



# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the  
Revolutionary Communist  
Party, U.S.A.

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Sección en Español

25c

**International Workers Day**

**ON TO  
MAY 1st, 1980**

**25**

April

**26**

April

**29**

**30**



## COMRADE DAMIAN GARCIA

Member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

Murdered Tuesday, April 22, 1980 by police agents in  
Los Angeles while building for May 1st 1980

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

# Demonstrate May 1st!

**L.A.—10:00 a.m. MacArthur Park (bandshell area), Parkview and 6th**

**New York—9:30 a.m. Union Square**

**Chicago—11:00 a.m. Daley Center Plaza**

**Washington, D.C.—11:00 a.m. Malcolm X Park, 16th and Euclid NW**

**Detroit—9:30 a.m. Palmer Park, Woodward and 6-mile**

**Atlanta—12:00 noon, Central City Park (downtown)**

**San Francisco Bay Area—10:00 a.m. San Antonio Park, 16th and Foothill Blvd., Oakland**

May 1st demonstrations will be held in many other cities. For information contact the *Revolutionary Worker* in your area. or phone National May Day Committee (313) 893-8350 or (313) 893-7831

## Send Us Reports on May 1st

BE THE EYES AND EARS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKER ON MAY 1

Attention *RW* readers: Report on the events of May Day.

In the factories, hospitals, schools and workplaces across the country, class-conscious fighters are making plans to show their hatred against this system on May 1st. Some, like those incarcerated in the capitalists' prisons, and others unable to join in the major marches, will be launching actions at the same time. We've already heard from some of you, but we know there are many more co-conspirators plotting.

We are calling on regular readers and supporters of the *RW* to send in pictures and report on the actions taken, including all the details, immediately after they happen. Send to: **REVOLUTIONARY WORKER, BOX 3486, MERCHANDISE MART, CHICAGO, IL 60654.**

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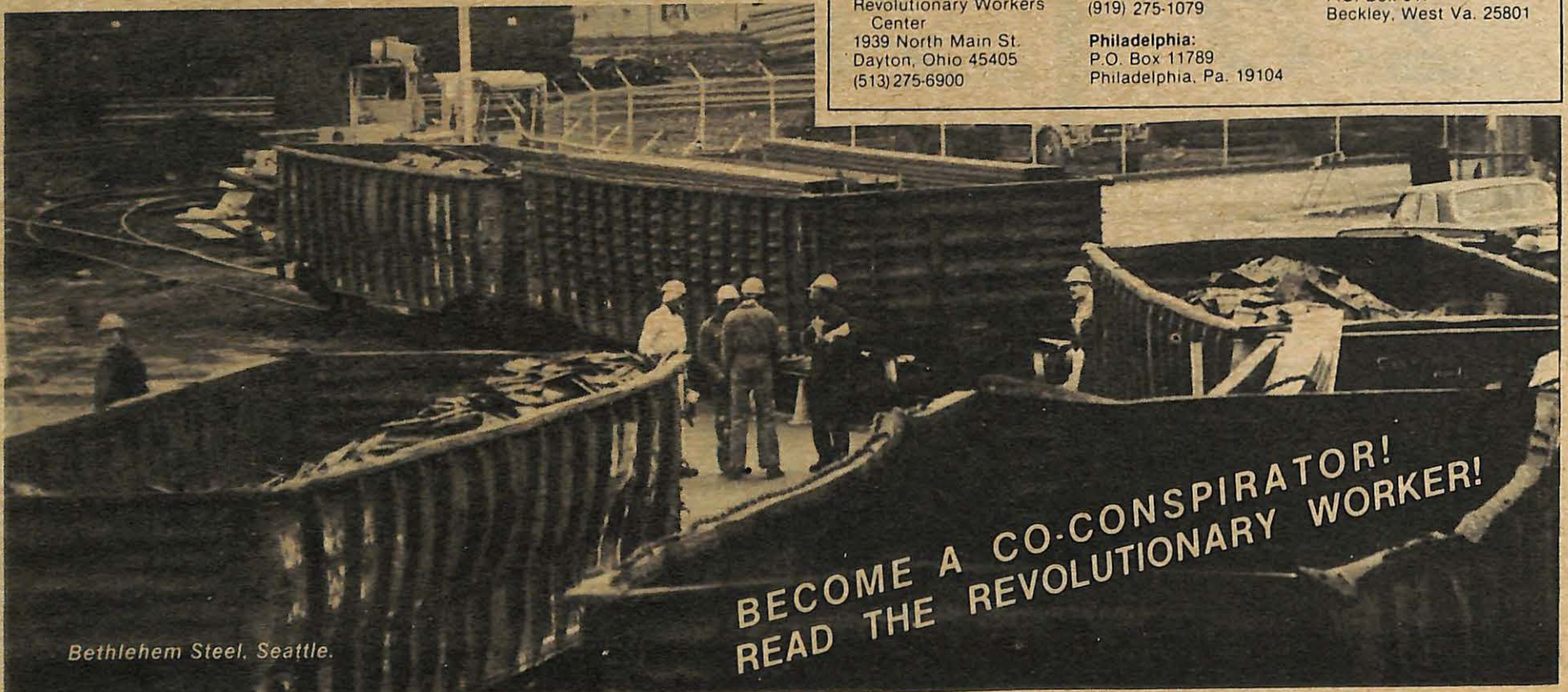
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READ THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKER!**

**May 1, 1980**

**Break Free  
and Out of Your Chains!**

# **We Won't Work That Day—Will You?**

**We Will March on May 1, taking  
history into our hands, serving the  
highest interests of our class.**

**Where will you be?  
What will you be doing?  
Who will you serve?**

**Surge onto the  
Stage  
of  
History!**



**Turn This Whole Country  
Upside Down!**

# "GREAT EMBASSY RAID"

## goes up in smoke

As we go to press—in the early morning hours of Friday, April 25—the White House has been forced to announce the utter failure of a long-planned military attack on Iran in an attempt to free the CIA agents and other personnel held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

In Tehran, where worship services had just concluded on the Moslem sabbath, tens of thousands of jubilant Iranians demonstrated outside the embassy, flashing clenched fists and the "V" sign for victory. In Washington, a somber Jimmy Carter delivered an emergency address to the nation at 7:00 a.m. EST, declaring that the raid would surely have worked if only it hadn't failed!

The attack was launched at the very moment when U.S. diplomats were trying to cajole their Western allies into a full-scale trade embargo against Iran on the grounds that only such joint action could forestall American military moves. Defense Secretary Brown, when asked at a press conference later Friday morning why the raid had been undertaken now, first referred to the "danger to the hostages posed by the deteriorating security situation in Iran." While this "concern" for the hostages is sheer hypocrisy, the U.S. imperialists are seriously worried about the situation inside Iran, particularly the Revolutionary Council's ability to contain Iran's revolutionary forces.

But there were even more powerful reasons that account for this desperate U.S. military action. "We considered disrupting commerce militarily," Brown continued. "There are obvious complications with that. It internationalizes the conflict, widens it (clearly referring to the Soviets—RW)." And then, explicitly referring to the mounting tensions within the U.S. war bloc, Brown stated, "There is a need to resolve this crisis. We need to remove a situation that complicates relationships among friends and allies."

Under increasing pressure to prove that the "U.S. is still No. 1"—a superpower fully capable of holding its allies in line and taking decisive military action against a serious threat to its world position—the U.S. imperialists ordered the raid, desperately gambling that it would prevent their worldwide "leadership" from being eroded any further. The administration chose the one form of military action which presented the greatest danger to the lives of the hostages, but the least danger of immediate military confrontation with their imperialist rivals in the Soviet Union, demonstrating once again that the hostages in the occupied U.S. embassy are just expendable pawns in the

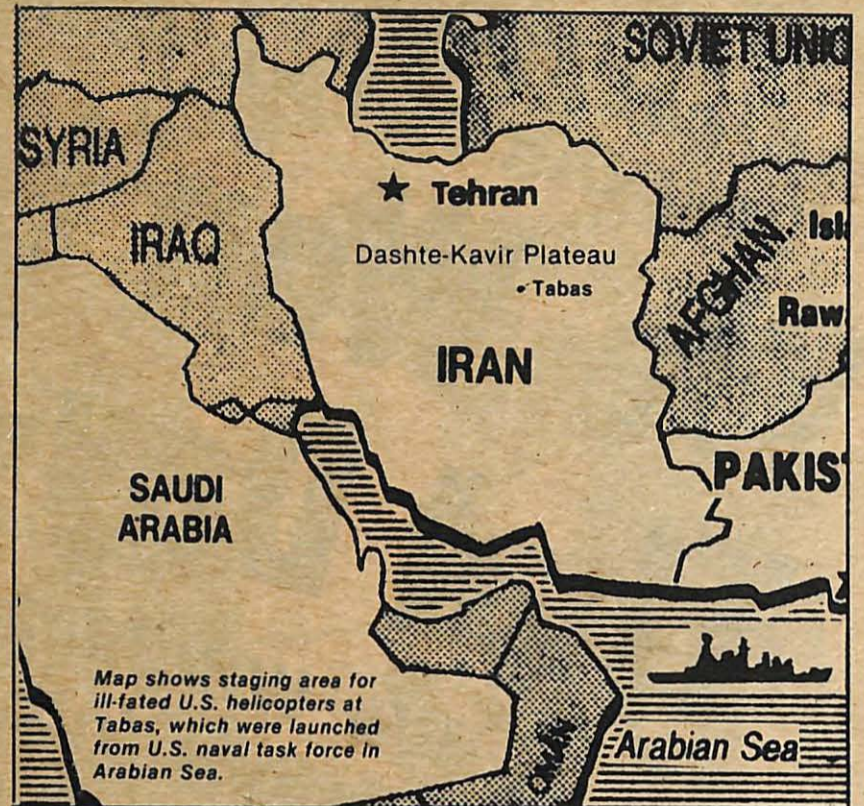
rapidly approaching global conflict between the two superpowers.

From reports that are available at this time, the attack on Iran was launched under the cover of darkness on the night of April 24-25 in six C-130 transport planes which flew from airfields in Egypt provided by U.S. lackey Anwar Sadat. After refueling in the former British colony of Bahrain on the Persian Gulf, the planes landed at an abandoned airfield near Tabas on the huge, sparsely populated Dashte-Kavir plateau of Iran, approximately 200 miles southeast of Tehran. Here they met up with 6 helicopters that had taken off from the *USS Nimitz*, one of the two aircraft carriers in a 25-ship U.S. naval task force that has been in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Iran for the last few months. With a total of 90 gung-ho volunteers aboard, these helicopters were to make the actual assault on the embassy.

Defense Secretary Brown, when asked at a press conference later Friday morning to relate further details of the raids (including how he was so sure the assault would "succeed"), clenched his jaw and refused to discuss the matter further. According to Brown, the raiders had expected to find a totally deserted landing site. But when a bus carrying 50 Iranian civilians passed nearby, the U.S. forces "detained" them. Yes, Brown continued with a straight face, this was a "rescue mission," not a "military action against Iran"!

At Tabas, all the nuts and bolts of the imperialist war machine began to fall apart. According to *Radio Iran*, several of the big RH-53 helicopters sank into the mud and were unable to take off. This was also reported in the U.S. in the early morning hours, with one reporter describing Tabas as a "swampy desert area." But in their morning statements, Carter and Brown only referred to "mechanical difficulties" with two of the helicopters. Then, near the end of the three hours that these "highly trained" American military units were on Iranian soil, one of the helicopters, outfitted with the latest infrared sensing devices for night operations, crashed into a huge, fuel-laden C-130 transport. As they both exploded and went up in flames, the raiding party then decided to get the hell out of Iran without ever getting within a hundred miles of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, leaving behind a fitting monument to the "peace-loving" nature of U.S. imperialism—the charred remains of two planes and eight crewmen.

Both President Carter and Secretary Brown admitted that "planning for the mission began shortly after the embassy



was seized," revealing again as patent lies all the U.S. claims over the last months about "exercising restraint" and "respecting international law." At his press conference, Brown explained how this team of all-American "volunteers from all four services" had been training for months on terrain similar to Iran's in the southwestern U.S., defensively adding that *then* they had succeeded in getting the helicopters to work!

Many of the families of the hostages expressed anger over the government's desperation moves. Mrs. Timm, who had defied the American government by going to Tehran last week to visit her 20-year-old Marine son in the embassy—and had talked for hours with the student militants about why they had seized the embassy—said, "I'm angry that our president would take military actions while people-to-people negotiations are going on."

The failure of the great embassy raid and the seriousness of the situation immediately provoked a flurry of infighting and backstabbing among the various capitalist politicians. Senator Frank Church, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated flat out that Carter had violated the 1973 War Powers Act, which requires the president to consult with the appropriate members of Congress before introducing U.S. armed forces into any foreign country where there is a likelihood of combat. Church and other senators claim that they were not consulted. But the facts show that they were fully aware that something was

about to happen, because on Thursday Senators Church and Javits hurriedly delivered a formal letter to Secretary of State Vance reminding him of the requirements of the War Powers Act. Thus, if anything went wrong, they had a document on file to protect their own asses. And on Wednesday Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd made a similar statement to the White House.

On the presidential political scene, John Anderson expressed "anguish for the eight brave men who lost their lives," while white knight Ted Kennedy, grinning from ear to ear over Carter's debacle as U.S. military chief, expressed pious concern for the eight who "died in the service of their country."

While many political figures in Washington were saying that now is the time to cool it, and diplomatic, not military measures should be used following the failure of the raid, the fiasco has only made the U.S. imperialists *more* desperate. Even though they have tipped their hand, this has increased the likelihood of further military action against Iran in the future as their options dry up.

On this point President Carter was quite explicit in his emergency address, declaring that the U.S. "will continue to pursue every possible avenue to secure the release of the hostages." But down every possible avenue lies the determined opposition of 35 million Iranians and the conscious forces of the working class worldwide, and in the end imperialism is bound to fail in all its intrigues. □

### Fierce Clashes in Universities, Kurdistan

## Iranian Revolutionary Forces Defy Government Clampdown

Like a pressure cooker the class struggle inside Iran exploded this week, as the Iranian government unleashed vicious attacks on the headquarters of leftist organizations on university campuses throughout Iran. At the same time, fierce fighting broke out between government troops and revolutionary forces in Kurdistan.

In several days of fighting, over 100 people were killed and thousands injured, mostly leftist students, as the revolutionary groups and their supporters defended their campus offices from organized groups of right-wing Falangists and fanatically anti-communist Moslems who had been given the green light by the ruling Revolutionary Council

(including the blessing of Ayatollah Khomeini) to close down all student organizations. As the government's "revolutionary guards" stood by, the reactionaries stormed the campuses, destroying bookstores and offices, attacking with automatic rifles, clubs, knives and other weapons. The fighting was particularly sharp in the southern city of Shiraz and at Tehran University, where 30 members of the leftist Fedayeen youth organization were killed.

Against the backdrop of continuing turmoil that had swept the country in waves since the insurrection that sent the Shah and his 40,000 U.S. advisers packing more than a year ago, these events represent a new phase of the

class struggle that will set the direction the continuing Iranian revolution will take in the months ahead. While President Bani-Sadr has had an important hand in this latest clampdown, these attacks are being spearheaded by the reactionary leaders of the Islamic Republic Party, such as the Secretary of the Revolutionary Council, Ayatollah Beheshiti, and Defense Minister Chamron, who are setting out to crush the revolutionary forces, which they see (correctly) as the main obstacle to realize their goal of preserving capitalism and feudalism in Iran—all clothed in "pure" and even "revolutionary" Islamic garb in order to broaden its appeal to the people.

