Brigades Form Up for May Day 1980

The carpenter looked at his final check— it would have to last for awhile. He smiled again to himself, thinking of the foreman who couldn't understand why someone would quit such a "good job" with unemployment so high. Fanny, a few months ago he'd never heard of May Day. Now he was going to pour the energy that he usually poured into making wood take shape under his hand into making history happen. He snapped the tool case shut, put it on the shelf and went outside...

She looked hard at her three kids, all sleeping. She wouldn't see them for at least three months—the longest she had ever been gone. The oldest one was getting into trouble and she hadn't liked the last argument with her husband, but she put it out of her mind— "If I don't do this, nobody's kid or anyone else is going to have a future worth looking to...

The combat boots and fatigue jackets were familiar but strange to him from all the years he'd worn them—first in the army and then, after that, working. They'd given him these fatigues—the only thing they'd ever really given him, he once said—to fight for them, and he kept them on to work for them too. What was strange was that now he'd be wearing them in a different kind of campaign, to fight against them.

These are some of the ones who rode through the February darkness from different corners of the country last week into Detroit and Los Angeles to join up with the May Day brigades and start making May Day 1980 move from a powerful idea into an even more powerful reality. These are the brigades that will spend the next three months rolling through the country, flying squads that will be talking to tens of thousands and, throwing down the gauntlet as they shake the cynicism and despair out of their brothers' and sisters’ bones, finally, damn it, do it—join the struggle in earnest against the rulers at the beginning of what promises to be the most tumultuous decade in America's history.

These are the brigades that will spend the next three months moving through the streets, finding new ways to tear up the streets in each city and draw forward revolutionary minded workers in a way never before seen in this country. One important way new forces are already taking up May Day is in preparing for the arrival of the brigades. This has come out through pledging money, donating food, volunteering to cook, opening up their homes. Beyond that, and more significantly, by organizing others so that thousands are watching for the brigades. But not waiting for them, since there is not time to wait to build the local foundation for May Day in every area.

And precisely because the brigaders are believers, ready to stake it all and go for the future, daring to use their heads and hands to fight the degradation and the system that causes it, in order to create something really new—exactly because they are a living, driving force...

New Mexico Prison Rebellion

For some time, prisoners had written their families that things would soon blow sky high at the New Mexico State Penitentiary in Santa Fe. Then at 2:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, February 2, a call was heard: "Get the guard, Get the guard. The prisoners knew what was beginning to happen.

Prisoners were freed from their cells. They poured through the halls, breaking through one and a half inch windows. The newly built Control Center was seized, giving the prisoners control of the whole prison. They took the kitchen, then the hospital. The entire prison was taken over—everything that represented the hell-hole life forced on these men, all symbols of the oppressors heel-ground into the necks of the prisoners for so long, was put to the torch and destroyed. The only area of the prison which remained untouched was the library; every book was on the shelf, and every table and chair in place.

Families of prisoners demand information about their relatives.

Continued on page 16
Strangeloves Cross Paths in India, Pakistan

The recent trip of Carter’s top national security advisor to Pakistan marked an important step in the strategic realignment of the United States for war with the Soviet Union.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the director of the U.S. National Security Council, made little effort to conceal this; in fact, he took pains to stress it. Brzezinski brought along his chief military advisor, Col. William E. Eddy, pointedly referred to the trip as "an example of a new profile" as "Brzezinski’s Airmen," a "blue ribbon hawk" who has labored in the shadow of obscurity but whose "extreme" views are now "getting a hearing." Brzezinski had always had a reputation for being like a cross between a hawk and a cold fish. But the trip was more like a well-crafted mountain goat as he frisked about in the chilly heights of the Khyber Pass just four miles from the border with Afghanistan. The Pakistani government, which accompanied the Brzezinski entourage, handed him a pair of field glasses, so Z-Big could make out the Soviet tanks lurking on the other side of the border. He posed for pictures glaring down the sights of a machine gun.

He gathered the journalists. He dangled his lips and said jokes. His mission was to cement a military alliance with the shifty regime of Gen. Mohammad Zia Ullah Khan of Pakistan. The country is now seen by Washington as a new "Carter Doctrine" equivalent of an attack on Europe, or the Soviet action (in Afghanistan—ironically, Zia’s role in this raised his "prestige" in the eyes of the U.S. imperialists on the eve of Brzezinski’s visit). From the marked change in Gen. Zia’s mood after reading President Carter’s personal letter conveyed to him by Brzezinski—quickly became clear that the U.S. was talking over more than just the one shot bag of peanuts. "It’s heartening to see that our traditional ally, a country Pakistanis love and respected, is giving us the impression of finding a lost Asian ally," Zia intoned in his toast to Brzezinski upon his arrival. For his part, Brzezinski stressed the U.S. desire for a firm alliance with Pakistan, "even at the risk of confronting serious dangers together.

The following week, Henry Kissinger took his turn in the pages of the Wall Street Journal and in a number of other forums, going his colleagues from the Rockefeller think tank one better. Kissinger proposed that the United States itself should establish military bases in Pakistan, in order that the Soviets would be sure that an attack on Pakistan would mean war.

President Carter’s Jan. 24 State of the Union address did not go quite so far, but he did elevate the general doctrine outlined by Brzezinski to formal policy, with his statement that "any attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States. It will be repelled by use of any means necessary, including military force." Though a Soviet thrust into Pakistan could easily be seen as the beginning of such an attempt, the section of Carter’s speech dealing with Pakistan was more "moderate," saying only that the United States will take action—consistent with our own laws—to assist Pakistan in meeting any outside aggression. I am asking the Congress specifically to reaffirm this commitment. I also am working with other entities, new or stronger, to provide additional economic and military aid for Pakistan.

However, the speech represented a major strategic shift—a shift Brzezinski had been privately advocating since he assumed his post as director of the National Security Council. And it laid down a "favorable" basis for Brzezinski’s Pakistani trip. He flew into Islamabad on the heels of the conference of Moslem countries, which had just sharply condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in language considerably stronger than the United Nations resolution passed earlier in January. Led by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the conservative and pro-Western Moslem nations have been able to capitalize on the general opposition to the Soviet invasion to build political strength against the U.S. by the Soviet officials in Tehran. Zia’s role in this raised his "prestige" in the eyes of the U.S. imperialists on the eve of Brzezinski’s visit. From the marked change in Gen. Zia’s mood after reading President Carter’s personal letter conveyed to him by Brzezinski, it quickly became clear that the U.S. was talking over more than just the one shot bag of peanuts. "It’s heartening to see that our traditional ally, a country Pakistanis love and respected, is giving us the impression of finding a lost Asian ally," Zia intoned in his toast to Brzezinski upon his arrival. For his part, Brzezinski stressed the U.S. desire for a firm alliance with Pakistan, "even at the risk of confronting serious dangers together.

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Continued on page 18
Recently we had a conversation with comrades Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. He talked about some features of the current world scene, including the recent events in Iran and Afghanistan. An edited excerpt of his remarks follows.

Things have been developing very rapidly among the masses of people. It is really need to be emphasized both in our own understanding and out and among the masses broadly. Obviously the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. He has brought out some features of the situation.

The U.S. imperialists have seized on the opportunity of the hostage crisis and are using it to do a lot of public opinion work and try to make a qualitative change in the way in which the U.S. government is using the Iran situation to carry out its broader imperialist agenda.

Eight years ago, when he laid out the plan to invade Afghanistan, the U.S. bourgeoisie was being remarkably and acutely aware of how they were very, very concerned about the U.S. government is using the Iran situation to be very important too, that just the U.S. is trying to capitalize off the situation.

He continued to overheat a conversation on the street among some politically unenlightened, unaware, uninvolved basic masses but they are talking about how they're very, very concerned about the question of world war. On the one hand they kind of blamed it singly on the Russians for being the ones who would have to suffer the consequences of war. They sort of understood that it's going to be a real shootout between the superpowers. I heard one of them say to the other, "Well, that's just going to be the end. That's going to be the end." And the other one's saying, "Yeah, the Russians got everything America's got!" And other words people understand that fighting the Russians is not like fighting the U.S. imperialists or something. In fact, the U.S. bourgeoisie is very, very concerned about the fact that the tactical disadvantages of the U.S. is going to get them into a very hard place.

