Jorge Palacios Arrives to Speak in U.S.

The U.S. tour of Jorge Palacios, a Chilean revolutionary leader, has finally begun. It is not to be missed. Wherever Comrade Palacios has spoken, his sharp and stinging analysis of the Chilean experience has been received with tremendous enthusiasm and has generated great discussion of key political principles. 

For those who do not know, Palacios is a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile who lives in exile in Paris. His tour here is being sponsored by Frente del Pueblo, a mass organization of the resistance in Chile and among Chileans abroad. When Palacios spoke in Boston, a former student of his, Palacios was a philosophy professor, who had not seen him for many years, came to greet him. There was an embrace—and jubilation that Palacios had escaped death at the hands of the generals who put him on their hit list when they took power in Chile in the fastest coups of 1973. In New York City another student told of how Continued on page 14

Chinese Revisionists Announce Trial of Mao

The Cultural Revolution was personally initiated and led by Mao, and in fact concentrated Mao's greatest contributions to the theory and practice of continuing revolution after the working class seize power—and of combating the kind of reversions to capitalism that happened in the Soviet Union and has now happened in China.

In fact, if you strip the “police” veneer off Ye's speech given on behalf of the Party's Central Committee, it is clear that its view is identical to the more concise slogan now reportedly being circulated in China to sum up Mao's life, "Before liberation, great merit; after liberation, great mistake." During the Cultural Revolution, crimes it even Continued on page 4

HOW NOW DOW JONES?

The Stock market plunged downward last week day after day, with hundreds of millions of shares changing hands in some of the busiest days in Wall Street history, sustaining the worst drop in almost six years. Prices of stocks dropped across the board, adding up to one of the broadest declines in the history of the New York Stock Exchange, this plunge may be only momentary, but it is the latest sign of a crisis which is anything but momentary, and which goes very deep.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the 1929 crash, and this steep plunge has provoked many comparisons with that of 30 years ago which signaled the Great Depression. It is true, as bourgeois analysts hasten to point out, that there are many differences between the stock market of 1929 and that of 1979. One of the chief differences is that today corporations raise most of their capital (money invested in them) through loans rather than through the stock market, where shares in the companies are bought and sold. But nonetheless the stock market does remain an important financial market, and this fall in stock prices is certainly significant.

It is significant because it is a barometer, a sign of the underlying and deep crisis which grips U.S. imperialism. This particular stock market crisis may pass, but the underlying crisis of which it is just one more sign will not. Although this plunge is not as bad as that of 30 years ago, the economic crisis which underlies it is even worse than that underlying the crash of Continued on page 1
The interview with the brother from Cleveland (RW Sept. 13) was powerful. It said so many things, so many things that we have felt and know. It brought to light the intrinsic contradiction from the RCP and who are opposing the RCP to build the necessary revolutionary machinery to unite and head working class and oppressed people, Black, Latino, Puerto Rican, Asian, and white, who are all stumped down by this foul and funny system to overthrow the repressive nationalities, repression because, like it rangel out in the brother’s interview, the RCP and its chairman Comrade Avakian, the foremost revolutionary in America, are revolutionary by name and practice. The same reason the ruling class is after the radical revolutionaries of all nationalities into its tent with and follow the brother who attended an RCP program recently said, “It looked like the U.S.—all these so-called revolutionary nationalities, repression from the U.N. They were banded together and carrying out the same politics of the working class. 

I think that the brother’s point about how the old Communist Party (CPUSA) took the Black struggle to the cleaners is well taken. But to take it a step further, that not only did the old CP sell out the Black struggle, it took the working class to the cleaners too. In fact, the old CP sell-out of the Black struggle was rooted and flowed directly from the CP shamelessly giving up on revolution and the revolutionary potential of the working class and becoming a full-time caboose of the Democratic Party. 

At the time in the CPUSA, rather than trying to bring revolutionary working class politics to the simmering Black struggle, cabossed its banner behind the NAAACP, claiming it was the vanguard of the Black struggle. Later they cabossed it behind King while denouncing Malcolm X as a police agent. These were the same backstabbers who in the early ‘60s had called for basically putting the hopes of the working class and the masses of people behind the Democratic Party. They said what was needed was a new administration which would start where the New Deal left off. These same revisionists also lead the CP to do what they’re doing today—tag along with and push straight out bourgeois nationalism. Check out Angela Davis. Anything will do to drag revolution back.

I agree with the brother—the CPUSA was never half the party the RCP is. For the last 40 years the CP has never been a revolutionary party—it was a party of reform, sometimes more militant reformism than others, but nevertheless reformist. It never was a revolutionary party actively preparing the masses every hour of the day for the overthrow of this system. Now our class and oppressed people have such a party—the RCP.

Inspired, R.G.

Contact the  
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, IL 60635

in your area:

Atlanta: Revolutionary Worker   1355 Sylvan Rd. S.W.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30310  
(404) 755-4431

Baltimore: Revolutionary Worker    P.O. Box 1959  
Baltimore, Md. 21203  
(301) 272-5412

Birmingham: P.O. Box 2334  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Boston: Revolution Books  
233 Massachusetts Ave.  
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Buffalo: Worker Center   
1131 Broadway  
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Chicago, IL 60635

In the case of the ‘50s, the CPUSA was the vanguard of the working class and became a full-time caboose of the Democratic Party.

They gave up all pretense of revolutionary class struggle and went to the sky’s the limit in class collaboration: the working class and its Party had an independent role to play, no need to organize all sections of society around its banner. This is something the old CP never really understood, even in its better days. Take organizing the CIO. It did trade union work and was keen deep in trade union reformist politics—but no communist politics and communist work. And the same was true of its work in the National Negro Congress which was built by the CPUSA and which here they did civil rights work, not communist work.

In the 50’s the CPUSA, rather than trying to bring revolutionary working class politics to the simmering Black struggle, cabossed it behind the NAAACP, claiming it was the vanguard of the Black struggle. Later they cabossed it behind King while denouncing Malcolm X as a police agent. These were the same backstabbers who in the early ‘60s had called for basically putting the hopes of the working class and the masses of people behind the Democratic Party. They said what was needed was a new administration which would start where the New Deal left off. These same revisionists also lead the CP to do what they’re doing today—tag along with and push straight out bourgeois nationalism. Check out Angela Davis. Anything will do to drag revolution back.

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Inspired, R.G.
Breaking With Old Ideas

Eugene, Oregon at 2 p.m. at Cinema 7

Portland, Oregon at 8 p.m., Northwest Service Center, 19th and N.W. Everett

Benefit for the Million Dollar Fund Drive
Sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Party.
Message from Communist Party of New Zealand

The Communist Party of New Zealand has been informed by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) of the U.S.A. that they face very serious attack by the U.S.A. Government.

This attack is aimed at the Chairman of the Party, Bob Avakian, and 16 others who were among 78 people arrested during demonstrations against Teng Hsiao-ping when he visited the U.S.A. in January 1979. They were originally charged with minor offenses. Now, after 3 years of preparation, the U.S.A. Government has multiplied the original charges against Bob Avakian and the 16 others dozens of times, till they now face each charge which carry potential prison sentences of over 200 years. This is an obvious attempt to intimidate revolutionaries in the U.S.A.

