U.S. Bully Threatens Iraq

RCP FUND DRIVE 1991—SPECIAL POSTER

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2 Co-RIM Statement on Coup and Counter-Coups in USSR
3 Point-Counterpoint: Communism and Religion
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Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654

“Our Red Flag Is Flying in Peru.” which incident is a stunning example of the real only speculate. In either case, the whole from Maoist parties and organizations workings of Western democracy.

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 the 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 wasteful and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against 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 speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

Indian Nationalist Blocks International Distribution of A World To Win Magazine

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In your area call or write:

Letters of protest demanding that "the political suppression of the journal A World To Win be stopped immediately" should be addressed to:

The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)
Government of India
New Delhi, India

A copy of any letters of protest or articles should also be sent to the North American distributor:

A World To Win
North American Distributor
Revolution Books
13 East 16th Street
New York, New York 10003

And to the office of A World to Win in India:

Janet
House No. 32/168
Pollammal Parambil
Veeral
Kochi 682025

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We Dare To Dream!
We Dare To Struggle!
We Dare To Win!

Announcing:
The Revolutionary Communist Party
Fund Drive 1991

Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog, people-killing, spirit-crushing system. Something much better is possible. There is a REVOLUTIONARY way! Where the people work in common for the common good. We saw this in the high tide of the Cultural Revolution in Mao's China. And we can see it today in the mountains of Peru.

It's a fact: when the common people get connected with revolutionary politics, the New World Order can be brought down. The Revolutionary Communist Party is out to make it happen here.

We are striving to make some very big leaps in the revolutionary movement, to strengthen the people's side in the battles being waged now and get in position for THE TIME.

We need your financial support to make this happen. Many more party organizers and agitators need to be trained and sent out to wherever people are fighting back—organizing, mobilizing, strategizing and getting ready to lead people in revolutionizing. Networks of readers of the Revolutionary Worker/Obrero Revolucionario newspaper need to spread everywhere—in the ghettos and barrios, schools, factories, on campuses and among all those fighting the outrages and abuses of this system.

Get behind the RCP's 1991 Fund Drive.
Contribute.
Raise funds from your friends.

Contributions, including anonymous donations, can be sent to: RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Illinois 60654.
RCP Talks Real Communism to the People

"Swimming in Stormy Weather"

Apositor in the San Francisco Bay Area tried to discover what leftist in Berkeley were thinking about the changes in the Soviet Union. When his article appeared in two local newspapers, the headline read, "The Party is not over for Berkeley Communists." The article contrasts the demonization of the pro-Soviet Communist Party USA with the revolutionary optimism of the Maoists.

"In Berkeley, where leftist ideology is as at home as the dyed-T-shirts, revolutionary fervor continues to burn. The dramatic breakup of the Soviet Communist Party has stirred debate, tears and socialist slogans...."

"In the past few weeks, as dramatic events in the Soviet Union have cut the authenticity of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist commitments, people have asked, "Are you still here?" And others have said, "You're still here, right on!"

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Statement on the Coup and Counter-Coup in the USSR

The RW received this statement from the Information Bureau of the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement:

The events in late August in the USSR were a dramatic turning point in the crisis gripping the USSR for the last few years. As Mao Tsetung pointed out, in the 1950s Khrushchev led the Soviet rulers to betray the proletarian and worker capitalists. The New Turks, as Mao called them, turned the world’s first socialist state into a bulwark of reaction, rigged up an empire and set out to challenge the U.S. imperialism for world dominance, all under the banner of socialism. Now these New Turks are repeating what they have shown; the workings of state capitalist system have plunged the USSR into unprecedented crisis, interfering with the crisis of the whole world imperialist system. The Soviet imperialist rulers are being battered from all sides, and in their desperation to resolve the crisis they are cutting each other’s, and their own, throats. Their empire is disintegrating and they have even begun to abandon their last shrinking pretensions to be communists.

Western spokesmen describe all this as the “collapse of communism”—but genuine communists, the revolutionary Maoists united in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM), regard at the growing disintegration of one of the two strongest pillars of world reaction, which certainly is weakening the ability of world imperialism to enforce its rule around the world.

The Western rulers hailed the victory of the “reformists” while decrying the coup plotters. Yavuz, Kraychkov & Co. are certainly criminals. Yet every one of the reformers—Yeltsin, Gorbatchev, Shevardnadze and the rest—clawed their way to the top of the ruling reactionary CPSU and for decades have been top managers of the criminal Soviet state capitalist system. All these coups and counter-coups are unfolding within a Soviet ruling class desperate and divided by the deepening crisis in the USSR.

What will the reformers’ programme of Western-style democracy and economic reform and cooperation with the West bring? Already the U.S. and Soviet rulers have shown the world the fruit of their first “point venture”: the corpses of 100-200,000 Iraqis in the U.S.-led colonial Gulf war. As for people in the USSR, the future for many is already visible in the unemployment lines in Poland and the homeless shelters in Budapest, where the “miracle” of “free market reform” enables a handful to drive Mercedes while ever broader numbers are driven to live in the streets.

The reactionary poisons which have dominated life in the USSR since the restoration of capitalism there were given socialist labels, and Marxism-Leninism itself was turned into a state religion, with the CPSU boss in power. Now the capitalist mask has been dropped. Gone is the flowery fraudulent talk of, for example, “socialist equality between nations”; long-standing Russian domination is being displayed in all its ugliness. Yeltsin supports Baltic “Russia”—the battery of the Transat troopers who carved the Russian empire out of the stepspe, wading through rivers of the blood of the so-called savage Eastern peoples. Lenin long struggled against the drive for a “Great Russia.” Genuine revolutionaries are happy that the new rulers have had to drop their pretenses to uphold the red flag of communism and have reverted to their traditional reactionary flags that stand for their reactionary policies.

In the smaller nations denominated like Lithuanian President Laisvesnickas exploit the nationalist restlessness against this Russian chauvinism. Their “every-nation-for-itself” mentality has led to the disgusting spectacle of small nations trampling on even smaller ones—while the Soviet rulers maneuver behind the scenes.

The unraveling of the Soviet state has renewed the many others’ cry that “communism is dead.” False communism, that hollow shell held up by the likes of Brezhnev and Deng Xiaoping to cover their crimes, is indeed collapsing with inner rot. But the reactionaries’ attempt to bury communism intends to smother any hope of the oppressed that there is an alternative to this world of capitalism with all its horrors, and thus to stifle all resistance to their rule. They will never succeed. As Mao Tsetung analyzed, however there is oppression there is resistance. And whatever there are exploited and oppressed on this earth, there is the vision of ending all oppression and exploitation; of classless society, communism, will burst forth again and again until the flames of revolution obliterate the old world and forge a new one. RIM calls on the rebellious masses of the far-flung Soviet empire to, as was said to the RIM’s Call to the Peoples of Eastern Europe, which we translated and distributed widely in many of these countries: “attack the old order more thoroughly, more radically, and with more determination, to take up the revolutionary weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought which your rulers have hidden from you, and to establish contact with the RIM so as to strengthen the ties of those from all parts of the world who are resolved to struggle until all oppression and exploitation under any name are done away with forever.

