



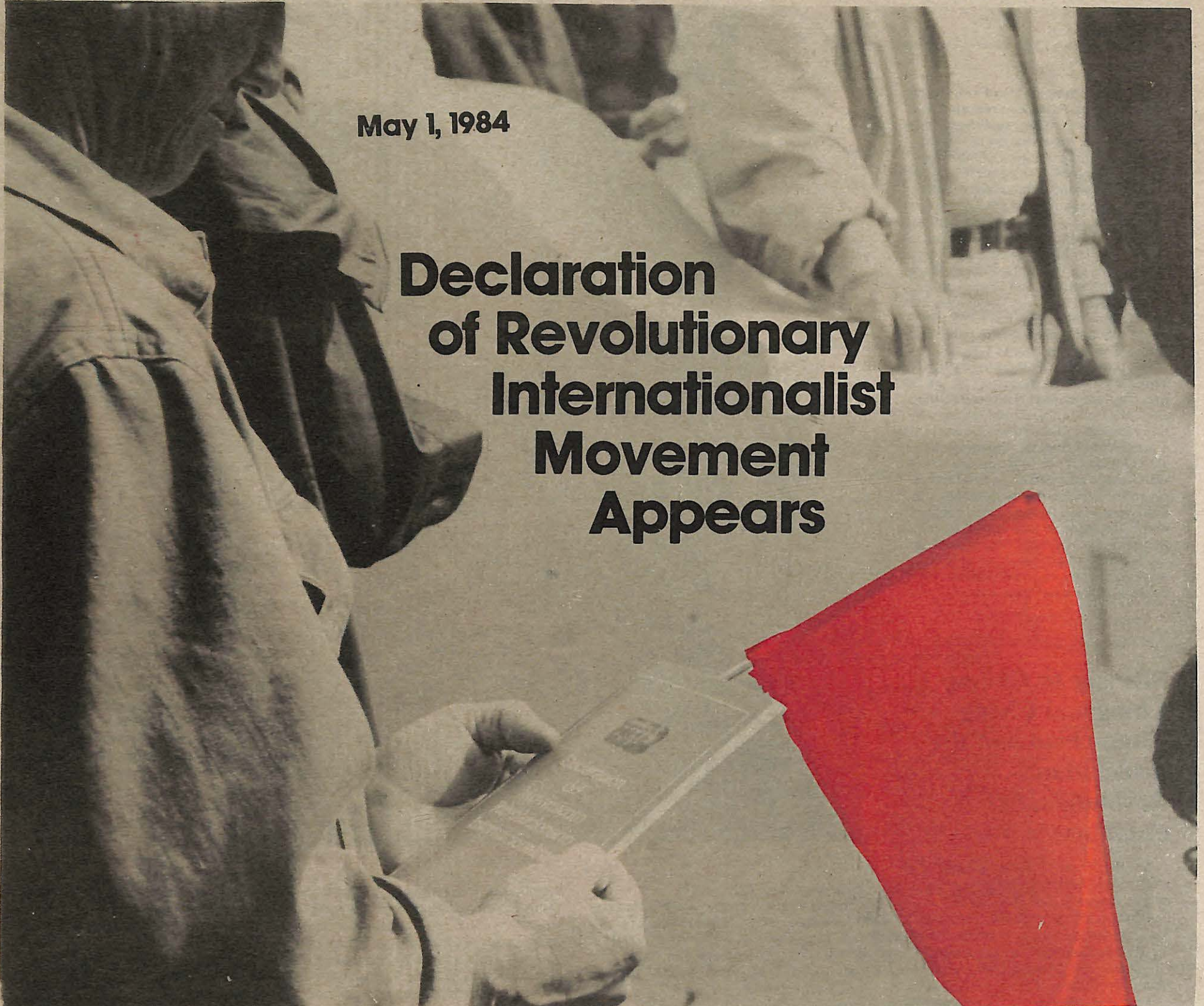
# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the  
Revolutionary Communist  
Party, U.S.A.

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May 1, 1984

## Declaration of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement Appears

May 1st 1984 on planet earth witnessed the appearance of a document of urgent significance for the proletariat, oppressed peoples and genuine communists worldwide — the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*. Preparations for May 1st around the world included getting the *Declaration* ready for release in 22 languages, including: Arabic, Assami, Bengali, Chinese, Creole, English, Farsi, French, German, Gujarti, Hindi, Italian, Kananda, Malayam, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhalese, Spanish, Tamil, Telugu and Turkish. This *Declaration* and its signatories have audaciously proclaimed their intention to work for the formation of an International of a new type based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought — a leading political center for the revolutionary movement worldwide. There could be no more fitting time or day for the appearance of this *Declaration*.

May 1st 1984 marked the first time in

many decades that the workers and oppressed acted under common slogans in more than 14 countries, and also saw the international distribution of the call from the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement which stated: "Herein lies the significance of May First 1984. In many countries around the world the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement in joint May First actions is hoisting the banner of proletarian internationalism high across the skies."

