the English language, by rejecting U.S. citizenship which was in fact imposed as a means to quell the revolutionary struggle of the masses, and to legalize the drafting of Puerto Ricans to fight in World War I. The drafting of Puerto Rican men to fight in imperialist wars, to be used as cannon fodder, to fight against other oppressed and exploited peoples such as in the Korean War and the Vietnam War has been historically struggled against by the Puerto Rican people. The U.S. bourgeoisie propagates their national chauvinism - consistently raising that "Puerto Rico is too small and too poor to make it without the United States". They must raise this in order to try and cover their blatant imperialist domination of Puerto Rico. In order to quell the revolutionary, militant fighting spirit of the masses by spreading pessimism and demoralization.



THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF RESISTANCE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM. ABOVE, A REBELLION AGAINST THE R.O.T.C. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO--MARCH, 1971. 31 PEOPLE (22 STUDENTS) WERE WOUNDED FROM GUN SHOTS. MORE THAN 169 WERE ARRESTED.

## The Imperialist Bloodsuckers Are Despised

### The World Over

These imperialist bloodsuckers are despised the world over - throughout the world wherever there is Coca-Cola, Exxon, Chase Manhattan and Mac Donalds there are signs U.S. Imperialism Out! Yankee Go Home! reflecting the hatred of the worlds people for U.S. imperialism. In the United Nations as a result of the struggle led by China and Albania and supported by many of the Third World countries taking an anti-imperialist stand the U.N. Committee on Decolonization was forced under pressure to recognize that Puerto Rico indeed is a classic colony of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. imperialists today find themselves hard pressed having suffered defeat in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and are continuing to suffer defeat throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and so they are desperately clinging to their neo-colonies and colonies such as Puerto Rico as part of their contention and collusion with the other imperialist superpower the Soviet Union.

state. Presently the U.S. bourgeoisie gets 17 year "tax holidays" - companies can operate for 17 years tax free - after the 17 years they change their name and have another 17 tax free years - it boils down to a completely tax free status. They have the "benefits" of not having to pay minimum wages - due to no minimum wage laws and the low level of organization among the working class. Puerto Rico is used as a military base, 13% of the arable land is used as military bases and Culebra for example is used for target practice. So clearly the U.S. imperialists are doing all they can to keep Puerto Rico in their greedy clutches, so that they can continue squeezing out superprofits by exploiting the working class in Puerto Rico, stealing its natural resources and dumping all their surplus products. Puerto Rico is the fifth largest consumer in the world of U.S. goods. Simultaneously, they carry out their ideological preparation. They have carried out systematic cultural genocide in Puerto Rico - by imposing the English language more and more, and by im-

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posing all things foreign - replacing traditional eating places with Burger King, replacing the dress of the people with long sleeve shirts and sweaters, leather jackets and boots in 90° weather! bringing in bourgeois youth culture and decadence, drugs, prostitution, homosexuality. These are all the results of the decadent influence of U.S. imperialism. They have carried out a historical process of cultural genocide, trying to change the national character of Puerto Rico, trying to break the revolutionary spirit of the masses, preparing the basis for any plebiscite they may have on Puerto Rican independence. They have been preparing for this by forcing many Puerto Ricans to migrate to the U.S., bringing in many bourgeois Americans and reactionary petty-bourgeois and bourgeois Cubans as residents of Puerto Rico.

## **The Party Leads The Struggle For Self-Determination, National Liberation, And Socialism**

The comprador bourgeois parties P.P.D. and P.N.P supposedly have different programs - PNP for statehood (the Party presently in power) and PPD for "Commonwealth", but both serve the same bourgeois class interest. PPD for example the "Democratic" party - historically has tried to sap the revolutionary spirit of the masses by raising the slogan Bread, Land and Freedom! This reflected the revolutionary demands of the masses - but the PPD was incapable, and in fact never intended to struggle for or implement them. Both these parties are tied to the tail of the bourgeoisie and are therefore incapable of providing any real solution to the exploitation and oppression of the Puerto Rican people, because in fact the struggle for self-determination, national liberation and socialism can only be led by a genuine Communist Party.