We should not fall into the trap of saying that the Iranian people are playing into the hands of the U.S. bourgeoisie, they do feel this frustration. Partly it's feigned for war preparations and partly it's a real feeling of being like a helpless giant, that they can't just do what they want to do. And precisely this increases the necessity for them to go to war. Because that's their only way to get it together to overcome those problems that they have.

There is—there is—in the short run, without falling into the Chinese theory about the bourgeois, there is, I think, a certain tactical advantage that state capitalism affords you over this anarchy where the farmers say, "Why don't we take some other actions in the market?" You know, "What about me and my market?" There are tremendous centrifugal forces in the social-imperialist, state-capitalist class. This is the way the U.S. bourgeoisie deal with the situation.

The U.S. bourgeoisie has been seized on the hostage crisis and is using it to do a lot of public opinion work and try to make a qualitative change in the way in which the U.S. government is using the Iran situation to carry out its broader imperialist agenda.

We need to emphasize what Lenin has emphasized: the fact that the tactical disadvantages of the U.S. is going to get them into a very hard place.

Starting It, Finishing It

The other point that goes along with that from Lenin is that only a bourgeois solution? We have to hammer again and again and again at this point. We have to go up against it among the masses and even among communists the content of "aggression.

And you see, that's where Iran becomes important again, because another one of Lenin's points is very much brought out there, which is, who gives a damn who fired the first shot? Who cares if in this particular round of events the Iranians started it by taking some hostages, what has that got to do with anything? The point is, what class interests are involved here and what does all this flow from, what's the fundamental cause of the war? This is going beyond the most important again, these are the questions we really have to go to as points that cannot be stated too many times. If we had a box in the RW every week that said "Remember?" and rambled this point home again and again, I wouldn't consider it to be overdone, war is an outgrowth of imperialist politics and economics. Obviously it would be a little ineffectual after a while and a little bit mechanical, but every week from a different angle we should always get to the same basic point.

"It's more and more a question of, "Is there going to be a war?," but rather, "Can anything be done about it,"" how do we do it, who's responsible and what's the solution?"

We have to hammer again and again, you know, to get it through the thick skulls of a lot of people whose skulls have been crusted with a lot of this chauvinism and pragmatism, metaphysics, idealism and so on. The question here is, what is this an outgrowth of?
Guatemala

The Indian peasants came to Guatemala City from Quiche province Jan. 22 to publicize and seek support for their fight against a terrorist anti-insurgency campaign government troops are carrying out in the north. At the very minimum, between 2,000 and 3,000 people have been murdered or "disappeared" in the last 18 months as the troops try to halt protest and resistance to the "land reform" program in the oil-rich north that is driving out the peasants.

The Indians took over four high schools and several radio stations. They went to the Spanish embassy to ask the ambassador to mediate with the government for them. He agreed. Suddenly the embassy was surrounded by police, who attacked the doors and windows with axes and sledge hammers and threw incendiary bombs.

According to eyewitness reports on the Mexican news program "24 Horas," police allowed no one to escape the flames except the ambassador, who managed to jump out a back window. President Lucas, fascist dictator of Guatemala, characterized the Indian actions as "a suicide mission."

On Feb. 2, 5,000 Indians and university students started to carry coffins to the cemetery. Police attacked, killing two university leaders and kidnapping another student. The marchers refused to disperse and their ranks grew to 50,000. They took over the streets, shouting anti-government slogans and painting them on walls as they went along. Attacks and counter-attacks continued as people from all over the city joined the protest. On Feb. 5, the battle continued as street fighting broke out in Guatemala City. The people burned buses and put up barricades.

The U.S. government's official statement said that it "deplores the embassy takeover(s) and the reportedly unauthorized police assault." That, of course, the U.S. didn't mention is that it is training Guatemalan troops in Vietnam-style counter-insurgency against the peasants or that a 1964 CIA coup put the first string of military dictators in power there. Not without reason, Lucas' U.S. backed government is nervously looking over its shoulders, in the wake of the recent uprising. This is shown vividly when the Guatemalan ambassador in Mexico, purple-faced and shaky, said on TV Feb. 4, "We don't want to go to Miami! Miami is full of people, Nicaraguans, Salvadoreans, Cubans...you've got to realize what happened in Nicaragua, Cuba and is starting to happen in El Salvador can also happen in Guatemala!"

Guatemala

Police begin assault on Spanish embassy in Guatemala City

Chile

The strike by copper miners at Chile's plant "El Teniente" mining complex is dealing a real blow to the fascist military junta. After a long full in the mass movement in that country following the US-choreographed coup and bloodbath of the last September, the working class is once again emerging as the main protagonist in the struggle against the junta, a process which began with a previous copper strike and which was sharpened by the marches and actions of the past several years. This latest strike in particular is aimed at General Pinochet's attempts to "institutionalize" the junta's rule by creating structures which supposedly represent the people — such as the fascist unions. This struggle is, in fact, a serious obstacle to the junta's plans to turn the country to what they consider "normality" — the "normality" of the grave. It is also a real slap in the face for the U.S. imperialists, whose business mags lately have been full of articles about how well the junta is "working."

The following is an article supplied by ANCHA, the Chilean Anti fascist News Agency.

After more than six years of fascist dictatorship in Chile, 5,454 workers from the "El Teniente" copper mine went out on strike Saturday, January 19, rejecting the wage agreement between the USF student newspaper. One letter contained a threat to blow up the offices of the Tribune and at the Oracle, the USF student newspaper. One letter contained a threat to blow up the Tribune building while another threatened to kill presidential candidate. Of course, the bourgeoisie is getting well seasoned in such tactics against the RCP — using a fraudulent quotation in the Los Angeles Times last summer as the so-called basis for a current Secret Service investigation against Bob Avakian.

When Williamson was suddenly in...
Greensboro, Thousands Defy Cops, Klan

Greensboro, North Carolina—On February 2, over 7000 people, half of them Black, half white and other nationalities, hit the streets of Greensboro to march against the Klan/Nazis and the ruling class. Mystically, both Trailways and Greyhound bus companies ran out of buses to charter. In many cases they were finally forced to change their minds when pressure was brought to bear on them, including picket lines at their offices.

The demonstration stretched for blocks and drew in many more people as it went. A hundred students from A&T University, a Black college, crossed the street to join the march as it went by, and one man ran several miles to join the march when he heard on the news that it was happening.

These thousands defied the threat of Klan and police terror to make a statement on behalf of the millions of blacks and whites who have been defending themselves against the terror of the counterrevolution, both internal and external. Ani Lebo reports from Oklahoma...

Idabel, Oklahoma. Three weeks following the armed attack on the Black community in this small Oklahoma town of 11,000, the authorities have been trying to get away with calling it merely a “back to normal.” The whole incident was started by a series of equally cowardly and racist “public meetings” and “community assistance” districts for an investigation by the FBI. To clear up rumors, “for the ruling class” old-time Black leaders were set up as authorities. Barricades were set up. A city father along with community leaders separated these two events. He had been brutally beaten, shot in the head and hung up on a fence near the Black Hat Club—a whites only private club. And went. Only a brief press conference was held. This has been openly carrying weapons as a dog getting hit by a car.

A member of Henry Lee’s family told the FW, “You can put so much weight on a bridge and then it’s going to break. We’ve put up with a lot over the years but this is too much. He was just a young boy.” Uncovered by the fact that any Black youth was as important as a dog getting hit by a car.

Indeferently are the county’s main businesses. Discrimination is the rule and many Blacks are forced to work in very low paying jobs in egg processing plants and other small industries, moving from job to job. It was founded in the year of 1968, Black kids were kept in the most property a Black would own is a small farm. January 1980 changed all that. On the night of the rebellion, one section of the town was controlled by the people. Barricades were set up. The first was driven out of the area by gunfire. One cop was killed in a shootout between the people and state troopers. One resident described it as, “This whole thing was between us and the cops. We had guns and we didn’t have to fire warning shots. There was nothing between us and then but air and animal.” But all that was weeks ago and the “city fathers” along with community leaders and various state and federal trouble-shooters are doing their best to get things back to normal. This has been hard to do since the Black people have been openly carrying weapons as they have been fighting. The state’s investigative bureau has admitted it is afraid to send agents into the community since they might not come back alive.