Teng Hsiao-ping was in America as the envoy of the new capitalist class of China who have sold out power and betrayed the socialist revolution, and opened the gates to foreign imperialism, and the new privileged class in China, to again exploit the Chinese working class. All the tremendous progress made in decades of socialist construction is now being rapidly reversed by these capitalist rulers.

These demonstrations (which were reported in People's Voice No. 2, 1979), succeeded well in exposing to the world the moves by Teng & Co. and the U.S.A. Government to turn the People's Republic of China into the U.S. imperialist war base. They also made clear that there are revolutionaries in the U.S.A. who refuse to follow the current rulers of China down the path of betrayal, and who continue to uphold the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism.

It is very important to the working class of the world that in America, heartland of one of the most powerful imperialist powers, actions like these demonstrate that there are revolutionaries in the U.S.A. who refuse to follow the current rulers of China down the path of betrayal, and who continue to uphold the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism.

They've Thrown Down the Gauntlet—A Deadly Serious Challenge, and a Truly Great Opportunity...

...to go straight up against this system and rock this country at its very foundation. This is a call for volunteers to join the front lines of the battle in Washington, D.C.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party is issuing a call, throughout this land, to Party members and all others who are willing and determined to make the necessary sacrifices to take their stand with the Party—to volunteer to go to Washington, D.C., beginning a few weeks before the trial starts on November 15, and continuing to its conclusion; to join the front lines of the battle to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants and Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian; to gather their combined force where the trial is to be held, in the very political capital of our imperialist rulers, and through their united efforts to take the issue of this trial, and the crucial political questions it concentrates, out to hundreds of thousands of people in the Washington, D.C. area, so that by the time the trial starts, and even more so through the course of it, this will become the major political question in that area and indeed throughout the country, known of and talked about on a daily basis by millions of people.

We aim at nothing less than turning that area into a major political and social force, and in so doing and through the support built in every major area, to rock this whole country to its foundation.

Two hundred "picketed troops" will be selected and sent, political to the Chinese in the U.S. imperialist war base. They also made clear that there are revolutionaries in the U.S.A. who refuse to follow the current rulers of China down the path of betrayal, and who continue to uphold the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The trial of Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants will begin Nov. 19th. To volunteer to be selected by the Party to serve on this battlefront, contact the address nearest you listed on page 2.

TURN D.C. UPSIDE-DOWN!

Message from the Italian Journal Corrispondenza Internazionale

The following telegram was received from the Italian Journal Corrispondenza Internazionale.

To the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party USA, in the name of the editorial board of Corrispondenza Internazionale, we record the staff's militant solidarity to comme Avakian and other RCP militants who U.S. imperialism is trying to intimidate exactly because of internationalist commitment.

It will extend in Italy knowledge of your struggle.

Trial of Mao

Continued from page 1

this slander is out of date, since the Chinese revolutionaries have already brought still more things done by Mao under fire. But nevertheless this slogan is a pretty accurate statement of the evidence on which these motley revolutionaries will be judging Mao: "He was a communist, not a bourgeois-democrat like us."

This revisionist "sum up" of Mao is actually a naked self-exposure by the current rulers. They are exactly what Mao called them—bourgeois-democrats. They were people who benefited from and supported the revolution up to a certain point—kicking out the foreign exploiters and domestic feudal forces, but increasingly resisting a revolution that went any further. Mao put it this way in 1975, "After the democratic revolution the workers and the poor and lower-middle peasants did not stand still, they wanted revolution. On the other hand, a number of Party members do not want to go forward; some have moved backward and opposed the revolution. Why? Because they have become high officials and want to protect the interest of high officials."

Word Games

Today, even as they fire on Mao, these revolutionaries are still hoping up to be their target. This is a reflection of the great prestige that Mao's revolutionary line still has among the Chinese people, even after three full years of reactionary political attacks. So they have tried, and are still trying, many tricks to throw people off guard.

The current rulers' whole approach since the coup in 1976 has been testimony to their political bankruptcy and cowardice. They've had to go through a twisted process to arrive at the point they are approaching today. When they first arrested the "gang of four," the revisionists tried to win people over by saying that Four had opposed Mao. The Chinese press was filled with personal slander and phony articles, "A Factual Report: What is the 'Gang of Four'?" (Peking Review, No. 3, January 1977). The second phase of their attack was to blast Mao's political opponents, but by pretending that it was only the line of the "gang of four." Now we are entering the final phase which will culminate around the trial, where Mao and the Four are linked back together by these revisionists and jointly thrown overboard.

Even today, the revisionists try to mask their outright attack on Mao by pretending they are simply attacking the "cult of the individual." Yet's speech, for example, says, "Leaders are not gods. They are not infallible and therefore should not be defiled... Even less can we permit any individual to have the right to proclaim himself the savior of the revolution and the masses." You don't have to read very far between the lines to see that these butcher revisionists, who have executed many genuine revolutionaries, are accusing Mao of being the one-man-head of what they have called the "fascist dictatorship of the gang of four!"

Mao more than once cleared away this sort of fog and got to the heart of the matter. He said, "Some people opposed Lenin, saying that he was a dictator. Lenin's reply was straightforward: 'better that I should be a dictator than you.'" And "opposition to the cult of the individual may also have one of two aims: one is opposition to an incorrect cult, and the other is opposition to reverence for others and a desire for reverence for oneself. The question at issue is not whether or not there should be a cult of the individual, but rather whether or not the individual concerned represents the truth... Our Party has stressed the combination of the role of the individual with collective leadership..."
Bob Avakian Talks with a Reformist Socialist

Just, Is Being Unrealistic?

Following is a portion of a radio talk show with Bob Avakian in Madison, Wisconsin.

Caller: B.A. you're on the air now. B.A.: Hi. The comment I would like to make on Mr. Avakian's speech is, I'm not exactly surprised that what he says seems rather detached from reality. I think it's abundantly clear that there's really very little relationship between what he's saying about the political situation in our country and what the political situation actually is. Now one thing I want to emphasize really don't want the impression that I'm not interested in the kind of things he's saying. I'm interested in the thinking that underlies the thinking that he says, I'm interested in the struggles that he's talking about, which are really fundamental. I'm interested in trying to unite all the working people and so on.

B.A.: A mean like Doug Fraser? Is that what you are referring to? People like that?

Caller: I certainly wouldn't rule Mr. Fraser and his union being part of some kind of platform or organization, and you see, trying to build a broader progressive movement that includes sections of the labor movement, citizens groups, social movements that are involved in the kind of things he's talking about, to be very soon approaching a kind of, a very serious, a very real, I just think this really is far from the reality of politics in the United States today.

B.A.: What you're saying is ...

Caller: I think it is also very unlikely that people are going to get very interested in a kind of politics that is interested in socialism that is, essentially and was, and still is today a one-party state. I think that people are interested, if they are interested in socialism, and if they can be interested in socialism, in a multi-party system, in a kind of democratic kind of socialism that tends political and economic and social liberties instead of restricting them.