As we go to press, we are only just beginning to hear the news of May 1st actions worldwide, due to the difficulties of communication imposed on revolutionaries in the current world order, including the suppression of such news by the international legitimate press. In the coming weeks we will be featuring coverage of international May 1st events in the *Revolutionary Worker* as we hear of them and indications are that the news will be significant. We have, for example, received word that a march of 200 was held in Paris on May 1st. Organized by supporters of four of the signatories of the *Declaration* — Communist Party of Peru; Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist-Leninist; Revolutionary Communist Party, USA; and the Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran) — the march carried banners and slogans of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. Also we have received news that marchers in support of the hunger strike in the prisons in Turkey, who are conducting a "long march" to

the European Parliament in Strasbourg, were greeted by 200 people in Metz, France, where May 1st was celebrated and the *Declaration* was distributed. May 1st, 1984 was to be celebrated worldwide in many different forms by participants in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement; and we are confident the reports in the coming weeks will be worth waiting for.

### May 1st in U.S.

In the U.S. on May 1st, the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and the appearance of its *Declaration* was marked by celebrations, marches and rallies led by the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA in more than a dozen cities, under the slogans of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. May 1st eve, as the clock ticked midnight, small groups of proletarians in Miami, Houston, Texas, and elsewhere, anxiously waited for copies of the *Declaration*, and studied them into the night in advance of May 1st actions the next day. More than 1000 copies of the *Declaration* were sold throughout the country on May 1st itself, and plans laid for future discussions with a wide range of forces, including people adhering to different political trends internationally. Thousands of copies of the May 1st Call from the Committee of the Movement were distributed by proletarians, youth and other allies of the proletariat, from the Haitian and Dominican neighbor-

hoods in New York City to the anthropology department of the University of Hawaii.

The May 1st events in the U.S. bore profound witness to the fact that this May 1st was an internationalist and international festival of the oppressed. Participating in the various actions and celebrations in this country were people from all over the world including: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, West Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Horn of Africa, India, Iran, Japan, Kurdistan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Okinawa, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Turkey, the United States, and elsewhere. *Declarations* were sold to revolutionaries and progressive forces from many other countries, including such Eastern-bloc countries as Cuba and Czechoslovakia. This May 1st also saw a proliferation of banners and internationalist messages initiated by proletarians, youth and a broad range of

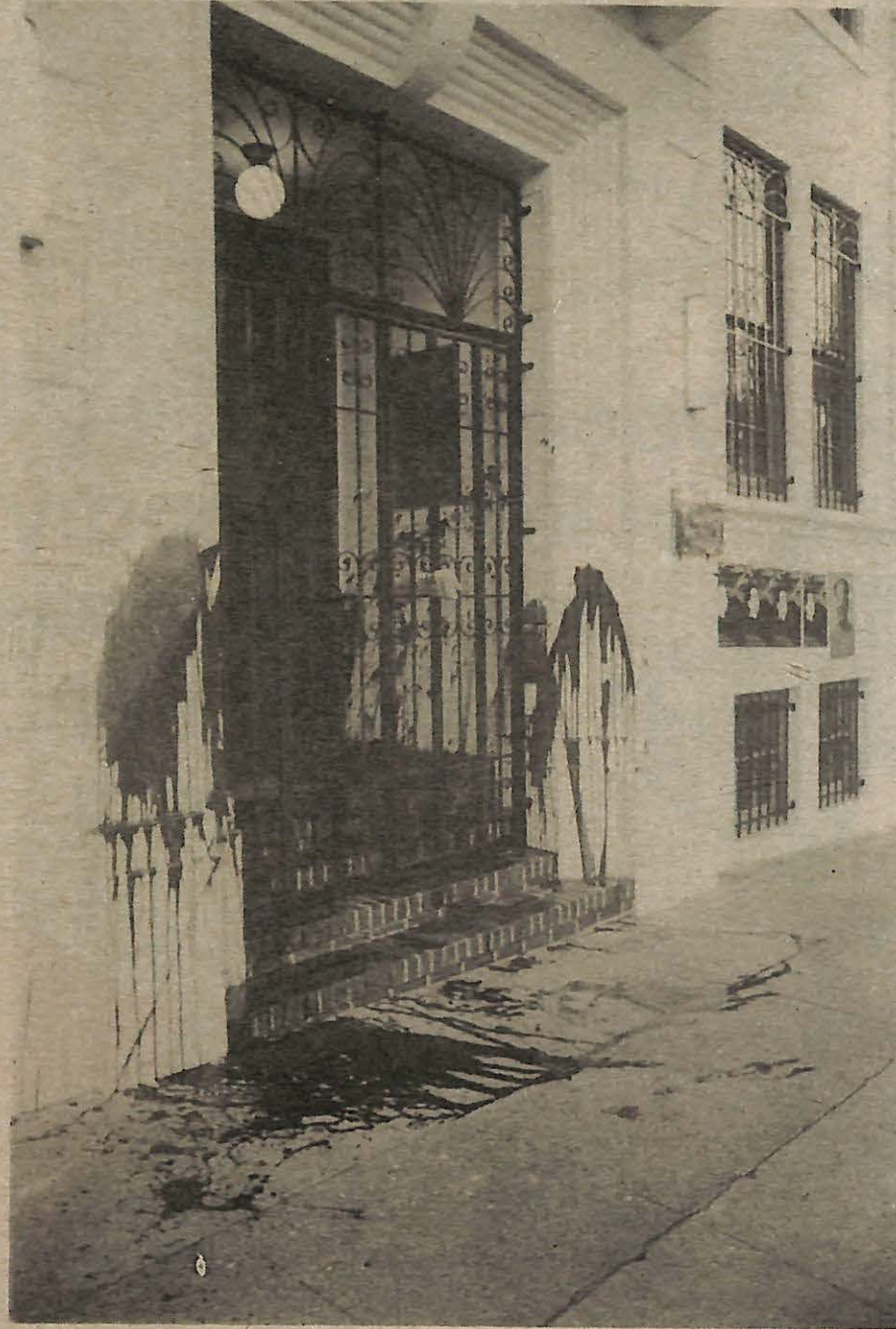
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# May First Message to Chinese Revisionists