When the KKK’s imperial lizard Bill Wilkinson announced he was coming to town, it was played up in the local press for all it was worth. Front page headlines for nearly a week taunted the Black community while trying to entice the poor whites to come out and rally behind the KKK’s reactionary program for a racial war. The mayor who warned RW reporters that if they showed their faces in town they would leave on a slab, said about Wilkinson’s visit, “This is a free country and I guess he can come here if he wants.” In spite of this heavy promotion, people refused to respond to the Klan visit the way they were supposed to. A group of Choctaw Indians put signs on their pickups which said, “Oklahoma’s Indian Territory—KKK Take Your Hatred to Hell.”

On Saturday the Klan man came. And went. Only a brief press conference separated these two events. He was obviously in a hurry to leave. There was no rally, no recruiting—no support at all except for the police and the press who hung on his every word. While the Klan and other forms of...
May Day Comes to Shut-down City  

As we go to press, ten volunteers from the May Day brigades sit in the Youngstown, Ohio jail with $41,500 bail, or rather rations, on their heads. The charge? Daring to sound the call to '980 because of the confrontation in Youngstown, Ohio. Not that much different than Anywhere, USA...swept down to haul the May Day brigades: "They will try to stop us, any way they can," they announced in an attempt to "escort" the revolutionaries from the city. 

The brigade immediately called a press conference at the U.S. Steel Ohio Works—one of the number of plants in this city, set to be closed by spring. A brigade speaker stated that this only shows "how scared they are to see the righteous anger of the workers come forward with Revolutionary May Day." That statement took on a new meaning when workers came out of the factory, leaving the plant, snatched a leaflet, held it up and shouted, "Live long the Revolution." 

There was a heavy show of press and police and everyone cowered behind bars by the police. In the midst of tremendous in-fighting, the workers left U.S. Steel Ohio Works, carrying the red leaflets, many taking stacks of leaflets back inside. A worker coming on to the plant that night said: "I've never seen such a struggle in this brigade. His wife had been at the meeting of the local union when they came down. He offered his name saying, 'You're my kind of people. I want to join with you."' At Youngstown State University, two actions simultaneously took place—two hundred students and administrative personnel railed against the "dirty fascist" administration. "We are taking the lead in this struggle—" an administration official confessed to "get out." Revolutions are fought by revenge, and the May Day brigade, the Social-Democrats (communists), calling May Day 1980 a "most important document": "We were so

Youngstown

May Day Comes to Shut-down City

The year was 1912. May Day, international day of the working class was approaching. And for the Russian proletariat, it was a day of triumph. Lenin, the leader of Russia's Social-Democrats (communists) had called for revolutionary action, a demonstration of the strength of the working class. May Day brought joy to the workers of Youngstown, Ohio. Not that much different than Anywhere, USA...swept down to haul the May Day brigades: "They will try to stop us, any way they can," they announced in an attempt to "escort" the revolutionaries from the city. 

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dared and shocked that we could not at once find words to express our feelings. Whatever protest we made would be but an eradication of the awful truth seething in the hearts of us all. Nothing can help us, neither tears nor protests; but an organized mass struggle. Within weeks strikes broke out all over Russia, and the number of people protesting the Lena massacre rose to 500,000. Lenin wrote, "The Lena shootings led to the revolutionary temper of the masses developing into a revolutionary uprising of the masses." The ice had broken.

May Day 1912

These were the conditions that set the stage on which the curtain would rise for Max Day. The crisis of imperial war, the brutality of life under the Tsar, punctuated by the cold of gunfire at Lena had driven home the futility of attempting to negotiate "peace" with the oppressors. But as Lenin pointed out, "Neither the oppression of the lower classes nor a crisis among the upper classes can cause a revolution; they can only cause the decay of a country, unless that country has a revolutionary class capable of transforming the passive state of oppression into an active state of revolt and insurrection." The character of the revolutionary class was developing. The uprising and the transformation of the Lena events into the mass strikes on May Day, involving even greater numbers of workers, had everything to do with the role of the Russian proletariat, particularly the class-conscious revolutionary workers.

The underground networks among the workers built by the Bolsheviks through the distribution of the revolutionary newspapers, pamphlets by Lenin, smuggled into the country and other literature, produced and distributed under the harsh conditions of the Stolypin reaction were to prove decisive in this period. Lenin points out the significance of the St. Petersburg workers' rising the Bolshevik slogans in a situation where one group of workers influenced another ideologically because the organizational structure of the Party had been destroyed. In this situation it quickly became clear which ideas the workers had taken as their own and which politics they supported. Only through the revolutionary agitation and propaganda was it possible for the separate "nuclei" of workers throughout Russia to be constantly armed with the political line to be able to assess the situation and act. The Bolsheviks published a weekly newspaper in St. Petersburg called Zvezda for the advanced workers which played an important role in the Lena events. And on April 22, 1912, according to Lenin's instructions, the daily newspaper Pravda, a mass working...

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Workers Salute May Day Brigades

The following statements were read at a recent dinner in Los Angeles given for the May Day Brigade. The first is from farmworkers in California’s Imperial Valley. They are lettuce workers from both sides of the border who are presently on strike and have organized fundraising meetings for the Brigade’s trip. The second statement read at the dinner was written by a young Mexican worker who has been in this country five months.

Comrades of the May Day Brigade: We are aware of the necessity to make revolution in this country, the United States, and we are also in contact with you through the RCP, USA.

May the struggle of the factory workers and the farmworkers continue until victory.

Conrad Gerashchenko

Supporters from Imperial Valley who stand with you all

The International importance of the Brigade is based on the fact that we have absolutely no other road to take, to make revolution and exterminate our rulers. We have to do it not with the aid of some other imperialist superpower such as the Soviet Union, but rather fighting shoulder to shoulder with all exploited people in this country and around the world. It’s not important to us what race or color they are, what’s really important is that we have common class interests and one principal characteristic: we are oppressed and exploited by imperialism.

Based on this, what must stand out about the May Day Brigade is proletarian internationalism, because only in this way, by destroying the divisions imposed by the ruling class and seeing who is the real cause of our misery, our real enemy, only in this way can we win our victory.

This May Day the super-vampires of the U.S. will tremble when they see exploited peoples of all nationalities marching together, recognizing that we are one class, without borders, and raising our protests and our fists against their goddamned criminal system.

So we have to make this May Day a reality, putting all our efforts and will to fight into achieving it. And we must continue on beyond this day of the working class, until we achieve our goal, our true and longed-for goal, the extinction of classes. With this celebration of Revolutionary May Day we are going to demonstrate to our rulers that the U.S. proletariat are not suppressed and conformed to a system which they can manipulate at will, and with all their filthy propaganda of nationalism drag off to war to defend their empire. We are going to break with this collective image of the U.S. working class, and show the millions of oppressed both here and around the world who hate this imperialist system, that right here in the guts of this monster there is a revolutionary movement, led by the RCP and its Chairman Bob Avakian. Really this is very important, because I myself, before I came here, never imagined that right here in this blood-soaked beast there could be serious people determined to make revolution, and what surprise and joy when I found what I had been looking for—a genuine Communist Party, preparing to buy this system once and for all. There are millions just like me who must know about this.
Congressional Corruption? so what else is new?

They announced the news—eight Congressmen nabbed in FBI sting. One senator, seven representatives and a few New Jersey state and city officials were caught, on film, taking some very large cash bribes in exchange for their favors.

The whole thing started when the FBI, disguised as Arab businessmen, operating from rented houses in Long Island and Washington, D.C. as well as places like the Playboy Club in Great Gorge, New Jersey, put out the word that they had hundreds of thousands of dollars to give some palms with. The news spread quickly and within a short period of time various members of Congress were lining up to get their share. Each boasted of how powerful he / she was in an attempt to up his value. Everything was going fine, until last weekend when the news came out about the whole operation.

Senate and House leaders have cried for days about how "disgraced, disappointed and shocked" they are. Undoubtedly they are—from the sounds of things, a very lucrative scheme has been shut down. Representative Richard Kelly of Florida held a press conference to deny his guilt. There was only one condition attached to the type of questions asked—he would not answer any questions about "technical aspects of the investigation." When a reporter questioned him about how he could deny his guilt when he was filmed frantically stuffing $50,000 into his coat and trouser pockets, Kelly refused to answer, stating, "That's a question on the technical aspects of the investigation."