B.A.: I would say after listening to you that you are the one that is completely detached from reality. I think that the reality of this society, with the reality of the tendencies of the capitalism that it is most fundamentally with the reality of what this system is all about. You're very surprised about a situation that has been tried for a couple of hundred years, which is essentially reformist and pseudo-socialist and being in the vanguard of bourgeois leaders like Doug Fraser.

B.A.: I beg your pardon.

B.A.: I would interrupt you. I would interrupt you if I were very patient, and I think that you owe it to the listeners out here to do the same thing. What you're saying is that you're not dealing with the reality of the system (that I think it is a dictatorship of the capitalist class which is enforced by force of arms. If you don't believe it then explain to me what happened to Fred Hampton, what happened at Kent State, what happened at Attica, what happened in Iran, what happened in Afghanistan, where you're not dealing with the reality of the system that this is a situation as it develops and most fundamentally with the reality of politics in the United States today.

B.A.: What are you saying it is ...

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October 1, British Columbia, Gazing out the bow of the chopper, I see the landscape through furrowed eyes—giving the picture an unequal quality, removal from the situation our class faces. Only hours before, Jimmy Carter had delivered his speech on the Soviet troops in Cuba. "We must be able to move our ground, sea and air units to distant areas rapidly and with adequate support. We are now facing a threat from an opponent or a possible threat to North America, second only to the weapons needed to protect our national interests," he said.

Fifty-five U.S. and Canadian ships converged off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Only the faint glow of lights in the night fog indicated the gathering armada. About 40,000 troops and 130 aircraft had come to this isolated spot on the coast of western Canada for one of the largest amphibious maneuvers in recent history. Lining beneath the surface were nuclear attack submarines, missiles and torpedoes at the ready. As the sky grew light and the fog lifted, the air was filled with helicopters while t tangling, waiting for the order to go ashore. The assault phase of Keflavik was due to begin at 7 a.m. All this was a "war game." The deadly game of preparing for war.

The day before as we pulled into the Esquimalt (Military) Base in British Colu mbia, I met with Admiral Martin, the third in command of our nation. We entered Building No. 74 for the meeting. Coffee and biscuits were served while plans for World War III were laid before us. "Vancouver," noted the Com mander of the Canadian Maritime Forces Pacific in a press briefing the same day as Carter's Cuba speech, "is now the second largest port in North America, second only to New York. But add to this the traffic that moves in and out of Seattle/Tacoma, the Portland ports and others, it's a very large port these days and also the strategic oil routes from Alaska, and you will understand that we are talking about a very important piece of water in terms of North American or Western defence. We are now facing a threat from an opponent or a possible opponent, who has world resources of oil.

And therefore a threat to North America or to western sea lines of communication can happen anytime and the west coast of North America would not be excluded from this.

But Admiral Martin delivered this with the cold precision of an accountant. He was a model of military eti quette, pressed uniform, his voice a monotone, an impasive face. The calculations of World War II are, after all, just part of the job. The operation supposed that the "orange force" had invaded and occupied Alaska and the west coast of Canada. Out of this radar station had been erected on the northern tip of Vancouver Island, guarding our two companies of "orange" troops. Blue forces were to proceed from the U.S. mainland via the submarine fast to the west coast of Canada. In case there was any question of who the "orange" forces were, a Canadian general clarified the point: "The orange side, or red side, or whatever colors you use to denote the enemy."

This move has met with little enthusiasm in the Canadian ranks. September 28 has been called "perhaps the most important day of the war, above and below, in the deadly game of putting the U.S. blue forces on a war footing." When the fog cleared off Vancouver Island the next morning the light revealed the cold calculations of the U.S.-sponsored imperialist alliance.

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But Admiral Martin delivered this with the cold precision of an accountant. He was a model of military eti quette, pressed uniform, his voice a monotone, an impasive face. The calculations of World War II are, after all, just part of the job. The operation supposed that the "orange force" had invaded and occupied Alaska and the west coast of Canada. Out of this radar station had been erected on the northern tip of Vancouver Island, guarding our two companies of "orange" troops. Blue forces were to proceed from the U.S. mainland via the submarine fast to the west coast of Canada. In case there was any question of who the "orange" forces were, a Canadian general clarified the point: "The orange side, or red side, or whatever colors you use to denote the enemy."

This move has met with little enthusiasm in the Canadian ranks. September 28 has been called "perhaps the most important day of the war, above and below, in the deadly game of putting the U.S. blue forces on a war footing." When the fog cleared off Vancouver Island the next morning the light revealed the cold calculations of the U.S.-sponsored imperialist alliance.
In the year 1095 the French pope Urban II called on his countrymen to stop fighting among themselves and join ranks against the infidel. So began the First Crusade to seize Jerusalem, which had fallen into the hands of the Turks. Coincidentally, Urban II's call for the crusade came at the same time as an appeal to the pope from the Byzantine emperor Alexius I in Constantinople, who was being threatened by the same heathen Seljuk Turks. With the cry of "God wills it!" the crusaders marched off with cross and sword, filled with blessings and indulgences from the pope. History does not record Alexius's response to these actions by Urban II, but there is little doubt that it could have been aptly expressed in the words of the New York Times in the wake of the visit to the U.S. by Urban's modern day successor, John Paul II. "Here is a pope that knows how to p辭." In a far cry from the days when American Catholics squirmed under the charge that if a Catholic were ever elected president the pope would be in the White House, the pope was in the White House— Blessing the crowd from the balcony, with the permission of a Southern Baptist. The warm welcome and fulsome praise the U.S. ruling class showered on the pope was well deserved. In seven days, in the U.S. he delivered 63 speeches, and while the themes varied slightly, in every case he plucked the right cords and strummed the right tune. He began in Boston as he stopped off the plane and hailed "America the Beautiful," using the words of the hymn "God crown your good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea." In New York's Madison Square Garden he addressed a rally of 19,000 youth, admonishing them against rebellion and concern with material goods. In Iowa he walked through the "amber waves of grain," and extolled the Christian values of America, the hard work and respect for the simple life, virtue and authority. But it was in Chicago that he gave his heaviest pitch for the unity of the American people to meet the challenges ahead.

Chicago, the largest Catholic Archdiocese in the country, is well known for its plurality of nationalities, a large Black population, and hundreds of thousands of people of Eastern and Southern European origin. And historically, Chicago has been a city where the bourgeoisie has most successfully used its divide-and-rule tactics, pitting the various nationalities against one another, promoting racism and national divisions to prevent the masses from uniting against a common exploiter and oppressor, the capitalist class itself. But at the same time, the bourgeoisie is very happy to try to unite the working class that the students and parents have fought vigorously to keep open, they made sure that Black faces were visibly present in the liturgical ceremonies.