On the morning of May First, newspapers in San Francisco reported that unknown persons had splashed red paint all over the entrance to the Chinese Consulate. Posters of Mao and Chiang Ching were fixed on the consulate front wall, accompanied prominently by a poster of the "Message to Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao and the Proletarian Revolutionaries in China," a resolution passed by the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations.

In the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the story about the consulate was published on the same page as the news about Reagan ending his trip to China.

Later on May Day morning in New York City, the "Message..." of the Second Conference was delivered to the PRC mission to the United Nations by two members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. The resolution was written on two large poster boards, which were propped up in front of the reception window to the mission, and then read aloud. Much hustle and bustle and consternation was stirred within as the names of the two great proletarian revolutionaries rang out. An official finally emerged, took the resolution-posters, and called the cops.



## Message to Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao and the Proletarian Revolutionaries of China

As the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations celebrates its victorious conclusion it is correct and necessary that we send the greetings of the Conference to the proletarian revolutionaries in China and their foremost representatives, Comrade Chiang Ching and Comrade Chang Chun-chiao, who are holding aloft the red banner of proletarian revolution and communism in the face of

bitter defeat.

Comrades, the heroic struggle that you have waged under the leadership of Comrade Mao Tsetung, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, can never be obliterated. When you rose up in struggle against the bourgeoisie in the Party, when you galvanized the masses in their millions to fight against capitalist restoration, when you led the unprecedented

assault on the remnants of exploiting society still existing under socialism, when you dared to lead the proletariat and masses further along the road to communism, you helped spread Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought to every corner of the world. Your struggle not only helped to train millions of revolutionary successors in China who are yearning for the day to settle accounts with the revisionist usurpers but laid the basis for the reconstruction of the international communist movement along revolutionary lines.

When Hua Kuo-feng and Teng Hsiao-ping led their reactionary coup d'état shortly following the death of Mao Tsetung, the international communist movement suffered its greatest loss since the loss of the Soviet Union in 1956 with Khrushchev's coup. The new bourgeoisie in China frantically attacked Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, imprisoned Comrade Mao's closest collaborators, and restored a reactionary bourgeois dictatorship over the working class and masses. They also capitulated to imperialism and under the signboard of the "Three Worlds Theory" which they shamelessly tried to pass off as the work of Mao Tsetung they tried to shove their reactionary line down the throats of the international communist movement. But despite the very serious crisis in the international movement provoked by the coup d'état there are revolutionaries on all continents who continue to carry forward the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought which you held aloft in China during the Cultural Revolution and which you have refused to drop. Millions around the world drew strength and inspiration from the heroic stand that you, Comrades Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao, took in court under the menace of death.

Comrades, rest assured that the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, that all those who are fighting for communism, are fighting in the same trench as you are. The defeat of the socialist revolution in China is only temporary. Those blustering reactionaries who believe they have permanently buried proletarian revolution await a surprise.

Our comrades in China are an integral part of the genuine international communist movement today and we are confident that when an International of a new type is formed based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought they will be occupying a place of honour. The words of Mao Tsetung continue to ring true today: "The future is bright, the road is tortuous."

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## U.S. Hypocrisy and the Dominican Death Count



Imagine if the Dominican Republic were Poland. In the wake of the rebellion on the Caribbean island, a hundred and fifty have been reportedly murdered by Dominican security forces, over five thousand jailed. What if this had occurred, not in a country oppressed by the U.S. but instead in a client state of the opposing bloc, such as Poland? We would, of course, in that case be bombarded with crocodile sobs and calculated outrage, not to mention NATO troop movements and other military and political maneuvers. One can compare the 007 incident and surely add some.