One question Kelly did answer was in regard to who he got involved and why he took the money. Kelly stated that he had been "confident it was crooked" and he wanted to conduct his own private investigation. He took the money and started spending it "to fool the crooks." Kelly also stated, "the FBI blew my case. When they blew the cover on their case, they blew the cover on mine." They certainly did, Richie.

The other congressmen who were filmed in various stages of bribery, including one who was fighting with an aide over who was going to carry a briefcase full of money, continue to plead their innocence. But not everyone in Congress is on the defensive; Adlai Stevenson has gone on the offensive and called for: "an investigation of the FBI investigation," stating that it's a clear case of entrapment. However, FBI Director Webster remained unshaken, maintaining that before the FBI ever embarks on a sting operation, it makes sure that the results will stand up in court! Besides, noted Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti noted, it couldn't be entrapment since "no innocent people were involved."

Thank you, Ben! True words were never spoken. And that this equally applies to the Justice Department is indicated by the stance of the U.S. Attorney in New Jersey, Robert Del Tufo. Del Tufo suggested that one of the crooked congressmen, Sen. Williams of New Jersey, not be prosecuted because of a lack of evidence. It just so happens that Williams recommended Del Tufo for his job.

Politicians accepting bribes? Truly a shocking event—at least to the respected representatives who got nabbed. It isn't really news to most normal people. In fact, the question the world is asking isn't—"How widespread is this corruption in the U.S. Congress?"—but rather—"Who set up Congress's latest fall guys, and why?"

Unfortunately, the face of the crooks who blew the whistle on the crooks may not be submitted to the light of day for the time being. And while little consolation is to be found for the American people as Congress sings yet another chorus of that beloved hymn, "Let's put this scandal behind us," nonetheless, the episode provides the opportunity for a few good laughs.

Florida Prof.

Continued from page 8

visited on scant two days' notice to speak on a local talk show on Jan. 20, things began to smell even fouler. Just before his TV appearance, the commentary page of the Tribune exploded with hysterical letters claiming, "The RCP is a terrorist organization." To these letters the Tribune innocently added its own suggestive headlines like, "Get Rid of Terrorism in Education!" and "Professor Uses Words as Bombs." On the TV show itself, Williamson was repeatedly asked questions like, "Are you infiltrating government agencies?" and "Are you stockpiling guns?" while his efforts to explain the political line of the RCP were sidestepped and ignored. The coverage of the interview on the 6 o'clock news, not surprisingly, consisted of a re-run of the segment showing Williamson being grilled about "weapons."

Later that same evening, two goons in three piece suits showed up at Williamson's home and started banging on his door. A friend answered, telling them Williamson was not there. He requested that they identify themselves and although they refused, the visit had all the earmarks of the methods of the FBI and Secret Service. Williamson's friend told them in no uncertain terms that he knew damn well who they were and with this, the two suited thugs slammed him against a wall, shoved him around and warned, "We'll be back."

The next week, an RCVB member got a similar visit from men who tried to extract information about Williamson. "Get Williamson!" has been cried from the editorial offices of the Tribune to the radio receivers of local government agents' late model Cidges. And indeed, with political fervor once again alive on the USF campus and others, the suppression of revolutionary ideas and politics is certainly a task cut out for the authorities.

But more, their need to go after Williamson is unquestionably linked with the general situation developing in this country today. The hatred of large numbers of people for this system and the beginning political awakening of many more has set the stage for the increasingly frantic attacks on the RCP and its Chairman, Bob Avakian. Not coincidental to the smear campaign on the RCP in Tampa (as well as other cities) is the specific attack on Comrade Avakian, now being refined in the appellate court of Washington D.C.

As Williamson remarked: "What started out here as a local newspaper being upset about a local communist at USF has now been clearly tied in to the attempts by the government to portray members of the RCP, including myself, as terrorists either through the courts or through the use of the newspapers. It's a non-too-slick way of building a case against Bob Avakian and ultimately trying to railroad him and destroy the RCP in the face of the conditions this country's rulers are up against, intensifying crisis and approaching world war."

Lincoln Memorial:
Dedication to Segregation

The Lincoln Memorial was built in the early 1900s. The whole structure from top to bottom is intended to promote the lie that Lincoln was the "great eman
cipator" that "freed the slaves" out of pure benevolence and high ideals. The building, patterned after an ancient temple, shelters a towering statue of Lincoln in solemn atmosphere, with words from his "mobile speeches" inscribed in the walls.

That the abolition of slavery was not motivated by some new-found love or concern for the rights of Black people was made quite clear at the very dedica
tion ceremony for the monument. Dr. Robert Moten, president of the Tuskegee Insti
tute (a Negro college), was slated to speak, no doubt to preach the "great oppor
unities" now open to Black people in the U.S. But Moten was forced to sit on the other side of the road from the main ceremony in a "coloreds only" section!...
A Call to Foreign Born: What Will U.S. May Day Mean to You?

The Revolutionary Worker, together with the National May Day 1980 Committee, is issuing a call to foreign born workers, students and others who now live in the United States, to submit for publication in the Revolutionary Worker their personal statement of what May Day means to them personally. These statements can be on any aspect of the holiday, such as personal experiences which testify a thousand times over to the murderous and oppressive tentacles of this system as it stretches around the world.

Native born workers must understand what a young woman from El Salvador recently said to the Revolutionary Worker: "If Central America is free from imperialism, that would be a big step for all of Latin America—imagine, a free Latin America. And if you make revolution here in the U.S.—Damn! With these things, imagine what the people, what humanity, could do..."

Our struggle is international. The May Day Manifesto is being posted across this country in many different languages. Your answer to this call will heavily influence the international character of May Day 1980.

Proceeds to the Million Dollar Fund Drive

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Police Attack Salvadoran Support Demo

San Francisco, CA—On February 2, a march of 400 people in San Francisco’s Mission District, supporting the Salvadoran struggle against U.S. imperialism, was met with a violent attack by a San Francisco police force. The attack was carried out in response to the rising tide of protests against U.S. military intervention in Central America.

Residents of this Latino community poured into the streets as pigs used their batons and clubs on the demonstrators. Six activists of the Salvadoran community were stripped of their weapons and arrested. Demonstrators marched to the police station a block away, demanding their release.

The hatred against U.S. imperialism is definitely growing to a high point. Some demonstrations were halted by large and left-wing police forces. But the U.S. rulers, now forced to try to live up to their own standards, can afford to have people constantly in the streets like they’ve been trying to do in San Francisco, according to stand with struggles worldwide against U.S. imperialism.

But keeping people in line in the Mission or anywhere else is not going to be enough. The demonstration was another attempt to halt the political stage, particularly on May 1, 1979.

The RCP’s Million Dollar Fund Drive, launched last spring and concluded on this January 28, was a success. Thousands gave, many workers and others who sat off the Reaganite propaganda. But our millions are built on the labor of the people in the U.S. and the world, from the unemployed to the industrial workers. But the drive still depends on an important degree, on pledges which are still outstanding. So it is necessary, in the next two weeks, to really finalize this stretch by collecting all the pledges still outstanding.

The major effort to finish the Million Dollar Fund Drive is over. However, we must continue to do the work of the Party’s mass and educational tasks. These are essential elements in meeting the challenges that lie before us.

SUPPORT THE RCP! GIVE TO THE FUTURE.
CHICAGO SCHOOLS SHOUT DOWN

Chicago—As we go to press, 26,000 Chicago public school teachers are still on strike, with the third largest school system in the country virtually shut down. The teachers refused to work on January 28 after being paid late for almost two months and still being short two weeks pay plus retroactive pay ranging from $400 to $700. As reported in No. 36, on January 5 a "coalition of government, business and labor hack" had patched together a "rescue plan" which they claimed would "bail out the Chicago schools." The plan included the sale of some $200 million in short-term notes, the slashing of $60 million in weekly funds from the school budget, and another $16 million late in January. In spite of this, as of January the teachers still hadn't been paid.

