Crisis in the U.S.S.R.: Bourgeois Coups and Counter-Coups

Special poster 3
Bourgeois Coups and Counter-Coups 4
Who's Who in the Coup 4
Union Treaty 12
Imagine... 13
Appeal to the People of Eastern Europe 14

The Anger in Crown Heights

War Stories: Return to South Africa
Three Main Points
by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic exchange for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.
What Happened in the Soviet Union Is Not a Case of People Power but a Bourgeois Power Play.

The U.S. media has declared the Soviet leaders Yeltsin and Gorbachev heroes of the people. They claim that "people power" stood up to a coup d'etat by "hardliners" who wanted to stop "reforms" in the Soviet Union. This is a big lie.

It's a cold truth: the powers-that-be in the U.S. and the Soviet Union are all trying to use the recent events in the Soviet Union to hoodwink and manipulate the people—in order to advance their ruling class objectives. This brings home an important point: Different classes have their own interests and programs. Until the people learn to figure out the class interests behind developments and events in society—and organize around our own class interests—the powers are going to keep on playing the people for suckers.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and the Soviet coup plotters are all part of the problem in the Soviet Union—they are not part of the solution. Gorbachev and Yeltsin are just bourgeois powers trying to get more power by using the name of the people.

Some oppressed people like the coup plotters better because Gorbachev has been kissing the ass of the Western imperialists, but the coup plotters are just playing a different version of the same game. The Soviet coup failed—not because the people rose up to tear down an oppressive system—but because the coup plotters could not get enough of the bourgeois powers and the armed forces to go along with them.

The leadership struggle in the Soviet Union is not between "hardliners" representing a more socialist view and "reformers" representing an anti-despotic democratic view. It is a struggle between different sections of an imperialist ruling class.

All the players in this scene have blood on their hands. Their fight is over how to preserve a big empire and control the people.

The U.S. rulers favor Yeltsin and Gorbachev because this temporarily suits their own plans for ripping off and dominating the globe. Soviet society is in a serious economic and political crisis. But this is not a crisis of socialism. The Soviet Union is not passing from socialism to capitalism. Gorbachev, Yeltsin—and the coup plotters—all want to bring about a change from one kind of capitalism—state capitalism—to another form of capitalism.

They are all just different capitalist solutions to a capitalist crisis.

Because the rulers in the Soviet Union have been practicing this state capitalism under the false banner of socialism, most of the Soviet people believe they are rebelling against socialism. And because people have been oppressed and alienated by these phony communists, many also believe that Western-style capitalist democracy and market-oriented capitalism will deliver them from political oppression and deprivation. This has already brought great suffering to the people of the Soviet Union and it will bring more. The U.S. rulers are using this confusion to make themselves look good.

This crisis could provide a real opportunity for the people in the Soviet Union to advance their struggle against exploitation and oppression—if they can get clear on and act on their own class interests. A real revolution against the oppressors in the Soviet Union would be in the interests of the people of the whole world.

The problem is that big bourgeois gangs—with the U.S. rulers on top—are running the world. Gorbachev and Yeltsin are just another bourgeois gang.

What the people of the world really need is a radically different future and a radically different system.

Real power to the people in the Soviet Union would be a revolution against all the different bourgeois factions and would be for real communism—where people work in common for the common good of society and humanity worldwide.

Capitalism - Old or New - Will Not Save the Peoples of the Soviet Union Phony Communism Is Dead. Long Live Real Communism! Mao More Than Ever!
Crisis in the U.S.S.R.: Bourgeois Coups and Counter Coups

Last week, key figures inside the Soviet government of Mikhail Gorbachev staged a coup d'etat. The bitter disputes and divisions inside the Soviet ruling class erupted into an open, armed showdown. On Monday, August 19, an eight-member coup committee was formed, including the heads of the military, the KGB (which is the Soviet equivalent of the FBI and CIA), Gorbachev's Vice President and lesser figures. All of these figures were men appointed by Gorbachev himself to their posts—all of them were prominent figures of the ruling revisionist party. Their forces captured Gorbachev in his vacation palace and cut him off from the outside world. They declared military rule in key power centers and trouble spots in the capital Moscow, in Leningrad, and the Baltic republics. Tanks appeared in the streets surrounding the Kremlin—the central offices of the Soviet government.

Within hours, the tables turned. The coup collapsed and then collapsed. Rival forces organized around the Russian President Yeltsin staged a counter-coup—they not only routed the coup-makers but assaulted the major power centers of the old central government. By week's end, the revisionist "Communist Party of the Soviet Union" was stripped of all its government power and property—its offices seized, its newspapers closed.

None of the Sides in this Struggle Was Genuine Communist

The western media portrayed the coup as a move by "fascist" and the "bourgeois communists" supported by guns and the defeat of the "progressive democrats backed by the people. Every part of this is untrue—it is a false picture designed to serve the class interests of the western powers.

This was a showdown between big shot exploiters within the Soviet ruling class. Both sides are desperate for ways to stabilize the country and preserve their ability to exploit the masses of people throughout the Soviet Union. Both sides want to reconstruct a functioning capitalist economy and bourgeois government system in their country—order to re-emerge as a major dominating power on the world stage.

All of the forces in this showdown—Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and the coup-makers—are representatives of the same Soviet state-monopoly capitalist ruling class. The fact that their split broke into the open just shows how deep those splits are inside that ruling class and how serious is the crisis of economics and politics in the U.S.S.R.

There were no genuine communists involved anywhere in this bourgeois struggle. In fact, there have been no genuine communists anywhere in the government of the Soviet Union since capitalism was restored there in the Khroushchev power-grab of 1956.

Until 1985, the ruling powers of the Soviet Union chose to call themselves "communists." Because they were phony communists and real exploiters of the people, Marxists have always called them "revisionists" and "Soviet social-imperialists."

After 1985, the Soviet rulers increasingly stopped even pretending to be communists. Yeltsin left the Soviet Communist Party and declared he was an anti-communist. Gorbachev decided to stay in the revisionist party, but he called on Yeltsin's party to openly proclaim itself as a social-democratic bourgeois ruling party.

The military, police and party forces behind the coup are described as "hardline communists" in the western press—but this is also untrue. In all their public statements,...

Who's Who in the Coup

Gorbachev

The Western imperialists and their media say that Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's future after the coup seems shaky but that at least he should be given credit for opening the door to "democracy" and leading the people down the road of "freedom." In reality, Gorbachev's program of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) was a desperate attempt by the Soviet ruling class to deal with severe crisis and save their system from collapse. They hoped to change their state capitalist setup into another form of monopoly capitalism more in tune with Western capitalism and to realign international relations so that they could compete with the other imperialist powers in the world on a new, stronger basis.

But Gorbachev's efforts at restructuring have nothing but greater hardship for the masses in the Soviet Union. People have been hit with incredible rate of inflation and food shortages. Gorbachev has sent troops to enforce brutal crackdowns in Azerbaijan and the Baltic republics—blood is on his hands.

And Gorbachev has failed to pull the ruling class out of crisis—their problems have only gotten sharper. The economy is in a bigger mess, the republics are struggling against central Soviet control, the people hate Gorbachev and his government and the Soviet Union is seen as much weaker internationally.

Gorbachev's policies had already given rise to conflicting centers of power—at the republic level, at the government level, and at the committee of power. Heated disputes developed over the pace of change. The failure of his policy to make major breakthroughs against the crisis has made the splits in the ruling class even sharper.

Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin is pictured by his supporters and the media as a "democratic liberal" who represents "progress." This is a big lie. It is true that Yeltsin has been an outgrowth of bourgeois polities in the U.S. who claim they are a "mammoth of the people" and then use it as license for all kinds of crimes against the people. But his "democratic" cover is very thin. The rise of Yeltsin means the rise of Russian nationalism in the Soviet Union.

Before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, the Russian oppressors and the ruling class feared what it could do to the "house of nations." Yeltsin's rise has brought the revival of ugly Russian chauvinism and racism symbolized by the national flag of Russia. When he was the top revisionist party of the coup was a victory for Yeltsin because it gave recognition to Parvayan. This is a military reactionary group who call for war against the Jewish and whose goal is keeping Russia
they endorsed the Gorbachev policy of becoming more openly bourgeois. Nowhere in their statements did they call for maintaining the revisionist camouflage: they never once used the words "socialism" or "communism." They repeatedly said they fully supported the current moves to develop private capitalism alongside state capitalism.

Crisis Created Deep Splits Within The Soviet Ruling Class

The Soviet Union is in the deepest political and economic crises that has hit any industrialized country in the last half century. Although the west has glorified the so-called "reforms" of Mikhail Gorbachev, the truth is that under his six years of rule the society has sunk into a worsening economic mess. And in the last year, the economy has dropped like a stone—leaving the country increasingly in debt and bankrupt. A joke on the street: "When Gorbachev came to power the country was on the brink of a terrible abyss. Then he ordered us to take a bold step forward."

This situation has greatly deepened the people's distrust of the government. It increased support for those calling for different structural changes in the government and the economy. And it has increased the eagerness of smaller nationalities to leave the Soviet Union altogether. One Baltic government leader said: "Why should the mouse stick himself to a sinking elephant?"

The coming Union Treaty (see article page 12) would have accepted a smaller Soviet Union and a far weaker federal government. These developments increased the struggle inside the central ruling circles.

Internationally Gorbachev's policies have also failed. He attempted to make deals with western powers in exchange for loans and technical help in stabilizing the economy. The western powers have forced major concessions out of Gorbachev and then demanded more, so the so-called "ax" they have given in return has been extremely limited. Gorbachev has been developing closer ties with Western Europe so the Soviet Union could reemerge as a major world power—but the Soviet Union really appears to be steadily weakening on the world stage, losing its bloc in Eastern Europe and losing its influence in key regions like southern Africa and the Middle East.

These failures have deepened bitter splits in the ruling class. Major structural changes in the government, in the economy, and in the military have caused dislocation and discontent among those who control powerful institutions. New power centers have been emerging and competing.

Basically the coup-makers feared that central power in the Soviet Union was collapsing and they made a desperate move to stop it.

The Counter-Coup Was Not Based on "People Power"

When this coup failed, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that these events showed that Mao Tsetung was wrong about where political power comes from. Polite power, Baker said, does not come from the barrel of a gun, it comes from the will of the people. This remark was outrageous and deceitful. But these thugs had nothing to do with the revolution. Stalin's regime was loyal to him, and he would resist the coup-makers with all his power.

Yeltsin, who was never a member of the central party, never joined the coup. He told Gorbachev he would not go. "Now, Yeltsin has used the power base in the Soviet republic to propel his forces to a dominant position in the Soviet Union.

They can mean nothing good for the people in the Soviet Union.

"guns" from "foreign" influences. When Yeltsin was inaugurated as the Russian republic to propel his forces to a dominant position in the Soviet Union, the music that was played was a major world player—but the Soviet Union really appears to be steadily weakening on the world stage, losing its bloc in Eastern Europe and losing its influence in key regions like southern Africa and the Middle East.

These failures have deepened bitter splits in the ruling class. Major structural changes in the government, in the economy, and in the military have caused dislocation and discontent among those who control powerful institutions. New power centers have been emerging and competing. Basically the coup-makers feared that central power in the Soviet Union was collapsing and they made a desperate move to stop it.

When this coup failed, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that these events showed that Mao Tsetung was wrong about where political power comes from. Politic power, Baker said, does not come from the barrel of a gun, it comes from the will of the people. This remark was outrageous and deceitful.
"The cops are working for the government. The government is no good. All the government do is send drugs in the country and stuff like that. There was a riot! The cops was losing! Black people was winning. That's the part I like about it."

Crown Heights is a community of 300,000 people in central Brooklyn, New York. Eighty percent of the residents are Black. Many of the recent immigrants from the Caribbean: from Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, Haiti, Grenada and other countries. In this neighborhood there are also about 30,000 whites who are members of the Lubavitcher Hasidic Jewish sect which has been built up by the powers as a thoroughly reactionary force. For years there has been tension between Hasidic Jews and Black people in this neighborhood. Many of these Hasidim are petty bourgeois small shop-owners. They have been given preferential treatment by the police and other city authorities. And armed Hasidic security units patrol the neighborhood, keeping Black people out of section of the community. These patrols are backed up by the police.

Deadly Accident in Apartheid, USA

Monday, August 20 tensions came to a head. Two seven-year-old cousins, Gavin and Angela Cato, were riding Gavin's bicycle on the sidewalk near the intersection of Utica and President streets. The two cousins' families had come to the U.S. from Guyana seeking a better life. A station wagon was busy talking on a cellular phone and had fallen behind the other cars in the caravan. When he saw the light changing to red he sped up to catch up. According to many eyewitnesses, after the crash the driver got out of the car and tried to leave the scene. He was grabbed and beaten by outraged people. A man from Trinidad who was quoted in the Amsterdam News explained: "If this man had acted like a man, we would have held him until the police came; but instead he ran, and the police came in no time and escorted this 70-year-old man while the kids laid there."

Within minutes dozens of police were brought in from the nearby 71st precinct. People demanded that the driver of the station wagon be arrested. But the cops were more worried about the safety of the Jewish men and the angry mood of Black people on the street than they were about the two children trapped under the car. They attacked the people holding the driver including Gavin's father, Carmel Cato. A Black man said the Amsterdam News, "We are not going to take this. It's murder! I pulled the little girl from under the car, I held her in my arms, and the police punched me. She kept asking for Gavin."

A private Jewish ambulance operated by Hatzolah arrived on the scene moments later. Instead of freeing the children from the wreckage and tending them, the ambulance took the Jewish men out under the protection of the police. Police Commissioner Lee Brown was quoted in the New York Times saying that the police told the Hatzolah ambulance to get out of the area "in the interests of preserving the peace there." By the time the city ambulance came, Gavin was dead. Angela was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. According to the press more than 100 police, some in riot gear, surrounded the scene. They set up barricades to keep people away from the site of the crash. A Black woman told the NY: "The little girl I didn't see when they took her away. But I saw when they were working on the little boy. And I believe he was dead before they took him away. And after that, that's when all the violence started. Because when the truck that drags the cars and stuff like that to the pound came to pick up the station wagon, they had pulled out a bike, a child's bike, from under the station wagon. The police had hustled them across the street. But when the crowd saw the bike, that's when everybody broke."

It's Right to Rebel!

For that point on, for three solid days, thousands of Black people, most of them under twenty, fought running battles with the police. Police cars were smashed, overturned and some torched. Close to one hundred cops were treated for injuries. Some stores were looted. Flicking the police was a real target of the media. The people also chanted "Murderers!" "War!" "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" and the Zulu war cry "Zooom!"