## **PSP Works Hand In Hand With The Comprador Bourgeois Parties**

Working hand in hand with these bourgeois parties the PNP and PPD is the treacherous, the oh so treacherous bourgeois party the PSP - revisionists to the bone. Not satisfied with having propagated the revisionist absurdity "Bicentennial Without Colonies" they have rendered this more profound with their latest revisionist peaceful transition to socialism slogan "Christmas Without Political Prisoners". This bankruptcy is the revisionist theory of peaceful transition to socialism, cutting the heart out of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought, covering up that the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat is antagonistic, in fact trying to reconcile this irreconcilable contradiction, spreading illusions as if the U.S. would peacefully release the political prisoners. Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Andres Figueroa, Rafael Cancel and Irving Flores remain in jail until this day because they have refused all the "peaceful" deals the bourgeoisie has tried to make with them - trying to get them to renounce the liberation of Puerto Rico - they remain in prison today because they refuse to be bought, reflecting very clearly the antagonism of the contradiction! Lenin long ago polemicized against trying to obscure the antagonistic contradiction between the oppressor and oppressed nations. He drew out - "... the petty-bourgeoisie, believing in "peaceful capitalism", continues to this day advance all these demands in a utopian way, without seeing the class struggle and the fact that it has become intensified under democracy. The idea of a peaceful union of equal nations under imperialism, which deceives the people, and which the Kautskyists advocate, is precisely of this nature. As against this philistine, opportunist

utopia the programme of Social-Democracy must point out that under imperialism the division of nations into oppressing and oppressed ones is a fundamental most important and inevitable fact." pg. 7 (Lenin on the National and Colonial Questions). Working hand in hand with the bourgeois parties, continuing in the tradition of Kautsky and the 2nd International, many of the PSP revisionists recently in the elections that took place in Puerto Rico voted for the statehood Party under the guise that having a governor who is for statehood, will make the choice between statehood and independence clearer. This line is another form of the revisionist peaceful transition to socialism line - make conditions worse for the masses and maybe independence and socialism will be voted in! Clearly there is a need for a genuine Communist Party in Puerto Rico that will lead the struggle of the masses against U.S. imperialism and for national liberation and socialism, a genuine Party that will lead the struggle to unmask the treacherous revisionist PSP and all other forms of opportunism.

## **Fight For The Voluntary Union Of The Oppressed And Oppressor Nations**

The responsibility of the U.S. proletariat and its developing Bolshevik Party is to consistently support the right of Puerto Rico to self-determination including political secession - by carrying out support including material aid for the national liberation of Puerto Rico - by continuing to build our Party, continuing to carry out propaganda as the chief form of activity and in fact carrying out propaganda and political exposures on the question of Puerto Rico, exposing the bankrupt politicians such as Badillo who recently was carrying on his usual leeching activities, trying to pimp off the righteous struggle of the Puerto Rican people, by saying he is for independence. Comrade Lenin teaches us this about the responsibilities of communists in the oppressor nations. "Imperialism is the highest stage of development of capitalism. Capital in the advanced countries has outgrown the boundaries of national states. It has established monopoly in place of competition, thus creating all the objective prerequisites for the achievement of socialism. Hence in Western Europe and in the United States of America, the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat for the overthrow of the capitalist governments, for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie, is on the order of the day. Imperialism is forcing the masses into this struggle by sharpening class antagonisms to an immense degree, by worsening the conditions of the masses both economically - trusts and high costs of living, and politically - growth of militarism, frequent wars, increase of reaction, strengthening and extension of national oppression and colonial plunder. Victorious socialism must achieve complete democracy and, consequently, not only bring about the complete equality of nations, but also give effect to the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, i.e., the right to free political secession. Socialist Parties which fail to prove by all their activities now, as well as during the revolution and after its victory, that they will free the enslaved nations and establish relations with them on the basis of a free union - and a free union is a lying phrase without the right to secession - such parties would be committing treachery to socialism." (Lenin On The National and Colonial Question, pg. 1 & 2) We will continue as we have historically to carry out our responsibilities to the international proletariat, to the world's people by fighting our own bourgeoisie in the spirit of proletarian internationalism as comrade Lenin taught us doing the utmost in one country for the development, support and awakening of the revolution in all countries."

# **LIBERATION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN NATION !**