Women Must Have the Right to Choose!

TIME TO TURN THE TIDE!

Coverage starts page 3

Public Enemy: The Arizona Controversy

Chicago: Defend the Lockdown Fighters!

HAITI'S PHONY COMMUNIST
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 change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things the system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

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.

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New England Translation! Now Available!

In July 1988 the Lima daily newspaper El Diario hit the streets with a very special feature—an exclusive interview with Chairman Gonzalo, leader of the Communist Party of Peru (called Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path in the press). In this 12-hour interview, conducted by El Diario co-editors Luis Arce Borja and Janet Talavera, the leader of the Maoist people's war that has been shaking Peruvian society from top to bottom emerged and put forward in his own words his vision and insights for hundreds of thousands of Peruvians to read for themselves.

News of this historic interview hit the wires all over the world. For years the Peruvian government had been floating out stories that Chairman Gonzalo was dead and that the revolution was being defeated. Here was living proof that Gonzo was alive and well and powerfully leading the movement forward. Two editions of 100,000 copies each were sold out quickly. Then the government moved to put a stop to this, confiscating the third printing, destroying El Diarios presses and incarcerating co-editor Janet Talavera and other members of the newspaper staff. Janet Talavera is still in prison, and an international campaign is being waged for her release; Luis Arce Borja, after being attacked and bounded by the Peruvian government, is now putting out an international edition of El Diario from Belgium; El Diario itself is still being published in Lima, in the face of continued government repression. The interview has been published in pamphlet form and is currently being distributed in countries around the world. This new English edition makes this important document available to a broad audience just at a time when the international spotlight is increasingly focused on the people's war in Peru. Paperback, 109 pages.
January 22, 1992 marked the 16th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that gave women the right to abortion. Two days before this, the U.S. Supreme Court issued another slap in the face to women. It announced it will review a Pennsylvania law that is one of the most restrictive state abortion laws in the country. Everyone hearing this knew immediately what it meant: New and even bigger attacks are about to come down on women's right to abortion. The court claims they aren't going to use this case to make an overall ruling on Roe v. Wade. But this is a deception, designed to confuse and disarm the people. By upholding the Pennsylvania law, the court could kill Roe without having to issue a formal death sentence.

Over the last two decades abortion rights have been chipped away through legislation, funding policies, court decisions and outright terror against women's clinics. Things are at a critical point now where "chipping away" is about to become "completely taken away." And the court is poised to deliver a major blow that would affect millions of women.

The women's movement, and all those who want to fight the oppression of women, need to strategize and figure out how to take this attack on in a major way. There needs to be national and local mobilization, coordination and new forms of struggle. And millions of people need to be recruited into the fight to stop the court from using this case to deliver another attack on abortion rights. This will take new levels of leadership and organization.

The Election Trap

The top powers in this country are determined to use the Pennsylvania case to attack women's right to abortion. But they want to do this without major social disruption. So they have delivered a "political smart bomb" to try and de-mobilize and de-orient the people. As soon as the Supreme Court announced it will hear the Pennsylvania case the press put a "spin" on the whole story. The big question became: "What will this affect the election?" Millions of people watched their TVs and tried to figure out how the court's decision would affect the lives of women. But what they got was endless talk about the impact of all this on the fight between the Democrats and Republicans and speculation about how much or how little the abortion issue will affect George Bush's campaign. This aimed to narrow and confine the whole struggle around abortion into bourgeois, safe, electoral politics. It was enough to make you sick.

Several leaders of the mainstream women's movement added to all this by putting out new calls for women to put their faith in and get involved in the electoral process. Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), said, "This is one of those issues that can make a critical difference. It can provide a margin of victory in key states that a pro-choice Democrat needs to win." A national women's group began circulating a list of six women it says the eventual Democratic presidential candidate should consider for vice president. Faye Wattleton, president of the Planned Parenthood of America, said, "We will show our strength on Capitol Hill. We will show our strength at the polls." Michelman told the press, "With our right to choose on the chopping block, the only road left for the pro-choice majority is the political road—and 1992 is a critical election year." Other pro-choice leaders urged the passage of the Freedom of Choice Act of 1991—a bill pending in Congress that would codify the rights established in Roe.

If there is one thing we should learn from the Court's announcements, it is this: It is long overdue, and certainly time for the people to break out and break free from the demonizing and dead-end road of fighting in the bourgeois political arena of elections and lobbying. What is urgently needed is a mass outpouring of rage that threatens the powers with a major crisis. This is the only way to really beat back and defeat the attacks on abortion.

The dangerous logic of fighting on the enemy's turf, with the enemy's rules, has influenced many women in the women's movement and it needs to be defeated if the people are going to win the battle before us. So let's look at the main arguments of this line point by point and understand why it is not only a losing strategy on abortion rights, but a strategy that creates dangerous illusions among the people about how things can ever fundamentally change.

1. The "electoral" argument says: The court is going to overturn Roe or rip the heart out of it by upholdng extremely restrictive state laws. The powers have been chipping away at Roe v. Wade for two decades and Bush has packed the Supreme Court with judges known to be anti-abortion. At this point, there is no way the people are going to prevent this, so the movement needs a more "long-range strategy" of building up a pro-choice constituency aimed at electing more pro-choice politicians and eventually electing a pro-choice president. The Pennsylvania case is an opportunity to push this whole electoral agenda forward in the pro-choice movement. Even if the court defies Roe, this will provide people with a way to influence the elections and get more pro-choice democrats elected.

Wrong. The situation is bad but the question is NOT settled. A line that declares in advance that we've lost the fight can only lead to (and has led to) demoralization, defeatism and demobilization of the people. This is a self-fulfilling prophecy logic that says: We've already lost. It is a losing strategy on the assumption that the next stage of the fight is at the local level against state anti-abortion laws. This is a losing strategy by definition. If the masses of people don't fight against these attacks, women will lose the right to abortion. But the question is NOT settled and we can't act like it is. The ruling class can be forced to back off their wholesale attack.

2. The "electoral" argument says: The Democratic Party candidates for president are pro-choice. Getting more Democrats in office, and ultimately getting a Democratic president, is the only way to reverse the anti-abortion tide and protect women's right to abortion. Short of getting pro-choice Democrats elected, the women's movement should unite with and build up the Republicans who are pro-choice. Ultimately, women need a third party in order to more effectively fight in the political/electoral arena. Elect more pro-choice (and generally more liberal) politicians onto office and get things passed like a pro-choice constitutional amendment. Because this is a big election year the Pennsylvania case should be used to defeat as many Republicans as possible, pressure Democrats (and Republicans) to take pro-choice positions and work to get them elected.

Wrong. While the dominant line in the government is against abortion, there are politicians with a "pro-choice position." But these politicians are against taking away the right to abortion because they think this would threaten the social and economic stability in this country. These politicians are part of the power structure and serve ruling class interests—including the need to find the most effective ways to maintain the status quo and keep the people...
D.C.: Pro-Choice Forces Confront Anti-Abortion

TIME TO TURN THE TIDE!

Continued from page 3
down. While there may be differences within the pro-choice movement, they still act as a class in their class interests.