The lack of pay merely added insult to injury, though, as the city was huddled into the "rescue plan" were revealed. Just the playing details were that 1600 teachers would be fired, 34 schools closed (with 20 to 30 more recommended for closing later), and specific school programs reduced or eliminated. The seriousness of this wasn't lost on the teachers, who, even though they finally got paid on Friday, February 1, turned around and made their walkout an official strike the following Monday.

In defiance of a restraining order and new school court injunction (unbelievably requiring them to return to work work within 8 days), the teachers are staying out. Even the time-worn tactic of forcing the substitute teachers to scab hasn't worked; substitute and regular teachers are both walking the picket line.

The "rescue plan" is nothing but a quick fix to keep the school system from really collapsing for the immediate period at the expense of severe cutbacks in the school budget, while the underlying crisis only gets worse. Look at this "rescue plan" and its effect. The Chicago schools, like schools in most large cities, are plagued by overcrowding and teacher shortages, with the schools in the Black and Latino communities. In deteriorating buildings, with next to no facilities, where programs like physical education and bilingual education are nonexistent, about 30 percent of the students are in those in the eight grade can't even read at the sixth-grade level. Of the 34 schools that were first slated for closing in the plan, 30 are majority Black and Latino (the Chicago public school system is 40% Black and other minorities). In addition to firing 800 regular classroom teachers, the plan eliminates the jobs of 290 teachers in "Access to Excellence," the school board's token desegregation program, plus hundreds of teachers in bilingual programs and teachers of the handicapped.

The Chicago public school system's official motto is "Think Children," and the people of the city have made a big show of "concern" for the students' education. School officials and politicians have hunkered up to proclaim their commitment to decent education for the "kids." This is the height of hypocrisy. When even do the people give a damn about educating poor and working-class youth? As far as they are concerned, the only education these "kids" need is just enough for the army, the factory or the unemployment line. The capitalists' main concern is to lay off those school kids in order to keep down the demand on the economy. The capitalists have been locked up in prison-like schools, and to cut costs, are replaced by the offspring of their parents. Their cries of "We're doing it for our kids!" don't quite get over with their vicious cutting back on teachers and even closing almost 50 schools.

After being expected to work for pay for weeks, the teachers are being told, "Help us figure out where to cut jobs, if you want to get paid." Robert Healey, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, endorsed the "rescue plan" and joined the chorus of voices to "get the cuts through." Of course now the anger of the teachers has forced him to stand with them even in the face of the court injunction, but he was speaking to who his real friends are when he said of the bankers who bought the city's notes, "I've called them bloodsuckers and I've called them sharks, but that doesn't mean I don't like them. They circle and they take big bites, (but) you've got to have them." The $200-plus million junkie fix that the "rescue plan" allows for by authorizing the sale of short-term bonds is similar to the "rescue" measures taken in 1976, the last time the schools almost went under financially. Finance capitalists—banks—bought these bonds in '76 at juicy interest rates. The bond side meant the schools could meet their operating budget for one more year (with severe cuts then too), but like a junkie, the paying off of the interest forced the school system back to the same parasites again and again. The economy continued on its downward spiral, and the operating costs of the schools shot up with inflation. This will be true, only more so, with this latest shot in the arm. So it's easy to see that this "rescue plan" isn't a rescue at all, but is more like the desperate act of a man with gangrene all through his arm hacking off his fingers one by one to try to stop its spread.

All the handwringing by Mayor Jane Byrne and the city's financial leaders, the school board and the bankers, is a good indication of how drastic their dilemma is. They can't even find a "fall guy" yet to take the rap for the financial crisis in the schools. There is a lot of mudslinging going on, though. Time magazine was very upset as they reported in their February 11 issue: "On a local television show, the mayor, the president of the school board, the city's top financial adviser, the head of the teachers' union and a key city councilman—all of whom must cooperate to "get the cuts through." Of course all of the school system's financial chaos—engaged in a shouting match punctuated with name calling and charges of every kind—have been threatened to undermine further the credibility of the city's leaders in the eyes of the financiers whose help is desperately needed." Time voices the fact that the capitalists as a whole that cartoon the city's leaders in their contacts with the financiers, whose help is desperately needed. Time voices the fear of the capitalist class in general that crises like the one in the Chicago schools, insidious to them, are going to explode their true face more and more to the masses of people, and bring thousands more into motion as their system falls deeper and deeper into decay.

Including:

Kennedy: Knight of the Living Dead
How three generations of Kennedys have served the dead hand of capital, and what Teddy's role is today.

There Will be Revolution—But Wishing Won't Make It So: Voluntarism, Metaphysics and the Communist Workers Party
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Detailed reply to recent attacks on Mao: This is one in a series of documents from Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations around the world, upholding and defending the contributions of Mao Tsetung, which are being reproduced in Revolution.

Revolution is the organ of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party. It is published as a monthly magazine, featuring articles that give a deep and many-sided analysis of major political questions facing the revolutionary movement.

Send to: Revolution
P.O. Box 3486
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654
Letter from Pontiac Brothers

January 27, 1980

Dear Comrades:

As you may know, conditions in the state prison are inhumane, and sadistic brutalities go on in there as a routine. When the rebellion occurred, it did not really take the administration by surprise. The administration was already waiting for something like this to happen a year earlier. After the rebellion, the department of law enforcement took over the prison and did with it as it pleased. The administration went to another prison. 90 days good time immediately, 90 more days good time after they testified in court and a good recommendation letter from the files. It was the only way they could get testi monies—which are all lies—and the only way they will have a legal way for the biggest lynching in U.S. history.

That is what they call law to get a hold of another person and program them to do and say what they want them to do, to say that it was all part of a gang plot, that everything was just right until the gang took control, that the gang's chief gave us orders to kill, to destroy, when in reality, it was all the contrary, the overthrowing the system, the dismantling and physical annihilation when we refuse to comply with their ridiculous so-called rules and regulations; that's what the capitalist media has failed to say in their papers.

The Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily News and all the rest, they all talk about three officers got killed by a bunch of animals, they say that more than four million dollars of materials, machinery and buildings were destroyed by a bunch of uncivilized savages; machinery didn't work, material that was more than fifteen years old, buildings that were already falling apart from age—more than fifty years old. All this and more the capitalist media has failed to say.

It is clear, my comrades, clear as water, the D.O.C. (Department of Correc tions) is using the Pontiac rebellion to make up for their mistakes, their abuses. How come the capitalist media doesn't put in their newspapers that prisoners are being abused? How come they don't say that we can't see a doctor when we're sick? How come they don't say nothing every time their Klan/Nazi enforcers hit us? How about every time fifteen or twenty Klan/Nazi enforcers come in our cells and handcuff us and then jump on us, leaving us almost unconscious? Why doesn't the capitalist media say nothing about that? They claim to be the vic tims, when in reality, we are the victims of a frame-up system.

One of my Brothers gave me a letter to write to you, and it reads as follows: "We the Brothers of Pontiac, that are victims of a very crude system; we view the very difficult situation that our 17 Brothers are facing by the threatening specter of the prison administration. We, the 31 Brothers, remain very concerned about each other and we have a very strong relationship, regardless of the situation that the system has presented us with... WE STAND STRONG IN OUR STRUGGLE."

Brother XXXX
Victim of the system frame-up

As you can see by this letter, it is not only the way he feels, but the way we all, the 14 Brothers, feel. This is what we believe in.

Last night we got the news about our other two Brothers in Bloomington County. The jury found them guilty, there is no telling how much time they will spend in prison. The administration is already waiting for something like this to happen a year earlier. The administration knows, through the entire system works. This is the law. The administration knows that our people were not allowed to participate in, laws that our people had no say so, laws that are contrary to the capitalist, not the working class. It is sad to say, how many people have sold themselves for so little to defend this system, it is even more sad to think of how many of our own have betrayed us? How about every time fifteen or twenty Klan/Nazi enforcers come in our cells and handcuff us and then jump on us, leaving us almost unconscious? Why doesn't the administration say nothing about that? They claim to be the victims, when in reality, we are the victims of a frame-up system.