Just as the U.S. ruling class has grown increasingly alarmed and panicked by the millions of politically conscious Iranians who have refused to compromise in their titanic struggle against U.S. attempts to get their claws back into their country, so too have the bourgeois forces in Iran who have been trying to build up a base of support that will allow them to bring the continuing revolution to a screeching halt. After months of behind-the-scenes intrigue to work out a "compromise solution" on the 50 captured U.S. embassy personnel that would betray the just demands of the Iranian masses for the return of the Shah and his plundered wealth, the Revolutionary Council has faced determined opposition at every turn. With the leftist forces' influence and strength among the masses growing

Continued on page 18

# Thousands Fly Red Flag —Sing Internationale

Thursday, April 24. Red Flag/Internationale Day took place in the midst of the rapidly sharpening battle to "take history into our hands" and into the streets on May 1st. In particular, the murder of Damian Garcia, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Revolutionary May Day Brigade, both raised the stakes of the battle and gave Red Flag/Internationale Day added importance and significance. Thousands of red flags flew across the country, and at one time—1:55 p.m. in the East, 12:55 p.m. in the Midwest, 11:55 a.m. in the mountain states, 10:55 a.m. in the West and 8:55 a.m. in Hawaii—people nationwide rose together to sing the Internationale, the anthem of the international proletariat. The revolutionary content of Red Flag/Internationale Day was historically unprecedented in this country. A section of the proletariat and others are thus joining their comrades around the world in declaring, as the Internationale puts it, "The Internationale shall be the human race."

The following pages are initial reports of Red Flag/Internationale Day from around the country.

## Atlanta

At Southern Iron and Equipment Company in Atlanta, a small plant of 120 workers, arguments and debate about May Day and in particular Red Flag/Internationale Day have raged for weeks. Workers even placed bets on whether a well-known revolutionary worker at the plant would actually sing the Internationale in the face of threats from the company and backward workers. When Red Flag Day arrived, six workers displayed the flag of their class. All day long, people were giving time checks, counting off till 1:55 p.m. As 1:55 p.m. approached, the company foreman and supervisors, and most of the workers in the plant, focused their attention on what this revolutionary would do. While this brother's job often involves waiting for production from another department, on this day the bosses didn't want him idle and agitating, so they gave him a special assignment that would keep him busy, especially at 1:55 p.m.

As the time drew near, workers from other departments began poking their heads in the doors and hanging around outside. One worker who did have a red flag but wasn't ready to sing the Inter-



Revolutionary Worker

nationale, nevertheless left his own workplace and just before 1:55 p.m. came over to the brother and said: "It's time." Almost everyone in the plant was looking at their watches. Then the revolutionary pulled out a huge red flag, wrapped part of it around his fist so that it couldn't be ripped away, took out a copy of the words to the Internationale, and began to sing it proudly and boldly in the face of foremen and supervisors who had been enlisted to stop him. He sang while these representatives of a dying class yelled at him, ripped the words to the song out of his hand, and even tried to grab the flag—which he never let go of. The place was quiet except for the revolutionary's voice singing the Internationale and the angry but futile protests of the bosses. (At the very same moment the company got a phone call. The startled office staff were stunned when they heard a group of people singing the Internationale over the telephone.)

"You're fired," said the superintendent, "for disrupting production." "Not one man in the place was working—they were all watching you!" The fact is, the workers at Southern Iron dug the hell out of it; even the backward were forced to step back and check this shit out, and some expressed a kind of grudging respect for the boldness of the revolutionary worker. So powerfully did this action capture the imagination of the workers, the company even had to back off from firing him, instead suspending him until next week, when they hope conditions for firing will be better. Not long after this all went down, a T.V. crew arrived to get a story on the action at the plant and were met by a host of nervous management people who denied anything was going on and refused to let the T.V. crew enter.

Red flew in the Atlanta city jail, where 24 May Day Brigaders had spent time after numerous arrests at different hot spots in the city. The day before, at a picket line supporting four May Day brigaders railroaded into 60-day jail sentences on municipal charges (and still facing state charges with almost \$50,000 bond), prisoners had unfurled red flags, red pieces of cloth, red T-shirts and even a rust-colored blanket which was hung piece by piece out the jail windows. Prisoners worked on a 15-foot high May Day symbol, "Take History Into Our Hands." And as one of the lawyers for the Brigaders put it, "You all are converting the whole city jail."

## San Francisco Bay Area

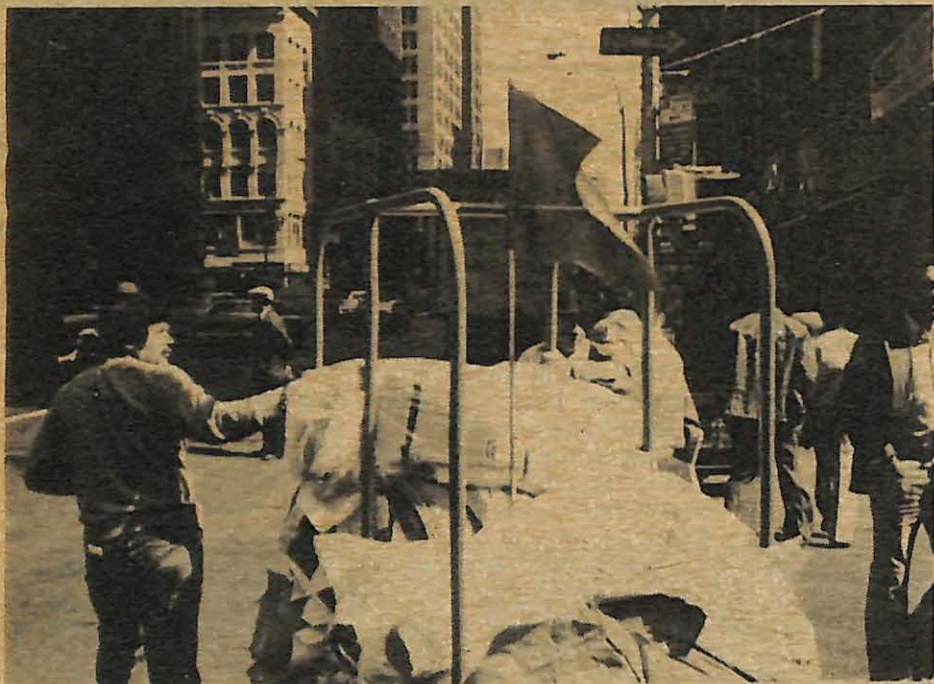
At the Muni (San Francisco's transit system), May Day activists went straight into the barn where the cable car drivers work. The day before, over 50 flags had been sold to drivers and passengers at one Muni turnaround. Now, more workers were taking red flags. One construction mechanic put it on his helmet; another, a driver, put it right on his cable car. At about 11:00 a.m.—shortly after the Internationale was sung—an order came from the Muni Central over the radios in the buses. The word was that anybody caught flying a red flag would be in big trouble. Nevertheless, flags hung out of buses and cable cars all over the city.

At a garment sweat shop, Koret's, where there are mostly Latino and Chinese workers, May Day activists marched into the shop and right onto the work floor and started singing the Internationale. 20 workers bought red flags right as the Internationale was being sung. It was sung in English, then one verse in Spanish, before company guards threw people out.

35 flags were sold at National Semiconductor south of San Francisco. And across the bay in Fremont, 25 workers bought red flags outside at General Motors as someone sang the Internationale inside the plant. In Richmond, north of Oakland, garbage collectors flew red flags on their trucks in the morning. A small steel mill in the East Bay saw 20 out of 200 workers buy red flags.

But Red Flag/Internationale Day was broadened beyond the factories in the Bay Area as well. A wild scene developed at Berkeley High School.

Continued on page 20



Revolutionary Worker



In a situation which is developing as rapidly as today's, the actions taken by the advanced section of the proletariat are of decisive importance. They will in no small part determine how far along we are and whether we are able to break through all the way when the conditions fully ripen and the opportunity for revolution is there to seize. These moments, particularly in a country such as this, are rare in history and their outcome has a profound influence on history for years, even decades, to come. Those who do understand what is going on and choose not to act are contributing to the prolonging of this destructive and decadent rule of imperialism.

Draft Programme of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

# Two Historic Breakouts

On May 1, 1980 the working class and oppressed people in this country will be taking an historic step, breaking out of the life-destroying rut of dull grinding exploitation and oppression and jumping onto the stage of history as never before seen here in the U.S. We will be linking arms and clasping hands with those like us all over the world, busting out of the dead-end, mind-numbing, hand-to-mouth existence that is everyday life under capitalism. The following two passages from the novels *Barricades in Berlin* by Klaus Neukrantz and *The Mother* by Maxim Gorky graphically and vividly describe how the workers in Berlin, Germany in 1929 and in Nizhni-Novgorod, Russia in 1902 broke out in a big way on May Day. While the events described in these excerpts took place under conditions that are different from those that exist in this country today, they contain many lessons and certainly fire the imagination in these last few days before Revolutionary May Day.

## Barricades in Berlin

The grey-blue dawn of the First of May rose over the empty street. To-day is a holiday. . . . In vain shrieks the siren of the A.E.G. works in the Brunnenstrasse. The black stream of human beings entering the high iron gates every morning at six o'clock is missing to-day. The railway crossing at the Putlizstrasse Station generally swarming at this hour with hurrying workers, is deserted. The streets leading to Siemensstadt—empty and deserted. The shadows of the immense flywheels on the vast glass front of the "Turbine" works in the Huttenstrasse do not move to-day. The black claws of the cranes in the Nordhaven hang motionless in the cold morning air over the unrippled water.

The workmen's trains ran to the industrial districts according to schedule, but empty and pointlessly. In the first-class compartments there were only a few managers and engineers reading the articles printed like war-time reports, under sensational headings in heavy type.

"The inhabitants of Berlin have been warned! According to the final proclamation of the Police President, ruthless measures will be taken against anyone making the slightest attempt to violate the ban on demonstrations. . . sufficient forces of special police have been drafted into the workers' quarters to ensure respect for the state authorities. . . There is proof that the communists intend to turn the May Day celebrations into bloody insurrection."

One paper had printed two photographs in its top right-hand corner. To the left was that of Thälmann, the communist leader, and next to it that of the commander of the police, Heimannsberg. Underneath was printed the provocative question: "Which of these will rule Berlin to-day?" In a few hours all morning papers were sold out. . . .

As Paul with Kurt went out into the street, they were brought up sharp by the sight of a regular forest of shining red flags. There was scarcely a single window from which a red flag, however small, was not waving. From several windows large red streamers were hanging: "Down with the ban on the demonstration" and "Win the streets on the 1st of May." On one of them was painted a hammer and sickle and the legend: "Long live the Soviet-Union—Fight for Soviet Germany!" On the corner of the Wiesenstrasse a red streamer hung across the street bearing in huge letters the words: "Red Front!"

Men, women and children with red paper carnations in their buttonholes were standing outside the houses. Many

children were carrying small paper flags which they had made themselves, showing a clenched fist, a Soviet Star or a Sickle and Hammer. Even some of the small traders of the alley had decorated their shop windows with pictures of Lenin, Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, or with a large red five-cornered star. Krückmaxe had decked out his whole cigarette shop festively for the occasion. The front page of the *Rote Fahne*—special May Day edition, was pasted up on the walls of several houses. The inhabitants were standing in front of it, reading the text and discussing it.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock, more and more workers were coming out into the surrounding streets, walking to and fro in loose groups on the pavements. Everywhere red carnations shone from the jackets of the men and the blouses of the women. . . .

Paul looked at his watch. "Ten o'clock, Thomas, give orders to form the ranks. Time to start."

There was a movement in the masses outside when the door of the "Red Nightingale" opened and the workers streamed out. A woman shouted something out of a window. Everybody pushed his way to the pub.

A penetrating whistle cut the air twice in quick succession. They knew this signal. That was Thomas.

"Close the ranks. Forward march!" . . . The commanding voice of Thomas suddenly pulled all together. For a moment there was almost uncanny silence. Like the resounding blow of a hammer the short command rang out clearly and sharply over the heads of the ranks standing eight abreast.

"Attention. Quick march!"

The first step was the signal for an outbreak of wild enthusiasm. The windows were thrown open when the rhythm of the march beat against the walls of the houses. A resounding young voice shouted: "Down—with the—demonstration ban!"

There were some who shuddered as the whole street shouted in unison: "Down. . . down. . . down. . ." A thunderous roar of protest!

The black mass of the workers taking up the full width of the street surged forward. At the head, the three-cornered flag glowed like a dangerous red-hot spark in the sea of grey, pale faces. Two or three began, then the whole street was singing the song of the "prisoners of war"—"The International. . . ."

In the Reinickendorfer-strasse the blinds rattled down before the windows of the large shops. Iron bars clattered as they were drawn in haste across the entrances. The bloody May Day of 1929 had begun.

## The Mother

The whistle blew as peremptorily as ever. The mother, who had not closed her eyes all night, jumped out of bed and lighted the samovar, which she had made ready in the evening. She was about to knock at the door of the boys' room as usual, but she thought better of it, and sat down at the window, holding one hand to her face as if she had a toothache. . . .

A ray of early sun glanced merrily in at the window. She held out her hand, and when the bright warmth came to rest on it, she stroked it with her other hand smiling meditatively. At last she got up and quietly took the pipe out of the samovar. . . .

The second whistle was not so loud and imperious; there was a slight tremor in its thick moist tone, and the mother imagined it blew longer than usual. . . .



The Mother

The weather improved as the day advanced, and the clouds were driven away by the wind. The mother shook her head as she set the breakfast table, thinking to herself how strange it all was: here they were laughing and cracking jokes this morning, while nobody knew what awaited them later in the day. And somehow she herself felt calm and almost joyful.

When she found herself outside and heard the excited, expectant hum of voices in the air, and when she saw the groups of people standing at the gates and in the windows of the houses curiously watching her son and Andrei, everything swam before her eyes in a hazy mixture of green and grey.

The people exchanged greetings with them, and today there was special significance in their words. She caught snatches of remarks passed in quiet voices: "There they go, the leaders."

"We don't know who the leaders are."

"I didn't mean any harm."

From a courtyard someone shouted crossly:

"The police'll catch 'em and that'll be the end of 'em."

"They caught them once!"

A woman's wail leaped out of a window down into the street: "Mind what you're doing! Remember, you've got a family to take care of!"

They passed the house of the legless Zosimov, who received a monthly pension from the factory for having been crippled at work.

"Pavel!" he cried, sticking his head out of the window. "They'll break your neck for you, you scoundrel! You'll get what's coming to you!"

The mother shuddered and stood still. A stab of anger shot through her. She glanced up into the bloated face of the cripple, and he drew in his head

with an oath. She quickened her steps until she caught up with her son and followed at his heels, trying not to lag behind.

It seemed as though Pavel and Andrei took no notice of anything and were unconscious of the remarks made as they passed. They walked on calmly and unhurriedly. Once they were stopped by Mironov, a modest, middle-aged man whom everyone respected for his sober, upright way of living.

"So you too decided not to go to work today, Danilo Ivanovich?" said Pavel.

"My wife's about to have a baby. And besides, a day like this makes you feel restless." He gazed steadily at his comrades as he asked in lowered tones, "They say you fellows are planning to make trouble for the director to-day—smash some windows, eh?"

"We're not drunk!" exclaimed Pavel. . . .

The sun kept climbing higher, pouring its warmth into the crisp freshness of the spring day. The movement of the clouds slowed down and their shadows grew lighter and more transparent. They slid gently over the street and the housetops, shading the people and cleansing the settlement, wiping the dust and dirt off the houses, the boredom off the faces of the people. Everything looked more cheerful. The sound of voices increased until it drowned out the distant hum of machines.

Once more words came flying and crawling to the mother's ears from windows and courtyards—words that were vicious and alarming, thoughtful and cheering. But now she was eager to contradict, explain, express her gratitude—to take an active part in the strangely variegated life of that day.

A crowd of some hundred people had

Continued on page 13

" . . . we have to put the challenge squarely to the advanced, to those who do hate this shit: if you say it can't happen and don't act then you are working to make it not happen; don't say 'it's a good idea but it won't happen'—it can (and ultimately will) happen, but you have a role to play, a crucial role, in making it happen."