The media was a real target of the youth's anger. The media pumped out all kinds of lies, parroting the police story which failed to even mention that the car that hit the children had run a red light and denied that the Hatzolah ambulance had picked the kids up and left the scene before the children were treated. Almost every major local paper had front page stories about the murder, allegedly by Black youth, of Yankel Rosenbaum, an Hasidic who was stabbed to death shortly after Gavin was killed. But there was little mention of Gavin's death, except to use it to attack the rebellious youth.

The youth were riotously outraged by all this. Television vans were stolen and reporters were attacked and beaten. The youth refused to allow any white, mainstream media into their neighborhood. When they did come in they had to set up their equipment behind lines of hundreds of police or on the rooftops of buildings. Those reporters who did actually try to get...
Crown Heights

the story of the police attacking the youth and residents of the community were attacked by the police!

In running battles Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night, the police were forced to retreat again and again. In part this was because of the fearlessness of the youth and their numbers. But it was also because the powers were afraid that if they made a big move on the youth, things would explode even more. The making police officer at the scene, was quoted in Newsday saying "We felt it would defuse the tension." City officials described the situation as the most serious racial conflict in Crown Heights in memory. Despite daily visits by Mayor Dinkins, the presence on the scene of Deputy Mayor Bill Lynch and hundreds of police, the authorities admitted the situation was "out of control." Authorities worried aloud that the rebellion could spread to other areas of the city that are already tense from a series of racist attacks on Blacks and other oppressed people.

Powers Strike Back

But the police did viciously beat anyone they could isolate from the crowd. They also beat up press people who witnessed police brutality. By Tuesday night the police had set up a Brooklyn South Task Force that, according to the Amsterdam News, "was set up for the sole purpose of intimidating 'pressers' from Crown Heights." Reporters from the NY Times, Newsday and Daily News were attacked by police. Black news reporters were beaten as well. Including Vinitte Pryce and Chris Griffith, both from the Black weekly, Amsterdam News. Chris is the brother of Michael Griffith, the Black youth who was murdered in a racist attack in Howard Beach four years ago.

Newsday reported that one man said police laughed while they punched him and hit him with nightsticks. Another man who was chased and beaten by police told Newsday, "I tried to come off the street. I ran in the building. I ran in the basement, the closest place of the street, and five cops followed me. They beat me up, busted my head. I cried, "All right, I didn't do any-thing," but they keep on lashing me. They said, "We got one," and they were laugh-ing."

A Black woman resident told the Amsterdam News: "Police beat my kids; they beat up plenty kids. My kid was in a store, he walked out and a cop grabbed him and took him to the 73rd precinct. I was there for four hours before I could even see him. While I was waiting, I saw at least four teenagers go out that back, bloody and they looked as if they could hardly walk; it was a disgrace."

When Dinkins came into the community for a meeting on Wednesday evening he was surrounded by about 50 cops. As the mayor and police commissioner entered the school where the meeting was to be held, they were pelted with rocks and bottles. The Daily News reported, "Browns was caught in a crossfire of stones and bottles outside the Lubavitcher headquarters on Eastern Parkway as hundreds of black marchers arrived at the building.... As Browns ducked into the building to escape the fusilbde, his driver frandcally radioed that "As we got one," and they were laugh

The following excerpt is from a leaflet by the New York Branch of the Revolutionary Communist Party on the situation in Crown Heights:

JUSTICE FOR GAVIN CATO! IT’S RIGHT TO REBEL!

Is this an isolated incident in Crown Heights? Or for Black people anywhere in America? No. This is a daily battle for Black people in apartheid-Amerikkka.

Over and over again, in this country, Black people have been murdered, raped and beaten by lynch mobs, gangs of jocks, pigs, the KKK and nothing has been done. All the Black mayors and Black police chiefs don’t amount to doing shit about this because this is systemic, and it will keep happening as long as this system is in existence. It is not just a system exploits and destroys whole countries around the world, like Guyana and jamaica and Haiti, and forces people here, then subjects them to a life of exploitation and casual murder. "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The system is they have the guns to back up their power. The solution is a mass armed revolution to take their power away, to put an end to the oppression of Black people, and all oppression once and for all.

The powers-that-be say that the rebellion in Crown Heights has been "senseless violence of a few." That this is senseless division between Black and Jewish people. The reality of Crown Heights is this: Those in power in this country have built up a highly organized, disciplined and thoroughly reactionary sect of Jewish people in the midst of an explosive Black community. These reactionary forces have been given license to act as enforcers for the system. The organized Hassids of Crown Heights are part of the white-supremacist power structure in N.Y.C. That’s not anti-semitism, that’s truth. (Anti-semitism is wack). Those Hassids have their own militia, and work hand in glove with the police. And they are rewarded and protected for this role.

Two years ago, after the Bensonhurst lynching, our Chairman, Bob Avakian, said, "Black people suffer oppression, as Black people, everywhere they turn in this society. For Black people to have gut feelings against whites is not the same thing as the other way around. This is a male supremacist, while supremacist system we live under. Men who are chauvinists, whites who are racists, have this whole system behind them, and in turn they help to prop up this system, with all its brutal oppression. Our fire must be aimed at this male chauvinism, and white supremacy—and the system they serve."

The powers can’t stop this racist inequality without tearing away at what’s keeping them in power. That’s why the driver that killed Gavin Cato wasn’t arrested. That’s why Dinkins just wants to cool the people out. It’s Right to Rebel! And let’s not let anyone tell us otherwise. It’s not all that got to get rid of this system. Viewed that way, this rebellion has accomplished some things. In the midst of the declarations of the "New World Order," this rebellion blew a hole in the idea that everybody just has to get used to an eternity of living like slaves and animals in a world run by the likes of George Bush, Gerhach and their kind. It has broken the power out and put them on the run. Just one section of the basic people in one neighborhood in Brooklyn, fighting the authorities, has thrown these dogs in a frenzy because it raises the specter of mass revolution arising from our youth and ourselves. That’s why the driver that killed Gavin Cato was murdered by the police!

There IS a solution! Mass armed revolution! We need to take things further—to the day when we can get rid of this system once and for all. Our fight has to be part of pushing up for this! We need to prepare our people and ourselves. We need to fight this battle through, and spread the contagion of rebellion against oppression among the people. We need to do, build and support our vanguard party for revolution, the Revolutionary Communist Party, and its youth group, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, to be in position to lead the people from rebellion to all-the-way revolution when the conditions for that are ripe. We need to build unity among the basic people of all nationalities, and among our allies, to be able to unite all the forces needed to give this system its death blow. Our battles today can get us ready.

JUSTICE FOR GAVIN CATO! ARREST THE DRIVERS PIGS OUT OF THE COMMUNITY! NO PEACE FOR RACISTS! ITS RIGHT TO REBEL! END THE OPPRESSION OF BLACK PEOPLE THERE IS A SOLUTION—MASS ARMED REVOLUTION!