Before I go any further, we the Pontiac 14 want to bring to the world's atten tion the very difficult situation that our 17 Brothers are facing by the threatening specter of the prison administration. We, the 31 Brothers, remain very concerned about each other and we have a very strong relationship, regardless of the situation that the system has presented us with. WE STAND STRONG IN OUR STRUGGLE."
Prison Rebellion

Continued from page 1

Bloomington, Illinois. Manuel Santiago and Luis Perez, the first two Pontiac Prisoners Convicted.

Seven inmates were charged with 15 counts of murder each for the death of three guards, and the state planned to dust off the Illinois electric chair for the first time in almost 50 years—since 1925.

During the 36 hour rebellion, 11 prison guards were held hostage while others fled for their lives. The rebellion, which was planned for months, began on Friday, February 2, 1979.

Officer shot back, "Look, we had a deal if he identified Perez as one of the attackers. The prosecution was so upset they sent 5 IDLE flunkies to the stand to discredit his testimony. In a very suspicious incident, Mitchell and another prisoner were arrested the day the trial began for allegedly stabbing two guards while shackled hand and foot as they were being brought to the Pontiac courthouse for a hearing on an apparently unrelated incident.

An article headlined, "Guards stabbed outside courthouse" appeared the next day in the Bloomington Progress-News, relating the first-hand accounts of a "terrified bystander."

Another witness who had been threatened with loss of parole, only to find it moved instead to another prison, testified that the prisoners as "vicious people. . .human animals. . .the worst of society. . .they don't have to have a cause to kill." The trial began revealed that 82% of the respondents thought the accused were "probably guilty." An extensive media campaign was waged, much of it criticizing the prisoners as "vicious people. . .human animals. . .they don't have to have a cause to kill." The press was "shocked" when it was learned that the prisoners were scheduled to testify against the conditions at Santa Fe.

"Animals, Savages." The stomach turning hypocrisy of the bourgeois spokesmen in all quarters only grew louder. The San Francisco prison was a "docking station" where the prisoners as "vicious people. . .human animals. . .the worst of society. . .they don't have to have a cause to kill." The trial began revealed that 82% of the respondents thought the accused were "probably guilty." An extensive media campaign was waged, much of it criticizing the prisoners as "vicious people. . .human animals. . .they don't have to have a cause to kill." The press was "shocked" when it was learned that the prisoners were scheduled to testify against the conditions at Santa Fe.

The press was "shocked" when it was learned that the prisoners were scheduled to testify against the conditions at Santa Fe. Another article followed describing a meeting between local residents and prison officials where one woman

Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women As A Mighty Force For Revolution

by the Revolutionary Communist Party

From speeches delivered at the National Women's Day, 1979. And a solidarity message from the League of Fighting Women of Iran.

RCP Publications
Box 3486
Chicago, IL 60664
32 p. $1.00
One Year Ago—Insurrection!

In the year since the insurrection in Iran the revolution that was begun in those days of fire and fury has continued through twists and turns. Forces long hidden beneath the surface of society burst forth and locked in struggle to decide the direction of the revolution now that the Shah was gone. The new Islamic government with Khomeini at its head and the Iranian capitalist class supported and benefited from the overthrow of the Shah, but opposed the continuing struggles of the masses to kick U.S. imperialism, feudalism and exploitation out of Iran for good.

Women, despite heavy feudal bonds of home and hearth, had joined the insurrection guns in hand to fight beside their husbands and brothers, playing a key role in the struggle. Tradition's chains began to crumble, as revolutionary women's organizations began to draw ever more women into active political struggle to further develop the revolution. Attempts of the Islamic government to keep women off the political stage have gone down to defeat.

Workers, many who had slaved for U.S. corporations, refused to return to "business as usual" preventing the return of foreign managers and forming their own councils and trade unions. Increasingly inspired by revolutionary ideology, brought to them largely by the students, the workers have become a political force in every struggle, from opposition to the press censorship laws to support for the Embassy seizure. On May Day this past year 2 million workers openly raised the red flag of the international working class in the skies of Iran for the first time in nearly thirty years.

Peasants, especially in Kurdistan, armed themselves, formed peasant councils and unions and began to throw out the feudal landlords who represented generations of bloody exploitation. Again the Islamic government, hoping to block the course of the revolution, attacked, sending troops to try to smash the Kurdish people's struggle. It was soon clear that a politically aroused and armed people is a ferocious force that is not easily crushed.

The revolutionary left flowered. The masses of people began to crave political knowledge. Sidewalk bookstores and political posters flourished. Unable to consolidate a stable situation for itself, and faced with the growing struggle of the people to press forward the revolution, the government moved to close down newspapers and offices of the Left, driving them underground, hoping to isolate the people from revolutionary ideas and leadership.

Still further twists and turns unfolded. Students seized the U.S. embassy, generating an outpouring of struggle stronger than anything seen since the days of the insurrection, temporarily forcing the government to go along or suffer grave consequences. The revolution cannot remain halfway. The superpowers are clawing away at the entire region in fierce contention with each other. The U.S. has been wheeling and dealing with the Islamic government, now headed by Bani Sadr, and there is clearly new treachery afoot as the Iranian upper classes seek to claw back under the wing of U.S. imperialism. Now Bani Sadr has launched an open challenge to the students occupying the Embassy and to the masses who support them. With millions of people politically mobilized, declaring their intention to not be enslaved by either superpower the question of which class interests will rule in Iran is most certainly not a settled question.

The revolutionary aspirations of the Iranian people have yet to be fulfilled, but the basis for them to take their own future into their hands is firm. One year since the insurrection, and what have they got? A country in the throes of revolution.

They broke into armories and emerged waving newly liberated M-16s, weapons which only a short while before had been the instruments of their oppression. They layed seige to police stations, army bases and SAVAK headquarters, bloody torture chambers which no longer commanded fear. They danced in the streets and drove joyously through the cities, piled 5 deep on the sides of captured tanks. They had launched an insurrection and won! Their struggle rekindled the dream of revolution in the hearts of millions of people around the world.
Iran from "Island of Stability" to Revolution

When Jimmy Carter visited Tehran in December of 1977, he was able to feast in the Shah's huge palace, and boastfully declared that Iran was "an island of stability in a troubled world." Outside those marble walls in the narrow alleys that are the heart of the city there were rumblings: economic and political crises were ripening; students were demonstrating against the regime; "human rights" poetry readings attracted thousands; and peasants, driven from their villages, were marching right to build make-shift shacks on unoccupied land.

But these stirrings were isolated and scattered two short years ago. The regime, among the most heavily armed and U.S.-supplied in the world, seemed to be handling them. "When the Shah was on TV, I turned it off," Alii cursed. "But on the streets I said nothing." Who could know who you were talking to? "I wasn't happy," another remarked, "but I didn't really think about it so much. My father would beat me if he ever caught me with political literature." Small groups of a dozen or so revolutionaries met in secret cells discussing plans, writing and copying a few hundred leaflets to secretly stuff into library books or leave in student stairways met in secret cells discussing another remarked, "but I didn't really know how many people there were—and how much hatred they would have!"

Tahriz—An Electric Shock

On February 19, 1978 the morning streets of Tahriz were quiet, but quickly, group after group, neighborhood after neighborhood poured into the streets, congregating at several rallying points. Still more thousands came. Someone was shot and killed by the police, and the demonstrating began. This was to be no ordinary demonstration. The Rastakhiz building, exploding with years of pent-up anger and hatred at the daily brutality of the police, was smoldering control Tabriz. We had the people."

The nation was in shock, the newspapers were bursting with news stories. One year later, in January 1979, a year of "millions in the streets," of strike after strike, "mobs running wild."

When Jimmy Carter visited Tehran on February 8, the newspapers appeared in the government press. The martyrs of Qom, among the most heavily armed and U.S.-supplied in the world, seemed to be handling them. "When the Shah was on TV, I turned it off," Alii cursed. "But on the streets I said nothing." Who could know who you were talking to? "I wasn't happy," another remarked, "but I didn't really think about it so much. My father would beat me if he ever caught me with political literature." Small groups of a dozen or so revolutionaries met in secret cells discussing plans, writing and copying a few hundred leaflets to secretly stuff into library books or leave in student stairways met in secret cells discussing another remarked, "but I didn't really know how many people there were—and how much hatred they would have!"