As it happens, of course, the U.S. imperialist press has wasted no tears for those murdered at the hands of its faithful henchmen in the Dominican Republic. No "captive nations" here! Indeed, coverage has been hard to find, and, when it did appear, distorted and blasé.

Nevertheless, the rebellion in the Dominican Republic shook that country and sent waves of unease through the international financial community. Lashing out at the harsh austerity measures imposed as part of an agreement for a \$400 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), thousands spontaneously rose up and took on police and army units with rocks. Latest reports indicate that besides burning banks and assaulting police behind a wild assortment of barricades, repeated attacks occurred on the offices of the ruling party, the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), an affiliate of the Second International.

There is also an initial report that the Revolutionary Communist Union of the Dominican Republic, a participating organization of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, was active in the midst of this upsurge, especially in pointing to the source of the problem and in distributing their newspaper.

The Dominican government began issuing reports of the "restoration of normalcy" and "absolute calm" as early as Wednesday evening, April 25, but street fighting apparently continued up to Saturday in at least some of the provincial

cities where the government had more trouble concentrating its forces. The Dominican newspapers continued to report intense tension throughout the country, as do people in the streets in the huge Dominican community in New York City.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, ten percent of the citizens of the Dominican Republic live in New York — half a million people, concentrated in the far upper westside of Manhattan, many of them working in the garment and service industries. For the past week news from Santo Domingo has dominated talk in the cafes and bars and on the streets — people group at the newsstands to assure getting their copy of the latest Dominican paper as soon as it arrives from the airport. A few minutes delay means no paper. One notices the occasional line at a pay phone booth, phones where the receivers go literally for hours being passed from one hand to another. Sometimes there's a whoop of laughter from the person on the phone, sometimes a long silence.

One Dominican man reported the following conversation: "I talked to my wife who is in Santo Domingo on the telephone and she told me that — because in my home the people are all revolutionary — that the people had burned a state truck right out front. And while they were burning the truck, this man said something to those burning it, something provocative, and someone said something back, and the man — he was an undercover, a *caliente* — shot him, one of the protestors. And then the masses chased the man down the street and he ran into my house and shut the door real fast behind him. My wife couldn't do anything because even though she is revolutionary she was with the children — we have three children — and she couldn't do anything right then so she hid with the kids. And then the people started throwing rocks and breaking windows and trying to break down the door, and my wife said she wanted to put the *caliente* outside, so that the masses could do him justice, lynch him, but she couldn't figure out how to do it.

Then other police came, and they shot someone else outside, almost right in front of my house. She was angry because such a disgrace could happen right in our house — the thing is that the *caliente* took advantage of the opportunity and, in the middle of the commotion when the other person got killed, he managed to escape."

At present, as is evident, there is an atmosphere of military occupation in the cities of the Dominican Republic, with tanks in the streets. Helicopters hover overhead, armored personnel carriers roam, and street patrols halt passersby and motorists, demanding ID. The military has established encampments in the areas of heaviest fighting, frequently in the local schoolhouse. The final official count from the Dominican government of the victims of its terror numbers 60 dead, several hundred wounded, and 1,000 arrested. European wire-service figures go substantially higher: reports to the *RW* indicate 150 dead, and 5,000 in jail.

Almost in passing, the Dominican government has also revealed that between 100 and 200 people are still missing. Many believe that some families have been giving their own private burial to those killed in the fighting, for fear of reprisals (à la Salvadoran death squads) against other family members. It is a telling indication of how social democracy — that created the PRD — is viewed today in the country.

Jorge Blanco, PRD president, has issued his party's view of the week's events: "Neither the government nor the Armed Forces nor the National Police bear any responsibility for the week's bloody events. . . . Responsibility lies with those who caused them." "The forces of public security are obliged to act, and they have done so, in a reasonable manner." It is the reason of murderous repression in service to imperialist capital — indeed, at the same time that they have unleashed machine-gun fire in the streets of Santo Domingo, the PRD chieftains have also sought to hide their crimes by burying some of the bodies in unmarked, mass graves, even

forbidding doctors and nurses to inform the families of the dying. In such a fashion have the comrades of Mitterrand and Willy Brandt revealed that they are as competent at systematic savagery as the most ruthless of the U.S. military juntas that have rained down terror anywhere in Latin America.

It is worth noting that large numbers of the dead have not had their ages published, as is customary, and again people in the streets of New York report that many are teenagers, 16, 14, and even younger. Many family members are said to be pursuing the security forces demanding information on the missing.

As to the cause of the events, Blanco and the PRD continue to insist that responsibility lies with the opposition, generally the right-wing Reformist Party, on the one hand, and "antisocial elements" on the other. But the Reformist Party, led by Balaguer, an old Trujillo associate, far from involving itself in the disorder has instead proclaimed that they were "up in arms to defend the institutional order." As for "antisocial elements," the PRD and much of the media have denounced the street fighting as simply the work of "looters" out to rip off TVs and booze. This merits yet another award for social democracy: enforcers for the greatest looters of all time, men who for their own little cut of the spoils partake in the relentless plunder of the Dominican people by the Western, and overwhelmingly U.S., imperialists. (An interesting sidelight to this is that a number of hardware stores were ransacked. As for what was taken: there are so many nails and spikes on the streets in some quarters of Santo Domingo and other cities — used to stop police cars, and smash and burn them — that the government has had to rig up huge electromagnets on the front of army trucks to try to clear them away.)