But his appeal to the unity of the American people was broad, his stand on matters of Catholic faith and doctrine was rigidly sectarian. If anything, John Paul's sermonizing in the U.S. was marked by a rejection of the ecumenism and eclesiastical reformism attributed to his predecessors, especially Pope John 23. He was rigid in his assertions that Catholics must adhere to traditional Church teaching on birth control, abortion, marriage, celibacy for priests and the second-rate status of women. For all of his preaching about human rights and the dignity and equality of all individuals, he was adamant that women should stick to their convents, or stay at home as mothers and wives, with no place in areas of leading responsibility or office.

There was also very little teaching out to the "humbled brothers" of other faiths and denominations. His message was that this is the one, true, holy and apostolic Church, the largest and most disciplined church in the world, still the church of the Spanish Inquisition that demanded absolute doctrinal obedience and proclaimed the damnation of all those who refused to accept its divine authority.

It wasn't quite as blatant as in the old days, but the message was the same.

This toughness on questions of the Church corresponded to his general "touchy stand" that the bourgeoisie was so afraid of. He reached back to the ignorance and superstition that was the foundation of the faith in the Middle Ages. You can't understand the world. So stand with humility and in silence and follow the orders and eternal truths handed out by those who know better, who have a direct pipeline to the mysterious, to God. You can't know the difference between good and evil yourself, so we will define good and evil. Anyone who does not accept all this will not be saved.

This was the Church Militant in the figure of John Paul 2. At almost every stop, choir belted out on cue the church fight song: "Faith of our fathers living still, in spite of fire, dungeon and sword... we will be true to you till death." Here was a pope to preach a new crusade against the infidels, i.e., those godless "communists" in the...
The following article about the role of the Iranian working class in the overthrow of the Shah and the development of the struggle of the workers of Iran since, is the fourth in a series of articles about the Iranian revolution by Bob Satteil, a revolutionary activist and writer who has recently returned from a two and a half month stay in Iran. He was in the thick of the developing revolutionary struggle of the people from Tehran to Kurdistan and is now writing a book on his trip, which will be published in a few months.

Most of Iran's three million workers are concentrated in urban centers like the oil cities of Abadan and Ahwaz in the south, the developed region around Tabriz, and the capital city of Tehran. Also, most have recently come from the countryside. Zabatoshallah was a exception, and like others who moved to the cities from the isolated traditional existence of rural life, his eyes were opened.

"I began working as a construction worker in Savobad (the Shah's compound of 16 palace in Northern Tehran), where the Shah was making a palace for his mother. We heard they spent over 1 ton on it (about $100 million). He described his daily trip from his home in the dusty, narrow alleys of congested southern Tehran to the Shah's house, cool and fresh with its wide streets, multitude of trees, and expensive mansions for the rich. "When I went home, I would see where other workers lived; they wanted a place to rest and sleep, and made homes of tents and broken bricks. When there were no building materials around, they dug holes in the ground. But the people didn't even live in peace here, as the Shah's troops regularly attacked and destroyed their makeshift homes to protect the profits of land speculators."

One architect had told him the palace was costing 1 million roubles ($100,000) a day to build, yet he made a mere 20 qozums ($2-3 per day) -- barely enough to pay for his cab fare to and from work, and a lunch of bread and cheese. If he hadn't lived with his brother, he couldn't have survived.

His brother, also a construction worker, had once asked his boss for a raise: he was not with the same response that the Shah's fascist regime dealt to any workers who resisted: "We only pay what you get, and if you want more, I'll introduce you to SAVAK." Under the Shah's "enlightened" rule all workers organizations were illegal, and workers who led strikes were subject to execution.

"I wondered why we were so poor?" Zabatoshallah continued. "And more and more I began to understand the Shah's regime. But we must also thank the students. They were pioneers. They told us about the real face of the regime and what was going on Iran. We know the Shah's imperialists and capitalists--that we must work for them and they have all the money. I've known work since childhood, but what capital has done this!"

"Even though there were the story of the people who exploded in a torrent of struggle last year. But within this stream of people from nearly all classes in society, the working class, particularly the oil workers, played a special role. I talked to Iranians from many walks of life, and they all testified to the powerful role played by workers during the past year's revolutionary storm.

The Role of the Workers in Overthrowing the Shah

While the power was not led by the working class, when the oil workers came on the scene in a big way in late 1978, the struggle to overthrow the Shah was advanced to a new level at a decisive point. Realizing the strength of the workers class and its resolve, the regime propped many other classes into the struggle and tried to make them take bold steps toward actually bringing down the Shah's regime.

"Consider me politically advanced," one phone company engineer told me. "But when some of our workers demanded the overthrow of the Shah last November, I thought they were crazy. I could see demands like freeing political prisoners, but this was too much."

But the oil workers' strikes which started in October were far from crazy. Demanding freedom for political prisoners, an end to military rule, and breaking from the imperialist-controlled oil companies, as well as wanting the Shah's overthrow in some cases, this bold action unleashed a wave of strikes throughout Iran that virtually shut down the economy--from government office workers to factory workers, and from Tehran to November until the insurrection in February.

In conversations with people touched by this, however, it became clear to me than the political consciousness of the workers was influenced by the revolutionary Left, signified much more than simply the discovery of a new weapon to add to Iran's arsenal of mass protests, street barricades, and riotovut cocktails. Its impact went far beyond crippling the economy. The oil workers demanded, and they got it, as much as even for the regime's desperate offer of a 100% wage increase to get them back to work, deepened the existing revolutionary movement and gave it a more fundamentally anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist thrust.

Workers all over Iran began raising political demands and the struggle beyond overthrowing the Shah, and hit at the roots of imperialist exploitation of Iran and the Shah's fascists dictatorship. Workers in the finance ministry demanded the expulsion of all foreign encryptionists, with the foreign oil consortium, and even breaking the link between dollar and the rial, Iran's currency. Bank workers demanded foreign advisors be expelled, leaving special emphasis on military advisors. Newspapers, radio and television workers and writers attacked censorship and SAVAK presence in all of their offices, demanding freedom of the press.

During the winter months of '78-'79 the power plant workers in Tehran turned off the power every night at 9 to just when the Shah's national news was to be aired (and about this time curfew was to be imposed). Workers in steel, machine tools, auto, airlines and dozens of other industries were waging political strikes like these. In January, workers in Tehran demonstrated under the banner "Workers to Destroy the Roots of Imperialism."

A engineer friend described how GTE (General Telephone and Electronics) and Bell Telephone plundered Iran and structured a "network" so Iran would be even more dependent on imperialism.

As the Bell workers got out and told them to get out. They asked for half an hour. We were there more than an hour. As the Bell employees left a busy exit, the sky was filled withersheds of paper. "Tacker tape" goodbye? No, it was the reams of all their imperialist paperwork.

"The Revolution Must Go Forward"

The Iranian workers' stand was fundamentally opposed to the narrow, reformist leanings of the leadership of the Shah's regime, centered around Iran's national bourgeoisie and religious hierarchy. Even before the overthrow of the regime in February there was sharp struggle between all the workers' organizations opposed to the Shah tried to cool out the oil workers' struggle and narrow its aims.