Bob Avakian  
Chairman of the RCP Central Committee

## The Speech That Launched May Day 1980

# This System Is Doomed! Let's Finish It Off!

The Revolutionary Worker proudly reprints the conclusion of the famous speech given by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, in Washington, D.C., May Day 1979. It was in this speech, which was simultaneously broadcast to the West Coast, that Bob Avakian issued the call to build a mass, revolutionary May Day on Thursday, May 1st, 1980, which said: "On that day the enemy and the people alike will have no choice but to direct their attention to the awesome occurrence of revolutionary May Day, as thousands and thousands stride in unison through the streets, in step with the millions throughout the world fighting for the same goal, backs straight and eyes cast to the broadest and farthest horizons. . . ." The first part of the speech was in last week's issue of the RW.



We need leadership, and we need a Party to carry this forward, and we've got a Party to carry it forward. You know, I was watching this TV program, actually it was a basketball game, and they got this ad for Pentax, which is a camera. And it starts out with this dude sitting in front of a window with his nose pressed up against it, and there's this voice saying, "When we first came out with a Pentax, many of you waited because the price was too high; and you waited (and all of a sudden the snow starts falling) and you waited (and then spring comes), and now, finally, the price is right. Then the guy goes in the store and buys the camera with a smile on his face. And the conclusion of the ad comes out not just according to the way they are trying to sell that camera, but the way they are trying to sell this system and its philosophy and its way of doing and thinking, because the punch line is "Yes, you waited, but now you're buying it, because after all, everybody has his price." See, and that's the outlook of this system and the people who rule it. Everything can be bought and sold, people can be bought and sold, everything can be bought and sold. That's the nature of their system.

But we've got news for you, the proletariat cannot be bought and sold, and its revolutionary Party in this country, the Revolutionary Communist Party, cannot be bought and sold! Yeah, we've got a price, but it's not a price that you can meet. It's not a price that's in your ledger, it's not a price that figures into your calculations, and it's not really a "price" at all. We've got an historic mission to carry out—the revolution of the proletariat, leading the people to fight consciously in their own interests to go on and transform the whole world, together with the people of the world and to bring on the whole era of communism, where your kind will be swept away forever. Yes, our Party wants to go out of existence. Yes, even our class wants to bring about the time when it can go out of existence, but only when we have brought on communism and abolished all basis for one class to rule over another and one group to exploit another. Definitely at that point, we will celebrate the time when our class and our Party goes out of existence, but not before we've swept your system and all of its blood-soaked doings out of the way and made them extinct. Yes, at that time we will be glad to go out of existence. We will celebrate the time that there is no longer a need for a party because there is no longer a division of society into classes and people have begun to consciously take up the task of transforming the whole world and transforming themselves in the process.

That's our "price," but it isn't a price, it's an historic mission that we're determined to carry out. And we have a Party that has been forged through the '60s, and has carried forward the revolutionary banner in the '70s. Some people say "Where were you? Where have you been? I dig this shit, but where have you guys been?" We've been out here, making some mistakes, learning some things, digging our roots, laying the basis, maybe somewhat quietly so the bourgeoisie wasn't fully aware, we've been digging down in the soil getting ready, and now we're ready to come out and rip in the '80s!

Yes, they shot down heroic revolutionaries like Malcolm X and Fred Hampton in the 1960's. Yes, they killed off or bought off or turned into blithering fools many of the people who were revolutionaries in the 1960's and early 70's. But everyone, and every organization more importantly, that was revolutionary then, that upheld the banner of revolution, that called for the people to rise up and make revolution, that

worked for the day when that would happen, every such organization in this country has NOT been crushed and broken. In fact there is an organization which has grown stronger through this, which has forged itself into a vanguard of the working class and which is determined to bring more and more people, more and more fresh blood and new forces into its ranks in order to strengthen itself, in order to go on and lead the revolution.

Yes, there is a leadership, yes, there is a party that is determined to carry forward the banner of revolution and will never let it drop, will never go down on its knees, will never tell the people, as these fools and chumps and prostitutes do, "Go down and beg for your freedom. Go to the judge and plead kindly for your freedom." NO! We will help the people to stand tall and proud, take guns in hand and make revolution. We will stand with them, as we have in Moody Park, wherever they rise up. We will stand with them internationally, carrying out our internationalist duties, when they rise up to make revolution (as in Iran). And we'll bring more and more people forward. Yes, there is a Party, there is a force that can lead this revolution and lead the people in carrying it through.

People say, "you don't just need a leadership, you've got to have a plan, you've got to have a strategy." We have a strategy. Our strategy is the United Front, under the leadership of the working class and its Party. This means that we have to unite not just the ranks of the workers, though they will be, the working class led by its Party undoubtedly and certainly will become, the main and backbone force of the revolution and the leading and cutting edge in the revolution. But we must unite and draw into the ranks of the revolutionary struggle and unite around the working class the masses of people in this country of all different nationalities, especially the Black people, the Chicanos and the Puerto Ricans, who are doubly oppressed and crushed and degraded under this system, and the broadest ranks of people, uniting them, of all races, different nationalities, men and women, under the one banner of rising up against and crushing into the ground this imperialist system.

This requires us to make an objective analysis. It requires us to use this science, not just to say "Who is with us today?" but what are the laws of this system, how is it operating, what is it doing, who has an objective interest in siding with revolution, who has an objective interest in fighting against and even abolishing this system, who has the situation in society where the system will continually come down upon them and crush them and force them—even perhaps against their will at first, or against their inclinations, or against their own beliefs at the time—to rise up, to start fighting back and to begin to learn whole new things in the course of it?

And on that basis we can see that the great majority of people are being exploited, oppressed, crushed and degraded, and more and more are beginning to question this system. Millions already hate it, and millions more question it, here and there people rise up in rebellion, and we can see in that the seeds of the future, as we've seen most especially and burning brightly in Moody Park. So our strategy is the United Front under the leadership of the working class, with its Party at the head. Our strategy is based on seeing through the temporary situation, seeing beyond the temporary ways in which people are divided and may not understand the need to rise up and fight, and may not yet be propelled into motion, seeing the potential to unite the great masses of people in this country, mil-

lions upon millions, to rise up and make revolution. True, this period we are in now is not yet the period of rising up in arms to make revolution. It is a period, however, not to sit back but quite the opposite, to work every day for revolution, to intensify our work for revolution. It is a period of preparation for revolution.

Now some people say, especially some of these young dudes and young women out here say, "All right, I can dig it, but, hey, I've got to go on and do this. I've got to go down and disco, I've got to 'boogie.' I don't have time for all that. When you get the guns, let me know, and I'll be there." We're trying to tell them, look, you can go on and boogie, but they're going to boogie your ass right on out to the battlefield and shoot it off for you. So if they're going to boogie you off to that battlefield, how about getting over on this one and let's do something for real.

But more than that, there's a lot of people that mean this, there's a lot of people that are serious when they say, "Listen, I'm not down for all that, but when the time comes, let me know, give me a gun (there's people in jail that told us that), and we'll be there." (And as for the prisons, doors will come open, and those that really want revolution will get that gun and join the ranks of revolution.) Right now, the prisoners are held back from joining the revolution (though some of those prisoners are studying and preparing, too), but there's other people out here who say, "When the time comes, let me know, give me a gun and I'll deal with it." Well, we won't forget about them. Those that don't come forward now and don't even come forward on that day, we'll go look for them and say "Remember? Now's the time, let's go." But more than that, we've got to get prepared. We've got to begin to educate the people. We've got to penetrate everywhere, we've got to be subverting, yes subverting, this rotten system everywhere, going among the ranks of the people, ripping its mask off, exposing it and making clear what the nature of it is and the only way to solve these problems—revolution.

We've got to be preparing, you see, because don't tell me (I believe some of these people are sincere but don't tell me) we're going to go up there just one day and get it on with these capitalist dogs and do the job. Don't tell me we're just going to go up there one day and we're going to be able to win. That would be like a man getting ready to fight for the championship going up against Muhammad Ali (or whoever else), and saying, "I'm not doing any training, I'm not doing any ring work, I'm not skipping rope, I'm not going to run out in the countryside, I'm not even going to get in the ring, I'm not going to do anything except eat ice cream and run around and have a good time, and then let me know the night of the fight, and I'll get in the ring and do the job. I'll be ready."

No, you won't. Because if you want to fight a championship fight, and if you want to win, you've got to prepare, you've got to do hard work, you've got to skip rope, you've got to run for miles when you're out there saying, "Damn, what am I doing this for, I wish I was doing anything but this!" That's not the way our revolutionary work is, but I'm using this as an example, because even if it was that way, you've still got to do things that are hard. Not everything in this life is easy. Even things that are fun are still a struggle, and we all know that. Even things that are the joy of rising up are still a struggle and they still take sacrifice. But if you are going to fight and win a championship fight you've got to prepare, mentally and physically, in

Continued on page 16

# Victory in 75,000 RW Sales Blitz

A short time ago, in the course of the battle for May First, a big victory was won, a great leap was made toward the goal of May First and the goal of revolution. 75,000 copies of the April 11 issue of the *Revolutionary Worker* were printed, a call was made for a special effort to distribute them, and, in fact, a very high percentage of these papers—upwards of 70,000—were distributed that week. Distribution was especially high in all of the seven cities where major demonstrations are scheduled for May First, with all selling high percentages of their sales quotas—and some nearly selling out and wanting more. This sets a powerful basis for these major May First actions to rally broad new forces and to win victory.

Well over 100,000 people in this country read the battle call "May First—Dare to Join Those Forging the Future!" written by the RCP Chairman Bob Avakian. So, too, more than 100,000 people read this paper with the major analysis, "Is Revolution Really Possible This Decade And What Does May 1st Have To Do With It?", also by Chairman Avakian. This in itself was a mighty stride forward toward revolution, toward spreading the Party's line deeper and more broadly among the oppressed in this country. But this advance also went hand in hand with—and was only made possible by—other advances, all of them representing class-conscious people stepping forward to display their energy, initiative and burning enthusiasm for revolution and the Party's newspaper as the key weapon, overall, in preparing for revolution.

Many new revolutionary things emerged that week. The Party gave leadership in setting up selling teams whose goal—and most often result—was to break new ground in numbers of papers sold. These teams, made up of Party members, but also new people coming forward to take up the paper



In the Salinas lettuce fields, California.

and the May Day battle, set new high standards of sales.

Many "discoveries" were made that week about the wide and unknown revolutionary influence of the paper. People came forward—especially in response to the May Day call—who had received the paper from friends, relatives, and others at work, and had been reading it. Some had been decorating their walls with key articles, graphics and slogans of the paper. New people had been using it as a point of reference in interpreting new events that happened in the world. Some of these people got even more consciously organized throughout the week. In one city 25 discussion groups were held among the people on the political line of the paper.

### Mass Debates

Wild, unprecedented things happened on the streets that week—triggered by the role of the paper in tapping those awakening to political life. Friday,

April 18 on a busy downtown Detroit street corner, the slogan, "Take History Into Our Hands!" came visibly to life. With red flags flying from atop a big stone flower pot, a spontaneous mass debate and discussion raged for two hours, involving upwards of 100 people from off the street and several members of the May First Workers Movement. Can people "make it" under this system? Can different nationalities get united? Is revolution really possible? Could the working class learn to guide it? Questions and answers flew back and forth, as first the revolutionaries and then the masses themselves began to jump up on the flower pot to express their views. Everyone got into it.

A young Black man in a suit took the bullhorn. "I agree there's things wrong with this system. I hate unemployment. I hate discrimination. I hate inflation!" he shouted, and the crowd shouted back approval. "But I can't agree with this revolution thing either. You need to work within the system. People got to vote!" Several people booed. "We've heard that before—voting don't do shit!" they pointed out. The young Black man in the suit jumped up again. "I was brought over here in chains. Who brought me here? It's whitey who messed up this country. Black people got to get ourselves together!" A Black woman May Day agitator shot back at him, "Look at (Black mayor—RW) Coleman Young unleashing these Black pigs out here! Who benefits from keeping Black people under their boot? It's the capitalists, and they come in all colors!" A young white woman from the crowd jumped up. "I don't know a lot but I know one thing—workers better stick together!"

People would say things from the crowd—then the crowd would urge people to get up in front and take the bullhorn. One guy just out of jail took the bullhorn. "I agree things are screwed, but this red flag stuff is bullshit." People in the crowd shouted out, "Explain yourself! Explain yourself!" A woman asked, "What's your program?" Thinking he was slick, this dude turned to her and said real sweet, "I'll talk to you later." With that little

**Recently a member of the May Day Committee in Chicago went to visit a brother who has stepped forward to build May Day, and was met at the door by his wife. She led the comrade into a small room behind their kitchen. Pointing to the red flag on the wall, she said, "My husband made this one himself. This is our 'revolution room.'" The walls were covered with pages from the Revolutionary Worker. "He sits the kids down and reads to them from the RW before bed. He always tells them, 'Pick it up.'"**

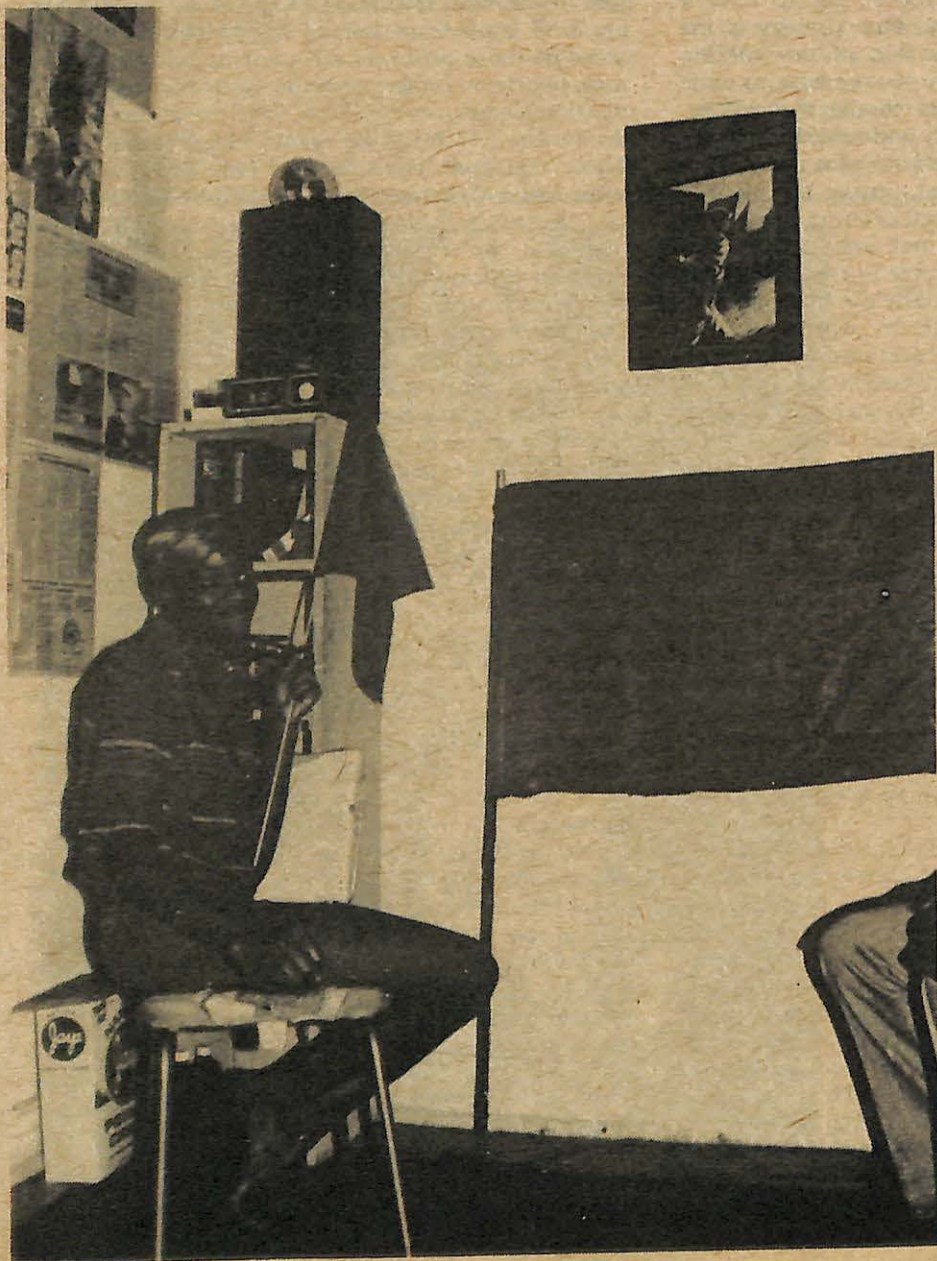
remark, everyone in the crowd yelled at him to "get down." Enough of that junk!