The need to dominate and oppress women is woven into the very fabric of the capitalist system. This is why the political mechanisms set up by the powers to rule over the people can never be used to end women’s oppression. The elections, the Constitution and the whole legislative process are run by the ruling class in the interests of the capitalist class. In this society elections are not a way for the people to have control over those in power. They are a way for the ruling class to control the people.

3. The “electoral” argument says: The only way to reverse the attacks on abortion is to get better politicians elected at every level, from local City Hall to the White House. If more women are elected, the laws and policies of the government will reflect the needs of women. Even if pro-choice candidates are not successful in getting into office, the battle to get them elected may force anti-abortion politicians to change their position because they will be afraid of not getting re-elected if there is a strong pro-choice tide.

Wrong. This logic is a fantasy. The only way the ruling class can be stopped from taking away abortions rights is by the mass action of the working class. If the government faces serious social and political consequences if they carry out their class goals, the rulers will go all-out-ahead in their class interests (and against the interests of the people) if they think they can get away with it. But history has shown that when the powers think they will have to pay a high political price for their actions they will be forced to back down. In the 1960s, the mass mobilization and turmoil in the streets—and the threat of even more serious political instability—forced concessions from the ruling class.

If the ruling class thinks that the only price they’ll have to pay for overturning Roe is that more women will get involved in bourgeois politics—they will overturn Roe. But people can’t let things go down this way. The question of a woman’s right to choose must become a burning national issue, and we have to turn the tide by politically mobilizing the people to tell the government that if they take away abortion rights the people won’t go just “to go the polls.”

To take away the right to abortion is like making women into tools. This is a serious matter and stakes of this battle and people need to respond accordingly. If the Supreme Court were on the verge of bringing hell to Roe, let history have it recorded that a woman’s right to choose must become a burning national issue, and we have to turn the tide by politically mobilizing the people to tell the government to know that if they take away abortion rights the people won’t go just “to go the polls.”

5. The “electoral” argument says: If the voting power is on the side of the pro-choice movement, the broadest, the “pro-choice” movement should stay away from controversial, moral issues. Far from it! The threat of a broad, pro-choice movement should stay away from controversial, moral issues is a way to widen the base of women and challenge the women’s movement. By doing this, the movement can organize those people who are already for abortion but recognize the right of women to make their own decision about an unwanted pregnancy.

Wrong. This kind of defensive orientation shrinks the base of the pro-choice movement to traditional pro-choice logic. This logic is a fantasy. The movement must be respectable and have strong political identities. The movement must be respected and seen as a force. By doing this the movement can organize the women and challenge the women’s movement. By doing this the movement can organize the women and challenge the women’s movement.

6. The “electoral” argument says: Ultimately what the women’s movement needs is a candidate to win a seat in Congress or the Senate. The goal of women’s liberation is to be equal partners with men in running this society. We are not going to get anywhere and this kind of candidate will not win.

Wrong. As long as people wage the struggle in the context of “the capitalists run society and always will,” they will be stuck in the position of constantly trying to loosen the chains of women’s oppression instead of fighting to get rid of the chains altogether. The present battle to defend the abortion needs to be waged in a way that raises millions of people the question: what will it take to fundamentally change the power relations in this country and liberate women? Women in the U.S. need to see that their oppression as women comes from a capitalist system based on dominating and exploiting people. Women need to see that this kind of candidate will not win. The problem is that all these women’s organizations are fighting in the context of the capitalists run society and always will.”

Today we stand at a crossroads in the struggle for women’s rights. Women must become a mighty force to bring down this system and bring about a new revolutionary power and a whole new society. And revolutions are confident that through today’s battles, women will rise to this historic challenge.
The Dangerous Provisions of the Law

A look at the contents of the Pennsylvania law—officially known as the Abortion Control Act of 1989—makes it clear why it poses such a deadly threat to women's lives:

• Forced Parental Consent: This provision requires that doctors discuss "alternatives to abortion with women before proceeding with the abortion. Each woman must be given a state-produced pamphlet with pictures of fetuses taken at two-week intervals during the gestation. She must also be told that medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care, delivery and neonatal care and that, unless pregnancy resulted from rape, she may be eligible for child support. The phrase "informed consent" may sound like something positive that helps a woman make a better decision. But it is really a directive from the state that doctors should attempt to talk women out of having abortions. It should actually be called "mandatory coercion."

• Husband Notification: A married woman is required to notify her husband of her decision to get an abortion. Women who make false statements about having given the notification can be jailed for up to a year. There are some narrowly defined exceptions to this rule, but testimony has shown that battered women who make false statements about having informed their husbands to have abortions. Parental consent means the nightmare of enforced motherhood and dangerous self-induction or illegal abortions for many teenage women.

• Narrow Definition of "Medical Emergency": Most of the restrictions provide exceptions in the case of "medical emergency," when an abortion is necessary to prevent a woman's death or when a delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function. But "medical emergency" is so narrowly defined that it is inconsistent with medical practice and poses dangers to women's health.

• Forced Delay: A woman is required to wait 24 hours before getting an abortion—even if she is sure about her decision, even if her doctor determines that a delay is unnecessary or medically dangerous, and even if she must travel hundreds of miles to return to the clinic. Because many clinics only perform abortions several days a week, the delay may be as much as a day.

• Forced Parental Consent: A young woman under 18 who is unmarried or unemancipated must have one parent give written consent before she can get an abortion. If only one parent gives consent, a parent is to obtain a court order. Because the "informed consent" and 24-hour delay provisions apply to both the young woman and her parent, the parent must come to the clinic to give consent to the procedure. This gives parents opposed to abortion another arena to coerce their daughters into having a baby. All this makes it even more difficult for teenage women to have abortions. Parental consent means the nightmare of enforced motherhood and dangerous self-induction or illegal abortions for many teenage women.

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• Records Open to Public: Doctors are required to keep detailed records of each abortion, and these records are subject to public disclosure. According to an ACLU source in New York, this provision does not call for keeping names of individuals in these records. But it is clear that these records are not being kept in the interests of the women. They are going to be used "Operation Rescue" types in their campaign against women and abortion.

After the Pennsylvania abortion law was passed, a Federal District Judge ruled that the two provisions of the law—on parental consent and on "informed consent"—were unconstitutional. The judge said that these provisions would impose an "undue burden" on women seeking abortions. This decision was in turn overturned by a U.S. Court of Appeals. The Appeals Court decision upheld the parental consent and "informed consent" provisions, but it also held that the husband notification requirement was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court is now considering the Pennsylvania law as a whole, including the husband notification provision. The New York Times (which is a voice of forces within the bourgeoisie who don't agree with Roe v. Wade) notes: "If the Court upholds this provision, it will have abandoned a central premise of Roe v. Wade, whether it says so or not; that an adult woman, exercising her constitutional right in privacy, can decide in consultation with a doctor to terminate a pregnancy."

In the Wake of the Webster Decision

Pennsylvania was the first state to impose provisions after the Supreme Court ruling in the landmark Webster v. Reproductive Health Services case—which gave the states authority to put restrictions on abortion as long as the laws did not create "an absolute or severe limitation on a woman's decision to have, or not to have, an abortion." In Webster the Court upheld a Missouri law banning abortions in public hospitals and imposing other restrictions.