In January, Khomeini sent soon to be prime minister Bazargan to the southern oil fields to try to get the oil workers to increase their domestic production (which could be used by the Shah's military) and to soften their anti-imperialist stand. After Bazargan returned complaining he had "no respect for religion," one of the workers' leaders (who was later arrested) summed up Bazargan's trip to Abadan much differently: "The Shah's regime is exploiting the death of the traitor regime and monopolizing the whole revolution."

So naturally in the days following the insurrection the workers set out to fundamentally root out the exploitation and oppression of the old system or simply to demand a few reforms from the same old semi-colonial, semi-feudal foundation-whether to trade one set of exploiters for another--raged on.

In factories across Iran, workers rose up mostly independent of the student movement which faced at the hands of the imperialists and the big Iranian bourgeoisie. They threw foreign owners and technicians, as well as hated bosses and SAVAK agents, out of their offices. Thousands demanded their wages be paid since November, their jobs guaranteed, and that workers who had been fired be given political rights during the new revolution; and they showed in embryo that many fought to ensure that the workers' rights to strike and organize politically would be protected.

The revolutionary Left, especially the Marx-Leninist organizations, dove into this turmoil and had great strides in linking up with the workers and giving their struggle conscious direction and leadership. Indeed, the phenomenon of revolutionary going to factories workers' organizations to become so widespread that no less than Prime Minister Bazargan was forced to write to students saying "I want all those students getting jobs in the factories?"

What do they want besides jobs? By the end of the year, it is clear that didn't know. Numerous leaflets put out by or for the workers today speak not only workers' new demands. But to the main political battles in Iran: from supporting the Kurdish rebellion to denouncing the new constitution and exposing the continued influence of U.S. talk to their new masters, the government.

One woman described to me how she should have been at the Shah (the Shah stand-in) fled for his life in February, hundreds of students gathered daily at Tehran University and go to different striking factories to support the workers and spread revolutionary consciousness. In one factory she and a hundred other students spent day and night for nearly a week. Despite the stop political discussion, these revolutions presented a play based on Gorky's novel about the Bolshevik revolution, 'The Messenger, bringing many of the workers to this new understanding.

Since the February insurrection, the

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economic crisis of the new regime has deepened, due to the legacy of imperialist domination of Iran, and the new regime's inability to transform the economy in the interests of the masses of the people. Millions of workers have borne the brunt of this, with nearly 40% of them unemployed, and inflation raging unabated. In fact the current economic situation is much the same, if not worse than under the past regime. This has led to numerous strikes, sit-ins, and demonstrations of workers of many different industries.

Islamic Government Clamps Down

Sensing the potentially decisive role of the working class when it is politically armed and conscious of its role in being able to actually lead the other oppressed classes in Iran to advance the revolution, the Khomeini-Bazargan government has clamped down on the workers' struggle in all spheres. They have tried ten or twelve times, but have been repeatedly attacked by the Komitehs.

In April, a revolutionary worker, Nasser Poufigheian, was murdered in Isfahan, in an act that enraged workers throughout Iran. The workers have since set up their own security system, and actually openly asked themselves whether they would organize another public meeting, but that any attacks upon it would be met by armed forces. A recent battle in Isfahan shows not only the growing strength of communists among the workers but the length the new government has gone to suppress the workers' struggle. Unemployed construction workers had called a conference to form their own union and press the battle for jobs. Over 1,000 workers attended this meeting, at which the police had a large presence. The komiteh there to "protect" the meeting, allowed armed restaurantiers to organize the reactionaries in breaking it up. After all the leaders and charged them with instigating a disruption! Not to be cowed, the workers immediately marched to where their comrades were imprisoned and began a sit-down strike which lasted until their release.

These examples show the crucial life and death nature of the struggle going on in Iran. The working class and all the oppressed classes in Iran are faced with the task of advancing the revolution in the face of a growing reactionaries that are approaching, the working class will be called upon to play an even more decisive role than in the past in smashing the oppressors and exploiters of the Iranian people and in its mission to eliminate all oppression and exploitation. Talking to workers I asked Zahabiollah which issues the leaders and charged them with instigating a disruption! Not to be cowed, the workers immediately marched to where their comrades were imprisoned and began a sit-down strike which lasted until their release.

Great Battles Ahead

In spite of this terror, the revolutionary Left continues to work in these difficult conditions in the oil fields. The fact that the oil workers' syndicate has openly protested the arrests of the three revolutionary oil workers referred to earlier, as well as the new press law, shows that the revolutionary spirit of these workers remains unbroken.

There are many other examples of the class war raging in Iran. At the Iranian National plant, a huge auto factory in western Tehran, for instance, workers have been attacked and beaten for the "anti-revolutionary" crime of trying to hold meetings to establish workers' councils. In Isfahan, a city in central Iran with a large working class population, thousands of workers called meetings to organize a city-wide union. They have tried ten or twelve times, but have been repeatedly attacked by the Komitehs.

Zahabiollah's family asked me why I wanted to study Iran and support the Iranian revolution. I told them of the growing strength of communists among the workers, the Iranian revolution. I explained that I felt that imperialism was the common enemy of the people all over the world. Zahabiollah responded without hesitation: "Well, there's only one thing to do. We must wipe imperialism from the face of the earth."
Flats clenched tight around iron bars, knuckles gleam. Glimpses of tense Black faces. Anxiety, as 40 people line up behind the recently constructed 8-foot high prison gates surrounding their homes. Are the people from Soweto? No. This is Cabrini-Green, the once-complex of concrete high-rises that houses 35,000 Black people on Chicago's near North Side. Cabrini-Green was featured on TV's "Good Times." Beyond the fence, only a few blocks to the east looms the glittering Gold Coast, the dazzling lights of the Rush Street night clubs and tree-lined Magnificent Mile.

The residents of Cabrini-Green assembled behind the fence in a dramatic protest against not only the fence itself but the oppression that the fence has come to symbolize: "We are not in prison. We are not animals in a cage." In places, the thick iron bars have been sawed through, leaving gaping holes. People have tried to dig out its foundations, so sections of the fence have been sunk in concrete trenches four feet wide and three feet deep.

**Bob Avakian**

*Continued from page 5*

**Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky**, making precisely the point that there could be no abolition of capitalism without a violent revolution, and without the violent support of an overwhelming capitalist class, and reactionary elements and this is in fact a lesson of history and even Allende, who tried to do basically what you're talking about. Critical of the socialism, I think, to carry out a number of reforms with capitalism still intact — look at the country today, how do you sum that up?

M.G.: There's a time out for a second here in case anybody tuned in I don't think they will quite be able to figure out what the hell is going on. I'm sorry.

W.O.R.T. this evening, Bob Avakian, the Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee - Party of the United States is here discussing with one of our listeners various aspects of the present revolutionary situation in the United States and the possibility of a socialist out of the current political conditions if I could in the most abstract sense sum up their argument. So far as I've been able to hear, neither one of them has been terribly specific about what this situation might be or how it's going to happen but they both have put forward a good deal of theoretical analysis.