With the fall of the Berlin wall, the imperialism promised an end to exploitation and the end of class and the end of exploitation and violence, there will be no peace, and democracy will only be a disguise to cover the rule of the exploiters. In fact, the disorder sweeping the USSR heralds an unparalleled epoch of upheaval in the world. RIM believes now is the time to march forward boldly and fearlessly amid the turmoil and struggle, to seize on the weakening of the imperialist in order to prepare and launch revolutionary wars of liberation.

By the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement
29 August 1991
Real Heroes of the GI Resisters in Jail

During the U.S. war in the Gulf there were over 2,500 GI resisters who refused to fight. According to the War Resisters League, every country that had troops involved with the Gulf War had GIs who said NO to the war. And many of them publicly denounced the war, knowing full well that the military wasn’t going to take kindly to their actions. Many of these resisters have already been tried and sentenced.

The RW recently received a copy of a special issue of Storm Warning, the newsletter put out by Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-imperialist. This issue is titled, “Some of the best and bravest—the Real Heroes of the Gulf War are in JAIL!” As the introduction to this says:

"Today in this country, hundreds of GI resisters are still having war waged upon them by the U.S. government and its military. These men and women, who simply refused to participate in Desert Storm, are charged with serious crimes like missing troop movement, refusing orders, and desertion in time of war. Their real ‘crimes’ are not being blindly obedient, refusing to kill for oil and profit, and not acting cowardly in the face of military ‘justice’ and intimidation. They put into practice moral and political beliefs which contrast sharply with the horror of what the Allies did to the people of Iraq. Those who are responsible for this heinous war would have us believe that the so-called ‘victory’ invalidates the actions of these resisters—that the end justifies the means. But the war has not ended in Iraq. As a direct result of the continued U.S. sanctions of food and medical supplies, a projected 170,000 young children and infants will die by the end of this year. The actions these resisters took are correct and should be supported as outright insubordination to the New World Order. Those who uphold the New World Order have no right to judge these people. Those of us who oppose this New World Order have every responsibility to support and defend GI resisters."

The following pictures and descriptions of some of the GI resisters who have already been sentenced/ are taken from this issue of Storm Warning. (VVAW/A can be reached at 206/328-4377.)

Tahan Jones, USMC
Facing Court Martial, originally on charges of desertion in wartime, which carries a possible death penalty. "African Americans are asked to...sacrifice for a nation that refuses to enact a civil rights bill to end employment discrimination."

Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, MD, U.S. Army Doctor
Sentenced to 2-1/2 years in prison "Where there is no cure, prevention is the only remedy."

Enrique Gonzales
USMC resister, originally from El Salvador. Sentenced to 2-1/2 years "I am furious and outraged at the injustice we have faced."

Demetrio Perez, USMC
Sentenced to 15 months "It came to the point where I had to choose between my commitment to the government and my religious beliefs."

Jean-Claude Rainey, USMC
Awaits Court Martial "Since I stated I was a conscientious objector, I've been put in the brig three times."

Lavelle McKinney, USMC
Sentenced to one month in the brig "The Iraqi kids could have been my cousins. It hit me really hard."

Marcus Blackwell, USMC
Sentenced to 15 months "War destroys more than just property, it also destroys human beings."

Marquis Leacock, USMC
Sentenced to 12 months "What is the justice here?"

David Bobbitt, USMC
Sentenced to 14 months "Are we superior...because we can destroy and maim everything on this planet?"

Doug DeBoer, USMC
Sentenced to 15 months "...Wake up, comprehend the atrocities we are committing around the world in the name of freedom, and force our government to change its ways."

John Isaac III, USMC
Sentenced to 8 months "I don't believe anybody should be persecuted for feeling a certain way."

Keith Jones, USMC
Sentenced to 16 months "The concept of right and wrong has taken on a whole new meaning."
Gulf War:

The U.S. is making new bully threats against Iraq—even as thousands of Iraqis continue to die from the effects of the massive U.S. bombing at the beginning of this year.

On September 18 George Bush, commander-in-chief of the U.S. war machine, declared that he will order U.S. military aircraft into Iraq if Saddam Hussein does not agree to open up the country completely to U.N. inspection teams. The plan involves using military combat helicopters and AWAC radar planes "escorting" the helicopters carrying the U.N. inspectors. Some "military analysts" in the U.S. say that if necessary troops will be ordered to surround and take over certain military or industrial facilities.

During the Gulf war the U.S. military started that it's against freedom but destroyed much of Iraq's ability to produce nuclear and chemical weapons. But now they are saying is totally different tune. They claim that Iraq still has large numbers of chemical weapons and Scud missiles as well as the material and facilities to produce nuclear weapons. They accuse the Iraqi government of giving the U.N. inspection teams the run-around. And they say that the U.N. cease-fire terms ending the Gulf war require Iraq to submit quickly to these foreign weapons police roaming all over the country, poking their nosy into military bases, chemical laboratories, industrial sites and power plants. At the same time, the Western powers are moving to control Iraq's economy. The U.N. sanctions against Iraq, following the destruction of sewage treatment facilities, power plants and other infrastructure elements have caused widespread disease, hunger and death. The Iraqi government has refused that the ban against the sale of Iraqi oil be lifted so that much-needed food and medical supplies can be bought. Last week the U.N. agreed to let Iraq sell $1.6 billion of oil—but with strict conditions. Iraq will not be allowed to touch any of the money, which will go into an escrow fund. More than one-third of the money will go to Kuwait and others for "war reparations," and the U.N. will decide what supplies to buy with the rest of the money. The Western imperialists are cold-bloodedly using the lives of the Iraqi people to gain more leverage over the Saddam Hussein regime.

This is outrageous big-power bullying against an oppressed country and its people. The U.S. and its allies committed genocide against Iraq in the Gulf War. Now they are threatening to brutalize the victim once again.

The U.S. claims that the weapons inspections are necessary to prevent Iraq from producing "weapons of mass destruction." But this is a lying excuse—like the way the U.S. used phony justifications such as "liberating Kuwait" to launch the Gulf war, when the real aim was to secure control of the oil resources and strengthen the U.S. imperialist position in the Middle East and on a world scale. It is really behind the demands about the U.N. inspection teams. The U.S. imperialism wants to show they are the "big gun" in the New World Order, able to trample over small countries at will. They want to humble and humiliate Saddam Hussein even more, to demonstrate that they cannot get away with disobeying their imperialist masters.

These are ruthless calculations of a global criminal. But they also reflect the cowardice of the U.S. imperialists. They are desperate to prove "who's the boss"—and the way they are doing it is to beat up some more on a country that has already been ganged up on and viciously beaten.