The May 1st agitator repeatedly called on people who related to revolution to check out the Chairman's talk on the possibility of revolution, take up the *RW* and build for May Day. A Black youth jumped up and took the bullhorn. "I'm going to be there! I'm ready. I ain't got shit. We ain't never gonna have shit under this system!"

The cops hung around like rats looking for a crack to crawl through, hoping the backward or their own agents could provoke a fight. But as the lively debate went on and more and more *Revolutionary Workers* passed into the hands of people on the street, the pigs couldn't contain their outrage. All of a sudden, from the loudspeakers of two cop cars came an ugly chorus of "God Bless America." "This is the best country in the world. Love America or leave it!" they grunted. People on the street looked around in disbelief for a second, then cracked up laughing when they realized who it was. It was clear who the red, white and blue belonged to. "Here's the only flag of the working class," a young Ford worker new to the movement called, holding the red flag even higher. After a couple of hours, even as the crowd began drifting away, people were hanging around to talk and buy the *RW*. One young woman joined up with the May First Workers Movement and went out with them for the rest of the day.

The streets of Harlem also resounded with sharp debate as the Revolutionary May Day Brigade and others culminated a Red Flag march there April 18th. A few people on Malcolm X's old corner challenged the brigade's right to be there on the basis of nationalism. Others from the corner jumped into the struggle picking up the bullhorn to agitate. Then a woman posed the question as revolution vs. religion. A man from Haiti took her on as did several others. Debate was raging, as each brigadier and activist was involved in intense discussion with at least one other person. The big questions contained in May Day were discussed both over the bullhorn and in small discussions. "Harlem will never change—no revolution can change Harlem," said one woman. A former Black Panther said organizations always split and disintegrate, so will yours. Bob Avakian's article, "Is Revolution Possible In This Decade and What Does May 1st Have To Do With It?" was used as a major weapon in getting into the line behind this cynicism. Dozens of papers changed hands.

The force being discovered, further awakened and educated by the *Revolutionary Worker* is a mighty force indeed. And it came a long way forward—toward May Day and revolution—in the 75,000 sales week. □





# International May Day Messages

## Mao Tsetung-Kredsen, Denmark

20 April 1980

To the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

The May Day 1980 mobilizing of the working people's revolutionary forces inside the leading country of the imperialist gangsters now ruling the world is going to be an event of great practical significance, not only for the U.S. but in joining together revolutionary peoples inside and outside the imperialists' dominating centres.

These inside and outside revolu-

tionary forces are equally needed to take history into the hands of the working people, and their success in doing so is inevitable when they join their common struggle and just hatred, organized, guided and steered by Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought.

Make this international workers' day 1980 further strengthen the vanguard party of the U.S. working class, the RCP, USA, and through this the international liberation movement!

Mao Tsetung-Kredsen, Denmark

## OCML Voie Proletarienne

OCML Voie Proletarienne

(Marxist Leninist Communist Organization Proletarian Way) to the R.C.P. (USA) on the occasion of May 1st 1980

Comrades,

We express to you our militant solidarity on the occasion of this international day of struggle of the proletariat.

The struggle you are waging against your own bourgeoisie, against its war preparations, against its ambitions to rule the world while crushing the revolutionary movement, is a direct aid to the struggle of oppressed peoples and of the proletariat against imperialism. This struggle is also an encouragement to the Marxist-Leninist forces which, like ourselves, have undertaken the building of revolutionary parties right in the very heart of the imperialist countries.

It is in unity with you that the "propaganda groups" of the OCML Voie Proletarienne are going to May First demonstrations and gatherings in France to expose our own bourgeoisie, struggle against chauvinism. In this way we will show the peoples in struggle against imperialism that the proletarians and the oppressed in the imperialist countries are not one with their imperialist masters. And we will show the ruling class itself that it will have to reckon with the revolutionary forces in its own country.

We wish your party success on this May 1st. Your action will show the ruling class of the USA that their efforts to smash the RCP (USA) are only attracting even more supporters and members from the exploited and the oppressed to your party. We take this occasion to reaffirm our solidarity with Bob Avakian and the 16 other Mao defendants, charged by the bourgeois justice system. Your action will show revolutionaries, the exploited and oppressed of other countries, that, despite the immense tasks that we must carry out in order to play a decisive role in the class confrontations to come, a revolutionary force is in the process of being born and is growing right in the very heart of the most powerful imperialist countries.

Your activity shows that Marxist-Leninists "learn warfare through making warfare" and that the debates, the problems that we must resolve together in order to achieve the international unity of communists are not a brake on our own revolutionary action among the masses, but on the contrary an encouragement to go forward.

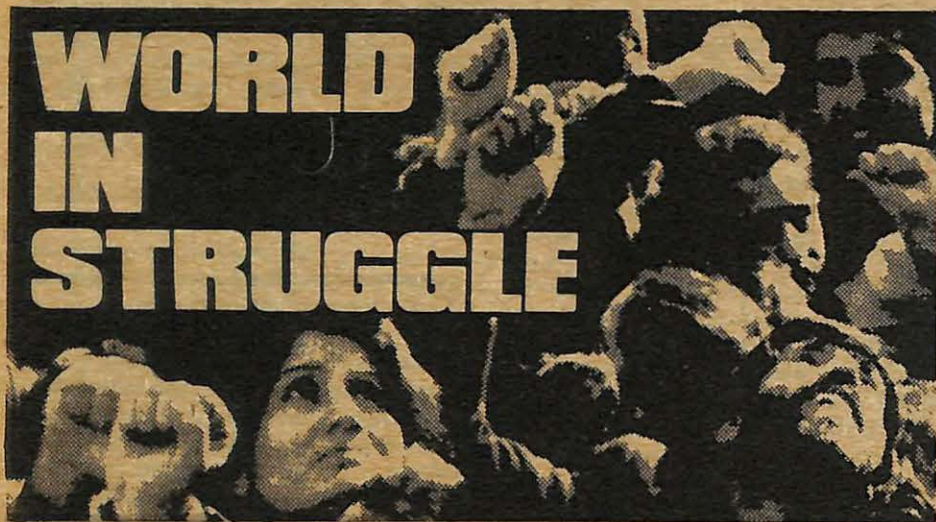
SOLIDARITY WITH THE RCP-USA!

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!

LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL UNITY OF MARXIST-LENINISTS!

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!

Paris, 18 April 1980



### Massive Student Strike Against South African Apartheid

Tens of thousands of students boycotted schools throughout South Africa (Azania) last week, protesting the hated white supremacist system of apartheid. The strike was launched by high school students in Cape Town, and has centered among the so-called "colored" students, youth of mixed race who constitute the largest non-white group in the country after the blacks. At last report, at least 100,000 students are out, and the strike has spread to all major centers in Azania, including Pretoria, Kimberly, Durban and Johannesburg (the capital city).

"Colored" youth have clearly pointed their strike at apartheid while protesting the conditions in their "colored" school system, and they have called on blacks to join the strike.

The very fact that these students are moving in such massive numbers has shocked the ruling class, since up until now major protest has mainly involved blacks. "Colored" youth were generally quiet during the 1976 youth rebellions that made the black township Soweto famous.

At a rally of 5,000 mostly teenaged students in a "colored" township outside Johannesburg, speakers called on blacks from neighboring Soweto: "We should stand together and we therefore call upon you to support our liberation cause." The Government has done everything to humiliate us by giving us inferior education. We must tell the government that we want to determine our own destiny." There are already reports that the strike has spread to black and East Indian schools, and that several thousand students from "colored" university and training colleges have joined the high school students who are the backbone of the movement. The struggle is intensifying. At last report, dated April 22, 8,000 high school students openly defied the South African government's fascist political laws by staging a disciplined march through the streets of Cape Town, which ended in a confrontation with police. The next day there were marches in Cape Town and townships around Durban.

### Workers Seize South Korean Town

This week, 3,500 miners and their families dared to rebel, rising straight into the teeth of the South Korean military dictatorship. Protesting the imposition of a starvation wage scale, the workers seized Sabuk, a provincial town of 50,000 located 80 miles southeast of Seoul, and held it four days in defiance of massive government military presence.

The revolt, which has been generally blacked out in the U.S. media, came only a few months after the most violent wave of anti-government demonstrations since the early '60s. Late last year, in the midst of this unrest, Dictator Park Chung Hee was assassinated in a move by the U.S. imperialists to give South Korea a new puppet government with a slightly more "liberal" cover, hoping to avoid an "Iran-type" situation. This recent political upheaval in South Korea provided a backdrop to the revolt in Sabuk.

The rebellion started with a march by miners and their families from the largest mine in South Korea through Sabuk demanding a retraction of the new wage scale and other concessions. The demonstration ended with bitter fighting between miners and govern-

ment forces. Killing one cop and injuring at least 70 others, the miners drove the police out of Sabuk and built a ring of barricades around the town to defend their seizure.

In the four days the miners and their families held full control of the town, the workers hunted down particularly hated reactionary figures and took them captive. Unable to find the local head of the miners' union, a notorious agent of the government, the rebels seized his wife, tied her to a pole in the center of town and put her on trial before hundreds of jeering workers.

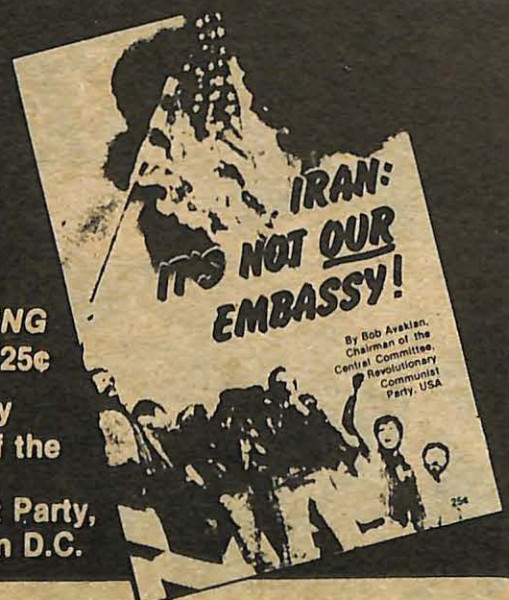
Thursday, April 24, after round-the-clock negotiations, the government granted major concessions, including a 20% wage increase retroactive to January, and the promise of further increases linked to the price of coal. The revolt ended when miners marched up to their own barricades and dismantled them. The units of police and army troops that were encircling the town then reoccupied the area.

The rebellion in Sabuk was one of the most powerful revolts of workers in the entire history of the South Korean Republic. It represents the stirrings of a powerful class which has grown tremendously in the last decades as foreign capital poured in to profit off the dirt-cheap labor. The entry of the workers into the battle against the government—a battle which has been sparked and sustained by other sections of the masses, including large numbers of students—is bound to lend great strength to the struggle. It is a sure sign of developing and growing crisis for the U.S. and its puppet rulers in South Korea and the gathering strength of the people who more and more yearn for the day when they will kick out the U.S. from their country and overthrow the bloody dictators who have viciously enforced U.S. rule.

### Pamphlet from the Revolutionary Worker

NOW IN SECOND PRINTING  
price: 25¢

Excerpts from a speech by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, November 18, Washington D.C.



# Forces Gather

The following is part of a letter on May Day from a prisoner.

Dear Comrades,

I am taking this important opportunity to stress my political point of views, and my most deepest admiration for the *Revolutionary Worker* and its new programme. Let me begin this letter by pointing out to you that I am not a citizen in society, but rather a political prisoner behind the bloodstained walls of the XXX prison. I have been incarcerated in this imperialistic concentration camp for four and one half years of my precious life and believe me, every minute that I spend behind this hell hole, the more pain and conviction I feel toward the system. Because basically speaking I have been denied the most valuable human quality which life breathes, and that is freedom. After spending these few years of my life in this imperialistic dungeon, I can honestly speak as a man who has come to know more about this system than many people will ever know. I would now like to take this moment to express my sincere enthusiasm to the brothers and sisters who are involving themselves in the mightiest force of revolution, by taking history into the hands of all the oppressed people on May Day of this year. My only regret at this time is that I am not able to take a stand alongside the brothers and sisters in society who are fortunate enough to be a part of this struggle. And I do with all my revolutionary sentiments pledge my faith into the hearts of those who realize and understand the great importance of the May Day 1980 struggle, and who will on this day help to build a stronger and more powerful foundation for the revolution than ever before done. For the brothers and sisters who might remain inactive in this struggle on May Day 1980, I would like to express criticism to you. First of all I would like to tell you that without doing nothing, nothing can be done if you sit at home and wait until in some mechanical way all preparations and conditions are given, then all your revolutionary beliefs will fade into dreams because it is of your revolutionary thrust which helps pull and build into existence, a more powerful and dynamic influence over the masses of people....

In solidarity with the revolutionary May Day march, I embrace all my brothers and sisters with all my revolutionary fervor.

A student from Syria rushed over to May Day Brigaders when they raised the red flag at his college. "I'm so glad to meet American communists," he said, his face breaking into a broad smile. He wrote this statement in support of May Day. It is translated from Arabic.

## WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

The time has come for us, the working class, to start our revolution, our successful revolution, to end those ugly imperialists and bourgeoisies. You the workers of the world have the first and last decision, and you have the will and you have a just cause.

The time has come for us to pick up the red flag and to demonstrate in the streets altogether as one person, to chant "Down with imperialism" all over the world without any fear. We must reach the masses, all the masses, and enlighten them to their future which, facts have established, is for them to rule themselves and not to be ruled.

On May Day we are demanding to end imperialism all over the world and to establish the proletariat's rule, this rule which belongs to the workers and farmers and the suffering masses.

As we know, with each new dawn, there comes a new armed revolution everywhere around the world against those aggressors, the bourgeoisies and their puppets.

The aggressors' policy of force and aggression against us is not going to help them, but will give us determination to step up our revolutionary struggle.

We have the will and the beliefs which are just—those giving mankind his right to live in dignity under the red flag, under the banner of Marxism-Leninism. Yes, we will start our revolution, we will be victorious. Our struggle will continue and we will down imperialism sooner or later, and we'll teach these imperialists a lesson they will never forget.

**LONG LIVE THE WORKERS AND THE MASSES!  
LONG LIVE OUR JUST CAUSE!**

(We received this note from Tennessee in the mail.)

Dear Friends,

The other day I came across one of your posters in a most unlikely place. I have many questions, but I must confess an interest in your cause.

Please place my name on your mailing list. I am a member of the Protestant clergy, but if you think many of us are not interested in your kind of solution, you are not well informed.

Thank you.

The following statement was entitled "Lions in a Cage".

Oppressed like thousands of other people with these systematic chains that bind us. I feel like there's a raging river inside me, just about to burst all over the capitalist political pigs who through grinning teeth, campaigning and promising their interest in our welfare, health care along with our "rights" to be free. Free to think without so many distractions. If it's not "All My Children," it's "General Hospital," daily.

Just suppose half the people in the world knew the truth and exactly how to apply it constructively to changing this system the way it was really meant to be. Being heard and understood that we are awake and aware of what these lying necktie-wearing clowns are up to and show what exactly we (the working class of people and all poor unfortunate ones) intend to do in resolving this holy mess! Not only on May Day but every day. Working together honestly to educate proletarians throughout the land. Teach our children the truth. Guide them in the right direction which would be not allowing their identity to go on not recognized, because a bunch of selfish idiots are feeding our minds as well with all types of garbage. Caging us in areas where we let ourselves be buried with the "trash."