Revolutionary Communist Party, New York Branch
In the mid-1980s a ferocious rebellion rocked the apartheid regime of South Africa—called Azania by the revolutionary people there. As the uprisings grew and intensified they drew in Black people from every part of the country and all walks of life. The South African government tried to bury the rebellions in prisons and in blood. And they failed. While the repression continued, the regime was forced to embark on a path that seemed unimaginable at the beginning of the decade. Many apartheid laws were formally repealed. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were released from jail. Long banned political opposition groups were legalized and allowed to operate openly inside the country. And the apartheid regime began to carry out negotiations with its long-time opponents in the African National Congress and other Black opposition groups.

In the face of all this, the Azanian people continued to struggle for liberation. By mid-1989 the situation in the country was compared to the height of the nationwide uprisings in 1985. But the Western press continued to whitewash the struggle in South Africa. They presented a sanitized and wildly distorted picture of what was happening—a rosy picture of negotiations leading to fundamental change. Reports on the struggle of the Azanian people were limited to sensationalized stories of “black on black violence.”

In late 1990 Michael Slate, correspondent for the Revolutionary Worker, traveled to South Africa. This was his second trip to bring back the truth of what was happening in that country—his first trip in 1987 resulted in the RW series “War Stories: A Report from South Africa.” The series Slate has brought back—and the voices that tell them—are never heard in the mainstream press. They are the voices of the youth on the frontlines of battle and of the peasants with revolution in their hearts in the countryside. In the coming weeks the RW will continue this new series—in the hope that it will hasten the day when the racist South African regime is brought down and genuine liberation for the Azanian people from apartheid and imperialism is achieved.

Youth who have organized to fight the vigilantes.
the South African-backed terrorist group in Mozambique that has committed heinous crimes against the people and murdered millions of people.

Battle at Uitenhage

An old cow grazing on some weeds by the side of the road begrudgingly moved out of the way as we pulled up to park our car. We were on a hillside in one of the so-called Colored townships of Uitenhage. Below us was a complex of empty buildings. Many of the buildings were burnt down, others were scarred with bullet holes. The comrade with me swept his arm across the horizon as he spoke. "I'm sure you heard about the Port Elizabeth (PE) uprisings. They started in PE but comrades and then the press would go and stories soon, but first I wanted to show you stale and the collaborators but it very quick regime. Not all shopowners are like this but of their collaboration with Pretoria and be government offices—the rent office and the Colored Labor Party and that party is one of Icam here. They always talk of black on black violence and in our situation it was..."

"...of their involvement in the so-called black on black violence. This was one of the first areas where vigilante forces began to appear during these rebellions. And these vigilante forces came from the areas of the middle class. These are people who have reasons to hate the racist regime but they are also people who have some little things—a good job, a house, some cars and what not. Because they hate the system we can bring them to the side of the people. But they are people who are also scared of the rest of our people. They hate the system but they fear the people and sometimes can be convinced to rely on the system to protect them from the people.

"Now, this better-off area sits on top of the hill, above the bus terminal and the intense fighting that was going on here. The police began to go into this neighborhood and spread the story that all of the battles below were just skirmishes, that is what they call criminal elements among the youth, who were only out to rob and steal. So the police together with the Labor Party supporters organized these people into Neighborhood Watches which very quickly became vigilantes at the urgings of the police.

Continued on page 10"
Get the Truth About the People's War in Peru!

It's 1991 and people's war rages throughout Peru. From the highest mountains to the coastal cities, the people on the bottom are making history. But the world's media have tried to surround the guerrillas with a wall of lies about their actions and a wall of silence around their aims. They say the rebels are supporting the criminals and are killing innocent people from all walks of life. They call them shadowy and mysterious, and even refuse to call the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) by its real name—filing its true character behind politicalonyms like "Shining Path" or "Sendero Luminoso."

Break through these walls! Subscribe to El Diario Internacional.

El Diario is the only Peruvian periodical that has printed the truth about the people's war in Peru. It is read by more than 100,000 people worldwide, who come to El Diario for independent and unfiltered views and goals of the Maoist PCP. For this, the paper has been banned and arrested various times by the Peruvian authorities, its presses smashed, its editors imprisoned and driven into exile.

New Left Arbe Boja, the editor, is publishing a new international edition, El Diario Internacional, from exile. Recent articles include: "Open Doors for U.S. Entry," "U.S. Prepares Intervention in Peru," "Where Do the MRTA's Arms Come From?" and "1990 Victoriously Concludes 10 Years of Popular War."

As the U.S. gears up for a full-scale invasion of Peru and the people's war surges forward, the inside coverage in El Diario Internacional is indispensable for keeping up to date on the rapidly developing conflict. For subscription information:

For subscription information:
U.S.:
Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru
P.O. Box 1246
Berkeley, CA 94701

International:
Publicación de Auténtica
Perú y Latinoamérica
BP 1668
1000 Brussels 1
BELGIUM

War Stories

Continued from page 9

Durban Fiction

"Here's something you won't believe."
The Azanian comrades pointed off in the direction of a large group of black and white people surrounding a small yellow police truck. The truck had a wire cage on the back to hold prisoners. It was Friday night on the Durban beachfront and, as usual, the boardwalk and the beachfront disco were packed with local black people and often-drunk whites. As we made our way to the front of the crowd surrounding the police truck, the young commuter explained the situation. "This is something that everyone knows. Everyone on one another and the cops are making arrests. I want you to see the very different ways that our people and the whites look at things, especially at the police."

A few minutes after we got to the front of the crowd a couple of South African cops walked up to their truck with one of the whites they had arrested. They got the white man into the back of the truck and then took off to search for others involved in the fight.

Some Azanians who had been standing close to the truck noticed that there was no lock on the cage door. They started yelling at the white prisoner to just get up and leave. Finally, exasperated by the prisoner's refusal to do anything, one of the youths walked up to the truck and opened the cage door wide open. The white prisoner looked startled but after a few minutes he got up and moved towards the door. The black youths in the crowd started shouting encouragement to the prisoner and virtually everyone assumed the man would make his escape. After a few scared glances at the crowd the white prisoner reached out and closed the cage door before moving back to his seat. The black youths in the crowd shook their heads and laughed in disbelief.

When the crowd dispersed we set off to find some cheap food on the boardwalk. As we passed by one of the trendy outdoor restaurants a group of yuppy-looking white diners asked us what had happened. Before anyone could say anything else one of the Azanian comrades turned and, struggling hard to maintain a straight face, announced that "it was another incident of white-on-white violence." The diners exploded in laughter.

Later, as we sat down to eat some burgers, the comrades started to talk about the news of the last week. In the beginning of the week a large group of black youths from a nearby squatter camp had come to the beachfront area and began attacking white people on the streets. The press immediately identified the youths as possible members of the Pan African Congress. Later, when this claim proved false, the press went on to describe the youths as crazed members of a religious sect. When the real story was uncovered, it turned out that the youths were members of a black group that had its origins in the early part of the century. This group was based in the townships and squatter camps and was known as an organization dedicated to the protection of black people. The group became infamous for taking revenge on whites who were identified as enemies of the black people. The police came down hard on this group and eventually it existed only in South Africa's black townships. The beachfront attack marks an attempt to revive the group in the squatter camps surrounding Durban.

The eldest of the black townships all kinds of groups opposed to the racist regime and dedicated to fighting back against oppression spring up and die out all of the time.

From the beachfront attack the conversation shifted to the brutal ambush of a black commuter bus a day or so after the beachfront attack. Unlike the beachfront attack there are no black commuter trains between the townships and the city in the Durban area. Most black people have to rely on the combi taxis or the black bus system to get back and forth from the city each day.