**B.A.:** See, I don't think the question when you're talking about world war is at all abrupt or lacks any specificity. If you look at the events around you, here in the U.S., all of a sudden making a big fuss about Russian troops in Cuba which they have known for years are there, and the possibility of that, for example, that's a thing that is part of their propaganda arsenal to condition people to getting prepared for world war. If you look at this phenomenon of the SALT agreement and propaganda being done around it, and the whole debate being done around it, it is clearly to whip up sentiment toward war. If you look at China and Vietnam, or you look at Ethiopia, or you look at almost any part of the world, you can see these two forces lining up head to head. You see the SALT agreement and the development of these MX missiles is almost immediately developed right after it. And you have to be deeply fearful or not face up to the fact of what's going on in the world. And we can go into innumerable specifics of that that I don't have time to get into. That is that this economy is in deeper crisis. That's rather obvious, but the question is why people like Doug Frasier and others all of a sudden, doing what they are doing? It was very recently that he said, "Doug Frasier and his position, because that is precisely the view of Doug Frasier and the whole national bureaucrats. Lenin rightly called them labor aristocrats and we think that it's a good idea to learn that, to look at what the real people who make large salaries and identify openly their interests with the U.S. ruling class, whip up this chauffeurist stuff against OPEC, trying to blame them for the oil crisis, and people who have in fact treated the union like their union, and even when the situation was very tough, as with the steel wildcats it was Doug Frasier who in the past, for a year again, and hasn't changed his nature, organized a goon squad with brick bats of a thousand union men, and dare the strikers, the physically assaulted workers on strike against Chrysler. This is the kind of person that our caller here wants to rely upon and wants to work with or try to work with, and this is the kind of so-called democratic socialism.

**W.O.R.T.:** Would our caller like to make some kind of comments I suppose in defense of himself and his beliefs?

**Caller:** Several comments, I think one is that with regards to Mr. Avakian's contentions about the violent and peaceful transition and what people have previously said about it, I think that as an old veteran of biblical Marxists expect like Mr. Avakian is, I think he should realize that there are places in Marx and Lenin and most everybody else when they speak about the possibility of a more or less peaceful transition to socialism, so I guess the point I would make is, simply I can't solve any arguments like this by saying, "I'm an international revolutionary" or some particular theory. Second of all I think the question of Mr. Avakian's political strategy and the relationship between reality is not inculpatory in the question of the violent or peaceful nature of a revolution, whenever that revolution might occur and so on, because really I mean his political strategy is not based on the around the idea that the transition to socialism might be peaceful, it's based more around a whole series of other ideas. Like, for instance, Mr. Avakian's idea, I think the one that he can simply ignore the fact that Frasier is the leader of a large union, he has a lot of power, and the United Auto Workers are making important moves toward a revolutionary trade union consensus that has existed before at the top levels of the American labor movement. He (B.A.) sees that as completely insignificant, he doesn't want to work with these people, indeed he denounces them in the most extreme terms and I think, as a matter of fact, reduces the chance of any possibility of getting a system of the labor movement that's part of a more progressive left-wing movement. I think correctly in Mexico he would certainly oppose strategies like the Common Sense Coalition, which tries to bring together a lot of unaffiliated leftist progressive people and work in elections and work on things like the Municipal Gas and Electric increase and for a broad coalition, and things like that. I mean these are very specific kinds of things that people do respond to, especially those things that are very specific and of a high quality, and you have to have a significant amount of unity among all activists who are able to be able to reach the big idea. You have to talk to them in their language, and let them learn.

**B.A.:** Well you think that I would almost call it violence, but certainly the question about some of the tactics that Mr. Avakian approaches his political position in itself a positive thing and something which would jar people out of their complacency? Can you substitute something for that?

**Caller:** I think the proof is in the pudding on that. I think that history has shown fairly conclusively that people, if they do adopt a radical political perspective, are brought to it through their own experiences, the high talking with people you know, with organizations with which they've had contact for a long time that they trust, and that in fact extreme rhetoric, a very high-pitched rhetoric, it's very ineffective, I think that was shown in the history of numerous sect groups like the Trotskyites, the American Free Thought movement, a lot of various Maoist formations — go back 10-15 years, it's back to a certain period in the evolution of the communist movement when rhetoric was very extreme, like for instance the 1928-1934 period when the communist movement shrunk to a small piece of its former self. It didn't do anything that was important in the era of the popular front and the resistance when they were thinking in a more moderate line and emphasized the unity of all progressive forces. I don't want to get too deeply into this debate, but I think that the contrast is there between the approach that emphasizes unity and people learning through their own experiences and an approach that more tries to tell them what they should think.

**B.A.:** Thank's very much for calling. You've really been a very enlightening caller and you posed some good questions to Bob Avakian. I just want to go on to say that perhaps some other people might appreciate your insight. You've given me a real challenge, OK.

**Caller:** Thank you very much.

**B.A.:** Let me just say that I think that the very comments he makes that people relate more to elections reflect exactly the period we've been going through when there has been an ebb of the upsurge of the '60s and early '70s when millions of people learned lessons that people like him would not have been able to peddle among them any longer. They learned about the fruitlessness of voting for these various politicians. They learned about the fruitlessness of trying to work with people like Doug Frasier, or work with people like the heads of the Machistins' Unions, Womp, or whatever he calls himself. They learn the fruitlessness of trying to work with people, like he puts it very openly, who have power because those people are in power meaning the bourgeoisie, give them to them to exercise on their behalf. And millions of people learned that the only way to make any change in this system was to rise up and fight tooth and nail, without compromise against it. And because there's been an ebb in that and the strength of that mass movement has not been there, some people have become temporarily discouraged and even forgotten some of the lessons that were even paid for in food in that period. The revolution is precisely not a religion, it's a fact that what we should also scientifically sum up what we've learned here as well as around the world. People paid for it in blood, the blood of more than two dozen Panthers, the blood of people at Kent State, as well as the blood of many others in this country and all over the world, that in fact trying to work in and with this system cannot bring any fundamental or lasting change and in fact very often strengthens the hold politically and outright militarily that the system has over people. And that's the lesson that people are so far not doing the learning in their millions.

**Caller:** OK, might want to call up again and ask Bob Avakian a question....
Behind the Lockdown at Walla Walla

Rebellion and Retaliation

This report was written by a brother from Walla Walla.

Out in March, struggling prisoners inside segregation at the Washington State prison have ended their strike. The breakthrough came when guards, tired of having to wade through flooded toilet waters, urine and feces, decided to put a stop to the situation.

After two sessions of negotiations, a cut in the guard's pay was agreed to. Administrators agreed to return personal properties and to other concessions on the condition that prisoners clean up the area.

Power went on the line by refusing to sit down in the sun. In fact, it was cut off after the prisoners refused to sit down in the sun. The strike ended after about a week.

After the strike ended, the guards continued to refuse to sit down in the sun. The strike ended after about a week. The guards continued to refuse to sit down in the sun. The strike ended after about a week.

Prisoners' Press Conference

Heads erect and proud, the 14 men filed into the room. As they took their seats, cameras rolled. It was the first time convicts at Washington State Penitentiary had met with the press since May 9th - when three prisoners made international news, seizing hostages and a prison building until they were allowed to air their grievances to the press.