All the talk by the U.S. about Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction" is complete hypocrisy. During the Gulf war the U.S. imperialists tried to whip up public opinion against Iraq by warning that Hussein had to be stopped before he used nuclear or chemical weapons. Iraq ended up just firing a few conventional Scud missiles. It was the U.S. and its allies who used their modern weapons to cause mass destruction in Iraq! They used cruise missiles to destroy bomb shelters and baby milk factories. They deliberately included electric power stations in their target lists, leaving the Iraqis without power to run hospitals and clean the waste. In the desert U.S. tanks buried hundreds of Iraqi soldiers alive in the trenches.

And since the war's end the U.S. government has sent billions of dollars in high-tech weapons to repressive regimes in the region: $7.5 billion to Saudi Arabia, $1.5 billion in F-16 jet fighters to Egypt, $760 million in Apache helicopters to United Arab Emirates, and so on. But to the U.S. rulers, huge military buildup is perfectly fine because it is taking place in countries where the ruling regimes are firmly loyal to the Western powers.

As we go to press, it is unclear how the situation with the U.N. inspection teams will develop. In the past few months Saddam Hussein has backed down and compromised when pressed with demands by the imperialist powers. But the U.S. imperials could decide they want to "make a point" and launch military action in Iraq, whatever Hussein's response. If this happens, things could escalate quickly. The U.S. still has 36,000 troops in the region, including a "rapid deployment" force in Turkey, units in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and a naval force in the Persian Gulf. There are reports that some military units in the U.S. are being mobilized. The UN secretary general has said that the U.S. is coming close to the "authority" from previous U.N. resolutions to move against Saddam Hussein. And the Congress is also giving Bush the green light to go into Iraq again.

The oppressed people in the U.S. and all those who have a sense of justice, have no interest in siding with the imperialists in their threats and attacks against Iraq. The lies of the government need to be pierced and rejected. If the U.S. imposes the plans of the U.S. powers, they will face bloody hands off Iraq.

U.S. Bully Threatens Iraq

Sam Lwin, USMC
Sentenced to 4 months
"The real heroes...are all of the people...who have taken actions to try to stop President Bush...from launching this war..."

Colin Bootman, political artist, USMC
Sentenced to 13 months
"They brought me down here [the brig] to beat the shit out of me."

George Ward, USMC
Sentenced to 10 months
"They put us in jail to break us, but if your mental state is there, nothing—no one—can ever, ever break you."

James Summers, USMC
Sentenced to 14 months
"Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind."

Kevin Sparrock
Sentenced to 6 months, originally faced a death sentence
"They put us in jail to break us, but if your mental state is there, nothing—no one—can ever, ever break you."

George Ward, USMC
Sentenced to 10 months
"Love your enemies—I believe that."

Daniel Gillis, USMC
Beaten by white officers, sentenced to one year
"I came into the Marines for the macho image. As I matured, I adopted Islam and the ideology of peace."

Wayne McWhite, USMC
Sentenced to 16 months
"I had God talking to me, that's why I didn't do it."

Sgt. George Morse
Sentenced to 5 months
"The oppressed people in the U.S. and all those who have a sense of justice, have no interest in siding with the imperialists in their threats and attacks against Iraq. The lies of the government need to be pierced and rejected. If the U.S. imposes the plans of the U.S. powers, they will face bloody hands off Iraq."
The RW received the following manifesto from the L.A. Branch of the RCP:

Los Angeles Police Killings: Murderers, Murderers No More

IT'S RIGHT

The police in L.A. are on a murder spree against our people.

The world watched in horror as the LAPD nearly beat the life out of a Black man, Rodney King—and the powers-that-be rushed to promise investigations and changes. They promised the LAPD would be "cleaned up." The Sheriffs are next. But this ain't nothing but lying pigs and politicians. That shit ain't real. Out of their mouth comes lying words to chill the people out. Out of the barrel of their gun comes the real deal: more murder pawns than ever before. Cold proof that the "changes" the powers talk about are nothing more than full steam ahead with their police-state program and their war on Black, Latino and all oppressed people.

August 2—Arturo "Smokey" Jimenez is shot to death by Sheriff's deputies in the Ramona Gardens housing project in East L.A. Hundreds of angry youth confront dozens of riot cops.

August 4—LAPD executes Freddie Santana near Exposition Park, shooting him as he knelt on the ground with his hands in the air. The pigs want us to believe the brother was on his knees, in front of armed cops and reached for a toy gun in his belt.

August 12—Keith Hamilton is beaten, shot nine times in the back, handcuffed and hogtied. Nine deputies are involved. The autopsy reveals he was shot over and over while lying face down on the pavement.

August 23—David Angel Ortiz, 15 years old, unarmed, shot 3 times in the back, then handcuffed and left to die on the sidewalk—he died from choking on his own blood.

September 2—Steve Cleneaux is gunned down by police at a Labor Day picnic at Willowbrook park for running away from the Sheriffs and throwing a beer bottle in the lake. Hundreds of angry people are tear-gassed when they confront the cops.

The same day a SWAT team batteries Darryl Stephens' door. They set off flash grenades and throw tear gas at his neighbors, Darryl is murdered in his bed.

The list goes on. The Housing Authority police and Long Beach police have also killed in the past month.

New ugly revelations are now coming out about murdering gangs within the Sheriffs, like the Lynwood Raids, including charges that deputies murdered a man and staged it to look like a drive-by shooting.

MURDERERS, MURDERERS, NO MORE!

The powers scream that here on the bottom we're just a bunch of criminals and yell about "drugs" and "gangs": send gestapo pigs to move on us and terrorize us all; lock us up, hit you, and make you say that you gang-bang and all that. If you say, "I don't gang-bang," they say "From now on you 4-deuce, you from the 4-trey, you from this." Anything.

What kind of society treats its youth like criminals? What kind of society declares all-out war against them? What kind of society whole generation of Black, Latino and other oppressed people--their homes, their families and their communities? What kind of society do we live in? What kind of power do we have? What kind of society do we want? What kind of future do we want to live in?

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August 23—David Angel Ortiz, 15 years old, unarmed, shot 3 times in the back, then handcuffed and left to die on the sidewalk—he died from choking on his own blood.

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The same day a SWAT team batteries Darryl Stephens' door. They set off flash grenades and throw tear gas at his neighbors, Darryl is murdered in his bed.

The list goes on. The Housing Authority police and Long Beach police have also killed in the past month.

New ugly revelations are now coming out about murdering gangs within the Sheriffs, like the Lynwood Raids, including charges that deputies murdered a man and staged it to look like a drive-by shooting.

MURDERERS, MURDERERS, NO MORE!

The powers scream that here on the bottom we're just a bunch of criminals and yell about "drugs" and "gangs": send gestapo pigs to move on us and terrorize us all; lock us up, hit you, and make you say that you gang-bang and all that. If you say, "I don't gang-bang," they say "From now on you 4-deuce, you from the 4-trey, you from this." Anything.