The Pennsylvania case showed the impact of recent Supreme Court rulings against abortion rights—as in terms of overturning laws away at women's reproductive rights under the Roe v. Wade ruling and setting legal precedents to pave the way for the overturn of Roe v. Wade altogether.

In the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals on the Pennsylvania law, the judges argued that recent decisions of the Supreme Court used language that set a different standard from the legal standard set in Roe v. Wade. The Court of Appeals said the Pennsylvania law as a whole, including the abortion provision, was unconstitutional. The judge said that these provisions would impose an "undue burden" on women seeking abortions. This decision was in turn overturned by the Supreme Court, he would have overturned Roe v. Wade altogether.

Reproductive Health Services and Hodgson v. Minnesota (the decision giving states the right to enforce parental notification laws)—Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has used different language, referring to abortion as a "right of fundamental importance," saying that state laws would be considered unconstitutional only if they caused a "substantial burden" on a woman's decision to have an abortion.

Moreover, the Court of Appeals argued that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has written that an abortion ban occurs when a regulation imposes an absolute or severe limitation on the abortion decision, and not merely a regulation that may inhibit abortions to some degree. So the Appeals Court argued that since different language has been used by Supreme Court justices in cases since Roe v. Wade, lower courts are no longer bound by the Webster v. Wade decision. In other words, the Appeals Court said that the Supreme Court itself has already made "the point at which the states and lower courts no longer have to follow the decision legalizing abortion."

This was basically an end run around Roe v. Wade. The Court of Appeals paved the way for a possible direct legal challenge to the law legalizing abortion.

An Assault on the Right to Abortion

Governor Casey of Pennsylvania has already announced that if Roe v. Wade is overturned by the Supreme Court, he would sign a bill banning all abortions except "where the life of the mother is at stake." However, there is some talk that the Supreme Court may not explicitly address the Roe v. Wade decision in taking up the Pennsylvania case. In other words, they may not operate Roe v. Wade is overturned. Such a decision would come from political calculations by the ruling class that overturning Roe v. Wade would arouse widespread outrage and would be too risky a step to take right now.

But even if the Supreme Court does not deal with Roe v. Wade itself, the Courts of Pennsylvania case, a decision to uphold the provisions of the Pennsylvania law would be a massive attack on women's right to choose and control over their reproduction. The New York Times wrote, "Roe v. Wade may survive as a shell of a case with no content or force."
Protests Mark Gulf War Anniversary

On January 16, people across the San Francisco Bay Area remembered the year anniversary of the beginning of the bombing of Iraq and protested the U.S. War of Shame. In different ways people mourned the murdered Iraqi people, supported the GI resisters and expressed determination to fight the powers and all their crimes. A year ago San Francisco was the scene of the biggest anti-war demonstration in the country as well as some of the boldest actions such as taking over the Bay Bridge and blockading the Federal building.

About 350 people gathered at the same spot in downtown San Francisco where emergency demonstrations against the war were held a year ago. The Emergency Committee to Stop the War in the Middle East and a coalition formed by Food Not Bombs and Roots Against War issued a joint call for the demonstration. This coalition included people from the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network and many of the most defiant and bold fighters against the war and the victory parade. Many youth joined the protest.

At the rally, speakers denounced the continuing sanctions against the people of Iraq. GI resistance was a major focus, and Jeff Paterson and other resisters spoke out. One Persian Gulf vet, who now works with the group Queer Nation, called out the crimes of the entire system including attack on abortion rights. A Black Vietnam vet who works with Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist gave a moving speech with the message "Revolution is the Hope of the People."

Three hundred police were mobilized against this demonstration, but the new, quieted youth were determined to march. Drums sounded the beat at the front, banners unfurled and people took the streets. The cops tried to keep the protesters on the sidewalks and would corral a section of the march, but people would surge back into the street. Seventeen people were arrested.

Across the Bay at the Concord Naval Weapons Station a group of more than 100 military service activists gathered. This station shipped a third of the bombs and missiles used to murder the people of Iraq. The protesters plastered 100 white wooden tombstones on the lawn in front of the main gate. Many of the protesters were dressed in black for mourning and carried large photos of Iraqi people. The group moved onto the base and knelt in prayer, blocking the main entrance. Thirty-one people were arrested.

At UC Berkeley 500 people attended a program with anti-war speakers, co-sponsored by the Middle East Children's Alliance and the Pledge of Resistance. The message was to renew resistance, with a focus on the continuing sanctions against the people of Iraq. Before the program people rallied on the campus and held a candlelight vigil.

In Fremont, a suburb which has never been known for radical activity, a small group of people staged a die-in at a busy intersection at rush hour. The protesters said they wanted people to remember all the pain the U.S. bombing caused and the suffering that continues today in Iraq. At the UC Medical Center in San Francisco 300 health care workers vowed to refuse military service.

In Seattle about 600 to 800 people answered a call by a broad range of groups to demonstrate on January 15. The official sponsors for the action were: Church Council of Seattle, Central America Peace Campaign, Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist, Washington Vets for Peace, Citizens for Overt Action, and Washington SANE/FREEZE. There were strong calls for unity with the Iraqi people and a sense of urgency among the demonstrators about the need to stop further U.S. interventions and invasions around the world. The rally at the Seattle Central Community College featured speeches by GI resisters, the Seattle peacemakers of the RCP, a Greenpeace member speaking on environmental damage in Iraq, a Black rap poet, a Black minister and others. After a spirited march people gathered rally and a discussion to grapple over questions raised by the Gulf war, the dangers of new U.S. interventions and the way forward for the movement.

NOW AVAILABLE
Pamphlet from Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network

Some Lessons of the Struggle Against the Gulf War

On the year anniversary of the bombing of Iraq, the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network has issued a position paper evaluating the struggle against the U.S. war in the Gulf. The paper was prepared and edited by the National Office of the Action Network, with the help of many people in the anti-war movement. They write: "Its purpose is to learn from that battle in order to do everything possible to stop the U.S. from waging other wars of aggression. We encourage people to read, discuss, comment on and critique this paper, as well as broadly reproduce, distribute and publish it. The point is to sum up the past in order to change the future..."