Every morning and evening, hundreds of thousands of Azanians cram into the commuter buses for the bone-jarring ride in and out of the city. Earlier in the week one of these buses was attacked by three men in a van. The van had pulled up alongside the bus on one of the local highways and the men sprayed the bus with automatic rifles. Everyone on the bus was hit by a bullet, some worse than others, and many of the passengers died in the attack. The press immediately began to pump out stories of how the attack was another example of "black on black violence." Depending on where you read it, the attack was either the ANC attacking Inkatha supporters or Inkatha attacking ANC supporters. The townships around Durban were once again brought to the edge of open warfare.

The comrades who had joked about the white-on-white violence had a few things to say in any. "You saw how those whites reacted. They knew I was joking, they could not believe that white people are capable of such things. But they have no trouble organizing to kill each other. It is easy for them to believe—it's what they are told all of the time and they see it as a reason that we would not be able to govern ourselves."

"Look at this bus attack. They are only saying that it is ANC and Inkatha again. No one among the whites can say that maybe there are police or whites involved in this ambush. I think that whites have done it. They could say it was revenge for the attacks on the beach. And if you see the type of rifles used to shoot the bus, some of these fences are as used by the SAP and the SADF. And even if the weapons were AKs, it is still easy for the police to get AKs. They take them all of the time from the ANC cadres they capture. You know, there have been many accounts of the attacks on the buses, on the streets and the bus and taxi drivers that say that while men—sometimes with faces painted black and sometimes not—have been involved in these attacks. A white woman died in one of the attacks in Ju'burg shortly before she died that it was a white man who shot her. But no one says anything more about this. They have no interest in finding out what is the cause of these attacks. They only want to use them to cause more suffering for our people."

A few days later the South African police arrested three members of the white paramilitary National组织, AWB—Afrikan Resistance Movement—for the attack on the commuter bus. One of the main Durban newspapers had received a communique from the AWB immediately after the bus ambush. The AWB communique claimed responsibility for the bus attack. But the newspaper went on to run stories that never even mentioned receiving the communique but instead ran out daily stories of how the bus attack was most likely the product of Inkatha attacks on one another. It was only after the arrest of the AWB members that the newspaper finally announced that they had received the communique right after the ambush. Many of the local townships had been brought to the edge of a very bloody confrontation.
Crown Heights

Continued from page 7

came out on the steps of their building with a bullhorn and tried to get the crowd to chant "Incorporate the Peace" (from the movie Boyz N the Hood), he was shouted down with cries of "Traitor! Traitor!" He left under a rain of debris thrown from the crowd.

No Justice for Black People

Many people in the neighborhood pointed out that if the driver were Black and the children were white, things would have gone down a different way. Black people spoke bitterly of the way they are treated by the Hatzolah and the way the police support the Hasidim in every confrontation with Black people.

During the rebellion dozens of Black people were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and inciting to riot. Police helicopters flew low over rooftops taking people's picture for later prosecution. Yet armed patrols of the Jewish Defense League (JDL) and the Hasidim were left to roam the streets. The press reported that these patrols sought out Black youth, cornered them and beat them up. According to many witnesses on the scene and the Amsterdam News, over and over again the police promised the Hasidim while they threw rocks and bottles at the Black youths!

On top of this there has been some anti-Semitism among some of the Black youth. But those who have correctly called this out as totally wack. One youth who took part in the rebellion told the RW, "I see other brothers walking down the street taunting them (Jewish people), they like Me. Hitler. I hate them too. I be like hey. I hate Hitler wanted to kill us too. They're not listening to us. And people are running the city, running the system. I'm talking about the outsiders. My brothers walking down the street taunting them. They're not listening to us.

Unfortunately there has been some anti-Semitism among some of the Black youth. But others have correctly called this out as totally wack. One youth who took part in the rebellion told the RW, "I see other brothers walking down the street taunting them (Jewish people), they like Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler. They be saying that stupid shit. I hate them too. I be like hey. I hate Hitler wanted to kill us too. They're not listening to us. And people are running the city, running the system. I'm talking about the outsiders. My brothers walking down the street taunting them. They're not listening to us.

The youth who have been rebelling in Crown Heights are seeking out solutions in a way they never had before and when they met up with revolutionaries from the RCP and the RCYB who are preparing for the time when the system can be brought down through mass armed revolution, they wanted to know how do we get ready for that? What do we do next? When a multinational poster from the RCYB went into Crown Heights some youth tried to attack the white RCYBers. But other Black youth stopped this, arguing that it was a good thing that youth of all nationalities were standing side by side with them in the fight against these racist attacks. Things also got a lot clearer when a jump-out squad of plainclothes pigs formed the RCYB posse (including a youth from the neighborhood who was running with them) up against the wall at gunpoint. These pigs were trying to retaliate for some spraypainted slogans on a wall that said "Revolution is the hope of the hopeless. It's right to revolt" signed by the RCYB.

Clampdown Escalates

By Thursday, the powers decided to institute an even more vicious clampdown to try and stop the rebellion. Three thousand police in riot gear on horseback, foot, and on motorcycles descended into an area seven blocks by six blocks. Pigs on all levels were mobilized from across the city, including many who had been working at desk jobs. The head of the police union released a memo that read in part: "If police officers are placed under a life-threatening attack, they should use their nightsticks or firearms to fend against such attacks." FBI agents crawled around the neighborhood, according to Newsday "preparing to make arrests for civil rights violations and inciting riots." State Senator Alfonse D'Amato called for a full-scale investigation to find out who "instigated" the riots. Authorities have been appealing for "peace" and for people to rely on the system for justice. At the same time they are already setting the stage for the driver to get away with his crime. A Grand Jury has been called up to hear evidence, but the press is already reporting that "legally" the driver can't be charged with vehicular homicide because of some kind of technicality.

There will never be any justice for Black people under this system. Not one pig who murdered a Black or Latino person in N.Y.C. has ever done any time. All but one of the racists who have beaten, raped and murdered Black and Latino people in the past five years have either gone completely free or have received very light sentences. Most were never even charged for their crimes! And the only racist who's doing any serious time, Joey Fama, one of the thugs who murdered Yusuf Hawkins, is only doing it because there was so much outrage among the Black community that the powers were afraid that the city would explode if he wasn't given time.

As we go to press the situation is still very tense and there continue to be stand-offs between Black youth and the police. On Sunday, August 24, hundreds of people marched through Crown Heights demanding justice for Gavin Cato. No one has been arrested and charged with any crime in connection with Gavin's death.

The police who beat Gavin's father, Car-

New York Post wrote in its editorial, "It must now be understood...that anyone who engages in divisive rhetoric is guilty of inci-
dent to violence—nothing less. The authori-
yes have been appealing for "peace" and for people to rely on the system for justice. At the same time they are already setting the stage for the driver to get away with his crime. A Grand Jury has been called up to hear evidence, but the press is already reporting that "legally" the driver can't be charged with vehicular homicide because of some kind of technicality.

The police who beat Gavin's father, Car-

esi, has not been held responsible. Yet two Black youth have been arrested for the mur-
On Thursday, August 22 Soviet President Gorbachev and Russian President Yeltsin were supposed to sign a treaty which they said would preserve the core of the Soviet empire. The proposed treaty called for shifting power from the central Soviet government to the different republics that make up the Soviet Union. When opponents within Gorbachev’s own government and military staged their coup on Monday, August 20, one of their goals was to stop this treaty. In their view, the only way to preserve the Soviet empire was to preserve the central government and to use force to crush the independence movements of various republics.