Once this takes place, then we become what they need us to be. Changing our names to numbers. Labeling us as pimps, players, whores, drug abusers and whatever else that will help supply the *Sun-Times* and *Tribune*, etc. with the garbage they call news. Instead of telling the truth of how the job layoff affects our menfolk, driving them out into the street along with their families to starve—while these capitalist political dogs sit back and pimp off the proletariat in this country, sucking our blood every way humanly possible. Feeding us drugs, of every source and keeping our minds oppressed and closed to the truth. Leaving you no other choice but to have a gun in hand. After this country's leaders have failed you, stripped you of your identity, then raped you of your culture. Going as far as to steal your roots!

Yes, women can't feel anything but fury watching their loved ones sucked up by these human sponges. While she stays in the place society feels is her place. They've got a lot of "heart" is all I can say. Giving us rights that were ours from birth. It's sad when you see families torn apart because of the way this rotten system has worn everybody and everything to the decaying point. Stagnation of the minds, that's what we

get for salaries. Constant disappointments.

But one thing for sure, we can count on these mechanical machines to assure us more of this living hell. They say, after they've screwed everything all around, now we the proletarians are given another false "right" from the alphabetical nitwits. Now men, women, children, cats, and dogs can join them in bloodshed and losing of our lives without hesitation nor qualifications. We regret to say we are not going to fight any more battles for these capitalist rulers. As far as I'm concerned, we've been fighting World War III right here and now. A battle of existence in the land of plenty, "home of the brave." We're the backbone of this country and worldwide, us the working class of people. With un-fixed incomes... We can fix our incomes and be sent to prison for some reason—or, then again, we can make May Day a day of reckoning.

Or we can remain lions in a cage.

—Black Gold

A Black woman forced onto welfare because she needs kidney dialysis

## To the *Revolutionary Worker*:

I am a Vietnam veteran and a steel worker who's been working to build for May Day. I have a story to tell that I think is worth telling. Recently I had a chance to visit this small town in southern Arkansas. This small town, population approximately 6,000 is where I was born and grew up. Even though I could hardly wait to get home to talk to the people about revolution, which was something I had never discussed with them before, even though it had only been one year since my last visit, I could not wipe out of my mind how hard it might be to get the people to listen to what I had to say.

It all started in a tavern. I discussed many things concerning revolution with several people. I couldn't believe the response I was getting. Many were listening and some had questions. People are very worried about what the future is in this town. Even though it's a small town, Georgia Pacific has several factories there—a paper mill, plywood mill and flaked board mill. This town's loaded with pines and they call it the forest capital of the south. But the paper mill shut down and now the plywood mill is threatening to shut down. The people seem to be waiting for some type of solution. This shit is on their minds. This town is ready to explode.

I finally got around to talking to the owner of the tavern. It was around two o'clock a.m. He said although he was going to close the tavern he thought this was something that should be discussed further. So off we went, 12 to 14 people, to talk about revolution and May Day. We discussed the *Revolutionary Worker*, played Bob's tape (Comrade Avakian's 1979 May Day Speech—*RW*) and talked about the Party. Some had to leave before the discussion ended which was understandable because it lasted until around 7:00 in the morning.

One guy said he had never heard so much reality, and he wanted more information sent to him C.O.D. They thought the tape was great and some knew others that wanted to hear the tape. We made two tapes off the original one later that day because people wanted it...

This example of people coming forward was more evidence of what we have been saying all along, and that is that the capitalists are lying when they say that no one wants to hear about revolution and that everyone is happy the way things are. People hate this shit everywhere. It's even getting hard to hide out in a quiet, small town, isn't it Bourgeoisie?

Right on Southern Arkansas!



# for May 1st

## The Eleventh Hour Battalion

Traditionally revolutionaries have called on workers to join forces and recognize their power on May Day, but never in the history of the United States has May Day loomed so important. This country is in a state of decline. Third world countries, once puppets dancing on the strings of U.S. imperialists, are cutting the strings, throwing off their chains and picking up their guns in revolution. Major corporations are laying off workers; the reactionary flunkies the KKK and Nazi Party are screaming loud and long throughout the country. The war maniacs are dusting off their uniforms and media robots are fanning the flames of war hysteria.

This May Day, 1980, is significant; not just a day for workers to take note of; not just a day for workers to march. This is the first May Day of the decade and this is the last decade for imperialist America.

The women of the Eleventh Hour Battalion are calling on women to take their place this May Day. We as women understand what it means to be raped and killed. We know what it means to be the victims of superior strength and because of this, we can easily understand what it means to be plundered and killed by an imperialist country. We as women understand what it means to be totally dependent on another for our food and shelter, and so we can easily understand what it means for a country to be dependent on an imperialist world power for its food and other necessities. We as women understand what it means to give our labor without pay, so we can easily understand what it means for a country and people to see its labor going into the pockets of the imperialists. We, women who know oppression, do not wish to become oppressors or lie in bed with them. We are out to destroy them.

The women of the Eleventh Hour Battalion again repeat that we are calling on women to stand forth this May Day. Women have throughout our history in the U.S. toiled at the labor of our masters, be it in the factories, at home and in many cases both places. We have been victims of one of the best hypes perpetrated. We have dutifully worked at home as cooks, cleaning women, dishwashers, clotheswashers, childcare workers and teachers, not only for free, but we were convinced that we should be willing and grateful to do it. Now, that was a master con job. But we are dupes no longer. We know what the value of our labor

is. We know if we stop work, this country stops.

Others of us have gone out and worked in the traditional labor markets. We were told we were helping out. Extra money for luxuries, yet the reality is our paychecks represented support of our families. And many of us still came home and did "our wifely duties." And perhaps the most unfortunate thing of all is that most of us never saw ourselves as being a part of, or identified with being a "worker" of the working class. We were only wives helping out our husbands; lovers helping out our old men.

It is important for us to see who we are and who we represent. The housewife who identifies as a member of the working class is *not* going to stand by while her husband sells out to management and shafts her and her fellow workers. She will understand the need for workers to stand united and fight. The secretary who realizes she is a member of the working class is *not* going to identify with her boss when he coerces sexual favors from a poor paid woman in a typing pool. A woman who identifies as a member of the working class is *not* going to work to send her husband off to medical school so he can become a rip-off doctor and maltreat and overcharge patients, just so she can have the status of being doctor so-and-so's wife. A woman who realizes she is a worker of the working class will step forward and unite with the workers of the world and revolt against their common enemies, the capitalists and imperialists who have stolen and prostituted their labor.

The hype against women was run, but is not going to work anymore. And though we fell for it, it was not just a case of women being dumb. The hype was by men of the ruling classes and too often by the left. Many of us can tell tales of joining the coffee and typing battalions of revolutionary parties; many of us have been told to lay on our backs for revolution. Never again. Women throughout the world are stepping out and demanding the power that is theirs, they who *do* hold up half the sky. On May Day we will show all watching that women have been preparing and fighting for centuries, and are ready to take up and put forth the red flag: they will not just sit home and sew it. Women know what the '80s demand. Women know who the murderers, rapists and pimps are. Women know that revolution must be our stance.

## Washington Coalition to Save Seabrook

We are an anti-nuclear group working on the May 24th Non-Violent Occupation/Blockade of Seabrook. We unite with the working and oppressed people on May Day in order to carry our fight against nuclear power one step further aimed at its true source. After all, it would be a hollow victory for the anti-nuclear movement to stop the nukes only to awaken to a solar-power Auschwitz. Definitely becoming too focused on one issue presents a danger. Nuclear power and weapons are just one example of how this, and in fact all existing governments are unresponsive to the needs, wishes, and well-being of the people they supposedly are serving. World-wide revolution is in order. Revolution based on love and good will towards all. We do not advocate the violent overthrow of the system, however we do advocate people taking over through non-violent direct action, workers should take over the factories and run them collectively for themselves not for profiteers.

There are many examples of direct action around the world. Direct action has worked successfully in this country in cities where city-dwellers have seized abandoned buildings and made them livable. In some neighborhoods people have gotten together to prevent evictions of their neighbors. We no longer recognize the legitimacy of any existing government and demand the right of all people to determine their own destiny. The power is and always has been with the people. All we need do is see it and then exercise it. We hold the key to a new world in our hearts and minds. We in the anti-nuclear movement are now learning the lessons people all over the world have also learned—that we can depend only on ourselves to make the fundamental changes necessary to gain our own health and safety, and further to guarantee peace and well-being for all. We know now that petitioning, lawsuits and symbolic actions don't work. The government and corporate state interests have and never will be to serve the people. It is only the people who will serve the people.



# Imperialist Dog-fight Bares Coup Plots in Iran . . .

## General Huyser's Mission Impossible

A series of new revelations, brought to light as a result of growing political infighting in Washington, have confirmed Iranian charges that the U.S. embassy in Tehran was the headquarters out of which the U.S. government actively plotted against the Iranian revolution in the months before and after the downfall of the Shah's regime in February 1979. Much of the new information is appearing this week in an article titled "Carter and the Fall of the Shah: The Inside Story" in the foreign policy journal *Washington Quarterly*. This article, a full-scale attack on Carter for "losing Iran" through indecision, was released in advance to

selected publications, and has already been commented on in a special two-page spread in the current issue of *Newsweek* and in a front page article in last Sunday's *New York Times*, "Washington Said to Have Weighed Backing Iranian Military in Coup."

For the first time the mission of U.S. Air Force General Robert Huyser to Iran, at the height of the revolution in January 1979, is brought to light. Previous accounts of Huyser's mission had him there briefly to rally support among Iran's military leaders for the newly installed U.S.-backed government of Shapour Bakhtiar as the Shah was preparing to flee Iran. Now we

learn that Huyser was in Iran for a full month, directing the day-to-day operations of the Shah's general staff as they desperately attempted to beat down the surging struggle of the Iranian people. Through this whole period, Huyser was under orders from the White House to develop plans for a military coup in the event that the Bakhtiar government was toppled by the popular forces led by Khomeini.

According to the *Washington Quarterly* article, "Huyser met with the generals—usually seven in all—virtually every day between January 4 and February 3, and while the meetings were not long, contact was virtually

constant. Huyser worked primarily out of two offices: one was in the embassy (the U.S. embassy in Tehran—*RW*), the other in the military assistance advisory group (MAAG) headquartered in the Iranian General Staff Headquarters . . . along with Huyser was the American MAAG chief, Lt. General Philip Gast of the Air Force, who would stay on after Huyser's departure to complete the task." The Iranian military figures with whom Huyser regularly met are identified as Tehran military commander Oveissi (the commander of the Shah's troops who massacred over 10,000 unarmed demonstrators on "Bloody Friday,"

Continued on page 18

# Iranian Masses Reveal More

This is just one of many documents unearthed by the students occupying the U.S. embassy in Tehran. Twenty-five of these U.S. spy documents were given to the "Send the Shah Back/Hands Off Iran Delegation" when it was in Iran last December. Excerpts of these documents were reprinted in the December 21, 1979 *RW*, and subsequently many other documents were released by the Iranians. One of these, the secret memo reprinted here, was written by Henry Precht, director of the Office of Iranian Affairs at the State Department and cabled in early August to L. Bruce Laingen, the highest ranking U.S. diplomat in Iran at the time.

In it, Precht expressed the hope that the Iranian government would consolidate its power "by the end of 1979" before the Shah was brought into the U.S. However, Precht noted, "If there is no prospect for Iran to settle down, there may be an argument for going ahead and admitting the Shah anyway," acknowledging that "the danger of hostages being taken in Iran will persist." This offers added proof that the U.S. imperialists knew that bringing the Shah to the U.S. would cause a popular explosion in Iran, a reaction that they hoped would embolden pro-U.S. forces in the Iranian military and elsewhere to regroup and launch a coup against the Khomeini government.

### Secret Embassy Documents

SECRET/SENSITIVE

Planning for the Shah to Come to the United States

This paper outlines some concepts we should address in considering the Shah's desire to come to the United States. We believe there are three broad questions:

- What new circumstances could justify a change in the USG position?
- What conditions should we seek from the Shah or state prior to his arrival here?
- What arrangements should we make for Embassy personnel to provide protection?

1. New Circumstances

The PGOI has laid out a plan for the adoption of a new constitution and election of a new government. If the plan is followed -- and that seems unlikely -- elections for an assembly of experts will be held on August 3. The assembly will conclude its work in one month; the draft constitution, which the experts will have reviewed, will be submitted to a popular referendum probably in September; and elections for a president and Majlis could take place as early as October. Because the Iranian government has placed a high priority on establishing a stronger and legitimate single authority for the country, we believe the PGOI and Khomeini will make every effort to meet this schedule. Even with the inevitable delays, there is a good chance that the process will be completed by the end of 1979.

Once it is completed, we should inform the new government that we wish to clear our decks of old issues on the agenda. One of those old issues will be the status of the Shah. We could inform the government that we have resisted intense pressures to allow him to come to the U.S. because we did not wish to complicate the PGOI's problems or our efforts to construct a new relationship. Now with the new government firmly established and accepted, it seems appropriate to admit the Shah to the U.S. The new government may not like it, but it is best to get the issue out of the way. This discussion with the new GOI should take place after it is in place some 2-3 weeks and some few days before the Shah would come here. In the meantime,

SECRET/SENSITIVE

SECRET/SENSITIVE

We should begin to prepare the Iranians by telling them of the intense pressures for the Shah to come here -- pressures which we are resisting despite our traditional open-door policy.

If the constitutional process does not proceed and Iranian instability seriously increases, and if there is no prospect for Iran to settle down, there may be an argument for going ahead and admitting the Shah anyway to get that inevitable step behind us, but it will be necessary first to review how dangerous the situation is.

In either of these scenarios we should aim for a positive change in our position on the Shah by January 1980. If this plan is adopted it probably would not be advisable to disseminate it beyond a close circle in the Executive Branch; perhaps a few key individuals outside might be informed so as to reduce pressures for a change. We would also have to discuss the issue with Members of Congress to indicate that we were addressing the issue and hope to resolve it successfully. This would reduce pressures which could lead, for example, to a Congressional resolution calling on the Administration to admit the Shah. However, this would increase the likelihood of leaks and our having to deal with the PGOI before we are ready.

2. Conditions

It would help substantially in explaining our position to the Iranians if the Shah were to renounce his family's claim to the throne. We believe the likelihood of his doing so is extremely remote, but the idea could be explored privately by trusted intermediaries so that if the Shah refused he would have no possibility of blaming the USG for a course he rejected.

Should the Shah refuse to renounce his claim, we should leave no doubt in the Iranian mind as to our attitude. We should make it quite clear publicly that we consider any claim to the throne by his family rendered invalid by the Iranian constitutional process, and we should make it clear privately to the Shah and his friends that we would not tolerate any counter-revolutionary acts here which might violate U.S. law, or our customary policies regarding political activities of persons admitted for temporary visits.

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SECRET/SENSITIVE

3. Security

We have the impression that the threat to U.S. Embassy personnel is less now than it was in the spring; presumably the threat will diminish somewhat further by the end of this year. Nevertheless, the danger of hostages being taken in Iran will persist.

We should make no move towards admitting the Shah until we have obtained and tested a new and substantially more effective guard force for the Embassy. Secondly, when the decision is made to admit the Shah, we should quietly assign additional American security guards to the Embassy to provide protection for key personnel until the danger period is considered over.

Before proceeding further we should have more detailed work on the legal, security and Congressional relations issues.

SECRET/SENSITIVE

"The revolution itself must not by any means be regarded as a single act . . . but as a series of more or less powerful outbreaks rapidly alternating with periods of more or less intense calm," wrote Lenin in *What Is To Be Done?*, making a statement which is full of meaning for us today. The work we do now, the battles, especially the major political battles, we wage now can be crucial not only in hitting back, politically, at the enemy, and not simply as general preparation, but beyond that perhaps in deciding the outcome whenever the conditions for revolution do ripen . . ."