Co-signers of the Action Network paper:
Rahim Azizab, Iranian activist, Chicago
Anna Brown, Dept. of Political Science, Fordham University
Carin, to Stop the War in the Gulf/Corn. to Defend Jeff Paterson, Hawaii
Thomas K. Caletta, Coast Guard reservist, Florida
Carl De, youth spokesperson, Revolutionary Communist League in Vermont for refusing to go to war
Shane Ehman and Joe Urs, convicted of felony for protest at Times Sq. Scouting Station, NYC, Sep 11, 1990
Bart English, artist, NYC
Larry Everett, author/photodist. "Behind the President's Cloud, Union Cargo's (Illegal) Massacre" (produced video)
The War on the People
Rek Kush Furnish, member of conference of socialists committee, United Church of Christ, Wisconsin
Phil Furnish, RCP, NYC, War Parade 18
Celine Gallagher, Navy reservist, Long Island
Laure Tommy Heshkow, Palestinian Human Rights Co International
Sain Hallier, War Parade 18, Amnesty International staff, ACT UP (being felony trial for protesting war protest)
Richard Hutchinson, author/activist, "Life During Wartime"
Joey Johnson, (Revolutionary) Communist Youth Brigade
Rev. Michael Kandel, Cathedral of St. John the Divine
C. Clark Kissing, (Revolutionary) Communist Youth Worker
Jim Moore, editor of Anti-War March on Washington, NYC
Yuri Kochiyama, community activist
Hee Yul Koopyaps, assist. priest, Church of the Intercession, Harlem
Ron Koby, attorney
Susan Lustig, legal aid
Beth and Cofaxis Lamonir
F. Lawrence Lucas, Church of the Resurrection, Harlem
Samuel Luech, Marine Corps reservist, NYC

James Marsh, Prof. of Philosophy, Fordham University
Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, Prof. of Afro-American Relations, Calif., author of "The Gulf Victory War: Myth and Reality"

Maryam Naimzadeh, Iranian, member of War Parade 18
Jeff Paisson, 1st military resister, editor of "The Anti-War" newspaper
Cory Poppen, Chicago
Vic Stodel, religious leader, Long Island
Judith Stein, performance artist/activist
L.K. Steward, attorney
Vietnam Veterans Against the War/ Anti-Imperial, Seattle Chapter
War Parade 18, on trial for protesting the Parade of Shame, June 10, NYC
Rev. George W. Wicker, Prof. and ex-avpys, NY Theological Seminary, visited Iraq with medical supplies, Dec., 1990
Dave Williams, attorney
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A hot debate surfaced across the nation on this year's official Martin Luther King holiday. The topic was the violence of the oppressed vs. the oppressor, right or wrong? The center of attention was a positive contribution on the music scene by Public Enemy—the rap group who can't seem to cut a single track these days without unleashing hot controversy.

A story of criticism has been mounted against the PE video for the song "By the Time I Get to Arizona." The video is "a trip into the fantasy world of Public Enemy," the leader Chuck D said. The clip, which pictures the Black liberation tutor, columnist Clarence Page, pinpoints exactly where the Black liberals think the violence must stop—when the Black youths themselves begin to fight back. This is what Page calls "breaking the cycle of violence.... [The video] preaches a message that violence is the proper response to violence.

Chuck later commented on the video: "There's a lot more violent movies out there, and there's violence in real life. If you consider, for instance, all the rehashing of the war last year opening, all the do to violent things.... This is a violent society. It was built on 500 years of violence. And people are getting ready to celebrate 500 years of genocide next year with the Columbus Day battle."

But of course this is not the violence which worries the bourgeoisie. So Nightline interviewed the Afro-American philosopher, Dr. Martin Luther King, the Afro-American clergymen, was suddenly assassinated by the U.S. imperialists. Martin Luther King was an exponent of non-violence. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists did not on that account show any tolerance towards him, but used counter-revolutionary violence, and killed him in cold blood. This brutal public enemies: the Arizona Controversy.

Is this art, or dangerous propaganda?" Chuck later commented on the video: "Of course this is not the violence which worries the bourgeoisie. So Nightline interviewed the Afro-American philosopher, Dr. Martin Luther King, the Afro-American clergymen, was suddenly assassinated by the U.S. imperialists. Martin Luther King was an exponent of non-violence. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists did not on that account show any tolerance towards him, but used counter-revolutionary violence, and killed him in cold blood. This brutal violence is the proper response to violence.

Chuck D said: "No, not at all. I'm just ad- vocating violence..." Chuck D: "The proper response is never to turn the other cheek, but to make people know how we feel as Black people. We're tired of being disrespected." Chuck D added: "That is not what Dr. King taught us. Page is right about one thing: MLK taught that the oppressed should not rise up in violent confrontation or armed struggle against their oppressors. And this philos- ophoy has been very important to the powers in this country in keeping people down—so it's a problem for the rulers, even if the message of this video, and Public Enemy's philosophy, do not represent a fully revolu- tionary viewpoint. The fantasy commandos don't have a Marxist strategy of people's response to violence, but relate in a really deep way to the people and conditions who surround us every day. Art can take things "higher than life...."

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Chicago: Defend the Lockdowns

In the next few months, three legal cases are scheduled to go to trial in Chicago. These cases are part of a campaign by the powers to crush opposition to the CHA lockdowns and to unravel the CHA's plan to build jails instead of housing and turn public housing into jails.

The CHA lockdowns have become a national model. Newark has begun its own program of sweeps and lockdowns, and HUD has sent a training film of the Chicago sweeps to public housing authorities throughout the nation. Since September 1988, 76 buildings in Chicago have been locked down, and some buildings have been repeatedly raided by police. The CHA has also been rewarded by the Bush administration with a $5.9 million grant to "eliminate drugs" and $114.1 million to "modernize and reconstruct" buildings. At a time when $300 million is being slashed from social services in Illinois, CHA tenants can accumulate "strikes" for rules badges, and eviction of people not on the lease are measures by the authorities to keep the people down. Because crime and drugs are real problems in the projects, there has been confusion among the people about the lockdowns. But there has been opposition to the lockdowns from the beginning, and today even more tenants are learning the realities of life in a CHA police state.

Fighting the Lockdowns

When the lockdowns began in 1988, tenants organized protest marches at Prairie Courts and Humboldt Houses. Robert Taylor Homes tenants petitioned CHA to not lock down their building. Mass protests against the lockdowns were held at Cabrini-Green, and youth joined on-the-spot protests when their buildings were locked down at Ogden Courts.

In January 1990, two organizations formed to fight the lockdowns—Fight the Power and the Campaign to End the CHA Lockdowns—launched an offensive with homeless takeover in the projects and protests at the office of CHA Chief Vince Lane. The "People's Lockdown" of CHA on May First marked a high point, when the real criminals—the CHA manager and their goons, guards and matches—were "locked down" in the CHA office at 2400 South State Street.

This bold action roused the people, and it shocked the enemy. They hit back with a two-pronged counterstrike against the people. On one hand they are using their big-caliber weapons of eviction against the tenants. At the same time they put out a "banning order" to keep political organizations and activists from going onto CHA property to join with tenants to fight the lockdowns.

For people in public housing—90 percent of whom are one adock away from homelessness—the threat of eviction is a powerful weapon for social control. Tenants can accumulate "strikes" for rules who try to stop this criminal behavior are arrested and charged.

The "Eviction Reversal 3" defendants hope to show that they acted as part of a political protest to prevent an unjust eviction and to stop the lockdowns which have forced thousands of people into the ranks of the homeless. The powers hope to use their conviction that in the course of a struggle it is necessary to stand with frontline fighters when they come under attack. After the People's Lockdown, it was the Richmonds who were subjected to the most severe punishment—denial of housing. The stand of those arrested during the eviction is an important statement to the people outside the projects who are also willing to risk a lot to stop the lockdowns.