The Soviet Union is a Multinational State with a Dominator Russian Nationality

The Soviet Union is a multinational state with over a hundred different nationalities. The largest of these nations is Russia. Over half of the people in the Soviet Union are Russians.

After the Socialist Revolution of 1917, the old Russian empire was abolished. A revolutionary new socialist federation of nations was established. This federation was made up of 15 republics. The largest of these was the huge Russian republic, which included the bulk of the land in the Soviet Union. All the nationalities were equal. Russian capitalist interests no longer dominated the rest.

But when capitalism was restored in the Soviet Union, in the mid-1980s, the old national oppression came back full force. The new capitalist rulers kept the old hierarchical framework of the Soviet Union; but, in reality, the peoples of all nationalities in the Soviet Union were exploited by a single centralized state-monopoly capitalist class, dominated by the Russian bourgeoisie.

Some of these nations are relatively developed European nations, like the Baltic republics. Others are poor, Third World countries, like the republics of Soviet Central Asia and the Caucasus. For them, the situation was similar to the way Puerto Rico is dominated by the United States. The Soviet republics were richer economically and culturally than the smaller republics.

Crisis and National Changes

After 1985, ever-decreasing crises swept over the Soviet bloc. When the Soviet Union did undergo major changes, its Eastern Europe by armed force, the republics inside the Soviet Union started to make demands for independence. In several republics along the Baltic Sea and in Central Asia, people overturned the so-called “free elections” that were supposed to preserve the Soviet Union. These elections were a direct result of this coup.

These governments are bourgeois nationalist governments—that want control over their own capitalist national economies. They no longer want economic and political decision in their republics to be made in the interests of the overall central government. These governments don’t want tightly tied into the market of the Soviet Union. These forces are gambling that they will be more successful if they break the Soviet Union along ethnic lines and close and cut off direct ties to Western imperialist monopolies.

Virtually all of the republican governments have declared themselves “sovereign” in the last two years. This means they have a separate sovereignty property of their republican governments and they reject laws made at the center. Two-thirds of the republics have completely and officially dropped any claims that their system is “socialist” or that their ruling party had long been the only important party in the union. Because the republics have declared this week that their system is “socialist” or that their ruling party had long been the only important party in the union, the remaining Russian republic is likely to sign a treaty with the independent governments of the other 14 republics.

Alarms Ring in the Central Russian Ruling Class

These developments caused panic and a fundamental change in the social system in the country.

U.S.S.R.

continued from page 8

The gathering of civilians and troops around the White House meant that the coup-makers would have to stage a major coup in order to save Yeltsin. But the leaders of the coup backed away from this. What they didn’t realize was that in Yeltsin didn’t seize the Russian “White House.”

But when capitalism was restored in the Soviet Union, in the mid-1980s, the old national oppression came back full force. The new capitalist rulers kept the old hierarchical framework of the Soviet Union; but, in reality, the peoples of all nationalities in the Soviet Union were exploited by a single centralized state-monopoly capitalist class, dominated by the Russian bourgeoisie.

Some of these nations are relatively developed European nations, like the Baltic republics. Others are poor, Third World countries, like the republics of Soviet Central Asia and the Caucasus. For them, the situation was similar to the way Puerto Rico is dominated by the United States. The Soviet republics were richer economically and culturally than the smaller republics.

Crisis and National Changes

After 1985, ever-decreasing crises swept over the Soviet bloc. When the Soviet Union did undergo major changes, its Eastern Europe by armed force, the republics inside the Soviet Union started to make demands for independence. In several republics along the Baltic Sea and in Central Asia, people overturned the so-called “free elections” that were supposed to preserve the Soviet Union. These elections were a direct result of this coup.

These governments are bourgeois nationalist governments—that want control over their own capitalist national economies. They no longer want economic and political decision in their republics to be made in the interests of the overall central government. These governments don’t want tightly tied into the market of the Soviet Union. These forces are gambling that they will be more successful if they break the Soviet Union along ethnic lines and close and cut off direct ties to Western imperialist monopolies.

Virtually all of the republican governments have declared themselves “sovereign” in the last two years. This means they have a separate sovereignty property of their republican governments and they reject laws made at the center. Two-thirds of the republics have completely and officially dropped any claims that their system is “socialist” or that their ruling party had long been the only important party in the union. Because the republics have declared this week that their system is “socialist” or that their ruling party had long been the only important party in the union, the remaining Russian republic is likely to sign a treaty with the independent governments of the other 14 republics.

Alarms Ring in the Central Russian Ruling Class

These developments caused panic and a fundamental change in the social system in the country.

Tuesday, August 20—Soviet military tanks roll into Moscow.

What Does This Week Mean for the People of the Soviet Union and the World?

The Western media is going nuts with celebration and exaggeration. Some of the coverage is the most wonderful week of the twentieth century, others the biggest rock the boat far outside Soviet borders. For these nations, like the republics of Soviet Central Asia and the Caucasus, the situation was similar to the way Puerto Rico is dominated by the United States. The Soviet republics were richer economically and culturally than the smaller republics.

The following was a counter-coup led by the Russian Republican forces headed by Boris Yeltsin. The coup of the coup’s failure—Yeltsin was signing decree still his decree. The Yeltsin coup would have changed the power structure of the country.

The Counter-Coup

What followed was a coup attempt in the Russian Republican forces headed by Boris Yeltsin. The Yeltsin coup would have changed the power structure of the country.

The following was a counter-coup led by the Russian Republican forces headed by Boris Yeltsin. The Yeltsin coup would have changed the power structure of the country.

The following was a counter-coup led by the Russian Republican forces headed by Boris Yeltsin. The Yeltsin coup would have changed the power structure of the country.
poorer and much weaker. Chances of succeeding as a world-class superpower would be small. Without the Ukrainian Republic, Russia would lose major sources of grain, coal, and iron.

So the central Soviet ruling class, headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, tried to suppress secessionist forces using threats and force. In April 1989, central troops used poison gas to kill demonstrators in the Gorky city of Nizhny Novgorod. The Baltic states, Lithuania and Latvia, 22 were killed by central troops in January 1991. None of these moves worked.

A second strategy was developed by a different power center in the central government led by Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin advocated building a new federation that accepted the growing power of the republics. In the end, he himself became president of the Russian republic, which is headquartered in Moscow, where the central government is also headquartered. He demanded that power shift to the republics—and especially to the Russian republic.

After negotiations, Yeltsin and Gorbachev presented the revolutionary proletariat with a new Union treaty which was to be the framework of a new form of federation. It represented a major power shift away from the central government that Gorbachev headed.

The republics would own the land, water, and mineral resources in the boundaries. They could suspend federal laws within their territories, pending agreement with the central government. The central government would only maintain control over the nuclear power industry and the arms industry, energy policy and transportation.

... the central government would no longer raise its own funds. It would be financed through a percentage of the money raised by these republics.

... the central government would control the armed forces—but use of troops in the country would be forbidden except during extreme emergencies.

... the republics could openly proclaim their socialist political system. The federation would no longer be the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It would now be called the Union of Soviet Republics.

And the treaty stated that republics could secede if they wanted to be independent.