What kind of society treats its youth like criminals? What kind of society declares all-out war against them? What kind of society whole generation of Black, Latino and other oppressed people--their homes, their families and their communities? What kind of society do we live in? What kind of power do we have? What kind of society do we want? What kind of future do we want to live in?

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August 23—David Angel Ortiz, 15 years old, unarm
What kind of society treats its youth like criminals and animals and declares all-out war against them? What kind of system prepares to put down a whole generation of Black, Latino and other oppressed youth behind Nazi ghetto walls, behind bars, or in the grave? A society is a system where a few ‘haves’ live off the backs of, exploit and super-exploit millions of ‘have nots.’ A system with nothing to offer us but a life of mistrustment and misery. A system that can only continue to exist by putting us—and the people of the world—in this miserable mess and keeping us there.

No matter what our nationality or the language we speak; no matter if we were driven to “El Norte” by the yanqui death squads and poverty in our homelands or our ancestors dragged to Amerikkka in chains on slave ships—so our rulers are all the same—modern-day slaves, criminals, or cannon-fodder for their killing machine. To hell with those who would steal our strength by setting one oppressed nationality against another. It’s our sisters and brothers being attacked by these pigs—that’s our blood down there in the street. The police ain’t nothing but the murdering, brutalizing enforcers of this system. For those who run this setup, war on the poor and oppressed is necessary to keep their domination over us.

They send their politicians at us, fronting for this system with lies about “freedom and justice.” When that shit don’t play they try another way—make us feel powerless so we’ll keep our mouths shut and just go along. But we don’t play that. We know they’re just trying to keep control over a society that threatens to fly apart, including in mass outbursts of protest and rebellion—and in a world situation which itself is full of trouble and turmoil for them. The New World Order ain’t all that orderly. All the things they’re driven to “El Norte” by the yanqui death squads and poverty in our homelands or our ancestors dragged to Amerikkka in chains on slave ships—and in a world situation which itself is full of trouble and turmoil for them. The New World Order ain’t all that orderly. All the things they’re forced to do to keep their shit going all over the world—to try and beat down the people and beat off their rivals trying to cut in on their game—all this can lead to a situation where things are out of hand and out of control for them. We have to be getting ready for that Time.

This system is organized greed backed up by weapons of mass destruction. And the only solution is all the way revolution. When the Time is ripe, we must be prepared to rise up, smash power over the hands of those who rule over this society and their hired killers, and put power in the hands of the masses of people.

Because without power in the people’s hands, getting free is just an illusion. We need to fight. To break the power of this system and to create a society where power over every part of society is in the hands of those who have been exploited and oppressed. Power to END all oppression and exploitation. And when we do this, it will be a blow for oppressed people the world over.

This is what our Party stands for, what we fight for. This is not a foggy dream or a never-gonna-happen ideal; we got the program, leadership and plan that can make it real. To the powers and their pseudo-who try to tell us this revolution is dead and buried we say: as long as there are masses of people who are oppressed and oppressed, this revolution will rise up, again and again—it will be brought to life by these— and it will keep on until this imperialist system itself is dead and buried.

OUTCASTS, DOWNCASTS, SLAVES, ILLEGALS & REBELS: IT’S RIGHT TO REBEL!

Enough is enough! BASTA YAI! We don’t have to put up with this pig brutality and this life of misery and mistrustment. Now Is the time for the people, who live on the bottom, to stand up and step out, speak up and speak out everywhere, in the schools and in the streets. Only the people can put an end to this madness. We can break free of this sewn-system and its look-out-for-yourself, dog-eat-dog mentality and violence by rising up politically. Now Is the time to take the stage and make them feel our rage. Organize and mobilize; fight the power in mass political actions.

And more, while we’re battling them back, politically like that, we got to make this part of getting ready for The Time—and it could come soon—to wage revolutionary war. We got to expose this system as the real enemy and rouse the people to rise up against it. We got to move to liberate ourselves and win the greatest number of people of all races and nationalities including the middle class people who have and resist the crimes of this system. We have to be building up our strength and our conscious organized force to battle them in a new way—all-out and all-the-way—when the Time comes. We have to relate to and build up our Party—spread and deepen Its Influence and Its organized ties with the masses—and it will keep on until this imperialist system itself is dead and buried.

THE HARDER THEY COME, THE HARDER THEY FALL: OPPRESSORS WILL FALL, ONE AND ALL!
OUTCASTS, DOWNCASTS, SLAVES, ILLEGALS & REBELS: IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!

Enough is enough! BASTA YA! We don't have to put up with this pig brutality and this life of misery and mistreatment anymore. Now is the time for us, the people who have been raised in this miserable system and to create a system and to fight the power in mass political actions.

And more, while we are battling them back, politically like that, we got to make this part of getting ready for The Time—and it could come soon—to wage revolutionary war. We got to expose this system as the real enemy and make the people rise up against it. We got to move to liberate ourselves and the greatest number of people of all races and nationalities, including the middle class people who hate and resist the crimes of this system. We have to be building up our strength and our conscious organized force to battle them in a new way—out-and-out and all-the-way—When the Time comes. We have to relate to and build up our Party—spread and deepen its influence and its organized ties with the masses of people. Get down with the party. Get ready for revolution!

We can't allow them to keep shooting us down in the street. We can't allow them to continue playing this game of mass destruction. And the people, we must be prepared to take the initiative in this society, and to create a system of hands that control all oppression and exploited people to the world over. This is not a logy dream

or a never-gonna-happen ideal; we got to make this plan that can make it real. To the powers and their gamies who try to tell us this revolution is dead and buried we say: as long as there are masses of people who are exploited and oppressed, this revolution will rise up, again and again—and it will be brought to life by this masses—and it will keep on until this imperialist system itself is dead and buried.

IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!

The HARDER THEY COME, THE HARDER THEY FALL—OPPONENTS WILL FALL, ONE AND ALL!

During the past week, there have been new revelations about the recent murder spree in Los Angeles by the Angeles County Sheriffs Deputies (See PW Nov 622). Five unarmed men were shot and killed between August 3 and September 2. A private pathologist reported that one of the dead, 16-year-old David Ortiz, was shot August 28 in Arleta, had been shot in the back. The pathologist also noted that the cause of death was not the number of wounds. Directly died David was shot more than he was shot in his own blood because the pigs that shot him just handcuffed him and left him to die. This report contradicted the deputies' story that David had reached for his weapon. Eye witnesses said David was running away when he was shot.

This time around, another A. Distaff Attorney took the extraordinary step of sealing four autopsies reports, including David Ortiz. They said this was to protect their investigation. The LA Times got a copy of the coroner's report on the death of Keith Hamilton, a 33-year-old black man. Hamilton was shot and killed by one of seven Sheriffs who had hanged his hands behind his back as he stood on the head, feet, mouth and elbows and was also shot repeatedly with an electric stun gun.

The other cases in which autopsy reports are being withheld are the killings of Steven Demens and Darryl Stephens, who were both killed on September 2. Stephens family insist the savages to be shot and killed in that the body show he was beaten on the head, knee, mouth and elbow and was also shocked repeatedly with an electric stun gun.