Civil Suit Turns into Fishing Expedition

Another tenant, Beverly Horning, was also threatened with eviction for fighting revolutionaries into the building to see the Richmonds. The CHA has accused her of "aiding and abetting a subversive meeting." A major article in The Reader newspaper exposed this and reported that the CHA had temporarily backed off, but
Beverly has filed a civil suit against the CHA to protect herself from a future eviction attempt. This is a case where a tenant is unjustifiably trying to fight the CHA police state. But civil suits are risky. The courts are the powers' arenas, where they have a home-court advantage over the people. There is always the chance, especially in the absence of mass struggle and protest, that the courts will make a ruling that can be used against the people. They could also use this case to make tighter rules and regulations for visitors to the lockdown buildings.

Civil suits are also dangerous because they give the state a wide latitude for “discovery” to get information about political organizations. In this case, the CHA has already subpoenaed a revolutionary 

CHA is the project which has been held up

Beverly Herring.

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y, Cheryl, who they believe was one of the visitors that Beverly signed in to see the Richmonds. At a deposition hearing in December, Cheryl was asked hundreds of questions, including about her political af-

filiations and her knowledge of people asso-


ciated with the RCMP and the Campaign to End the CHA Lockdowns. This was clearly a “fishing expedition,” and Cheryl rightfully refused to answer all questions. She has taken the stand that she will not give information to the enemy that can and will be used against the people, and she now faces the threat of going to jail for her refusal to cooperate. Only mass political struggle and exposure of the CHA’s repressive policies can keep Cheryl out of jail and prevent the CHA from retaliating against the people. They could also use this case to make tighter rules and regulations for visitors to the lockdown buildings.

Against the Banning Order

The CHA Tenants on

the Lockdowns!

"I oppose them. They're not doing any good. The guards and the drugs are still there. They're locked right in there with us. They get us in prison. We gotta show ID to get in. They got security guards searching you. Male guards searching women's panties. Some people just got to walk in without showing ID, including people who don't live there. Some guards don't hassle you, but others do. My daughter came to visit and they physically searched her, her purse and her jewelry. Two male guards did it.

"They are still being sold and brought in. I can see it. I know the cops and the guards can see it. They're not searching the people who deal the drugs. They might even be giving these drugs to them. They go and see some people [using retina eye scanners] some of the time.

"Before the lockdown, your guests could come up. Now you gotta walk down (the elevators ain't working) to sign them in and walk back up. Nothing being done as far as repairs. They do house inspections every other month—on Sundays, which disrupts your relaxation—but nothing gets repaired. They paint and fixed lights when they brought Kemp [head of HUD], but that was the last time.

"When the sweep came down, people not on the lease had to go. You couldn't put a name on the lease, but then your rent went up.

"There was a shootout out the back and the kids were trapped on the playground in the middle of the shootout because the back entrance is kept locked and only the guards can buzz it open. They were down on the floor ducking bullets at the time. At other buildings, two young children have been shot because they couldn't get in through the back entrance. In one shooting, a guard had told the youths they couldn't enter before they were shot. Nothing has been done about this situation."

A woman from Rockwell Gardens, the project which has been held up as a "national model" by HUD says:

"The guards are acting stupid. When you call people and they don't come down, you can't get in. Lose your ID and you can't get in, period. The guards let some people in without ID but they don't others. My auntie and some other women complain about being searched by male guards.

"I don't know nobody in the projects who likes the lockdowns." 14-year-old from a South Side project

"The people who support the lockdowns feel it's a way of being in a more secure environment. Nine out of ten times they find it out. It's not the seniors who felt more threatened. They want people who don't live there. Some guards don't hassle you, but others do. My daughter came to visit and they physically searched her, her purse and her jewelry. Two male guards did it.

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Defend the Lockdown Fighters!

Continued from page 9
This banning order is a blatant expose of the class nature of so-called political rights in this society, where the basic people are routinely denied the right to political speech and association. The banning order has been enforced against anyone that the guards might feel could be a troublemaker—including mass, priests, and attorneys who tried to visit the Richmond family. It is an attack on the rights of political activists, but even more so on the masses of basic people. The banning order makes it quite clear that the lockdowns are part of an agitated scene where legal rights are being stripped away from Black people and an open police state is being imposed. It specifically aims to isolate and ghettoize the tenants from political activists and other sections of the people who stand with them against the lockdowns.

The banning order and the many arrests of revolutionaries is also a confession by the CHA and the rulers that what they really fear is the explosive combination of oppressed and angry masses with the revolutionary politics of the RCP. It is no coincidence that the Revolutionary Worker newspaper has been banned in South Africa, banned in some prisons in the U.S., and now the RCP is banned from the housing projects.

There is widespread outrage and opposition in the hands of the people including in the progressive legal community, but this needs to translate into an active campaign to stop this in the streets as well as in the courts.

High Stakes Battle
These attacks in the legal arena set the stage for and demand a new offensive by the people.

There's a lot on the line for both sides. A victory for the powers could send us all back a step while a victory for the people could put us one step toward further stripping away the people's rights, and strengthen the CHA's ability to use evictions as a club to put a lot of people in jail, legitimize the banning order as a stage for and demand a new offensive by the people.

This letter came from an RW reader at Stateway Gardens. The man uses the dope as another damn excuse to lock us up and treat us like dogs. He said: "These court cases have become a platform for the community for making a stand against this attack on the people, bring heart to the tenants and strengthen their determination to fight the powers."

A leaflet from the RCP, Chicago branch, which has been appearing in the projects, says: "These court cases have become a symbol of the powers that are attacking the people and revolutionary leadership. We will fight them in the courts and use these cases to put the CHA and the police system on trial for the lockdowns, evictions and other crimes against the people. Money is needed to wage this fight, and contributions need to come from basic people who see their own future in this high-stakes battle to defend the lockdowns and defend the revolutionary line."

But basic people know from experience that justice won't be won in the courts by relying on minority judges in black robes. It must be won by taking the battle into the housing projects and into the streets. Only the people can stop these attacks—and more, join battle with the enemy in ways that will take our movement higher!"

The Chicago chapter of Refuse & Resist! recently held a program at Columbia College and called upon people to join this battle to defend the Lockdown Fighters and fight the police state in the projects. The RCP Chicago branch is calling on youth and students to help get the RW and flyers about this battle into the schools and the communities of the oppressed. In the lockdown buildings the people are building organization and preparing for a new round of struggle.

"People should have any illusions that the powers are going to freeze the Lockdown Fighters or reform the police state in the projects. The RCP Chicago branch is calling on youth and students to help get the RW and flyers about this battle into the schools and the communities of the oppressed. In the lockdown buildings the people are building organization and preparing for a new round of struggle."