**Bob Avakian**  
Chairman of the RCP Central Committee

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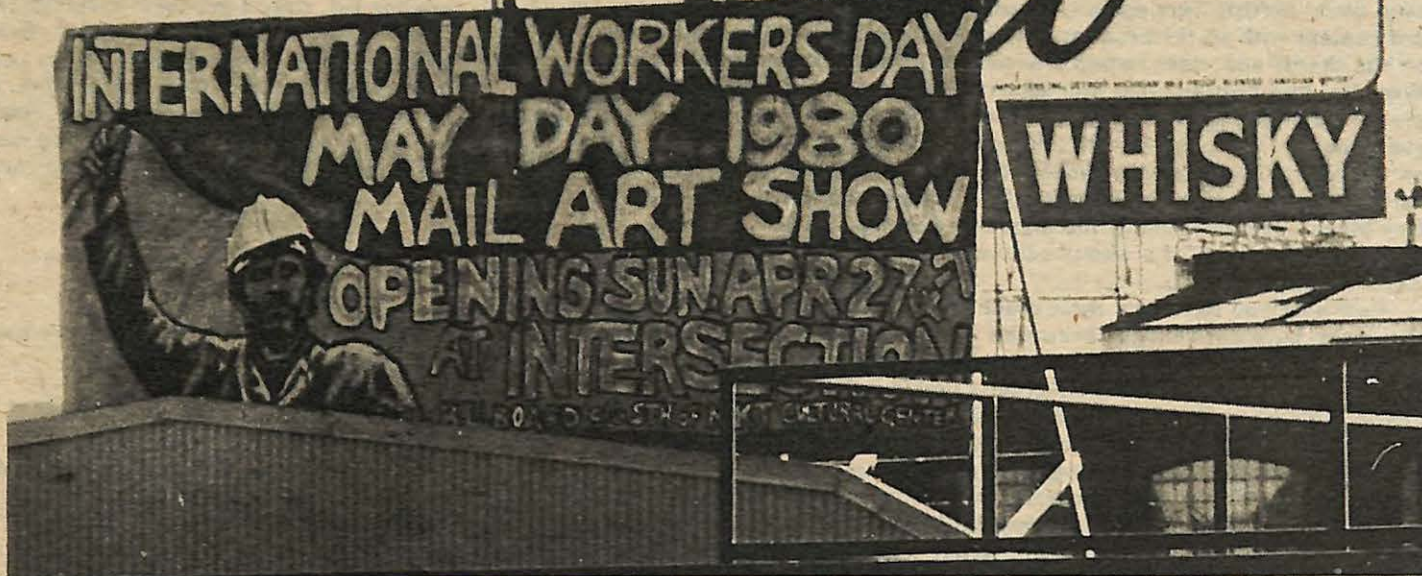
San Francisco

# MAY DAY ART SHOW BILLBOARD DRAWS BLOOD FROM DISTINGUISHED ARTS MUMMIES

In a recent letter dated April 1, 1980, from the Mayor of San Francisco to the San Francisco Art Commission, the Mayor states that the tax-funded art program "is not nor should it ever be allowed to become the conduit of special interests for political agitation and propaganda." And further, in reference to the neighborhood arts program (particularly pointed against the Mission Cultural Center for having window murals about the struggles in Nicaragua and El Salvador) the Mayor states, "The use of premises for political posters or for the organizing of leafletting, marches, demonstrations and other partisan political activity should not be permitted." In plain terms: funding and jobs are being threatened in order to kill revolutionary and progressive art. Nothing like a little freedom.

Or how about the request sent to the Chevron (non-partisan) Oil Company by the director of San Francisco's neighborhood arts program, Mark Denton, for \$15,000 funding: "Hopefully these programs will alleviate the pressure that promises to be a very rough summer with the unemployment rate as high as 46% (among Black youth), summer schools closed because of Proposition 13, and the political unrest because of situations such as El Salvador." Ah, yes, Mr. Denton really knows what counts with such fossilized art patrons as Chevron and the Mayor. The "art for art's sake" line is once again looking a little thin.

And right now, Art Director Denton on orders from higher-ups in the city government is waging a struggle on the cultural front against revolutionary May Day 1980. Indeed, it seems that the billboard announcing the opening of the mail-in May Day art show spon-



sored by the San Francisco Poster Brigade (see RW April 18) has drawn a bit of blood from the San Francisco bourgeoisie. Nestled among such works of art as billboards advertising Canadian Club Whiskey, Hostess Twinkies and Marlboro cigarettes, this electrically colorful billboard of an industrial worker waving the red flag has been declared "illegal."

The billboard sits atop one of the neighborhood art centers. At first the city demanded that the Poster Brigade remove the words "International Workers Day." Partisan and yes, frightening, words indeed to that certain class of people with that certain something called state power. But after the Poster Brigade called the arts commission, the word came down that the whole thing must come down or they will remove the entire billboard from the roof!

Through their mouthpiece on the

Arts Commission, Director Denton, the offices of Public Works and City Planning, located directly under the Mayor's office, have declared the whole structure illegal—a billboard without a permit. Yet the billboard has been on that roof for a year now and has exhibited 5 different events. And not a peep from the permit freaks, the Mayor's office, nor the connoisseurs of fine art (by which they mean art that's fine for capitalism) on the commission. Not until this one came along.

At a recent meeting between Denton and the Poster Brigade this past Wednesday, the heat was already rising in this little bureaucrat's office. The city had been using the old tactic of "they're going to spoil it for everybody," and at first it had some success. Some local artists wavered as the commission opened fire; some thought it should not be pushed. But as word spread among the artists and they

began to get hip to what the art commission was trying to put over, the mood shifted to, "To Hell with them. Don't stop now!" A page two article along with a photo in the Bay Guardian newspaper that challenged the moves of censorship and phone calls from other papers had Denton backing up a little, trying to make a deal, whining about "stop the noise and I'll leave it up until Sunday" (the opening day of the show). Outrage has taken the form of actual resistance among some. The cultural center building staff has been under orders to take it down for a week now. And they have been assigned the job of wrecking crew. But as each phone call from Denton is received about the status of the billboard, the reply to the director is always, "It's too rainy" or "it's too windy" to go up there.

But it's fine weather for a billboard like this—May 1st 1980 is just around the corner. □

## Breakout

Continued from page 6

gathered in a narrow by-street, and from the midst of them came the voice of Vesovshchikov.

"They squeeze the blood out of us like the juice out of a cranberry." His clumsy words fell heavily on the heads of the people.

"Don't they just!" boomed several voices at once.

"The boy's making an effort," said the khokhol. "Think I'll go and help him."

And before Pavel had a chance to stop him he had twisted his long, supple body into the crowd like a screw into a cork.

"Comrades!" he cried in his rich voice. "They say that different peoples inhabit the earth—Jews and Germans, Englishmen and Tatars. But I don't believe it. There are only two peoples—the rich and the poor. People dress differently and talk differently, but when you see how the rich Frenchmen, Germans and Englishmen treat the working people, you realize that for us workers all of them are rapscallions, damn their hides!"

Somebody in the crowd laughed. "And on the other hand, if you take a close look you'll see that the French and the Tatar and the Turkish workers all live the same dog's life that we Russian workers live!"

More and more people kept turning into the by-street, craning their necks and stretching up on their toes without saying a word.

Andrei's voice grew louder. "The workers abroad have already grasped that simple truth, and today on May Day..."

"The police!" cried somebody. Four mounted policemen rode

straight into the by-street, lashing out with their whips and shouting:

"Break it up!"

The people frowned and retreated unwillingly. A few of them climbed up on the fences.

"They think they're brave soldiers, but they're just pigs!" shouted someone brazenly.

"Comrades!" came the strong, rich voice of Pavel. The mother's eyes were stung by hot tears, and she felt an upsurge of strength. With a single quick movement she took up her stand beside her son, about whom people were clustered like bits of steel about a magnet.

The mother looked into his face, seeing only his proud, brave, burning eyes.

"Comrades! We decided that today we would make an open declaration of who we are and raise our banner..."

A long white staff flashed in the air, then dipped into the crowd, bisecting it, hidden by it, until a moment later the banner of the working class rose above the lifted faces like a huge red bird.

Pavel lifted his arm and the banner wavered; a dozen hands grasped the smooth white wood of the flagstaff,

and among them was the hand of the mother.

"Long live the working class!" cried Pavel.

Hundreds of voices roared back in response.

"Long live the Social-Democratic (Communist—RW) Workers' Party—our party, comrades—the well-spring of our ideas!"

The crowd seethed. Those who knew the significance of the banner pressed towards it; Mazin, Samoilov, and the Gusevs reached Pavel; Nikolai, with lowered head, pushed his way through the throng, and the mother felt herself being thrust aside by other bright-eyed young people whom she did not know.

"Long live the workers of the world!" cried Pavel.

He was answered by a soul-stirring cry coming from a thousand throats in a surge of joy and strength.

The crowd grew. Pavel lifted the banner and it unfolded in the air as he carried it forward, lighted by sun, smiling its broad, bright smile.

Feodor Mazin began to sing:

*Renouncing forever the old world....*

Dozens of other voices rose in a soft strong wave to join him:

*We shake off its dust from our feet!...*

The mother walked behind Mazin, a radiant smile on her lips, her eyes straining above Feodor's head towards the banner and her son. All about her were joyful faces and eyes of many colours, while in front marched her son and Andrei. She could hear both of them singing, Andrei's sonorous tenor merging with Pavel's deep bass:

*Arise to the struggle, o workers, arise!  
Arise, all who labour and hunger!*

People came running towards the red banner. They shouted as they ran, but their shouts were drowned by the sounds of the song—that same song which had been sung softer than others at home. Here in the street it rang out unrestrained and with an awful force. It resounded with indomitable courage, and while it challenged people to take the long path leading to the future, it frankly told them how difficult that path would be. Its steady flame consumed the dark slag of all that had

Continued on page 19

**"In no way should the taking of 'independent historical action' by the advanced section of workers in this country, even if it is relatively small at this time, be underestimated or downgraded... With the development, and especially full ripening, of the situation, with millions awakening for the first time, the thousands who rally now around the revolutionary banner of the international proletariat become millions, ultimately tens of millions... and the thousands and tens of thousands who have been trained in 'normal' times become the leaders of millions and tens of millions."**

**Bob Avakian  
Chairman of the RCP Central Committee**

# C.P.M.L. CORRESPONDENCE UNEARTHED!

Dear Chairman Klonsky,

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of utmost importance and urgency. As a longtime CPML member and reader of *The Call*, I feel it my duty to report to you an appalling travesty and fraud that is being perpetrated on our Party by the Trotskyite RCP. Apparently these wild-eyed ultra-“leftists” are up to their usual dirty tricks again. I guess they are not content with all the headline-grabbing provocateur actions like egging on the sheriff and other respectable citizens of the area around Beckley, West Va. into beating them up and arresting them with their childish pranks like walking around in public with red flags mounted on sticks. I guess they are not content with taking down the flag of Texas and standing on the roof of the Alamo without even asking permission from the museum authorities. Now, right in line with these brazen attempts to ruin our May Day picnics and graveside gatherings, they have again put out not one, not two, but three issues of a phony edition of *The Call* dated April 7 and April 14, and April 21.

I am sure you have seen these crude attempts to discredit us among those who have not yet fully been won into the anti-hegemonic camp, but I felt it necessary to make sure you were informed of this. Actually, while they have used the same method as their previous fraud put out last February of tampering subtly with our line to render it absurd, this latest effort is not nearly so subtle. Take the front page, for instance. This time, instead of slyly changing the slogan on our masthead from “People of the World Unite to Defeat U.S. Imperialism” to “People of the World Unite to Defend U.S. Imperialism,” as they did before, they have changed the masthead completely. They have completely removed the slogan and any mention that the paper is the organ of the CPML. The masthead now reads: “*The Call*, Voice for Socialism in the United States.” Of course, a while back we wisely changed the slogan on the masthead from “People of the World Unite to Defeat U.S. Imperialism,” which was ultra-left and one-sided, by deleting the U.S. part, but . . .

But making such drastic changes in the masthead has only made these fools look silly. Now people will know right off the bat that this is an obvious forgery. Why would our Party not have our name proudly on the masthead? Right away people will know something is fishy. Why the phrase “Voice of Socialism in the United States” doesn’t distinguish us from about a million other publications by everyone from the left wing of the Democratic party to the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party. This is just the kind of thing the revisionist CPUSA does. And what an obvious attempt to slander our Party by painting us as social-chauvinists—the “Voice of Socialism in the United States. Everyone knows communists are internationalists. So really the joke’s on the RCP with this one, and this just shows how much they are degenerating into complete opportunism.

Also, while some of the articles have been tampered with subtly and are sinister forgeries and mockeries of Marxism-Leninism, others are blatant and as silly as their little masthead ruse. For example, in the third issue of their forgery they run an article about the Citizens Party entitled “Citizens Party founding draws 500” which is just gross. They even bylined the article “Carl Davidson”! The article comes out lauding this new Citizens Party which is openly aimed at attracting members of the Democratic party and is completely reformist. Straight-up liberal political figures like Fred Harris and his wife LaDonna, Barry Commoner, and author Studs Terkel are praised and promoted in the article. Also, they stoop to the lowest by fabricating a let-

ter about the situation in Iran in the April 7 issue which ends with complete flag-waving patriotism saying, “They (Iranians) are guests in our country, and we must extend to them every guarantee of our Bill of Rights if we are to endure as a nation under laws . . . We should extend our own precious rights and our courtesy to all Iranians in this country . . .” I could go on and on, but I think you get my point. Articles like this, along with the masthead switch, have been forged in such a way as to make our party seem no different from the revisionist CPUSA—except that they are in the pro-Soviet camp and we are in the anti-Soviet camp. How low can these RCP agents get? They must have even secretly obtained our subscription mailing list, since I got these forgeries in the mail!

I am sure that this not-so-clever trick will bomb completely. I have been telling anyone I see with these phony issues to tear them up or burn them immediately and tell their friends to do the same and, instead, buy an issue of the real *Call*. Perhaps you could make sure everyone else around the country is doing the same thing, and maybe we should expose this in our next issue. I have enclosed copies of these phony issues for you to look at.

Sincerely,  
L.S.  
Juneau, Alaska

P.S. I haven’t received the last three issues of the real *Call* yet. Could you send me some?

from the desk of Michael Klonsky, esq.

April 1980

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter dated April 28. I couldn’t agree more with your outrage at the RCP’s attempts to wreck our May Day picnics. However, I do think some criticism of your outlook is in order. It would appear that, due to your out-of-the-way location and perhaps some laxness and laziness in following and studying the line of our Party, your understanding has failed to keep pace with developments in the world and in our Party’s line. The issues of *The Call* you referred to in your letter were in fact real live issues of *The Call*. In order to build the anti-hegemonist movement in the broadest possible way, we have made certain changes and adjustments in our newspaper. I must urge that you take up further study of our publications and in particular exactly these latest issues of *The Call*. If only you had paid attention to the “Letters” column, it would have been more than clear that these were for real.

Sincerely,  
Michael Klonsky

Dear Chairman Klonsky,

Never mind . . . please.

Sincerely,  
L.S.  
Juneau, Alaska

## D.C. Catholic School to Observe May 1st ?(!)

May Day has definitely turned the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute upside down! The Kennedy Institute is a school for handicapped children in Washington, D.C. operated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and named for the patriarch of the Kennedy clan who bankrolled it. But this year, the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute is going to be virtually closed down for May Day. Letters have been sent to the parents and students advising them that although the school will be officially open, they might wish to keep their children home. And staff members have been told that a liberal policy will be applied towards those who wish to take May 1st off, provided they give proper prior notification.

But this did not come about without a great deal of sharp struggle. The battle began early in the year, when a group of staff members formed a May Day Committee at the school. May Day proclamations were put in all the mail boxes of staff members, and not only did a number of staff members want to take it up, but a large number of students definitely dug the idea too. All this definitely unstrung the Institute’s autocratic czar, Sister Dolores, who began to call emergency staff meetings to try to intimidate the staff out of participating in May Day and out of any attempt to organize a staff union.