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Fujimori Visits U.S.

Yankee Godfather Backs Peru Counterrevolution

President Alberto Fujimori of Peru came to Washington, D.C., last week to report to his boss, President George Bush. The state visit was aimed at promoting the new U.S.-Peru agreement signed last May. The agreement provides $100 million in U.S. aid, including $34 million in military assistance for such things as the supply of Green Berets to train Peruvian troops. The aid plan is dressed up as a "anti-drug" effort. But the military aid is not about stopping the flow of cocaine. The real target of the plan being hatched by the U.S. and Peruvian rulers is the Maoist people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru.

By inviting Fujimori to the White House for a face-to-face talk, Bush was giving official endorsement of Fujimori as a member of the "New World Order" team. The visit—and the agreement by the U.S. and Peruvian governments—opens the door to much greater U.S. military intervention against the revolution in Peru.

Behind the AId Delay in the Congress

Since the agreement was signed in May, the money has been held up by the U.S. Congress. Human rights organizations like American Watch criticize the agreement, pointing out that the Peruvian authorities continue to commit brutal abuses against the people. But concern for people's lives is not what is moving some politicians in the Congress to question the aid agreement. After all, the Congress overwhelmingly backed the brutal Gulf war which killed thousands of Iraqis.

The bourgeois politicians are afraid that the U.S. is getting into a messy counter-insurgency war with an uncertain outcome. They know that fighting the Communist Party of Peru (known as the Sendero Luminoso, or the Shining Path in the bourgeois media) is not like fighting Saddam Hussein—a massacre run by the imperialists itself. In contrast, or various armed revisionist groups around the world who used to be considered "terrorists." But when the bourgeois think-tanks advise the U.S. government, they are more naive. A 1990 report by RAND, a top U.S. think-tank, said that the Communist Party of Peru "enjoyed a substantial base of support in the countryside and has been actively recruiting from among the urban work force" and warned that "Sendero could win."

When some forces in the U.S. ruling class say they are "concerned about the human rights record of the Peruvian government," what they really worried about is that the Fujimori government is not capable of putting down the advancing people's war. They fear that the U.S. will have to commit much more directly and on a massive scale to back up a corrupt, fascist regime. They are afraid that Peru will be another Vietnam. At the same time, the Yankee imperialists are determined to prevent a victorious revolution in Latin America, a strategic area that they claim as their "back yard."

The Truth About Fujimori

By inviting Fujimori for a meeting at the White House, Bush meant to send out a signal that the U.S. government is firmly backing the Peruvian regime and to urge the people. They have been sporadically suppressed villages considered to be base areas of the Maoists. He is having social union activists kidnapped and murdered. He is applying reactionary economic measures which are transferring millions of Peruvians into extreme misery. He is stepping up imprisonment and sensationalizing the crimes of the previous administration. He is spreading the notion that the Fujimori government is that has made terror and crime its preferred government policy. The fact that the U.S. imperialists had to come out with such blatant lies about Fujimori shows how urgent and desperate they think the situation is. But the Peruvian revolution is winning important victories—the People's Guerrilla Army is engaging enemy forces in even bigger battles, while revolutionary political power is being established in the countryside and in the city. Meanwhile the Peruvian ruling class is battered with economic crisis and is being split by sharp divisions. The Bush administration wants to send the military offensive against the Maoist revolution in Peru as soon as possible. The U.S. government may come in with even greater forces if they see the situation going wrong for them.

Support the Revolution in Peru

The Peruvian revolution is very precious and inspiring to people around the world who are fighting against oppression and exploitation. Those living here in the belly of the imperialist beast have a responsibility to help preserve the U.S. government's intervention against the people's war and support for the people's war.

In a statement protesting Fujimori's visit, Heriberto Ocasio, national spokesperson for the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, said: "The revolutions in Peru are controlled and sustained by the imperialists or the multinational corporations who control Peru's population. In the basic areas of the revolution there are now thousands of People's Committees that have been established and reconstituted among the poorest peasants and the women of the South in the Andes of Peru. The U.S. imperialists are determined to prevent the outbreak of a revolutionary war and they are strengthening the oppression in Peru.

"All those who take a stand against the oppression of the oppressors should understand the costs involved in such a struggle. Some may claim that communism in the world is a thing of the past, but in the mountains and the shanty towns of Peru you see the same class war that the oppressed people's war. And people of all classes should support this campaign to remove the Yanke Imperialists from Peru immediately."}

Peru:

Since the beginning of this year a deadly cholera epidemic has been raging in Peru and other countries of South America. Cholera is an intestinal disease which can kill almost anyone—yet it can also be easily prevented with basic health measures and quickly treated if people have access to inexpensive medicines in time. It has been mostly eliminated in the imperialist countries which control the Peruvian world. In the epidemic this year, there have been more than a million reported cases and over 3,000 deaths in five countries, mostly in Peru.

Health officials say that the epidemic has spread for now. But they are also sure that there will be another serious bout with the disease, and they warn that cholera will probably become a common problem in the region, recurring every few years. This is because cholera is a symptom of a system which has built up immense wealth and power in the imperialist countries and deep poverty and misery in the oppressed countries like Peru.

The epidemic began in January in the Peruvian province of Chimbote and spread rapidly down the coast and into the sprawling shantytowns of Lima and other cities. The epidemic then spread to the mountain villages and remote areas. The disease is spread when bacteria from human wastes get into drinking water and food through direct contact or flies. Most of these people below the poverty line by the epidemic do not have any plumbing or sewage systems, and they drink or cook food with water that they must use to wash, bathe, and dispose of their wastes.

The difference between cholera and other diarrheal diseases is that it is much more serious. If untreated, it leads to dehydration, shock and death within at little as twenty-four hours. Capturing the illness is easily treated by medicine that costs only...
An Epidemic of Poverty
could spread the disease. Peru could lose up
adequate drinking water and sanitation ser
Peruvians of working age are fully em
services.
three-quarters of the population of Peru is
medical clinics which are few and far
vices.
lions of people in Peru and other South
Tropical country rich in resources. But in
environment, they don't have the money to buy
from malnutrition and diarrhea! diseases in
for cholera soared. Among the
the patients was Felix Canal, one of the oblig
attitude about cholera had an im
Вest in cholera. The health system in
children below the poverty level and 25 percent are
mortality and cold-hearted. Time magazine
cholera by distributing rehydration
Santana (Inkhay).
the CSRP, together with activists from
the CSRP demonstrated in front of the White House.
The protest was endorsed by Asil Al-Jundi,
editor of Anti-War Activist, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Peru;
the CSRP, together with activists from
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CSR P Denounces
Fujimori Visit

The Committee to Support the Revolution in
Peru united with others to denounce the
Fujimori/Bush meeting. On September 17
the CSRP, together with activists from
Washington, D.C. and New York,
demonstrated in front of the White House.
A number of Peruvians from the D.C. area
also came out to voice outrage at the new
U.S.-Peru military pact. Fujimori's caravan
had to sneak around to the back door of
the White House, and the ceremony with
Bush had to be moved indoors to avoid the
shouts of the protesters who shouted "War
on drugs is a sham, Peru is the next
Vietnam," "Yankee go home, U.S. out of
Peru!" "Herberto Ocasio, national
spokesperson for CSRP, was interviewed
by U.S. and international press. The
protest was endorsed by Asil Al-Jundi,
former Atica Brother; Carlos Baron, San
Francisco State University; Black
Consciousness Movement of Azania;
Black Panther Newspaper Committee;
Blocque Socialista/NY; Lewis Bronner,
editor of Anti-War Activist; Committee in
Solidarity with the People of Peru;
Coordinadora Latinoamericana; Father
Lawrence Lucas; Dr. M.T. Mehdi, Arab
American Relations Committee; Pepe
Santana (Inkhay).