"People have the right to live on their own property, to protect and utilize the property for their own benefit and the benefit of the community."
Women Are Not Incubators

There are many different reasons why women might get pregnant and why the fetus might be valid. No woman should feel guilty about terminating an unwanted pregnancy. And no woman should buy the crap that having an abortion is "selfish." The birth of a child can be a source of great joy to a woman. But it can be a nightmare for a woman who for whatever reason does not want to have a child. So when a woman becomes pregnant, it is her right to choose between compulsion or her reproductive rights. In such cases, forcing a woman to continue her pregnancy will be that instead of going in early for a simple and safe medical procedure, she will be forced to continue to seek out abortions. But the difference will be that instead of going in early for a simple and safe medical procedure, many women will find themselves trapped, forced to continue to fight for their reproductive rights. In the U.S. prior to 1973 and continues to be routine in many parts of the world today. Activists at the State Capitol. The police held back the mainstream movement. The dozen or so pro-choice people at the Daley Plaza that afternoon for the pro-choice activists. Refuse & Resist! and supporters, rained on their protest march. Over a hundred supporters of abortion rights stood in the key rain to support their cause. No tears rain on our parade. No one can! Our fight will not end until the oppression has ended.

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Phony Communist
Appointed Prime Minister

On January 8 the U.S. press announced a plan to solve Haiti’s current political crisis. Rene Theodore, head of Haiti’s revisionist (formerly “pro-Soviet”) Communist Party (known as PUCH), was appointed Prime Minister of an interim government. This agreement, between ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and members of the Haitian Parliament who supported Aristide’s overthrow in a violent military coup last September 29, was openly backed by U.S. and French imperialism. The negotiations were carried out with the “guidance” of a team of top OAS (Organization of American States) diplomats, under the pressure of an OAS-sponsored economic embargo, and under the threat of OAS military intervention. (The OAS is an organization of all governments in North and South America, excluding Cuba, and is dominated by the U.S.) According to the Miami Herald, “U.S. officials expressed elation at the agreement.”

Aristide, elected by a landslide in December 1990, was president for less than eight months. During that time he made no concessions that would benefit the people without angering the U.S. imperialists who have dominated Haiti for more than 75 years. To calm the U.S. (which had long hated him because of his strong support of the people, their struggle and their struggle for a “marriage between the army and the people” and support for Haiti’s revolutionary constitution. He also worked to open up Haiti to more foreign investment and IMF (International Monetary Fund) control. At the same time Aristide did encourage some democratic transformation. He eliminated the power of the Chiefs Du Section, rural sheriffs who served the interests of the feudal landlords. He cleaned up some of the rampant corruption in the government. And because he created an atmosphere that made people think (incorrectly) that they held real political power, the masses were very difficult of the oppressors who continued to run Haiti overall.

The reactionary classes in Haiti struck back with the September coup. One of the first things they did was free many torturers and murderers from jail to help kill thousands of Haitian poor. The U.S. initially opposed the coup, because they thought it would further destabilize Haiti, and because it went against America’s international charade of “supporting democracy over dictatorship.” But as the U.S. saw all the reactionary classes of Haiti unite firmly against Aristide, it shifted its position to work with the coup government.

But the U.S. has a problem. The military government and its overthrow of a president elected in a U.S.-sponsored election is an ugly blemish on the “New World Order.” And this is made worse by the fact that the U.S. initially said that the coup government would not be recognized. Second, the reactionary forces in Haiti all united to support the coup out of their hatred of the masses and of Aristide. But now power is concentrated entirely in the hands of the military and such itself divided among different commanders. The position of many of the reactionary elements is thus extremely tenuous and this reactionary unity could easily fracture, particularly if there were a new general mass struggle.

What the U.S. needs is a mask of democracy that will help to unify the reactionary classes, protect the interests of all the oppressors, allow the U.S. to impose military and economic aid and diplomatic recognition, while still carrying out the brutal repression of the masses. But how hard it is to achieve—this has led to the military being in Haiti in any capacity, and it is generally hostile to the people who are not completely controlled through their ties to the imperialists.

So now comes Rene Theodore, the living ghost of Soviet-style phony communism. Theodore spent most of the last 20 years in exile in Moscow, and was trained at the Communist University’s “Patrice Lumumba University”—an international school for training revisionist agents of Soviet socialism. After the fall of Duvier in 1956, Theodore immediately returned to Haiti and was greeted by a thousand people, many chanting “Down with Living Government.” But the people quickly got a dose of Theodore’s revisionism. In the summer of 1986, mass demonstrations were made against the military government, which the people called “Duvalierism without Duvalier.” Government repression was also intensifying.

When the masses staged a general strike to try and bring the government down, Theodore and PUCH played a major role in opposing this strike. From that time PUCH built its reputation as a supporter of “order” and enemies of the people. When Aristide announced his candidacy for president, PUCH attacked it. But they didn’t do this from a correct, revolutionary standpoint—they didn’t fight for the understanding that revolutionary change could only come through waging a revolutionary war for power, not through elections. Instead they attacked Aristide’s candidacy from the right, using PUCH’s rise to the very essence of the masses being unleashed against their enemies in a “democratic” and “dictatorial” way. These are the very arguments that the reactionaries later used to justify their block and their coup which Theodore actually supported!

Among the Haitian people, and especially among genuine revolutionaries and Marxists, Theodore is one of the most hated political figures. But it wasn’t carried the right part of some people. Speaking of possible problems his “communists” labeled might create among the “petro-revolutionary elite,” Theodore said, “I have no concerns on that score. The positions we have taken since 1986 allow me to believe that no one would have any reluctance about me.”

While Theodore’s proposal was actually to come to pass it still isn’t clear. The military has not yet spoken on the matter, but up to this point they have been adamant that they will not allow Aristide back into power under any conditions. According to the New York Times reports, on Saturday, January 25, PUCH headquarters was attacked by a group of about 15 policemen, some in uniform and some not. And Theodore’s bodyguard was later killed. However, the military does not mention of a restoration of U.S. aid is both held onto power and to further fatten themselves, and the U.S. does not want to be pushed hard for Theodore. If Theodore does come to power, it is an open question whether Aristide will really be brought back to lead the government with them. And if Aristide is allowed to return, under these conditions, he would certainly have even less power to bring about any real change.

For the U.S. and PUCH in making this whole deal, and of Aristide in agreeing to it, there are three main points:

1. Revolution, phony communism is not just a “bad idea.” It is as Lenin pointed out: “It is necessary to understand that the bourgeoisie within the working class movement, Mao Tseutung put it: “The rise to power of reactionary in the rise to power of the bourgeoisie.”

2. While the U.S. long claimed that its struggle with the Soviet Union was a big ideological struggle between good and evil, their behavior and words have shown that in reality it was all just a big power struggle between imperialist states with exactly the same opener, bourgeois ideology. Just as the U.S. had no “ideological” problem with the Soviet Union’s phony communism, today it seems they are prepared to accept it without a word of criticism.

3. The road of relying on institutions of imperialism in bring about change will lead to a dead end. Until October 1990, Aristide advocated mass struggle against such institutions. From that time on PUCH argued with one another in the name of revolution—speaking of the “spectre of the masses being unleashed against them in a “democratic” and “dictatorial” way.” These are the very arguments that the reactionaries later used to justify their block and their coup which Theodore actually supported!