But then flyers for International Women’s Day appeared and soon about

half the staff members began buying the *Revolutionary Worker* on a regular basis. The students, for their part, were more than fed up with the Catholic school type oppression and such little niceties as the room in which “troublemakers” were confined. Some among the students struck back by letting it be known that they intended to tear the damn place apart on May 1st if there was not a recognition of May Day. Terrified, Sister Dolores went running to the archdiocese for help and sent a letter to all the parents on April 2nd which read in part, “Dear Parents: I think it is important to alert you to a serious matter. Recently, some of our high school students have been influenced by the May Day activities of the Revolutionary Communist Party. It is evident to the present staff that those particular students are confused about the nature of May Day. However, given their vulnerability, I want to inform you as their parents that you should talk to your son/daughter and know their whereabouts especially during the spring break.” But this only infuriated the students more.

Next a popular staff member, Ray Baker, language arts and swimming teacher and one of a small number of Black instructors for an overwhelmingly Black student body, was summarily fired. Baker, who had been at the institute for two years, had put out a revolutionary stand since he joined the

institute and had openly called for participation in the May Day march. The storm which flowed from Baker’s firing finally caused Sister Dolores to capitulate and allow the observance of May Day, but of course she blamed this on the RCP, saying that there had been

“threats” to the school and that three cops would be there on May 1st to protect it! In reality, the real threat came from the institute’s own staff and students who were determined to take their stand for the bright future with the working class on May 1st.

### Salute to the Working Class of Turkey

Salute, salute to the one who produces,  
Salute, salute to the one who produces.  
Salute, salute, salute, salute, salute, salute.  
Salute to the seeds of seeds.  
Salute, salute, salute, salute, salute, salute.  
Salute to the working class of Turkey.

Salute, salute to the one who produces,  
Salute, salute to the one who produces.  
Salute, salute, salute, salute, salute, salute,  
Salute to that which spreads and grows.  
Salute, salute, salute, salute, salute, salute.  
Salute to the working class of Turkey.

From mine, from workshop, from workbench, from shipyard,  
To the one marching out to acclaim his rights,  
To the revolutionary worker, a thousand salutes.

With strength, with consciousness, with a fearless soul,  
To the one going forward to smash the enemy,  
To the revolutionary worker, a thousand salutes.

This revolutionary song from Turkey, which was sung at May Day 1979 in Turkey when 111 people were killed at the demonstrations, was translated for the RW by an Iranian couple in Los Angeles.

# Kennedy: Knight of the Living Dead

This is the second installment of an article entitled "Kennedy: Knight of the Living Dead" which appears in the January issue of Revolution, the organ of the Central Committee of the RCP, USA. The article is an in-depth look at the Kennedys and their particular role in U.S. imperialist politics from the exploits of Joe Kennedy to Teddy Ken-

nedy today. It totally smashes the "Kennedy Myth" that many, at least in part, have swallowed. This part deals with the Kennedys and Joe McCarthy, JFK as the condescending savior of the Civil Rights movement who practiced the dual tactics of liberal reformism and naked force. The first part of this series appeared in last week's issue of the RW.

## Living Dead

### III. The Godfather

A significant episode during John Kennedy's Congressional career sheds light on the role the Kennedy brothers were to play on the American political scene. Joe Kennedy had developed a friendship and affection for Senator Joseph McCarthy, who went on to garner much fame and acclaim from the ruling class for a period of time when he was unleashed as part of their post-war campaign of whipping up Cold War frenzy against the Soviet Union and China, and using this to wage a reactionary political offensive in the U.S., purging progressives and communists from the labor movement and other spheres of society, and launching a witchhunt against the Communist Party USA. McCarthy was a guest at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port on numerous occasions and even played shortstop for the Kennedy family baseball team, the *Barefoots*. McCarthy was kind enough not to endorse fellow Republican Lodge in the Senate race, and when Robert Kennedy was looking for something to do after his brother's election, McCarthy hired him as assistant counsel for his witch-hunting Senate Investigations Committee. Robert's first stint with the McCarthy Committee only lasted about six months, during which his most notable accomplishment was to dig up information on British and Japanese trade with China, information McCarthy and the bourgeoisie used to try to force its allies into observing the U.S.-imposed blockade of that country. As McCarthy's job was largely accomplished and his ruthless antics became a political liability tarnishing the image of bourgeois "democracy"—and his own egomania led him to step on some important toes—the bourgeoisie found his services less and less useful and finally moved to discredit him. The senator John Kennedy was reported to "sense the difficulties that his family's connections with McCarthy could cause."<sup>13</sup> Nonetheless, Kennedy was reluctant to join in the Senate censure vote of McCarthy in 1954 and conveniently had an attack of back problems when the actual vote was taken. Although Bobby left the committee as the tide of bourgeois opinion began to turn against the Wisconsin senator, he maintained close personal ties. McCarthy was even the godfather of his oldest child.

"Old Joe Kennedy observed some years later with sadness in his eyes, 'I thought he (McCarthy) would be a sensation. He was smart. But he went off the deep end.'"<sup>14</sup>

One thing the Kennedys didn't do was go off the deep end (not counting Teddy's plunge off the Dykes Bridge in Martha's Vineyard years later). But if they shied away from McCarthy's crude tactics, they did not abandon his cause. After the Senate censure of McCarthy, and the Democrats had wrested control of the Senate in the next election, Robert Kennedy rejoined the witch-hunting committee. He emphasized that while the committee was now toning down its theatrics a bit, that did not mean it was "a whit less interested in rooting Communism out of government than it was when Senator McCarthy ran the show."<sup>15</sup> And Schlesinger comments that "Kennedy was in fact more involved in Communist investigations than he had ever been when McCarthy was chairman."<sup>16</sup>

The Kennedy approach was more ideologically and politically sophisticated and "far sighted" than the general rightist hysteria that spewed forth from ruling

class instruments like McCarthy—though it was not an approach antagonistic to that of McCarthy.

Joseph Kennedy Sr., for example, criticized the practice of, as Schlesinger describes it, "smearing all leftists as Communists." There is, said Kennedy, "a strong liberal feeling throughout Europe that is a valuable asset in the fight against communism. By terming this as a communistic movement we are only convincing the people over there that we are driving them into war."<sup>17</sup> In the Senate John Kennedy usually voted against issues with the "McCarthyism tag." "He was opposed to liberalized wiretap laws, against the requirement of loyalty oaths for students and union leaders, against a bill to compel waiver of a witness's right under the Fifth Amendment."<sup>18</sup> Some of this liberal defense of "individual liberties" was just realism. Why openly flaunt police state measures around "wiretap laws" when the FBI and other government agencies already had free rein to bug and tap whoever and whenever they pleased—legally or "illegally."

But the Kennedys also sought a deeper understanding of the appeal of reformism and to use it more effectively in conjunction with the bourgeoisie's ultimate weapon, the armed force of the state. They even consulted "experts." After rejoining the Investigations Committee, Robert Kennedy went to see Earl Browder, until 1945 the General Secretary of the CPUSA. "It was of tremendous interest to me to receive your ideas and thoughts on the history of the Communist Party in this country. It is only with an understanding of the past that we can proceed to map out our future with confidence," he wrote Browder afterwards.<sup>19</sup>

Perhaps more than most bourgeois politicians of the time, the Kennedys recognized the value and role of social democracy, i.e. the role of those who pretend to speak for the interests of the working class in order to promote the interests of the bourgeoisie and the illusions of bourgeois democracy. The U.S., of course, is not Europe. Here the class consciousness of the working class has historically been much lower. Marxism never held sway in the working class in this country as it has in Europe, the illusions of bourgeois democracy have held a stronger grip on the masses. As a result, the ruling class in this country has never really had need of a formal social-democratic party to pose as the party of the working class



and the oppressed masses, to feign opposition to the exploitation and repression of capitalist society, to counter the influence of Marxist-Leninist parties with "radical" reformism, and to rally the masses to the bourgeoisie's flag in support of imperialist expansion and war, as has been the case in Europe. There this service was provided by the opportunists and social-chauvinists of the Second International, and after World War 2 by the revisionist parties that trailed Khrushchev & Co.'s restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union. Here, to the extent the bourgeoisie has seen the need for this bourgeois deception it has been effected by the Democratic party. Prior to the Kennedys it took its most conscious form with the administration of Franklin Roosevelt during the unstable and turbulent years of the Depression.

The veiled defense of imperialism, the attempt to obscure its roots and complete domination and to distract attention from essentials by means of absolutely ridiculous schemes for "reforms" that Lenin described fits the Kennedy years in the White House to a "T". It is not a question of the intentions or beliefs of the individuals, although both the older Kennedy brothers showed themselves to be political opportunists of impressive magnitude, but the social role they played in serving the political needs of the bourgeoisie, especially in the particular context of the 1960's.

The Kennedys were great pals with the Joe McCarthys, the Richard Daleys, the Senator Eastlands and other more open symbols of reaction. But while they too consistently served the interest of the Rockefellers and the bourgeoisie in general, their role was that of champions of reform and promisers of justice. They set about the task of controlling and channeling the struggles of the masses, fogging the real nature of the

enemy and the source of their oppression and exploitation in waves of lofty rhetoric and politically expedient, token actions. They were the condescending saviors who held out their hands to calm the troubled waters, to create the illusion that it was they, and not the struggles of the masses of people that were the motive force of history.

### IV. Imperialist White Knights Against the Storms

John F. Kennedy became President at the beginning of a decade of tremendous upheaval and the rumblings of revolutionary storms that swept the U.S. and the world. The U.S. imperialists were at the pinnacle of their post-war power in 1960, but the ground beneath their feet was already beginning to quake. In Southeast Asia, in Latin America and Africa, oppressed peoples were rising up to seek liberation from colonialism. In the U.S. the frustration and anger of millions of Black people against generations of servitude and degradation was beginning to erupt in the streets. Kennedy declared his candidacy on January 2, 1960. On February 1, four Black students sat down at a "white only" lunch counter at a Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina. Between then and the elections in November thousands of Blacks, mostly students, assaulted Southern Jim Crow laws. Sit-ins and school boycotts spread like wildfire—to forty-eight cities in eleven states. There were pitched battles with police and racist mobs, foreshadowing what was to come. Police used fire hoses, dogs, intimidation and terror. But four hundred years of slavery and brutal repression had not beaten Blacks into submission and the racist reaction of the Leander Perezes and Bull Connors would prove futile in stemming the growing tide of freedom fighters.

And, more fundamentally, capitalism could not even supply equality of exploitation and oppression. The danger that confronted the ruling class in the early 1960's was that the battle for "civil rights" would get out of control, that this challenge to oppression, running smack into the contradictions of the system itself, would give rise to revolutionary sentiments and leadership. This is, of course, what happened. And when it did the ruling class had no hesitation about dropping the mask of reform and marshaling their instruments of terror, suppression and murder.

The Kennedys understood the importance of the Black vote in the 1960 election and shrewdly played their "savior" role. A good example was the much publicized incident around the arrest of Martin Luther King, Jr. a month before the 1960 election. King and fifty other demonstrators were arrested when they tried to integrate an Atlanta department store. King was sentenced to four months in the Georgia state prison. At the suggestion of his "civil rights" advisor, Harris Wofford, Kennedy phoned King's wife, expressing his sympathy and support and promising to do all he could to get him out. Robert Kennedy called up the judge who had sentenced him and King was freed on bail.<sup>20</sup> The action solidified the Black vote behind Kennedy. In Illinois, for example, where he won by only 9000 votes, he received a quarter million Black votes.

The depths of Kennedy's concern and commitment to the struggle of Blacks in America was more clearly indicated in a comment to his man Wofford. As he picked him up in his red convertible one morning during the campaign, Kennedy

Continued on page 20



Above, one member of the Kennedy klan chats with Senator Joe McCarthy. Bobby was assistant counsel for McCarthy's infamous Senate Investigations Committee in the early 1950s.



## Avakian

Continued  
from page 7

your thinking and in the way you get your body together.

And that's what we've got to do; we've got to get the people together, we've got to penetrate everywhere, we've got to organize people, we've got to educate them, and we've got to prepare the Party. We've got to strengthen it, we've got to raise its level of theory to understand the situation better, to be able to recognize the development of the crisis, the development toward war, the opportunities for doing revolutionary work. And we've got to steel ourselves and bring more and more people into the ranks of the Party and more and more people into the struggle in the ranks of revolution, so that when the times does come, when they ring that bell, we'll go out there and fight, a bloody fight, yes, to win that championship, win that liberation, win that emancipation from the system of capitalism.

That's what our period now is. It's a period of preparation, a period of work, a period of struggle. Many people say, in the face of all that, "Well, I can relate to all that, and I can dig where this is coming from, and I believe in it, too, but, hey, the rest of all these motherfuckers out here ain't gonna do shit." Now how many of you have either said that yourself or have heard at least 10 people say that? . . . See, almost everybody. And that's the situation. See, here today we've gathered hundreds, and hundreds out there on the West Coast, but there's thousands of people who have told us that already—"Hey, I agree, I can dig it, but the rest of these motherfuckers ain't gonna do shit!" Don't tell me right now what *they're* gonna do, let's talk about what *we're* gonna do.

Let's talk about how those of us who do agree are gonna begin to act together in a more determined and a more effective and a more forceful way. Because if we could get everybody together, or even one out of 5 for that matter, who say "Yeah, I can dig it, I'm down for it, but ain't nobody else gonna do nothin'," if we could get all of them together, we could begin to make the rest of those motherfuckers start *moving*. We

could begin to influence them; we could begin to channel and concentrate a force that everybody would have to sit up and take notice of. We could begin to have an influence on them. If there were thousands of people now, out demonstrating and marching and acting in a revolutionary way around Moody Park, do you think it wouldn't make a difference? You think millions of people wouldn't sit up and notice, "Hey, there's workers from all over the country, 2,000 of them, or 5,000 of them, and thousands of other people, oppressed and degraded like me."

A lot of people came here or came to their first political meeting, and you didn't know anybody else. There were only a few people, maybe the people you came with, you knew, and before that you didn't know that they felt the same way you felt. You didn't know they were sick and tired of this whole damned system, because the bourgeoisie's got the TV and it's got the church and the schools and everything else telling you that everyone else but you loves it. And that's the Party's role, to bring those people together. But it's also got to become the active role of everyone who believes in and wants to see revolution.

We've got to prepare, and a special part of that preparation is to mobilize and concentrate into a solid force, and a force that can move together and influence millions, that mass of thousands today who are down for it, who say they agree with it and are sincere in saying that they agree with it. And this is the light in which we have to view the struggle in the coming period. Because we're not just here to talk about revolution, we're not just here to say revolution is necessary, we're not even just here to say revolution is inevitable, we're here to say we got to not only work for revolution and struggle for revolution. But we've got to get down on some concrete steps to begin bringing this closer.

And that's what we're going to be doing in the coming period ahead. So I would like to conclude by saying a few more remarks and then getting on to reading an announcement from our Party in this spirit and in this light.

I'd like to conclude by returning again to the importance and relevance of May Day and how this day

is in fact a day to be celebrated in struggle. That's our celebration. That's our festival, a festival of the oppressed in struggle against the hated enemy, a day to prepare, to galvanize the advanced, those who hate it, those who say they agree that something has got to be done, those who say that, yes, revolution is necessary. A day to unite them, a day to unite even more broadly with our class of people and our revolutionary brothers and sisters here and around the world, the international proletariat and all oppressed people. A day to extend our influence much more broadly, to push things ahead, to raise that banner for revolution, both looking to the long term and to the more immediate, to the next crucial steps ahead of us.

It's a time now when we have to look to the objective situation and the developments before us, the very heavy things that are coming down in terms of crisis and looming on the horizon the ever darker shadow of world war. Storms are brewing right now that will stir millions more in the period of the '80s into revolutionary struggle, into uprisings and upheavals. And the question is, in the midst of all this, will there be a clear banner, will there be an uncompromising banner, the banner of revolution held aloft and carried forward by a strong united force, and how strong and how united will that force be? How high and how clearly will it hold that banner, and how much in unison and how tight together will its ranks march, beckoning to others to come along?

We are determined that there will be such a banner, the banner of revolution, that we will never let it drop, that we will hold it ever higher, that there will be that powerful, united, resolute force upholding this banner, penetrating everywhere, but also concentrating its strength to make powerful political blasts against this system and make powerful statements to bring others forward, calling on the broad masses to join, to forge a way forward out of this madness and this hell-hole—the way forward to overthrow this vicious beast of a system, this system of imperialism, and begin to put an end to this misery and degradation and the destruction and the holding down and holding back of the people and the society.