Peruvian child in the cholera ward of Iquitos General Hospital.
Phony Communism Is Dead,
Point/Counterpoint #2

Phony Communism is Dead,
Poii/C®yiiteri®iiit #1

In the wake of the failed coup in the Soviet Union—with the de-powerment of the so-called Communist Party there and the move to Western-style capitalism—the U.S. media has been going nuts attacking the whole history and ideology of communism. They are bragging that their dog-eat-dog, everything-for-a-price system is the only way of life possible, and moreover that the masses of people like it this way. The whole situation has unleashed a flood of questions: all kinds of people want to talk to the RCP about what is communism, what happened in the Soviet Union and China, and so on.

In the Point/Counterpoint series the RW will examine the claims of the bourgeois experts and their theories on the so-called "failure of communism."

First of all, the terms set by the media are bogus because communism did not fall, it was overthrown by coup d'etats in the Soviet Union in 1956 and in China in 1976 after Mao's death. The amazing thing is not that capitalism came back to power (for the time being) in these countries, but that these first historic experiences of proletarian revolution were able to accomplish so much in a relatively short historical period of time. After all, it took the bourgeois revolution hundreds of years just to abolish outright human slavery! From an historical viewpoint, the battles for proletarian revolution and communism have just begun.

Secondly, the current crisis in the Soviet Union is a crisis of state-capitalism, not communism. For 35 years, since the coup of Khrushchev in 1956, the Soviet Union has been a state-capitalist system with a phony socialist signboard. Now the signboard has been removed altogether and more Western-style capitalist forms are being adopted. So it is completely upside-down for the Western bourgeoisie to point to the results of capitalism in the Soviet Union and the attitudes of the people there as a "failure of communism."

Recently the McNall/Lehrer NewsHour on PBS-TV aired a series of conversations with so-called experts to discuss communism. One of their first discussions was with Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor for U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Last week the RW took on Brzezinski's argument that there is a fundamental connection between human creativity and the acquisition of goods. This week we take up his arguments on religion.

Point

Brzezinski: Communism or Marxism underestimated the human being's need for something spiritual, its emphasis on atheism deprived people of some transcendental belief.

Counterpoint

We counter with edited excerpts from "Radical Reprisals, or Yes, Mao More Than Ever," by RCP Chairman Bob Avakian:

I recently read an article (I think it was in the Atlantic) about religion. Its title was something like "Can We Be Good Without God?" It wasn't quite on the same level of gloating that you've been getting a lot these days from the more authoritative spokesmen for the system, the powers-that-be, the high-ranking people in the media, and so on—I'm referring specifically to the imperialist system in the West—the gloating over the "demise of communism" and the "triumph of capitalism...a free society...democracy," and on and on, ad nauseam. That Atlantic article was, in form, a more "agonizing" article, about how basically every attempt at making a better world that's based on relying on human beings, and the potential or actual good in human beings, has proven to be a dismal failure, and so the only hope for the human species is to have some absolute principles of religion.

This wasn't necessarily an argument for the Christian religion alone to be the dominant religion, but an argument for a commonly held idea—that without belief in some god and without the absolute authority of religion and its scriptures, people would turn into beasts. That people are by nature potentially bestial, potentially cruel and horrible, and that by themselves people are not capable of creating a good society and a good world.

It is specifically in this context that this article in the Atlantic brings up the "demise" of all attempts at social transformation—in particular of the socialist and communist type—how these have ended up in dismal failure and are always bound to end up in dismal failure because they are
Long Live Real Communism

cold, materialistic, atheistic, and don't rely on the masses, which is why in the necessity of having some Higher Being with whom you can carry on your pretended association, you have to find a way to keep human beings and their inherently evil nature in check.

But also what we see here is their class viewpoint coming to the fore very sharply, their utter lack of belief in the ability of the masses to transform the world and to transform history. But also as Marx and Engels called them. This means most fundamentally the radical rupture with all traditional property relations, but what is being focused on here very acutely is the other radical rupture—the rupture with all traditional ideas. Basically what's being said—different forms but with a common theme—by those who invoke the concept of traditionality and talk in terms of the dead hand of the past is that, as Mao put it at one time, people have to move in a certain way. As they're moved in a certain way, it changes the people under Gorbachev's baton, they're also finding religion to be something they have to bring it in more and more of the world, they have to be re-lit up, and utopianism gone wild in the most horrendous sense.

What Mao summed up from history is a fundamental truth: The people and the masses were the motive in the making of world history.

Certain historical experience, especially the experience of the Soviet Union and China, is distorted by the powers-that-be and their media, the CIA, etc., and then this distorted "historical experience", as people say, "tends to create some supposed overriding fact that people's attempts to undertake such transformation of social institutions and relations—and the transformation of the people themselves even transforms the social institutions and relations of disaster. This is one of the things that comes up continually through all the "com-"marxianly, particularly from the Western media, about events in Eastern Europe. Of course, they say that the present is "the triumph of democracy over communism," and "the free enterprise system and the free enterprise system versus "command economies"—"centralized, bureaucratic economies." (I'm having to laugh because I want to ask people sometimes have any of you ever worked in a capitalist corporation?) Have any of you ever operated for a so-called "democratic government" bureaucracy? You want to talk about "command" and "centralized," and "top-down authority" and the absolute insur- on blind obedience to authority in the most poty, ruthless, and capricious dic-

But one of the ways in which they are presenting this argument—one of the elements—is that—to a great extent for Western imperialist "experts," media com-

mendations, and so on—is what they call the triumph of Christianity or of religion more generally over atheism. This is extremely important to them, for the reasons that I read in "Religious Needs?", and "Who Does It?" I can't really speak to that anymore, which makes this point very well, when he notes that the imagination he doesn't think about the mystery of religion, and the mystery of the social order. Or we have it from Shah. "A folk" of a life," in the magazine, in an article about Islam and the Iranian Revolution, had a quote from the Shah, essentially to the effect that, as he put it at one time, are moved in a certain way, it changes the people under Gorbachev's baton, they're also finding religion to be something they have to bring it in more and more of the world, they have to be re-lit up, and utopianism gone wild in the most horrendous sense.