While the prison entered its 10th day of lockdown, the prison administration was once again forced to grant inmates a press conference. No prisons were present.

The inmate chairman opened the conference. "At 9:15 I was called out and was there to be a 45-minute time limit. We were assured before... that there would be no time limit... It's been over 100 days since we've been locked down. Everybody in the state is getting fed up. The prisoners have not been heard from. It's our time and we are asking you to stay with us until the end of this conference.

We are being followed by several visits of the federal authorities. A small man was drunk at the time... We could hear gunshots all night long, and we're approximately 16, fired off that night. What you got to do now is go out and stop people in here doing life. You got people doing life for forgery. For burglary. And you watch guards take and beat prisoners, ram batons up their ass and try their damndest to kill them without any repercussions, and then you're supposed to sit back and be guarded by the same guards for the next 15 years. It don't make sense to me... There's blanks going off all over. There's those crisp sheets... The situation in the institution since June 15 is comparable to being in a war zone. No teléfono and no way out. It don't do any good to cut off all the rafters. You can only get to the next one when you've been hit and the poison will kill you..."

—David Bailey

Testimony continued as each man came to the mike. Several times the administrators tried to end the conference. A sharp back-and-forth ensued among prisoners, reporters and administrators. After the inmates' testimony and some questions by the press, the prison authorities moved in to clear the room. It was only after the room had been cleared that acting superintendent Jim Cummings dared appear.

With the prisoners' demands still unanswered, and some falling short of the general population's expectations, the inmates were asked to support their prisoners with writing...
Regional Conferences on Two Key Battles

During the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October, six regional conferences were held across the country to discuss and debate taking up the two most important battles facing our class—the battle to stop the railroad of Bob Avakian and the Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants, and the battle to build for a mass revolutionary May Day 1980. The conferences were sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Party, the United Workers Organization, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee of the War, and the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. From New York to Honolulu and from Birmingham to Detroit, revolutionary minded workers and other fighters got down and made preparations to "Take the Revolutionary Future Into Our Hands" as one of the slogans for the conferences put it. The following is a report from the Midwest conference, held in Detroit.

I came to the conference in Detroit prepared to get down and deal with some matters of key importance for the revolutionary struggle in the U.S. I had hoped that the necessary unity would be forged to be able to mobilize people to go out and do battle in the condition free Bob Avakian and the 16 other Mao Tsetung Defendants and pull off a mass revolutionary May Day 1980. But I have to say that my mind was blown by the depth, grandeur and high level of the political discussion and debate that went on. This was real. This was preparation to make history. Here were many of the advanced fighters in the working class of all nationalities getting down as the RCP speaker put it, "to take the revolutionary future into our hands and in a way that hasn't been done before in this country." Besides workers there were Vietnam veterans, students, youth and others oppressed by the capitalist class that has its foot on our necks.

In the course of the meeting, I learned that my own understanding of the crucial nature of these two key battles, and of the actual possibility of winning these battles and taking real leaps towards revolution in this country had not been as sharp and deep as it needed to be. I had to deepen my understanding and firm up my grasp in order to be able to carry out these tasks to the max. The RCP speaker set the tone from the start:

"We've got to understand right from the beginning of this conference and what we believe the outcome of it will be is historic because we aim to do nothing less than change the face of this country, change the way millions look at the system and change the way millions look at the working class ..." He spoke to the the vital role that the people attending the conference had to play:

"Let's face it! It's about time the advanced got shit together! Don't tell me that all of a sudden without thousands taking a stand, without thousands daring to come forward and lead, that millions are just going to pick up and be in the revolution." The first item on the agenda for discussion was the battle to Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian and the Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants—the most important and key battle facing the American working class and oppressed people in this country at this time. A battle to defeat the bourgeois' attempt to cripple the RCP and kill its potential by cutting it off at the source. As one of the Mao Tsetung Defenders, a worker, put it in his speech to the meeting, "The bourgeoisie is trying to put away the great revolutionary leader the American working class has ever produced before most of America even knows whom he is."

I had already volunteered to go to Washington, D.C. to be on the frontlines of the battle to free the Chairman and the Mao Defendants—I was fully prepared to make the necessary sacrifices, but the statements and struggle from the floor drove the significance of Bob Avakian's contribution to the revolutionary movement and the crucial, truly life and death importance of keeping him out of the bourgeoisie's clutches about ten levels deeper into my brain. This was not a question of defending an idol that people should worship. As

Take History Into Our Hands
May Day 1980

It's long overdue for the slaves of this country to break openly and powerfully with the slave masters. The image of the U.S. working class as contented and ignorant tools must be shattered and destroyed.

We are not the passive pieces of machinery our rulers wish we were. The machines of labor leadership, the trade union class preaching faiths in the American way is proof enough of that. They know, and fear, that there are those among us whose eyes are wide open, who see the bankruptcy and hypocrisy of this "best of all possible worlds," where forced animal-like existences make suicide and murder as normal as childbirth—and this madness pollutes in the scale of their plunder worldwide! They know, and fear, that more will swallow these stones as they crumble they're tossed diminishing along with the illusions they foster.

All who already see what is dead and dying and what must be put in its grave must come forward as a combined force, to hold aloft the revolutionary banner of our class. We can shake awake our broader ranks to see what's shaping up in the world, unleash feelings that have been dulled and locked up all too much by the rut of everyday life and begin to indicate the bright future ahead.

Today we can make a decisive step in this direction.

We will do it with our feet. We will do it by refusing to follow the daily routine, refusing to go to work, to school, to look for a job. We WILL DO IT BY MARCHING IN THE STREETS ON MAY 1, 1980. And we will be saying in a way unheard before in this country—Capitalists, the working class—not your stables backbone of society, but your GRAVEDIGGERS—have arrived!

There is no time to waste. World wide crisis, approaching war, the godfathers of the world, the imperialist rulers of this country and their counterparts in the Soviet Union, have everything at stake. They are already coldly calculating how many people can be sacrificed to their profit and still have enough left to exploit and exploit the suffers of the world. Their heads are on the allies' corner of the earth, propping up their petty cloths. But their monstrous crimes call forward turbulent upsurges. Already they are wounded, as in Iran, in Nicaragua, guns of revolution have opened fire and will continue to do so.

In the ghettos and barrios, where millions are imprisoned at the bottom of society, flames flare up. Their murdering police are attacked. Turnstall is shimmering throughout this country, but with a question—is it to be only a righteous stand for two days of justice, or once again a fight for restoration of the system as it is, to stop that? Going nowhere? Is there the strength and the forces to carry it through?

The fires of the '70s fueled our burning hatred, while the rulers labeled the working class the "slant majority." They threw our eyelids to the facts of mass die and held up Archie Bunker, consciously working doubletime to smother our potential strength. To our shame, they paraded flag-waving hucksters who attacked the students we should have been leading. But now the stakes are up. Their vicious attack on our revolutionary leadership, their attempted railroad of Bob Avakian and the 16 other Mao Defendants is what our rulers know this all too well.