As May 1 approached, Blanco had issued a solemn promise that May Day celebrations would be allowed because "This is a country which respects liberty." The leadership of Santo Domingo's Central Trade Unions — infested

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## Factory Correspondence

# A Toast to the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

The celebration of the birth of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement on the eve of May 1st when the *Declaration* of this movement was distributed at the factory where I work was quite a joyous occasion for us. Some people kept asking me why we were celebrating May 1st early. I told them that sometimes it is alright to celebrate things early and besides, it fools those people who would not like such a thing to happen. Personally, I think that the coming out of this *Declaration* is a big advance. It is good because it speaks to working on making revolution on a worldwide level and it is very clear about how to look at all the various kinds of contradictions and resolve them to achieve our goal. At first, I was wondering why certain organizations in Mexico or El Salvador weren't on the list of signatories because I knew that there were groups who were fighting. But after reading the *Declaration* and especially after seeing that the Communist Party of Peru signed it, I can see that this movement is united on a highly conscious level and not just a grouping together of parties that are active — but what's important is that these revolutionary organizations that signed follow the line of Mao and Marx and Lenin. Now that I think about it — Mao did go up against the Soviet Union when it turned sour on revolution. However, I do think that there are some Maoist forces in Mexico and perhaps it would be possible to make contact with them and further the strength of the Revolutionary Internationalist Move-

ment.

I think that the celebration was good and well worth the preparation. People were waiting for it to happen and looking to see what was going to happen. It started out a little cold — I think people were waiting around to see who would be the first to come around the panel truck where the "birthday" present and the champagne with two dozen red ribbons were displayed. It looked really beautiful. Then the truck moved more to the center of things and the atmosphere began to change. I bought a *Declaration* right after the champagne was opened and right after that three of my friends came over to the truck and toasted the opening of the box with *Declarations* in it. One of the revolutionaries began to sing the international song and I got a song sheet and said the words to my friends as he sang. It's hard for people to sing it when this song is all quite new to us. It's a very good song — especially that part about "We have been naught, we shall be all." There was one young woman who came over to get a drink and a ribbon and went back to her car — I saw her waving the red ribbon and clapping while the singing was going on. At that point, I think that people began to have more confidence and showed interest in what was being celebrated even though many still remained in their cars. I hear that a group of women stayed late that day after work when the box was brought over to the car where they were. I think that the women were more expressive on that day because they usually feel so

isolated and vulnerable. Someone said that one woman took up a red ribbon and took it into the plant saying "This is my red flag." Many people who did not come up to the truck took red ribbons and took them into the plant and had it next to them on the work tables. After the celebration, some of the workers came up to me to ask what it was that we were celebrating. I opened up the *Declaration* and started reading the first part of it to them and tried to explain as best I could to them what this *Declaration* meant. Some people were saying that if war comes what can be done to stop it. What I say is that we have to prepare for it — which means raising the political understanding of the proletariat in response to all these war preparations. That's when people started asking what do we mean by the proletariat and that they still don't have a clear idea about how the Revolutionary Communist Party plans to take things from where the masses are at today and transform it into a revolutionary struggle. Now that's what I've been trying to make them understand — the things that are going on in the world right now and our understanding of them can guide us to act in the right way. Since the invasion of Grenada, there has been more interest; at least two or three of us discuss politics to break the boredom of the day-to-day grind. One thing that really touched the women were the articles on what it's like to be in Hell's waiting room and conditions in other sweatshop factories. People began to read these articles and

they thought that they really expressed the truth. At first, they were a little afraid because it was communist, but I tell them that these are not just a bunch of ideas that have no rooting in reality... but that these ideas are instrumental in moving forward the struggle. For example, like when the banner being sent to Peru came to the plant, many were aroused to discuss the significance of the struggle being waged there and that we had a responsibility to help push that forward through our support. It's a question of working for people all over the world.

People are very concerned about what is going on in Mexico — with the prices going up and everybody being terrified about going back and not being able to survive. The possibility of revolution there is not out of the question, but sometimes, there's too much taking for granted that people will be able to just rise up and take it over. I think that things are still pretty controlled in the sense that organization is lacking. Like, you can't even get arms there. Sure, people have their little .22 for their own protection, but the main problem is not knowing what to do to really be able to defeat them. These are hard questions to answer, but with this *Declaration* coming out, we can begin to deal with them. I would like to have some more discussion on this myself and am looking forward to it.