This program accepted a serious weakening of the core Soviet empire. However, Yeltsin and Gorbachev argued that it was a necessary compromise needed to preserve at least some of the empire. Only three republics agreed to sign this treaty.

Yeltsin showed his imperial nature by threatening seceding states and demanding that they pay huge cash reparations for Soviet-owned properties there were nationalizing.

Until Yeltsin and Gorbachev were trying to preserve the Russian empire, their Union Treaty went far to further other forces within Gorbachev's own central government.

This dispute inside the imperial ruling class triggered the coup.

With the crisis in the Soviet Union, the U.S. ruling class and press have launched a big attack on communism. They never admit the truth—that the rulers of the Soviet Union are phony communists and that Soviet society has been just another form of oppressive imperialist society for 40 years. And the U.S. rulers are taking advantage of this crisis and confusion about the nature of Soviet society to spread the lie that their dog-eat-dog capitalist system is the only way that people can live. They are bragging about how their bourgeois values and social system is the "best of all possible worlds." They want the people to stop dreaming and fight for a world without oppression. But Maoist revolutionaries know otherwise. We know that this imperialist society has to be overcome, and we work toward the day when such things no longer exist.

Imagine if you lived in a world where there were no racist assaults, or racial insults. A world where you were not a threat to any other in the world, and where your own rights and interests were respected by everyone.

Imagine if you lived in a world where everyone was free, equal, and happy to work together for the good of all people. A world where another form of oppressive imperialist society for 40 years. And the U.S. rulers are taking advantage of this crisis and confusion about the nature of Soviet society to spread the lie that their dog-eat-dog capitalist system is the only way that people can live. They are bragging about how their bourgeois values and social system is the "best of all possible worlds." They want the people to stop dreaming and fight for a world without oppression. But Maoist revolutionaries know otherwise. We know that this imperialist society has to be overcome, and we work toward the day when such things no longer exist.

Imagine if you lived in a world where there were no racist assaults, or racial insults. A world where you were not a threat to any other in the world, and where your own rights and interests were respected by everyone.

Imagine if you lived in a world where everyone was free, equal, and happy to work together for the good of all people. A world where another form of oppressive imperialist society for 40 years. And the U.S. rulers are taking advantage of this crisis and confusion about the nature of Soviet society to spread the lie that their dog-eat-dog capitalist system is the only way that people can live. They are bragging about how their bourgeois values and social system is the "best of all possible worlds." They want the people to stop dreaming and fight for a world without oppression. But Maoist revolutionaries know otherwise. We know that this imperialist society has to be overcome, and we work toward the day when such things no longer exist.
An Appeal to the People of Eastern Europe from the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

The Western media has declared the recent events in the Soviet Union to be a big victory for democracy. Following are excerpts from "Cast Away Illusions! Revolution All the Way! An Appeal to the People of Eastern Europe from the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement" which deal with this question of "democracy" and what it really means. The text was originally published on February 20, 1990, shortly after the big upheaval in East Germany. It has been translated into Polish, Czechoslovakian, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, German and several other languages. Tens of thousands of copies have been distributed throughout Eastern Europe. This appeal was reprinted in PW No. 466 and appears in A World to Win magazine, issue No. 35, 1990.

Today, the entire Soviet social-imperialist bloc is in such deep crisis that its most powerful rulers, Gorbachev and the Soviet bourgeoisie themselves, have undertaken a program of unprecedented change. This has unleashed decades of pent-up fury, resentment, and protest from below. The ruling classes are divided and in disarray; the masses have awakened to political life. The unprecedented opportunity exists to intensify the struggle of the people, but in developed capitalist countries like E. Europe, such moments are rare and short-lived. By common consent, the ruling classes of East and West are deploying their considerable forces to establish a new stability. Either you will advance the people's struggle in the face of this, or you will be defeated by the powers that now and always.

Stabilisation is now the common programme of all the ruling classes. One of the chief weapons in their arsenal is the introduction of the parliamentary democracy that so many of you look to. They say that because you now have parliamentary democracy you can cease your fight, that this democracy is the guarantee that you can solve your problems and better your lives. This is a lie. Look at Poland; why is it that despite the collapse of the vicious martial law regime, despite the introduction of multiparty elections, free press, free speech and even the electoral victory of the pro-Western opposition, the suffering of the masses remains the same ever?

Parliamentary democracy has never brought freedom to the broad masses. Everyone is free, it said. But, it is said, "one man, one vote", but one class controls the wealth and power—the means of production, the media, the army, police—and is free to use all this to exploit, suppress and manipulate the people. Parliamentary democracy is a means by which capitalist rule is disguised as the rule of the people; the people are fooled to believe that one or another representative of the ruling class will stand watch over them, instead of relying on the only force for real change: the revolutionary struggle of the people.

Parliamentary democracy is democracy for the privileged. They now have more concrete powers over their own ranks over who will have what share of the rights to rule and to live in luxury. New sections of the elite previously out of power are being let into the privileged ranks. "Cloak" parties will now give way to modern Western-style executives, collective farm managers will be replaced by big farm owners—but often it is the old party bosses who will become the new overlords. The people, the money, connections and know-how to profit from the new opportunities. But the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a small minority, and the propertyless and powerless in the millions of small farmers, will remain unaltered, for this is the essence of capitalism in both its Eastern and Western forms.

It is not democratic reforms from above but the people's struggle from below together with the disarray of the rulers that has brought forth any truth and vital change. Look at the seizure and destruction of the State headquarters in E. Berlin. Imagine what would happen if youth in democratic W. Germany were to try to storm the secret police headquarters there—how many would be gunned down, how many imprisoned? Look at Romania, where across the country workers have gone on strike, held mass meetings, forced out hated factory administrators and chosen new ones themselves. Such things rarely happen in the "democratic" West, and if they do they are quickly and viciously suppressed. As long as your ruling regimes get back on their feet, then they too are sure to crush such fruits of popular power—undoubtedly under the banner of protecting the new-born democratic power!

As for the grand promise of change to be wrought by free enterprise and Western investment, a few privileged will benefit. The rich, as usual, win. Look at what Western technology is bringing Poland: some get computers, others get laid off. Competition is intensifying, as is polarization; the rich grow richer and the poor poorer. But make no mistake: the promise of change will unleash decades of pent-up fury, resentment, and protest from below. The ruling classes are divided and in disarray; the masses have awakened to political life. The unprecedented opportunity exists to intensify the struggle of the people, but in developed capitalist countries like E. Europe, such moments are rare and short-lived. By common consent, the ruling classes of East and West are deploying their considerable forces to establish a new stability. Either you will advance the people's struggle in the face of this, or you will be defeated by the powers that now and always.
On August 3, Los Angeles County sheriffs deputies murdered Arturo Jimenez, a 19 year-old Chicano youth. In the East L.A. housing project where he lived, the police arrested one of the residents of Ramona Gardens after the killing of Smokey to stand with the masses of people against this police murder. The RCP brought banners which were signed by 50 youth in the projects. The appearance of revolutionaries on the scene at Ramona Gardens—and the positive reaction from the people—broke the deadlock of Ramonais Times and the Times ran a big article attacking the RCP. The following press release is the response of the RCBY and staff members of Revolution Books to the L.A. Times article:

Response to L.A. Times Article

It's Right to Rebel!