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Canada Convicts Mohawk Warriors for Rebellion

On Wednesday, January 22, the jury reached a verdict in the case of three Mohawk brothers on trial in Canada in connection with the 1990 armed standoff at the Mohawk territory of Kanehsatake in the summer and fall of 1990. Ronald Cross (Lasagna), Joe Armstrong (Noriega), and Francis Jacobs (Noriega) were convicted of six counts of possession of a weapon, one count of assault for pushing a soldier and 14 other counts of assault and was acquitted of 29 counts, including death threats against Canadian soldiers. He faces up to 14 years in prison. Gordon Lazore (Nortega) was convicted of nine charges of assault and acquitted of 40 charges. He faces up to four years in prison. Ronald Lazore (2020) was acquitted of all charges.

The Battle Over Mohawk Land

These three Mohawks, along with hundreds of other Mohawk people and some Canadian allies, heroically stood up against thousands of Canadian troops and Quebec provincial police (SQ) during the armed confrontation. The standoff began on July 11, 1990 when police attacked a Mohawk barricade at Kanehsatake which was put up to prevent a golf course from being built on Mohawk land. Mohawks at Kanehsatake, Akwesasne and left police occupation. The Mohawks at Kanehsatake have continued to man checkpoints on the edges of their territory to prevent the police and other authorities from entering. The pigs constantly harass, beat and arrest people coming in and out of Kanehsatake. Hundreds of outstanding warrants are held on people. Because of this, some Mohawks have not been able to leave Kanehsatake for over a year, for fear of being arrested when they do. No-Native people have also been harassed in what Mohawk spokespeople call an attempt to enforce an economic boycott on the territory and isolate them. The Canadian imperialists have also arrested as many Mohawk people as possible, in an attempt to cripple the Mohawks' resistance by tying up hundreds of people in the legal system and racking up enormous legal bills. But despite the efforts of the Canadian and U.S. governments to crush the Mohawk people, there is continued resistance among them. A Mohawk spokesperson told the RWW: "The system always stands against minority people. I guess we have no alternative but to continue the fight. It's either you fight or you die."

The Imperialists Are the Real Criminals

The Canadian government maneuvered to split the cases of Lasagna, Noriega and 2020 off from the rest of the Mohawks involved at Kanehsatake. Most of the charges against the three were in connection with a flight with Francis Jacobs. Jacobs is a Mohawk from Kanehsatake who is tried to the elected band council, which was put in power and backed up by the Canadian government. According to some of the Mohawks at the barricade, during the armed standoff Jacobs organized a "community police patrol" to "make sure the warriors weren't breaking into houses or destroying property." They also accused Jacobs of being an informant for the Canadian authorities as well as breaking into and looting homes in Oka and then blaming the warriors. Jacobs was the government's key witness at the trial and testified that he was attacked and beaten by Lazore, Noriega and 2020. A lot of what he said on the stand openly contradicted earlier testimony he had given to the SQ.

The government tried to make the warriors look like common criminals in order to distance the three from other Mohawks and their supporters. It appears that some people were fooled by the tactics of the government and held back on their support for the three on trial. But what these men were really on trial for was defying the armed might of the Canadian powers who were stepping up their oppression against the Mohawk people by trying to steal their land! Their convictions are outrageous, and the Canadian imperialists should be exposed at the real criminals.

No one has even been charged, much less convicted, for the crimes against the Mohawks during the armed standoff. The government ordered the army and SQ to blockade Kanehsatake and Kawtannio, allowing little or no food into the territories for days. Hundreds of Mohawk people were beaten by troops and police. Women were attacked by soldiers and police at the Longhouse, a sacred place of worship for Native people. Executed officials made racist calls for all Native people to be sent to Labrador (a remote area of Canada). Joe Armstrong, a 71-year-old Mohawk, was stoned by racists in La Salle and died of a heart attack while the SQ stood by and watched. The Canadian rulers tried to cover all this up by keeping journalists who might report the truth out of the Mohawk territories. And the bourgeois media for the most part portrayed the government's lies.

While the Canadian government continues brutal attacks against the Mohawks, it has agreed to negotiate with some Native peoples over claims to land and sovereignty. This is nothing but a cynical attempt to confuse people and derail any struggle against their railroad of the Mohawks. The oppressors in Canada and the U.S. have used this age-old strategy of divide and conquer against Native people for hundreds of years, agreeing to negotiate with some Native peoples while coming down hard on others. And whatever treaties were signed by the U.S. and Canada have been worthless. Neither of these two governments has ever kept even one agreement they have made with any Native peoples!

High Stakes in the Mohawk Trials

The stakes in this trial and the upcoming trials of the other Mohawks, which are set to begin in March, are very high. By convicting these rebels the government wants to send a threatening message to the Native peoples of Canada and others who oppose the system. This is important to the Canadian rulers since Native land is a third of the total land mass of what is now Canada. The province of Quebec is forcing the Cree people off their land in order to build the largest hydroelectric dam in the world at James Bay.

The legal battle is very serious and can only be won by relying on the masses of people—Native and non-Native—to force the oppressors to back down. The people need to cut through the confusion and lies that the government is spreading and draw into this battle all those who supported the Mohawk people at the barricades and many who didn't. And given the intense attacks coming down on the Mohawk people, there is a special responsibility for non-Native people to step out and stand against this outrage.

The Mohawks report that they don't have enough lawyers for the next set of legal cases, mainly because they have not been able to raise enough money to pay for legal fees. The next trial will be in Montreal sometime in March. According to Mohawk spokespeople, letters of support and contributions can be sent to: Liberation of the Mohawk Nation Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1997, Account #48186, Kahnawake, Quebec, Canada, J0L 1B0. For more information, contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 514-638-4750.
UN Threatens Libya

The U.S. and attacks against Libya are escalating. On January 21 the UN Security Council—the same body that approved the bombing of Iraq—passed a resolution demanding that the Libyan government hand over two Libyan citizens accused by a U.S. court of masterminding the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The U.S. claims that the two suspects are Libyan intelligence agents and that responsibility for the bombing reaches the highest levels of the Libyan government. The UN resolution also demands Libyan "cooperation" in the apprehension of a French airmail which went over West Africa in 1989.

This is the first time that the UN has demanded the extradition of citizens of one country to another. The main evidence in the U.S. case against the Libyans concerns a microchip found in the wreckage of the Pan Am plane which was spread over 845 square miles. People who are not completely

Attica Trial Nears Conclusion

On January 10 the jury began deliberations in the civil liability suit against the state and prison officials responsible for planning the retaking of Attica Prison on September 13, 1971. In the assault on Attica following several days of rebellion, 29 inmates and 10 hostages were shot in cold blood, and many prisoners were injured. (See RW #621 for more on the rebellion.)

The judge in the case, John T. Elfvin, gave a very narrow definition of liability in his instructions to the all-white jury. Then, in a calumny and contemptuous movie, Elfvin left on a vacation to Barbados, telling the jury and lawyers to call him on the phone if they had any questions. This outrageous act by a judge in a complicated and important case has angered many people. Because of what either the judge or the jury witnessed, the case was forced to remain "closed" in Buffalo, N.Y., where the trial is being held.