An immigrant worker

## Dominican Death Count

Continued from page 3

with other social democrats and all shades of revisionists too — having already called on workers to return to their jobs "in order to fight for higher wages" at the first sign of an ebb in the street fighting, now promised that they would march on May Day. But it soon became apparent that if this occurred all kinds of forces would be converging on Santo Domingo and that things might well get out of the hands of the government security forces once again.

On the eve of May Day, in a move that stank of orchestration, Blanco announced the lowering of prices of certain selected food items, and that May Day would not be observed; the trade unions, for their part, announced that instead of protest marches they were organizing a day of mourning, with people to stay inside their homes until noon. The next day, May Day, Blanco called for a meeting with the trade-union leaders. In a

maneuver which underlined both their servility and their hunger for a slice of the pie, the trade-union leaders rushed to the National Palace even before their own proclaimed period of mourning had ended. Blanco is said to have remarked on what fine people these trade-union leaders were to have done this — especially since their own headquarters continued to be occupied by the police!

Though there has been the glaring lack of news on the events, extended and substantial attention has been given to the coldest assessment of its impact on business, especially on the imperialist financial structure. New York financial pages have been virtually awash in discussion over the implications for the IMF and for current efforts to deal with the international financial crisis centering on the huge indebtedness of the oppressed nations. Jacques de Larosiere, head of the IMF, while not responding directly to the events, stated that the severity of the IMF terms depended on the gravity of the country's own overspending. "The policies the fund supports produce beneficial results for the countries undertaking them." There is, in short, to be no substantial alteration of current IMF

policies, including in the Dominican Republic. The *New York Times*, in an editorial, called for a little extra consideration — "a storm cellar," as it said — for those imperialist clients like Blanco who must, and willingly do, enforce the most brutal austerity measures with rampant bloodshed. But this suggestion is just a bit of fine-tuning among imperialists; fundamentally, approves the *Times*, "It's no answer to blame the IMF for doing what it does."

And behind the "financial arrangements," of course, stands the

political and military muscle of the U.S. As the ultimate guarantor of Dominican law and order, so does U.S. imperialism bear the responsibility for the bloody suppression of the rebellion. Reagan remarked a few weeks ago when Dominican President Blanco visited Washington, D.C., that the Dominican Republic "shines like a beacon for the freedom-loving people of the world." For a few days the streets of the cities did indeed shine, if with another sort of light — but then the world saw U.S. "freedom" arrive on the treads of tanks.

Below: Armed police and plainclothesmen search for demonstrators in one of the neighborhoods in the capital. Right: The body of a young man who was dragged out of his house by police and shot.



# May Day Message from the Revolutionary Communist Group of Colombia

To the comrades, friends and supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the United States, to all the revolutionaries and oppressed in the United States:

Dear Comrades:

The success of the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations and the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement represent an event of historic importance, in which key tasks were mapped out for the proletariat and revolutionaries worldwide. The level of ideological and political unity reached there is an invaluable step towards an even greater unity. But in the face of the intensifying objective situation in the world and the responsibility that the Marxist-Leninists face in every country, in the revolutionary movement and struggle of the masses, the speeding up of the elaboration of the correct ideological and political line is indispensable. Just as the international organization of the proletariat, a communist international of a new type, the resolutions taken by that conference would contribute powerfully to achieving those tasks, which correspond to the challenges that the present conjuncture on a world level puts before the proletariat and the revolutionary masses. In these conditions, the celebration of May First will be an historic, unprecedented and mighty step in the history of the international communist movement, a close unity between the proletariat in the imperialist capitalist countries, and the proletariat and the peoples of the oppressed nations. The preparatory tasks for May Day, under a unified orientation and slogans, are a bold and challenging call from communists to unleash revolutionary actions all over the world, so that the proletariat and the oppressed of all countries will raise up on that day the red banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, breaking onto history's stage, its own stage, taking a daring and courageous step forward, proclaiming the future of proletarian revolution, the communist future of humanity, the end to all exploitation and oppression. This May Day must be the concentration of the struggle for revolution, unfolding the internationalist red banner in open opposition to North American imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism, all imperialists and all world reaction. As in the epoch of Bolshevism and in the years of the Shanghai communards, May Day has been and always will be red. It is an action in which the workers and revolutionary masses prepare today, gather the experience, strength and ability needed for when the opportunity arises to unleash decisive battles for the seizure of power and the advance of the world revolution.