The country was transformed from a country where people were afraid even to talk about politics, to a nation where one bourgeois commentator was forced to confess: "It's time to do away with the daily brutality of the police, and the demonstrating began. This was to be no ordinary demonstration. The Rastakhiz building, exploding with years of pent-up anger and hatred at the daily brutality of the police, was smoldering and, enraged, were drawn into the streets. The movement developed through the summer, leaping ahead even after the Shah massacred hundreds in August in the Azadi theater fire and 10,000 more in September, 1978. On October Friday, Iran was thrown into total turmoil as millions of workers shut down the city and the streets filled with burning barricades.

A Year's Transformation

In one short year, 1978, Iran was transformed from a country living in fear to one where people were afraid even to talk about politics, to a nation where one bourgeois commentator was forced to confess: "It's time to do away with the daily brutality of the police, and the demonstrating began. This was to be no ordinary demonstration. The Rastakhiz building, exploding with years of pent-up anger and hatred at the daily brutality of the police, was smoldering and, enraged, were drawn into the streets. The movement developed through the summer, leaping ahead even after the Shah massacred hundreds in August in the Azadi theater fire and 10,000 more in September, 1978. On October Friday, Iran was thrown into total turmoil as millions of workers shut down the city and the streets filled with burning barricades.
Brigades
Continued from page 1
of class conscious workers and others—they will leave behind in their wake hundreds of thousands deeply affected by seeing the embryo of May Day take shape. And much more concretely they will also leave behind Revolutionary Worker networks, with many in them very committed to building for May First 1980—May Day organizers in the communities and plants.

A typical day:
Brigade squads hit the streets at 5 a.m. Groups ranging from 10 to 20 turn up at the gates and parking lots of the biggest, and most volatile plants in the city, cutting the early morning darkness with a powerful sound system and selling the Revolutionary Worker.

Later in the morning, a van pulls up to an unemployment center and a dozen volunteers pour into the office, marching and chanting. Challenging agita
tion goes on, papers change hands and by the time the van rolls out—eluding the then arriving local cops—an angry young Black woman has joined the squad for the day, stepping forward to attempt to organize the Revolutionary Worker right off the line.

She gets the squad through the city to a crowded welfare office and a check cashing operation, and again and again pushes out the most hardened May Day marchers, only standing up boldly and linking May Day right up to the most intense con
cern of the people, going deep and one on one.

The afternoon goes on and the brigade passes by a key strike in the city—a bitter battle over wage cuts. Four or five brigades pour out at every gate, giving short speeches on May Day, sell
ing papers and getting names. "Who's to say you guys are any different?" says a striker. Struggle jumps off, focused on the content of articles in the Revolu
tionary Worker and the plans for May Day, and how any leadership has to be judged by whether or not it is arming the masses to consciously understand the world and bringing them forward to change it on that basis. An older Black workers makes the point that he's a World War II vet, but he won't fight again—or see his kids fight—to defend the Shah or his puppet masters. "Why don't you listen to these guys?" he says.

Greensboro
Continued from page 5
the "opposition", the American hostages at the hands of the Iranians, he was nearly booted off the stage by virtually everyone in the audience. Ar
dy Young, who was scheduled to speak, decided it would be better not to show his face.

While thousands came to Greensboro from up and down the east coast, the ruling class's campaign of intimidation prior to and during the march did have some effect on the turnout, especially from Greensboro itself. This campaign included attempts to block a permit from being issued; a thinly veiled invita
tion goes on, papers change hands and by the time the van rolls out—eluding the then arriving local cops—an angry young Black woman has joined the squad for the day, stepping forward to attempt to organize the Revolutionary Worker right off the line.

However, in spite of all the attempts of the ruling class and their agents to sabotage this march, the huge demon
eration goes on, papers change hands and by the time the van rolls out—eluding the then arriving local cops—an angry young Black woman has joined the squad for the day, stepping forward to attempt to organize the Revolutionary Worker right off the line.

 ingestion gone. An exasperated nor
day, a van pulls up to an unemployment center and a dozen volunteers pour into the office, march
ing and chanting. Challenging agita
tion goes on, papers change hands and by the time the van rolls out—eluding the then arriving local cops—an angry young Black woman has joined the squad for the day, stepping forward to attempt to organize the Revolutionary Worker right off the line.

As we go to press, ten volunteers from the Revolutionary May Day Brigades are locked up in Youngstown, Ohio (see story, page 8). Their bail is $4,500 each. Funds are urgently needed! Send contributions to:

Native May Day Committee
3136 E. Davison
Detroit, Michigan 48212

Bus Driver Disappoints FBI
After being told that the Greyhound bus to Greensboro was not running that day, a group of people on their way to Greensboro march from one area managed to force the company to back down. As their bus approached Greensbo
ro the driver told them that it had been prearranged for him to meet two FBI agents who called the bus into town.

After dropping people off at the rally site and returning to the office, the bus driver decided to stop at a motel room where they asked him a couple of questions. He told them that "this thing was going to happen anyway, they were just going to be another "shootout" between the Klan and the leftists.

However, he declined their offer saying they had been involved in violent confrontations and wanted him to be part of it. He said he didn't want to be a part of it and refused to go.

Idabel
Continued from page 5
idemonstration making its way through Greensboro had a big effect, not just on those who came, but on the people of Greensboro as a whole. The whole way or another, had their eyes on what happened that day. The demon
stration made a political statement the authorities did not want in the streets of Greensboro. This was a solid, large, packed demonstration going with bourgeois's plans for what should go on. The authorities tried to claus
ted only silence, with no opposition from the masses. And it makes it more possible for us to carry through the struggle, the whitewash of the massacre in the secrecy they want.

Idabel
Continued from page 5
've have found this to be one of the most effective ways to get information out to the masses. They are being held on $4,500 bail each. Funds are urgently needed! Send contributions to:

The following letter from a very concern
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Dear Sir,

It is discouraging that we stand by while communist slogans are painted through the city. The same thing has been happening in the past. What care has been taken to paint and decorate and design our buildings, walls and bus shelter-
ters—in a minute they are defaced by thoughtless amorals. They expect to get away with it. They are being adviced so it is very difficult to remove.

I was in San Salvador, Central America last November and there is no wall or building free of ugly painted slogans—even mar

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Dear Sir,
A Talk with Bob Avakian

Continued from page 3

If a year ago they would tell us we were crazy when we pointed to the prospects of war that were rising, particularly with the Soviet Union, as a result of 26 years of the U.S. and imperialism masquerading as a superpower, and they would tell us we were crazy when we pointed to the millions of workers and masses who have been deliberately disarmed and disarmed by the U.S. and the masses told us we were crazy three years ago, they will not spontaneously turn towards us now. But it is happening now that it actually is happening, that this is the normal course of events. That’s the way it is and that’s why we have to do this work.

The Start of the War

And how is the war most likely to start? First we have to look at what the U.S. bourgeoisie militarily, politically, economically, ideologically, etc., is doing. It’s deciding, it’s come to the conclusion, that in order to do its big game hunting, it has to do it with a nuclear weapon. What is the way to do it with a nuclear weapon? It has to start it. First it has to start it, then it has to make sure it’s going to go on.

It is a very real possibility that there is a war that starts between government and government. Concrete examples can be used on this too, like the Afghanistan masses. The question is: why would they do it? Why would they start this war, after all it had been a tremendous showing there, and it does provide us with material (as well as a way to look at) the Chinese revisionists and the U.S. imperialists and all the rest of them that really choose to put the contradiction with the bourgeois superpowers you want,” and that’s correct, much better, a whole new line—the proletariat’s view that “we’ve got other plans” is not just an abstract is a living reality. The Afghanis, where even if they’re taking some punches from the U.S. imperialists, of course and I’ve read, genuine revolutionaries who are basically self-reliant. There are certainly strong mass of the Iranian people who are not toning down their struggle against U.S. imperialism. They are also playing a great role. We’ve got the U.S. and imperialism and its role in Afghanistan.

So those are concrete points of education for the masses in this country. Afghanistan, Iran, are not just concrete things. They didn’t feel that because they were dealing with the U.S. even if they couldn’t (it’s not the Soviet Union). Or didn’t they feel that because the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan they had to release all the material for us to educate the masses. Obviously that’s not true. That’s not going to be the case, within the situation inside Iran either, but looking at its principal aspect, that is true.