Upon his return, the judge pressured the jury to hurry up with their deliberations. He told them, "Doesn't the jury want to cross the A's and dot the I's in history?" His attitude showed a total lack of respect for the jurors and the plaintiffs.

In his closing statements, Attorney Fink, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said that this case was about freedom and whether the right to rebel against intolerable conditions applies to prisoners. She told the jury, "People in authority have to be held responsible when things go awry. The defendants were there. They planned the assault and they wanted the brutality of the retaking as a punishment for the rebellion."

During the three months of testimony by over 200 witnesses, ex-inmates, National Guardsmen and doctors gave vivid accounts of brutality they saw during the assault and the aftermath. Former inmates talked about beatings and torture at the hands of state troopers and correction officers. These accounts were corroborated with testimony from state police and National Guardsmen. Several doctors called to testify after the assault testified about medical pressures for immediate action. The jury was also told that they were not allowed to visit the prison, and the defendants were there. They planned the assault and they wanted the brutality of the retaking as a punishment for the rebellion."

When Judge Elfvin left for vacation, he said he planned to seal any verdict records in his absence until his return on Feb. 10. Because of the angry uproar over his actions, Elfvin agreed to have the verdicts announced immediately.

Tomkins Square Activists Stand Trial

The trials of the May Day 29 are now underway in Manhattan. On May 1, 1990, a festival of resistance was held in Tompkins Square Park. This was at a time of fierce street confrontations with New York's homeless. People angrily demanded justice for Visual Hawkins, an activist who was shot and killed in Tompkins Square Park. People also made demands to protest budget cuts, and homeless people and activists in Tompkins Square Park formed an activist community that attempted to clamp down on the area.

The trial began when police decided to end the concert at Tompkins Square Park by pulling the plug and moving on stage. What followed was a battle between the people gathered in the park and the police. The police arrested 29 people and brought them up on various charges. Currently three of the May Day 29 are on trial facing charges that include felony riot, second degree assault, and incitement to riot. Some of the 29 pled guilty to lesser charges, and others were charged

with misdemeanors.

The Attica rebellion had come to be seen as a case of radical political activity around homeless and other questions in New York City. The powers that be shut it down. Since the May Day police riot and the attack, there have been evictions and resettlements of the homeless who came to live in the park. People are now getting evicted by the forces of order. The people moved in, printed the homeless, and built a large camping area in the park. In the trials of the May Day 29, the powers want to send the signal. "If you defend Tompkins Square Park, you'll go to jail—and if you don't believe that, just look at the May Day people. So it's a way of trying to deter resistance."

Another activist who was arrested on May Day 1990 told the FP, "The government has been trying for a long time to be understood with this area down, keep it under control... The difference between the riot of '88 when the police rioted against the people and the riot of '90 was that people resisted a great deal more, that the spirit of resistance was much higher... The mood of the people was different. The power of people was not going to control the situation..." This spirit of resistance needs to be upheld and defended. The May Day 29 must go free.
Support the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund!

The RW received the following letters from prisoners in support of the RCP Fund Drive:

Revolutionary greetings,

I am taking this time to compose this letter in support of the Revolutionary Worker. I want to call on the people to support the RCP/RW and contribute funds to them so that they may not only continue to reach into these Konzentration Kamps in America, but also to lay a foundation for revolution and set the stage for the revolutionary task that we all must prepare for. There are many people in these kamps who came in at a very youthful age, who recognized the legitimacy of this imperialist capitalist system. The RW has been very instrumental in stripping away this legitimacy and exposing the U.S. government crimes against humanity. The RW is a weapon and tool of the people to be used to not only expose the U.S. imperialism but to beat down and strike strategic blows against it with cold arbitrariness and fact.

The RW is a source of news and knowledge that exposes the ruling class lies, deceits and contradictions of a bourgeois and corrupt system. Hence those of us who are serious and committed should support organizations like the RCP who are representing the people's legitimate interests in fighting these imperialist dogs. I would like to first thank the RCP Chairman Bob Avakian for making such a powerful individual as well as group effort to push forever ahead with what the RW gets through most of the time and we often take up the issues and analyze them within and collectively discuss them. We use the RW as a focus point to carry on ideological struggles to develop a large mass of revolutionary fighters. Therefore, it is a great thing, a revolutionary thing, that the RCP is doing and the only way this can continue is if we give our support and demonstrate our solidarity with those who are struggling to break the chains of oppression and struggle to contain within and collectively discuss them.

Greetings my brother and sisters, both on the outside and inside of this overrated melting pot we all know as the planet Earth.

I XXXX now known to the system as number XXX have the pleasure of writing this letter in support of our party Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund! My fellow brothers and sisters, I'd like to first thank the RCP Chairman Bob Avakian for making such a powerful individual as well as group effort to push forever ahead with what should be all people of color struggle. However that's not to suggest that the struggle is about race against race or black or white as most people both in and outside of this overrated melting pot we all know as the planet Earth.

In the previous issues of the RW this was a most interesting question brought to life in the article that started this whole damn thing....

The RW received the following letters from prisoners in support of the RCP Fund Drive:

Readers: I am currently serving a natural-life-plus thirty year sentence given to me by the man's most useful criminal court system of black man's grief Rich man's justice.

I am presently thirty years of age. I've been in prison three and a half years. I've lost three very important members during my brief period of confinement. My mother, father and grandmother passed away, finally free of the man's grip! I've found a friend when I found and subscribed to the Revolutionary Worker newspaper. My brothers and sisters, homey and homets. Let's help the fund drive and continue the struggle. Remember we are down but not out, it's the same fight just a different round! Therefore as I exit from this letter to those who should be concerned I make known my personal pledge to be down for the whole damn thing....
The Revolutionary Communist Party Fund Drive 1991

We Dare to Dream! We Dare to Struggle! We Dare to Win!

The RW received the following letter in support of the 1991 RCP Fund Drive.

For many years I've worked in the public assistance (“welfare”) system. I've seen children grow up and—like their parents—become trapped in this system, because under capitalism the masses of poor people have no decent future to look forward to. They are part of the army of the unemployed. They are supposed to be content with—or at least unable to do anything about—the fact that they get the worst housing, education, medical care, and jobs, assuming that they get these things at all.

The masses of people in this country have no real stake in this system. Their only hope is to smash it and replace it with a system that is run by and for them. Now that I've found out about the RCP I know that there is a party preparing to do exactly that.

Unlike other groups that call themselves communists, the RCP is not a leftist debating society made up of people that talk only to themselves and down to everyone else. The RCP fully intends to make a revolution not just for the proletarians of this country, but with them. Also, being internationalists, they support similar revolutionary groups around the world—and especially in Peru—where the Communist Party of Peru may soon accomplish their revolutionary aims.

And because the RCP is Maoist, the kind of society they will build will not be a top-down society with a privileged elite running everything, making all the decisions and accumulating privileges for itself. Instead, the RCP will not only make a revolution by relying on the masses, but they will build a truly communist society relying on the basic masses’ ability to make the decisions that affect their lives.

For all these reasons I’m contributing to the RCP Fund Drive—and I urge everyone else to do so, too.

Asocial worker

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.