Comrades:

For the communists and oppressed of the world the existence of a proletarian vanguard in the belly of the imperialist world is a great example of revolutionary inspiration. When it burst vigorously into the 1980s with the historic call to May Day in the bastion of world reaction, when the red banner of the proletariat, that living symbol of the international proletariat, was raised as a mighty challenge to the abominable power of the imperialists, that pack of scoundrels in an action worse than despicable, murdered one of its most brave combatants: Comrade Damián García. Far from being intimidated, the Revolutionary Communist Party surged forward with much more revolutionary energy to take action on May Day. With the slogan: "red, white and blue, we spit on you, you stand for plunder, you must go under," the Revolutionary Communist Party has been digging deeply into the revolutionary sentiments of important sections of the North American people. Certainly the proletariat and masses of nationalities in the United States have today an authentic and correct revolutionary leadership. We are convinced that the RCP, by carrying out its duty as bulwark of socialist revolution there and worldwide, is making all efforts to advance powerfully in leading and endowing hundreds and thousands of oppressed with great revolutionary optimism, who sooner or later will rise up successfully smashing into a thousand pieces all established and supposedly eternal order. And sooner rather than later, the conscious proletariat will emerge again on history's stage, acting out its own role. The resolute struggle for the abolition of oppression and slavery: this is the essence of the battle in the May Day celebration, not the gloomy and depressing march that the imperialists and all the revisionists seek to instill in the exploited. No. The revolutionaries and the conscious proletariat don't march in processions. No, never. Those are for the shameless, for those who have decided to walk behind a luxuriant facade painted by world reaction. The genuine revolutionary forces, led by the living expression of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, wage battle, attack the enemy, they don't capitulate, never will

# Editorial by Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist) Mao Tsetung Regional Committee

The following editorial is reprinted from *Avance Proletario*, Organ of the Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist) Mao Tsetung Regional Committee on the publication of the *Communiqué of the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations*:

## A GREAT EVENT

Somewhere in the world, one of the most far-reaching steps was taken: for the UNITY of the Marxist-Leninist-Maoists of the world. The Second Conference of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Parties and Organisations was celebrated; at the same time, the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement was formed. Herewith, we want to make a call for the defense of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist principles, for the completion and application of the tasks put forward herein, among them the necessity before the M-L-M to build the vanguard of the proletariat, a COMMUNIST Party (Marxist-Leninist-Maoist). Faced with the content of the conclusions and tasks, we are open to analyze and discuss how to carry out in practice the proposed tasks in the interests of a need: the Colombian Revolution. We hail this very important event and hope that it will contribute to the regrouping of the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT in the future.

March 1984, Bogota, Colombia, No. 3

(Translated from Spanish by the RW)

they capitulate, they raise up the red banner, the red banner of proletarian internationalism, the red banner of world communism.

Dear Comrades:

The Revolutionary Communist Group of Colombia has begun to walk as a new force. It grew out of the winds that began to sweep the world in the 1980s. Inspired by the great instructive leap for the international proletariat that the Fall [1980] *Communiqué* marked, the Revolutionary Communist Group has been strengthening itself in the crucible of the heated debates in the international communist movement and the class struggle in this country. Encouraged by this second great qualitative leap represented by the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations, today we are a detachment of the international proletariat here. Today we are a small force. We are forging a correct ideological and political line. We are building the party of the proletariat in Colombia. In the midst of the fences and obstacles that the enemies, open and hidden, of the revolution put before us, we will soon carry out our internationalist duty, along with the proletariat and the masses of people in this country. Today we are in a better situation than yesterday, we have the rich and abundant experience of the revolutionary struggle of other fraternal parties and organizations. Our ties of unity will be ever more tighter this May Day 1984, when the war cry of the international proletariat will resound in unison and vigorously in many parts of the planet, calling on all the oppressed to transform the world and take history's stage. Thus, as Chairman Mao said: "The pestilence will be cut out so that we can become invincible."

Long Live Red 1st of May, Symbol of the World Proletarian Revolution!

Build the Unity of the International Proletariat!

Hail the Formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement!

May 1, 1984

Revolutionary greetings:

Revolutionary Communist Group of Colombia

(Translated from Spanish by the RW)

## Declaration Appears

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forces including quite a few art students, and people active in the anti-nuke movement.

Rallies and marches in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit were carried on under intense police threats and presence. The 250 people arriving at the Los Angeles demonstration in Damián García Park were greeted by a squad of proletarians from Central America and Mexico, adorned with red carnations and sashes announcing the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*. In San Francisco, following a rally celebrating the Movement and its *Declaration*, a march characterized by youth of many nationalities headed for the military recruiting office under the slogan Prevent World War! Step Up The Struggle For Revolution Throughout The World!

As the *Declaration* points out: "All the major contradictions of the world imperialist system are rapidly accentuating: the contradiction between various imperialist powers, the contradiction between imperialism and the oppressed peoples and nations, and the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in the imperialist countries. All of these contradictions have a common origin in the capitalist mode of production and its fundamental contradiction.

The rivalry between the two blocs of imperialist powers led by the US and the USSR respectively is bound to lead to war unless revolution prevents it and this rivalry is greatly affecting world events." This May 1st in the U.S. saw an important expression of the unity between the proletarians and oppressed living in this imperialist country and the people of nations oppressed by imperialism. One major focus was the vicious suppression of the spontaneous uprising in the Dominican Republic. In addition, there was much excitement and support expressed for the new-democratic revolution in Peru, led by the Communist Party of Peru.