There is a strategic confidence in what Marx and Engels thought of this, which should we feel any need to drive this underground, why should we be afraid of it? There is a strategy of putting people into the wind. Such people, despite their "swimming" and "swimming," don't have to be afraid of anything other than the "democratic societies"—strategic confidence in your cause and strategic confidence in the other side and its system, and all of this is a fundamental characteristic of exploiters of the masses, that as they are pushed aside as soon as they get even a vague notion or general sense, the masses of people are no longer awesomely powerful by the power of these exploiters and oppressors. We, who stand on the side of the oppressed, we have an opportunity of doing something. There is no better way, they insist, to give life to religion than to drive it underground and to make it illegal or something "super-

It is far better to let it out in the open, and have it that way.

Not that Marx and Engels are arguing that religion should be allowed to be used as a cover for exploitation and oppression and counterrevolution and so on, but that the reality is something that is not something that should be occluded by decree, that people cannot move beyond one form of religion by being ordered to do so. People have to be free to have atheism, if and when, themselves, to their own, to their own, to their own.

There is a very strong insistence about the folly of this, that people have to be free to have atheism, if and when, themselves, to their own, to their own.

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There is a very strong insistence about the folly of this, that people have to be free to have atheism, if and when, themselves, to their own, to their own.
The IW received the following correspondence from a reader inside prison.

Revolutionary Greetings: Comrades, I am a prisoner held captive as the Maximum Control Complex in Westville, Indiana, a newly opened Marion-style Control Unit. I am a reader of the Revolutionary Worker and also embrace the dialectics and political ideologies of Marxism/Leninism and Maoism.

Comrades, my purpose for writing is twofold. In your last edition of the IW you highlighted the “Attica Rebellion.” We decided to use this rebellion as a theme for a “hunger strike” we have been trying to organize here among the inmates. We are trying to get as much attention as possible before we go on hunger strike on September 23. Hence you will find an enclosed statement that we are asking the IW to publish. In this place, we are locked down eight and right not to be as effective as we would like as far as spreading the word of the strike. Yet a lot of the comrades here and around the state subscribe to the IW and will join the struggle of the strike.

Second, we are asking that all revolutionary organizations try to give us some support or at least try to develop a working relationship with us.

Lastly, my final request. Here we are basically denied all personal property. In my particular case, the state termed my possessions “accidentally” have all my personal property intact. In the words of my wife it is the good fortune of $13 a month but for what is because myself and some other comrades have destroyed their money’s worth $12 million contract, so I am not allowed to send any money. Yet I would like to receive some books from your organization. We are only allowed books that come directly from the publisher or bookstore. Otherwise we will confiscate them. I would like to work out something with your organization where I can receive a couple of books. I can contribute articles, essays, etc, in exchange for a couple of books. If at all possible, I would like Mao’s Little Red Book and something from Lenin analyzing the contradictions of a bourgeois capitalist system. Being denied the opportunity to continue my revolutionary studies is killing me in here.

Please keep in contact and let us know if you can give us any assistance.

FIGHT THE POWER!!

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE ATTICA REBELLION" SEPT. 9-13

On September 13, 1971, over 250 state and local officials killed or injured those who toil, killing ten hostages and 79 prisoners. We have chosen this month, the 20th anniversary of the massacre of those courageous men, who stood up to expose the world to the hypocrisy and contradictions of the U.S. penal colonies and a bourgeois society. We have chosen this month to carry on that spirit of those men.

We want to call attention to the people of the U.S. and the World that even though it has been 20 years, the same horrific conditions and contradictions of the criminal justice system still remain, still exist in 1991. The same dehumanization and often racist practices and conditions of the state that existed then, still exist today, often in a more intense and sophisticated fashion.

Thus, I want to call upon the people of this nation to stand in solidarity with those who have launched into behavioral sciences and constructed control units, i.e. modern-day torture chambers to repress the growing resistance and call for human rights in the U.S. prison system. These control units that are today’s propaganda machine tries to say is to control the uneducable prisoners is in actuality to control those influential and oftentimes revolutionary prisoners who are inside the prison, organizing and calling for human and democratic rights. Prisoners who refuse to be treated as mere chattel prisoners, who are exposing the hypocrisies and contradictions of the prison system that only is not able to rehabilitate its prisoners but has no desire to do so. The 13th amendment designates all prisoners in the U.S. as slaves and also indentured servants and this is the essence of the order relationship of prisoners to prisoner. It is a slave master to slave relationship based on exploitation of the prisoners’ labor and the profit motive of the state.

In Lexington, Kentucky, a Federal judge ruled in the case of the Lexington Women’s Control Unit that the state was embarking upon a dangerous path when it begins to segregate prisoners because of their political beliefs, and in Marion, Illinois, the warden stated that the Marion Control Unit, which has been completely locked down for the past 8 years, was designed to control revolutionary ideas/attitudes.

Here at M.C.C., we as prisoners enjoy no rights, constitutional or otherwise. We are locked in stark white cells, with a shining bright light that burns 24 hours a day, which is designed to bring about stress and anxiety in the prisoner, over a period of time. It is also designed to deny you any type of sensory stimuli.

In 7-10 days we are only allowed to

*Article 1, Section 37 of the State of Indiana Constitution mandates that all prisoners are slaves of the state. Indiana Bill of Rights reads as follows: “There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude within the state, otherwise than for the punishment of crimes, wherein the party shall have been duly convicted. No adumbration of any negro or other minor male and emancipated out of bonds of the state shall be valid within the state.”

**The maximum 2-1/2 hours of recreation and even sometimes this is restricted for me on occasion. Our incoming and outgoing mail is read and often held up for days, before being processed. We are not even allowed to seal our outgoing mail! There are no checks and balances on the power of the warden, who can order that you be placed in mechanical restraints (handcuffs, shackles and waist chain) in a cold cell without provocation. Who can order a body search and will do it by force without justifiable cause, which sometimes rape anywhere else in the world! Here, bedding, clothing and food are used as tools for punishment and oppression, all in violation of bourgeois U.S. and United Nations law. We are allowed a very limited amount of clothes and yet we are forced to endure the blowing of an air conditioner 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with temperatures sometimes dropping to the 30s and 40s in these cells.

People, this torture, is all designed to ultimately destroy the sanity and stability of the captive prisoners. Thus, we launch this hunger strike with we who can no longer endure to call international attention to the systematic torture and developing of a hate factory in the State of Indiana. We also call on all revolutionary prisoners throughout the country in general and throughout Indiana in particular to show revolutionary solidarity with our struggle beginning on September 23. This is a revolutionary plan for freedom and solidarity. Let’s shake the walls of the beast!!
When the People Really Have the Power

Part 3

Economic Changes in Revolutionary China

There was a time on this planet when revolutionary workers and peasants had real power to dramatically reshape society. They carried out changes in organizing the economic life of the people that the world had never seen before and many bourgeois experts did not believe was possible. The time was 1966-1976. The place—China, under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung and the revolutionary commissars.