Continued on page 17



In the coming year ahead, many important tasks, many important goals and steps are to be taken by our Party and all others who unite in the struggle for revolution. All who hate this system and who want revolution must take up these tasks, the tasks I've spoken to before of wielding the *Revolutionary Worker*, the weekly weapon of our Party, its major press, out among the masses of people, wielding it and using it to penetrate into every crevice of society, wherever discontent brews, to help people get clear on the nature of the enemy and the nature of our task in order to deal with that enemy. There must be efforts increased a hundred-fold to defend the fighters and leaders that we've spoken of here, to not let the outrages like Moody Park or what happened here in Washington, D.C. go unanswered, but to use them to rally the ranks of people in defense of those revolutionary fighters and leaders and to convert and develop more and more people into staunch revolutionaries. There must be work to go on, to influence millions of people in their thinking and their understanding and to bring them into the struggle against this system. The sparks of revolution must be fanned and must be developed into flames and revolutionaries must be tempered and steeled.

The Party itself must be further built and strengthened. New, fresh forces must be brought into the Party. Revolutionary fighters must continue to step forward, join the Party, take up the conscious task of leading the proletariat and the masses of people to the greatest height that mankind has yet to scale—to the great goal of communism. Revolutionary people must continually come forward and take up this task. And the revolutionary unity of the working class and the revolutionary forces in this country must not only be built, but beyond that further steps must be taken and struggle must be waged to cement and to strengthen and to solidify the unity of revolutionary forces throughout this world—the unity of the international revolutionary movement, without which our struggle in any country cannot fully succeed.

But there is one thing here today that we want to present and lay out as a special focus of the work and a step that must be taken up in the coming year by the whole Party and all the advanced, revolutionary-minded people, people who yearn for and desire to be out from under this madness and desire to see that bright new society that is possible but must be brought about through our struggle and sacrifice. These people must come forward, together with the Party, devote themselves, dedicate themselves to using their energy for revolution, and in particular in the coming period to help make a leap forward in these various areas, and especially in the area to which I'm going to speak.

The question, again, is not only how to influence the broad ranks of the masses, but how to galvanize and how to concentrate the force of the advanced, of those people who have an understanding of the nature of this beast and a burning desire to bring it down. And the question is, who will be among the first to come forward, to step forward, to stand boldly and proudly in the ranks of the revolution and as the contradictions deepen and the situation ripens, increasingly rally millions of people to the revolutionary cause and carry it through? And with that question in mind and with the task before us more clearly in mind, I would like to read the following announcement from our Party, which will both conclude my speech and also set forth a call from our Party for the coming year:

Not only is it the historic mission of our class, the proletariat, the propertyless class of wage slaves, to make revolution. Not only must we carry out the armed uprising of the working class and its allies, uniting all who can be united against the hated capitalist enemy, to defeat and shatter it and begin the struggle to build a whole new kind of society and a whole new world on the ashes of the old and over the stubborn, desperate resistance of those who would drag us back. Not only is it necessary to make revolution, to eliminate the evils of this society and move society forward in a great leap for mankind. But more than that, it is possible to do so. It is possible to increasingly raise the consciousness of the masses of workers and others ground down and degraded by this system, to develop and strengthen their revolutionary understanding and their sense of organization as this system sinks deeper into its own slime and its parasitic, cannibalistic nature is more and more exposed. It is possible, when the time is ripe, to strike with the iron-like force of millions and deliver the decisive and crushing blows. It is possible, even up against a force as powerful as our ruling class, for its power rests on the blood and bones of those it has already devoured and on the backs and necks of those it has sunk its fangs into today. And it is therefore bloated, and rotting with fatty degeneration. When those on whose blood this beast lives straighten their backs together, millions and hundreds of millions strong, here and throughout the world, when they resolve to devote their life's strength no longer to reproduce the conditions of their own enslavement, but instead to cast off and into the dust their enslavement, when they determine to shed the blood of these vampiristic tormentors in order to be free, then our force will be overwhelming and will finally triumph. And that time will surely come, but to bring this about we have work to do and struggle to carry out. Work and struggle to bring closer and to prepare the revolutionary ranks and the broadest numbers of the people for that day of reckoning.

And in the face of the situation right before us, with the stinking decay and jolting crisis of this system, with this dark shadow of world war cast ever larger and ever more menacing before us, and on the other hand, with the sparks of revolution flaring, now here, now there into flames, we must intensify our efforts, strain against the limits and advance in giant strides. We must draw forward all those throughout this land who *do dare* to dream the dream of revolution and make them activists for the great cause of revolution. We must rally their ranks and concentrate them into a powerful force, raising an uncompromising banner, the bright banner of revolution, awakening and influencing the millions who today hate the way

this system forces them to live and how it corrupts every pore of society, and the millions more in whose minds the tremors and death rattle of this system are sounding ever more serious alarms and raising ever more profound questions. We must arouse, mobilize and marshal the great potential strength of all those who say that they agree but that it will never happen, move them from mere agreement to concrete action, to expend their energy and combined force to make it happen. And we must do so now, for great trials, great upheavals and also great possibilities are looming before us.

Therefore, here today at this May Day demonstration, 1979, the Revolutionary Communist Party calls for a one year campaign to build a mass, revolutionary May Day next year, on May Day, Thursday, May 1st, 1980.

This will sound the first powerful salvo of revolutionary mass struggle in the 1980's. This is not a call for a general strike. As yet our movement has not yet reached that level. But it is a call nonetheless for all people who have their minds set on revolution *not* to go to work or to school, not to remain passive on that day, but instead to take history into their hands, to act in the revolutionary tradition of May Day and more than that to take a bold, far-reaching step toward the future. On that day, one year from now, in major cities all over this country, class conscious workers and together with them all others who burn with rage at oppression and with the desire to tear out oppression's cause at its very roots will gather, not only to proclaim this stand but to make it a living, driving force that will shake this country politically on that day and afterwards, that will echo and reverberate to the four corners of this country and beyond, and into every factory, neighborhood and home in every region, city and town. On that day, the enemy and the people alike will have no choice but to direct their attention to the awesome occurrence of Revolutionary May Day as thousands and thousands stride in unison through the streets, in step with the millions throughout the world fighting for the same goal, backs straight and eyes cast to the broadest and farthest horizons, holding high the standard of revolution, striking terror into the breasts of the heartless rulers and quickening the pulse and arousing the imagination of millions, millions more of the oppressed in this country who that day will watch and listen, but in the future will surge forward themselves to hold aloft this banner of revolution and finally carry it forward into battle and on to victory.

**FORWARD WITH THE GLORIOUS TASK OF PREPARING THE REVOLUTIONARY FUTURE! FORWARD TO REVOLUTIONARY MAY DAY, 1980!**

# Iran Clashes

Continued from page 4

rapidly since the embassy seizure, this has strengthened the hand of those within the government who favor attempting to crush the left altogether. In addition to the university campuses which have become powerful strongholds for the left, the government has faced a growing wave of strikes among the workers in recent weeks, an explosion of land seizures by peasants in many parts of the country, and in Kurdistan and the Turkoman region in the north of Iran, these oppressed peoples in unity with revolutionary forces have effectively driven out the government from many areas and are now running local affairs themselves. Thus, with growing sections of the Iranian people moving beyond their control, powerful reactionary forces in the Iranian government decided it was time to attack—in spite of the U.S. government's economic blockade and military threats. (And with the news of the military assault that the U.S. was preparing to launch against Iran at this very time, these reactionaries will have to answer to the Iranian masses for their attacks on the Left.)

### Government's Strategy

As long as broad sections of the Iranian people remain in a revolutionary mood, the Iranian government could only foresee being tossed around by the struggle like a cork in the ocean. Even the manner in which they were forced to attack is indicative of the fundamental weakness of their position. Although their goal is clearly to crush the left, it had to be carried out under the guise of "an Islamic Cultural Revolution," the purpose of which is to allegedly purify the educational system of imperialist influence. While Iran's universities undoubtedly still continue to reflect the years when they were run as a foreign branch of the U.S. university system, the revolutionary organizations clearly aren't part of this. Knowing they couldn't openly claim this, the government banned all campus groups, taking lessons from the traditional bourgeois tactics of claiming the students were wasting their time fooling around with politics and needed to apply themselves to their study.

Knowing full well that the left would fight this new attempt to destroy their campus strongholds, the Revolutionary Council mobilized both the reactionary Falangists (fanatical anti-communists named after Fascist shock troops in Spain), who were just itching to hit the revolutionary forces, and worked overtime to gain support among the broader masses, who, tired of struggling to get by in the grips of Iran's severe economic crisis, were offered up a new scapegoat, the "shiftless" students.

In addition to all but explicitly accusing the leftist students of supporting "Western education" in the universities, Bani-Sadr rose to new heights of demagoguery by exclaiming to a pro-government rally at Tehran University that this turnout proved to the U.S. that in "half an hour" the Iranian government can mobilize "millions of people anywhere in Iran." But since it is widely known that the leftist forces have fought heroically on the front lines against U.S. imperialism for the last decade and more, President Bani-Sadr's real point was his attack on the left for subverting "the will of the nation" by getting up "dual centers of power."

After several days of on and off fighting, the left was forced to temporarily abandon their centers on many campuses in Iran. In this sense, the reactionaries achieved a small measure of success. More broadly, however, the resistance they encountered and what they weren't able to do gives a more accurate assessment of the political picture. Tens of thousands of leftists defended their offices throughout Iran, ample proof of the strength the revolutionary forces enjoy. The disguise the government was forced to employ to launch its attacks, and related to this, the fact that it did not generally try to pursue the leftists as they left the campuses—which would have spread the fighting into the cities as a whole—was

revealing. It was striking proof that the government's ability to mobilize the masses openly against the Left is very limited, especially with the continuing U.S. military and economic threats against their country. The more the fighting continued, the more restless and angry-growing numbers of people became, leading to a speech at Tehran University in mid-week by Bani-Sadr appealing for unity and calm. In fact, these ruling figures know full well that at this time the left is too well-known and respected to be hit straight out.

Actually, recent events underscore the objective contradictions faced by Iran's rulers today. They are caught between their hatred and fear of the Left on the one hand, and on the other, their necessity (based on the hatred of millions of Iranian people of U.S. imperialism, as well as their own class contradictions with the U.S.) to oppose escalating U.S. attacks.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Council used the border fighting instigated by Iraq as an excuse to provoke more trouble in Kurdistan. Over the last week and more, army troops as well as the Islamic "revolutionary guards," (Pasdaran) were dispatched to the border region to shore up Iran's defenses. Instead of taking routes that would keep them out of major cities, in accordance with the agreements reached last fall with the revolutionary forces in Kurdistan, they marched right into the capital city of Sanandaj, an open provocation which led to a new outbreak of fighting. As we go to press, it is still going on, and is sure to continue as long as the government continues to mass its forces in Kurdistan.

A significant recent development was that many soldiers in the army wanted to stop the fighting—protesting being used to suppress the Kurdish people's struggle—but they were overruled by the Pasdaran in order to continue fighting. This too is another sign of the many chinks in the armor of the central government.

In the midst of this intense struggle, the working class and revolutionary masses in Iran are preparing to take the streets on May Day, International Workers Day. Especially in view of this new round of reactionary attacks sweeping the country, a broad spectrum of leftist organizations have united to form a May Day coalition. Recognizing the danger of this, forces in the government are also sponsoring an "official" May Day demonstration in what should prove to be an important test of strength for the period ahead.

### U.S. Threats Force Reluctant Allies to Heel

This last week also saw some "progress" in the U.S.'s attempts to pressure and threaten its allies into supporting the U.S.'s blackmail tactics to get the Iranian government to cave in on the hostage issue and agree to "let bygones be bygones" in order to stand together against the U.S.'s imperialist rivals in the Soviet Union. Feeling the heat, at the April 21 Common Market meeting in Luxembourg, the Western European countries took a number of actions (including an arms embargo) short of breaking off all trade and diplomatic ties with Iran as the U.S. had demanded. Instead they gave the Iranian government until mid-May to make "decisive progress" on the hostage issue—clearly hoping that the threat of full economic sanctions on the crisis-ridden Iranian economy will force the Iranian parliament—after the second round of elections scheduled for May 9—to take a decisive stand against the Iranian masses and drop the demand for the return of the Shah.

At the same time, the Western European countries and Japan were visibly worried about the threat of U.S. military action against Iran. Over the past week, they complained that U.S. military action such as mining Iran's harbors or a naval blockade would unite forces within Iran against the U.S. and its Western allies that could possibly be split apart by more subtle use of force and economic pressure. Even more importantly, this would run the danger of pushing the government and large sections of the masses into the arms of the Soviets. The current Iranian government is clearly utilizing this leverage, signing a number of new trade

Young man at his first demonstration, Chicago's "Long March," shows Programme to worker who joined march.



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agreements with the Soviet-bloc countries over the last week.

The bind the U.S.-bloc imperialists find themselves in is reflected in the maneuverings leading up to this agreement. Each cautiously tested the waters of public opinion in its own country as they edged closer to joint action. Among other things, to take a step that openly moves the world closer to World War 3 is not received well by the masses of people, particularly when it involves coming to the aid of the swaggering U.S. imperialists. And lest there be any doubt that the rulers of the involved countries view it exactly this way, it's necessary to consider West German Chancellor Schmidt's recent statement that "this looks more and more like July, 1914."

Within the U.S. bloc, as well as within the various ruling classes themselves, while there are important tactical differences on how to handle the world situation, they are fundamentally united around the inevitability of the coming showdown with their imperialist Soviet rivals and where they will line up. But the Iranian situation is somewhat different. As one West German diplomat said, "The Iranian crisis is the most difficult, because nobody is in control, while the big powers do control the implications of Afghanistan."

What makes Iran a different story is the presence of the force they fear the most, the politically-aroused masses of people—the revolutionary force that constantly upsets all their best-laid plans. This is the one variable that short-circuits the computer that compiles the think-tank reports on war plans and contingencies.

The situation in Iran today is extremely volatile, with some forces determined to deliver Iran back to the Western imperialists, while others are headed into the arms of a Soviet bear hug that will be every bit as deadly as U.S. domination. But infinitely more frightening than that to all the imperialists and reactionaries is that thoroughly revolutionary Marxist-Leninist forces are emerging in Iran today—forces that are building on the hatred of imperialism and all oppressors that is so evident amongst the Iranian people.

Today, genuine communists in Iran are being steeled in struggle and are charting the path leading the Iranian people forward against both imperialist superpowers and their war plans. The spectre of having this occur, a revolutionary spark that would inspire people all around the world, is their worst nightmare.

As the preparations for May Day surge ahead, there have suddenly appeared all over Washington, D.C., thousands of posters calling for one million people to participate in a "Washington for Jesus" demonstration on April 29, two days before May Day. Although the organizers of the rally are trying to pretend that it is a religious event, the rally is blatantly political and squarely aimed at rallying the backward behind U.S. imperialism in preparation for war. The poster for this "religious" rally portrays George Washington in military uniform kneeling in prayer, with a flowing American flag in the background (see poster).

Even the urgency of war preparations comes through in the rally literature: "America has never needed those who love God to step forward and do something more than in this hour." "One million Christians, gathering together to fast, pray and repent for our nation; to pray for those in leadership and authority; to make a stand for righteousness"

Sponsors for the "Washington for Jesus" rally include Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network, Jim Baker of late night TV PTL Club and Jack Cohen, Executive Vice-President of Greyhound International (guess who's getting the chartered bus business), and chief organizer Reverend John Gimenez of Virginia Beach, Virginia, who describes himself as "a heroin addict for a number of years



prior to his conversion to Christ."

While there will certainly not be one million people out for this rally, there will undoubtedly be several thousand flag-waving bible-beaters soaking up the rot about how American imperialism represents the fullest flowering of God's grace. And events like these, standing in contrast to revolutionary May Day draw more sharply before the whole working class the two roads opening before us in the 1980's, and the two flags which represent them.