In Memory of Smokey

The article, "Revolutionaries at Work in Project" (August 7) said that in the wake of the shooting of Arturo (Smokey) Jimenez, "among the least welcome" at the Ramona Gardens housing project were the supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). This article seriously distorts the views of the revolutionaries, and what went down in the project.

The Times reported that the residents have been "besieged" by "news crews, police, bureaucrats, social workers and politicians." So the issue is not whether the revolutionaries are "outsiders" but whether they spoke the truth, since the truth is welcome no matter where it comes from.

The RCP and the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB), the youth group of the RCP, condemns the killing of Smokey by the L.A. County sheriffs. These organizations are part of the oppressed masses of people in L.A. to have Nazi-style encampments erected under "Operation Cul-de-Sac," which our people call "Operation Police State." We say this system has a program to lock up, beat down and kill us. And that's about all it's got to offer our youth. The Persian Gulf war showed the one thing America counts on its people for is slaving, killing and dying upon the battlefield. Besides, the problem and not the RCP's strategy for change, Charges like this seek to make political opposition to this system a criminal act.

Moreover, the problem we face is that racism, brutality and killing is fine as long as you're a Chicano, Black youth, and America's "new world order" has destroyed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our people. Why should people rely on Councilman Alvarado, who voted to overturn the Police Commission's attempt to suspend Chief Gates after the Rodney King video exposed the whole world the brutality of the LAPD officers? Why should people place their faith in the police, whose chief has spoken of our people as "Salvadoran thugs," said casual drug users should be "taken out and shot," and Black people chose to die more easily than "normal" people? Why should we put our faith in a sheriff's department that transferred to the Latin barrio of E.L.A. a deputy of the Times who was alleged to have been in the "Vikings," a clique of officers the Times said was alleged to have been in the "Vikings," a clique of officers the Times admitted took pride in violently attacking minorities? Why should people look for justice from sheriffs who hunted down and arrested one of the residents of Ramona Gardens after the killing just to confiscate his videotape? If they cared for our lives, why did they detain the ambulance that was dispatched to take Smokey to the hospital?

Moreover, the problem we face goes far beyond a hundred or a thousand brutal police. The capitalist system (much as it is in the minds of so-called revolutionaries) can provide no jobs, no education, no hope and no future for our youth. A recent L.A. Times article on the Nickerson Gardens housing project in Watts stated that less than 1% of the residents had jobs! And it is widely known there are far more Black men in jail than in college. While the state budget finds a new jail in East L.A., the police run our housing projects, ghetto and barrios into virtual jails under cover of their so-called "war on drugs." On August 6, the LAPD began installing permanent baricades around Pico-Union. This is the second community of Black and Latino people in L.A. to have Nazi-style enclosures erected under "Operation Cul-de-Sac," which our people call "Operation Police State." We say this system has a program to lock up, beat down and kill us. And that's about all it's got to offer our youth. The Persian Gulf war showed the one thing America counts on its youth for is slaving, killing and dying upon command to bring yet more wealth and global power.

We took that banner "It's Right to Rebel in Memory of Smokey" to the Ramona Gardens and no, we didn't ask for our people's cars, guns, rifles and rap sheets before they could sign. Membership in a gang is not illegal, and our youth are not criminals and they are not subhuman. We don't buy into the hype that racism, brutality and killing is fine as long as someone in authority says "gangs" or "drugs" are involved. Isn't that being said now to justify the killing of Smokey? As for how to stop our youth out of a dog-eat-dog existence—the RCP and RCYB believe that only in fighting against what this system and its police-state terror do to them can the youth radically change themselves.

The Times article quotes police sources to say the revolutionaries are "inciting" violence and "creating anti-police sentiment." What nerve! The source of people's hatred for police brutality is the brutality of the police and the way of life they enforce on us, not the "incitement" of revolutionaries: The violence of Ramona Gardens on August 3rd was the violence of the oppressor directed at the oppressed. Where are the police and the powers they "serve and protect" coming from when they accuse their victims of "violence?"

The Times article repeats a false accusation that revolutionaries urged someone to throw a bite. This allegation forms part of a pattern of the authorities, particularly LAPD Chief Gates, trying to brand the Revolutionary Communist Party as advocating individual retaliation against authorities. Such actions do not solve the problem and are not the RCP's strategy for change. Charges like this seek to make political opposition to this system a criminal act.

In August 1970, tens of thousands of Chicano's rebelled when their demonstration in E.L.A. against the bloody Vietnam war and constant racist brutality against Chicanos were harrassed by the U.S. and attacked by sheriffs deputies. Two decades (and thousands of "promises") later the sheriff is still killing our Chicano and Black youth, and America's "new world order" has destroyed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our people. The RCP and RCYB are the real problem for this system is nothing but organized greed backed up by weapons of mass destruction. That is why they say a revolution of the masses of people, when the time is right, is the only solution. The truth of all this may be "unwelcome" to those who are committed to defend this "American Way," But it is a cold and liberating truth to our people.
The End of a Stage –
The Beginning of a New Stage
Mao More Than Ever!

By Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

"...The so-called 'demise of communism' is really just revolution becoming more openly bourgeois. This does not constitute a 'crisis' for genuine communism and it is not a bad thing for us—for the international proletariat and the international communist movement, as represented specifically by the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and the parties and organizations affiliated with it. Strategically, it is a fine thing for us.

In these days when the imperialists are trying to make something fashionable and 'trend-setting' out of 'commodity-fetishism' (the outlook that treats everything and everybody as something to be bought and sold and used to make a profit), when they are on an offensive to declare their outmoded system and its corrupting, degrading values the 'wave of the future'—it is all the more important that we wage a bold ideological counteroffensive—indicting their system and its values and putting forth our communist principles in opposition—as part of taking them on in a determined and militant way overall. We should instill in the victims of this system an attitude of despising this system and all it stands for—of recognizing that this system represents not the 'wave of the future' but the dregs of the past—that it is the thing standing in the way of a much brighter future. As Mao said, 'Unless we despise the old system and the old reactionary productive relationships, what do we think we are doing? If we do not have faith in socialism and communism, what do we think we are doing?'

In an explosive issue of Revolution magazine, Bob Avakian takes up an historic challenge posed by the events of the day. Scorn is heaped on Marxism by its enemies and phony Marxism is in crisis. But at this very same time, the conditions of the world standly prove the fact that nothing less than REAL communism will do. Bob Avakian's approach: strategic confidence in revolution, combined with (and founded on) an understanding that it is crucial to sum up the lessons and historical experience of communist revolution—candidly in order to advance that process.

And he takes up this problem as Bob Avakian always does—in new ways, from unexpected and fresh angles, wrangling deeply for answers...and always from the stand of revolution, the stand of the oppressed.

Issue Number 60 discusses:
- The positive role of unresolved contradictions under socialism
- Religion and "human nature"
- The achievements, mistakes and revolutionary legacy of proletarian rule
- Once again on Stalin and "Stalinism"
- Diversity, dissent, and why revolutionary communists must be "wrangling motherfuckers no less when they are in power than when they are not"
- The problem with intellectuals and the positive role of intellectuals in socialist society
- Should socialist states have nuclear weapons?
- More on youth and age in the revolutionary process and more...

Available in English and Spanish from Revolution Books stores and outlets.
Or order from RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3406, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.
$4 + $1 postage; Spanish $2.50 + $1 postage.
Write for bulk rates. Specify Issue Number 60 when ordering.