The urgency of the situation in general is accelerating. We write a lot about how, now, on New Year’s Day, or the week, or even within a few weeks after that it’s behind, it has to be the “urgency of the situation” the way it’s going to happen. Part of what that means is that, in a way, it is not really that powerful, or what it means is not really that powerful. Not in its basic message or what it is, it’s not powerful, but, given the fact it is. It’s just not powerful enough.

The whole point, actually, is that this is a critical moment when, by necessity, one has to go through the experience of the past, and take lessons from that experience, and see and understand that the world is just not going to be dealt with the way it was in the past, that the contradictions are much more acute.

And that was a good point made in the pamphlet, “It’s Not Our Embassy,” bringing up the point that the Soviets, and there’s no right of condemnation the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. While they are also fighting against U.S. imperialism, in this country we are the only ones with a very strong relationship with the Soviets, and the other side hasn’t had a Vietnam. It would be wonderful to go into this country and advance our position here, in the May Day War 3 with the Soviet Union having gotten the same kind of ass kicking in Afghanistan through the U.S. anyway. We can put the U.S. and imperialism in a much worse position to turn the war into the kind of thing we want—revolutionary war and civil war.

Because of the U.S. “top dog” position, it’s not possible for the superficial appearance that “they’re the ones—the Soviets started it.” That’s the contradiction internationally. All over the country. After all, some people can actually do it. And the contradiction around this whole thing in Iran is the fact that 50 hostages are being held, and that the Grosstotte in that kind of history that went on before that irrelevant now. “Let’s just talk about today.” It’s very important that we get to the issues, the reactions don’t do that, you know, that you don’t do that. Somebody who has no justice on their side, who is a lot stronger than the imperialists. Whatever they did yesterday in response to which the U.S. interventists. And as the interventists went to work on this in 1983, the little my analysis and also that everything that went before that was important, that was important. It would have the same weight on the importance of Iran. That’s why it occupied such a central place in that New Year’s article. It does concentrate so many of these things.

And the imperialists are shifting gears, and Iran is being overshadowed by Afghanistan right now. And, at that point, even of this kind of stuff that the masses are going to have to go through and learn and that has to be a part of our learning—of breaking with national imperialism, of understanding the different angles and basically the pamphlet, “It’s Not Our Embassy,” brings out the big picture so clearly, but sharp agitations. And the articles we’ve written, we’ve given this stuff and we’re people hate U.S. imperialism and why we should too, the little map of some stuff we’ve written about some of these crimes; the article on patriotism and imperialism that we’ve written, that the kind of thing I was talking about on the whole was a perfect job of—and we need more articles on that. It’s a whole different thing, not in terms of anything like that. We have to recognize the situation for what it is. It both increases and accelerates and underscores the urgency of things.

To expose their hypocrisy, I think the whole thing has got to be done in this way. We have to arm the advanced in particular, and influence the broad masses with concrete examples of how the U.S. is to blame. Or you can say, “Well clearly the Soviets started it; it was a good point when the RW pointed out, there they are, here they come again. They’re really imperialists, those motherfuckers. Iran come up here and really cause trouble for those Soviets, and there is a little less matter that the U.S. has invaded Iran’s border. On the part of the imperialists, in particular, there have been a tremendous showing there, and it does provide us with material (as well as a way to look at) the Chinese revisionists and the U.S. imperialists and all the rest of them that really choose to put the contradiction with the bourgeois superpowers you want,” and that’s correct, much better, a whole new line—the proletariat’s view that “we’ve got other plans” is not just an abstract is a living reality. The Afghanis, where even if they’re taking some punches from the U.S. imperialists, of course and I’ve read, genuine revolutionaries who are basically self-reliant. There are certainly strong mass of the Iranian people who are not toning down their struggle against U.S. imperialism. They are also playing a great role. We’ve got the U.S. and imperialism and its role in Afghanistan.

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1912: Continued from page 7

class paper was published to coincide with the new mass upsurge. For the revolutionaries, the masses were trained politically through the Party press, the Lena events and the approach of May Day, to prepare the ground for a full-scale attack on the battleship of Russia's streets.

The St. Petersburg workers had met with reformists and opportunists of various stripes who attempted to push the interpretation of these events and their bourgeois programs onto the workers. There were those who insisted on the need for a “Lena Tenth” as a trade union struggle and a movement for “freedom of association” such as freedom of the capital crystallized the revolutionary interests of the masses and exposed the revolution of the people throughout Russia, into the most backward corners and the outlying provinces. With the political police rampaging through the various sections of the capital, the workers of the capital, produced at great risk, simple leaflets which were smuggled from the suburbs to hand to the workers debased what was written by the May Day associations would take with the St. Petersburg workers in the lead, the May Day strikes of 1912.

One report of the situation in Moscow tells how the strikes protesting the Lena events developed into a political strike for May Day in the Tverskoy and Serpukhov districts of Moscow, which was relatively backward in 1905 and was one of the last areas of the city to go to the barricades during the first revolution. But the seeds that had been planted in 1905 pushed up again and more workers from the more advanced areas joined the 1912 May Day strike, shutting down factories, mills and other smaller industries. In retaliation on May 2, the society of factory and plant owners of the Moscow industrial region, the active leading body of the bourgeoisie, declared: “All workers who on May 1 did not come to work or who walked out during work, will be fired.” The society of factory and plant owners correctly supposed that the strikes on May Day had an organizational character and were beginning of a strengthening battle of the workers for their own class interests.”

Not only did the May Day strikes begin by the mass-conscious workers who drew more backward sections of the class into struggle, they also illustrated the foundations of the people, diverting their struggle, as well, from the dead-end street for irresolution, into the revolutionary struggle against the Tsarist government. The peasants were inspired by the Russian people, rebellions against the landlords, destroying the manor houses and sowing the seeds of revolution. Revolutionary outbreaks also exploded among the ranks of the workers, and in Sevastopol.

The Lena events developed into a broad wave of strikes and riots that periodically rocked the country. However, there is a powerful secessionist movement in Afghanistan, a province of Pakistan inhabited by the brutally oppressed Baluchi people—and Baluchi is in southeast Pakistan, the most sensitive area bordering Iran and Afghanistan. In 1977, Pakistan supported widespread rebellion in Baluchi with U.S. helicopter gunships provided by Iran, slaughtering thousands and succeeding only in further provoking the flames of resistance.

One of the first proclamations of the Soviet puppet Barbak Kamal after he was installed as president of Pakistan contained a demand for the “right of the fraternal Pakistani and Baluchi people to express collectively these peoples must decide themselves about their destiny.” The Soviets are presently maneuvering to extend their influence over the Baluchi secessionist movement, in order to subjugate all to their imperialist designs and the western imperialists are already using this as a pretext to lay the basis on the ground that it is all a “Soviet plot to control the Persian Gulf.”

The instability of Zia’s rule is one of the main sources of tension in the class: Pakistan was listed as one of the chief abusers of “human rights” in a U.N. study last year. The whole Pakistan military establishment is in a “state of alert.” The army dominates all aspects of the country’s life, and it is feared that the regime, which is now in the hands of Prime Minister Shimla, is drifting steadily toward a military coup. The army is under the command of the commander-in-chief, Gen. Zia, who is under constant high-stakes pressure, and if he were to fall, this could potentially destabilize the entire region.

The Soviet Union, having already made its presence felt in Afghanistan, a country that had been a Soviet satellite, is now looking more closely at Pakistan. The country is seen as a key player in the region, and the Soviet Union is likely to increase its influence in the country in order to counterbalance the presence of the United States and its allies. The situation in Pakistan is complex and volatile, with a history of political instability and military intervention. The country is facing significant challenges, including economic difficulties, social unrest, and external threats.

The situation in Pakistan is also closely tied to the broader regional dynamics, particularly the conflict with India. The two countries have a history of tension and conflict over the issue of Kashmir, a region that is claimed by both countries. The situation in Pakistan is closely watched by the international community, as it has the potential to affect the stability and security of the entire region. The country is currently undergoing a political transition, with a new government in power that is facing significant challenges in stabilizing the country and addressing the pressing issues facing the nation.