This story is the last in a series based on a paper written by RW correspondent C. Clark Kissinger. The paper was presented at a conference at the University of Radford Political Economists in Washington, D.C., December 1990. In 1972 and 1973 Clark Kissinger visited revolutionary China. He was able to observe firsthand some of the historic transformations being carried out in the economy by ordinary people. In the introduction to the paper Kissinger writes: "Too often we forget. In the aftermath of the collapse of state-capitalism in Eastern Europe and the restoration of capitalism in China it is especially worthwhile to go back and examine what was actually being attempted in Maoist China... When "socialism" has been debated to mean social welfare, regulated markets, and bourgeois democratization, it is exhilarating to reconcile a mood in history when ordinary workers dared to "storm heaven" and take into their own hands the conscious transformation of the economic relations that governed their lives.

This week's story focuses on how the workers and peasants at the Taching oil fields began to deal with the problem of "bourgeois right." Taking on Bourgeois Right

In the critic of the Gotha Programme of the German Socialists, Marx was acuising regarding its failure to get beyond bourgeois concepts of equality which are based on the approach of measurement by a common yardstick (the favored yardstick being exchange value). As Marx pointed out, quantitative measurements, no matter how equally applied, can never yield true social equality because of the infinite diversity of the human condition and the oneness of the measure chosen. The fight for social equality and the common good must always get beyond narrow formulas like "equal pay for equal work" and the like.

I witnessed a most striking example of this in the Taching Oil Fields, the national model in industry during the Cultural Revolution. The oil field was brought in during the Great Leap Forward and went into production in the early 1960s when China was under simultaneous oil embargo by both the Soviet Union and the United States and their benefactors.

Because of its particular history, Taching had some unusual economic forms. Being both heavy industry and mineral extraction, the Taching enterprise was wholly state-owned. Given the spread-out nature of a large oil field, the enterprise covered an entire county, and the revolutionary commissar of the economic enterprise was simultaneously the revolutionary committee of the county government. At the same time, the militia units of the whole field were organized into a full militia division. Thus political, economic, and military leadership of the people was integrated at a very high level.

The oil field workers lived in dispersed villages throughout the oil field, with the villages surrounding by agricultural fields to feed the workers. These fields were originally developed by the wives and dependents of oil workers, and even though the land was state-owned, the agricultural workers were paid like commune members (in cash and kind, through a tally of work points). Finally, there were also a number of small collective industrial enterprises (also originally organized by wives and dependents of oil workers) scattered through the villages. Because industrial workers and peasants working in the fields lived together in the same villages, they were known as "worker-peasant villages."

During the Cultural Revolution, oil output in Taching increased fivefold, which was a story in itself. But of particular interest to me were some of the "small" changes taking place within the worker-peasant villages. One aspect of this change was a dramatic breaking down of the cultural, economic and social distinctions between town and countryside, and among industrial and agricultural workers.

An example of this was an advanced worker-peasant village that I visited. It had 135 families with 536 people. One hundred thirty-five people did industrial work outside the village (which included eight married couples). These included 16 Communist Party members and four Youth League members. The non-industrial workers were divided into eight teams, some doing agricultural work, others doing service work or running a small co-op screw factory.

There were no private plots in the village—a common sign of an advanced political situation. But the agricultural workers had until recently been paid in work points. At the same time, the women working in the co-op screw factory were receiving cash wages based on income from the screw sales.

The ten years of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution transformed the working conditions for the women, as they were paid in cash wages for the same work that men previously had earned only in work points. One woman who spent three evenings a week in collective study work made only 0.16 yuan and earned less because the value of 0.16 yuan was far more productive (producing greater exchange value per hour).

Conclusions

All of these grassroots attempts to understand the forces of commodity production, the law of value, bourgeois rights, and profit in command came to an end with the political coup and the arrest of the Communist leadership at the end of 1976. Within a few short years, the people's communes were broken up, wage-labor reintroduced, foreign capitalists readmitted, and the spontaneous forces of domestic capitalism unleashed.

This demonstrated once again the significance of the question of state power. Real freedom for the oppressed classes means the ability to transform the social and economic relations into which they are born, and suppress the forces antagonistic to their interests (both economic and political).

The ten years of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution represented the furthest advance of the world proletariat in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and trying to solve some of the concrete problems of transforming the very nature of economic production, while struggling to prevent capitalist restoration. Only by the masses themselves, and only with the genuinely revolutionary leadership of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, can such a transformation be effected, increasing the level of production while never effecting a change in the relations of production.

The Cultural Revolution thus takes a place as a milestone event, along with the Paris Commune and the October Revolution, in bringing to an end the era of capitalist production. It was genuinely a case of ten steps forward, followed by a regretful but imperative one step back.

Fen Hong-fang, a leader of the battle against bourgeois right.
The reasons I like the RW is because it's bold and on time and points out the truth behind every event. I don't always agree on some things, but I know I can get information and be challenged every time I read it. I also like and appreciate that I am reading about my people, what they are saying and doing. This is very important to me and is one of the things I always tell people when we talk about events—here is a paper for us.

To the RW:

During the recent love affair of much of the U.S. media with the appalling tragedy in Iraq, one of the few, if not the only domestically available publication which gave ample coverage to the serious downside of the war was the Revolutionary Worker. While most of the U.S. media was marveling at the alleged super proficency of U.S. weaponry, the Revolutionary Worker was finding sources which gave believable accounts of the horror and devastation those very photogenic weapons were causing Iraq and Kuwait. A most welcome feature of the Revolutionary Worker's war coverage were the pithy little boxes which pinpointed key contradictions in what U.S. policy professed to be and what it proved to be in practice.

The Revolutionary Worker had both the courage and gumption to publish excerpts from internal communications of the Los Angeles Police Department which revealed the extent to which racist attitudes had permeated that law enforcement institution; furthermore, the acquiescence of several law enforcement agencies and the higher chain of the police command in the Rodney King beating was uncompromisingly presented in the Revolutionary Worker.

Where but in the Revolutionary Worker would one get any coverage of the incredible effort of the U.S. government to prosecute a couple of war protesters on arson and reckless endangerment charges for engaging in the constitutionally protected free speech act of burning the U.S. flag?

I have used the Revolutionary Worker as a quick reference source for giving substance to ideas developed in letters to the editor; also, my own hunger to learn more about a particular issue has been assuaged by information I have not been able to readily find anywhere else but in the Revolutionary Worker.

But perhaps the greatest value of the Revolutionary Worker is that it is a journalistic vehicle for political beliefs and ideas which are well outside the present timorous political mainstream in this country. Even though I may, and do, disagree with some of the terminology used in the Revolutionary Worker and I may, and do, disagree with aspects of the basic political program set forth in the publication, I nonetheless look forward with anticipation to the next issue of the Revolutionary Worker.