We must come from behind, catch up to the gathering momentum and momentum people put into it, enabling the revolutionary movement and the conscious understanding of the millions of people to take a leap forward, to keep pace with the rapidly changing times. And we must do this now, for if we do not we may very well miss the tremendous possibilities that lie ahead.

It's no accident May 1 must be our target, May Day is International Workers Day. Around the world a force already exists—outside us—that each year takes May 1 as its own, our brothers and sisters of every flag, gaining momentum to drive the red one of revolution. The capitalists know this and cringe at each May Day, because those who have crushed and robbed in every part of the globe shout their dooms. They close ranks with Russian tanks, smothering our history in lies, saying "See This is how all your struggle will end."

But think of it, what it will mean—the giant heart of the international proletariat will sweep a boat thousands of their own through the streets of America, ushering in a new decade.

They will try to stop us, any way they can. But they will not contain us on May 1. We will face all repercussions knowing that our action will have a tremendous impact on countless more who hate this system but wait for the right moment to act. They will be able to see the opposing forces lining up and many will recognize their true interests, support our action, defend it and themselves take up the banner we will be raising.

We will show, on May Day, that the U.S. working class is maturing and developing a revolutionary section that dares to proclaim its determination.

To stand united, white, black, Asian, Latin, Indian, foreign born and American born as one to fight this capitalist system and the oppression, discrimination, and inequality it thrives on.

To stand firm in refusing to allow the ruling class to strike down those who stand in the forefront of the fight for the revolutionary interests of the masses.

To stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers and oppressed of the world, welcoming and drawing inspiration from the oppressed of other countries when they strike a blow at our rulers, the U.S. imperialists, or any other similar oppressors.

To discard fully the bloody red, white and blue, tirelessly exposing what's left of their worn out moves and preparing to make war, not for them, but against them.

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 be serving?
one speaker from the floor said:

"Bob Avakian doesn't say, 'Hey, I'm your leader and you are my followers.' No. He says, 'Look, get off your knees and take up the science of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought and make revolution. Don't wait for no savior,'" Bob Avakian said, "I've thought to check out dialectics," Bob Avakian has used dialectics and the science of Marxism-Leninism and solved problems here in the U.S."

It comes right down to the fact that defining Bob Avakian means defining revolution in this country. We cannot let him put the Chairman in jail because he is a very real man, as one person put it:

"While putting Bob away isn't going to change the fact that revolution is inevitable, whether they put him in jail or not could mean the difference in making revolution before World War 3 and possibly avoiding it or after millions and perhaps hundreds of millions of working people worldwide have been roosted in a nuclear showdown between the two superpowers."

This is exactly the kind of stakes around this case. The enemy in its own way senses this and that's why Bob is facing 241 years in jail and who knows what else if they get him in their clutches.

Making History

I was beginning to grasp that this struggle was an historic moment. The outcome of this battle would have real bearing on another moment in the future-the revolutionary situation that Lenin was referring to when he wrote, "It is not so often that history places this form of struggle on the order of the day, but then its significance is felt for decades to come. Days on which such method of struggle can and must be employed are equal to scores of years of other-historical epochs."

The next few months would have a profound effect on the future. The possibility of bringing significant numbers of advanced workers and other fighters into the struggle and carrying out revolutionary work on a broader and greater scale than ever before and influencing millions is now at stake. The people in the auditorium and at the other conferences around the country were the key factor in setting this opportunity to advance toward revolution with giant strides. Meeting, struggling to forge a solid core of fighters for the battle ahead. An auto worker was the last to speak from the floor during the first session:

"This is a real challenge. This is our future. If we are talking about rising up and putting an end to this hell-hole, then we got to do this here... The Bolshevik Party and the Chinese Communist Party, they arose to the occasion, they defended Lenin, they defended Mao Tsetung... All genuine parties defend their leaders and that’s what the ICP and the American people are going to do..."

The first session ended with the announcement that the resolution to "use all the vehicles available-especially the Revolutionary Worker!" for the campaign to free the Mao Tsetung Defendants and stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian. Part of this resolution called for holding a conference the next day to prepare for the second session the Mao Tsetung Defendants and Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian. Part of this resolution called for holding a conference the next day to prepare for the second session.

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Palacios

Continued from page 1

he had heard of the RCP of Chile and Palacios' visit to New York City. Because he knew Palacios to be a genuine revolutionary leader, this youth came forward to offer to help pro-

tromote Comrade Palacios while he was touring New York City.

The first leg of the tour began on the East Coast, with speeches in New York City and Washington, D.C. Palacios' powerful speeches helped to build a strong revolutionary movement in the United States. The tour continued to the West Coast, with stops in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and California. The tour was met with great enthusiasm, and the working class and masses of people were armed with a genuine revolutionary perspective.

Throughout the tour, Palacios emphasized the importance of international Solidarity. He argued that the struggles in Chile and other revolutionary countries were interconnected, and that the victory in one country would be a victory for all.

After the tour, the RCP of Chile continued to work to build the revolutionary movement in the United States, and to support the liberation struggles of the people of Chile and other oppressed nations around the world.
Trial of Mao

Continued from page 14

On the last page of page 14, we saw that the decision of the Chinese government to arrest Lin Piao and the other main figures of the Gang of Four was an attempt to deal with the crisis that had gripped the country for several years. This crisis was caused by the failure of the Chinese revolution to achieve its goals, as well as by the corruption and mismanagement of the Chinese leadership. The arrest of Lin Piao and the Gang of Four was seen as a step towards the purification of the Chinese leadership and the restoration of the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese people. However, the trial of Mao and the other figures of the Gang of Four was not only a political move, but also a cultural and social one. The trial was seen as a means of bringing the Chinese people together and creating a sense of national unity. The trial of Mao and the Gang of Four was also seen as a means of providing a clear statement of the Chinese government's commitment to the goals of the Chinese revolution. The trial of Mao and the Gang of Four was a significant event in the history of China, and it had a profound impact on the country and the world.
Frame-up of Ex-Panther Leader Exposed

The railroad of Geronimo Pratt, former leader of the Black Panther Par-

t, the elderly convict who spent eight of the last nine years in the hole at San
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class to cover up that injustice is as clear today as it was before.

Rebuttal evidence is further proof of what was obvious from the start, that Pratt's real crime was daring to be a revolutionary. He was a member of the Defense of the Panther's L.A.

Chapter, he became a main target for the FBI's most sophisticated (counter intelligence program) designed to "neutralize" or "marginalize." Black militants and other leftists by any mean necessary including murder. He was later to be the subject of surveillance and surveillance by the FBI, as they frantically sought to snuff the revolution in its芽s.

Pratt was almost murdered in a predawn raid on the Panther's headquar-
ters in L.A., four days after the Chicago police were out of town. By the time other leaders, Fred Hampton and Mark

Clark, had been dragged away, 300 to 400 people were counting the body. Of course, the story was blown up. We're talking about crisis, about thousands and ten thousands are in-

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