The urgency of the world situation and the threat of a third world war profoundly marked the May First events this year. This could be seen in the attitude of the youth who participated: the Black youth coming out from a housing project to join the San Francisco march who took up the chant "World Revolution, Not World War"; the youth in Atlanta who marched in black costumes to emphasize the seriousness of the world situation and made up their own chant, "Nuclear War, Dawn of the Dead. May 1st, Dawn of the Living!"; and the Wild Youth Coalition in Hawaii which carried out several die-ins and entered into debate in the University and other hallowed halls throughout Honolulu. A significant May 1st teach-in on the question of world war was held at Berkeley High School. Sponsored by the African-American Studies department,

the forum was attended by 500 students who heard a panel of speakers, including Carl Dix, recently returned from London where he spoke at the press conference announcing the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

Several other forums and actions against imperialist war preparations were held and proletarians in a number of cities made it a point to attend conferences and meetings of various trends in the antinuclear movement. In New York City, four proletarians invited the women

active at the peace encampment at Seneca to meet with them, and shortly before May 1st the discussion was held covering a wide range of questions including feminism, the world situation and the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

In this issue of the *RW*, we begin to cover in more depth the May 1st events in the U.S.; and look forward to reporting on the May 1st actions of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and other revolutionary forces worldwide. □

## The participating organizations of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement are:

- Central Reorganisation Committee, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)
- Ceylon Communist Party
- Communist Collective of Agit/Prop [Italy]
- Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist) Mao Tsetung Regional Committee
- Communist Party of Peru
- Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist-Leninist
- Haitian International Revolutionary Group
- Nepal Communist Party (Mashal)
- New Zealand Red Flag Group
- Nottingham and Stockport Communist Groups [Britain]
- Proletarian Party of Purba Bangla [Bangladesh]
- Revolutionary Communist Group of Colombia
- Revolutionary Communist Party, India
- Revolutionary Communist Party, USA
- Revolutionary Communist Union [Dominican Republic]
- Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran)

## "They Won't Listen to Reason, They Won't be Bound by Votes, The Governments Must be Stopped From Launching World War 3, No Matter What It Takes!"

# May First Teach-In at Berkeley High

In his opening remarks before roughly 450 Berkeley, California high-school students, Richard Navies, the coordinator of African-American Studies at Berkeley High, said: "The subject we are discussing is not one that has been discussed in this large a group on this campus in a very, very long time. But it's one that the whole world is engaged in dialoging and demonstrating about — that is, whether or not we are going to have a world.

"We are, in fact, whatever your political persuasion may be, on the brink of World War 3. And World War 3 is the biggie, the one that is going to annihilate everybody... we need to begin to get involved in that dialogue because the rest of the world is.

"And I think that it is particularly important that African-American Studies — you noticed that most of our students are Black students — that we become involved in that dialogue as well, because we are concerned with what happens in the world, we are concerned with what happens right here, and they are interconnected...."

It was the opening of a May First Teach-In on the Berkeley High campus, sponsored by the African-American Studies Department. Through the next two and a half hours and three class

periods, and with some people going in and out of the auditorium, over 500 students of various nationalities and a small number of youth and antiwar activists from off campus listened to invited speakers and wrestled with some basic questions thrown up by the danger of war. The leaflet announcing the teach-in was headlined: "They Won't Listen to Reason, They Won't Be Bound by Votes, The Government Must Be Stopped From Launching World War 3, No Matter What It Takes!" Speaking to this theme were: Saul Bloom, executive director of ARC (a peace and environmental group) and former national campaign coordinator for Greenpeace; Gail Chase, a San Francisco peace activist who spent the past fall working with peace movements in England and Holland, especially at Greenham Common; Carl Dix, founding member of the RCP, USA, and national spokesperson on the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and one of the Fort Lewis 6; Leonard Post, president of Greenpeace Pacific Southwest, a lawyer, member of the Livermore Action Group Legal Collective and litigation counsel for the Western States Legal Foundation.

This extremely successful teach-in was the product of intensive work — and controversy. A number of teachers urged their students to go, and some went them-

selves. Other teachers opposed the teach-in and discouraged their students from attending. There was an active group of students that leafleted inside the school and in nearby shops and stores for the teach-in. The large number of students attending, and the generally high level of the questions asked and problems posed reflected the emerging sense very broadly among the students that world war is pressing very hard.

### Speakers

While coming from differing viewpoints, the speakers all agreed that the governments are preparing for world war, and that people have to act to oppose it. As a whole and each in his/her own way, they presented a powerful exposure and condemnation of the imperialist war preparations — and posed a challenge to the students to confront this hard reality. Describing his talk as a "world tour of the arms race and the nuclear weapons cycle" and using a world map and a pointer, Saul Bloom gave a sketch of the various phases involved in nuclear weapons — from the mining of the strategic minerals in countries like the U.S. as well as Namibia, to deployment around the world, to "internment" of wastes — that takes place on an international scale. He stressed that the new, third-generation nuclear weapons involving Star Wars technology now being developed by the U.S. puts "the arms race on a hair-trigger" and "makes first-strike a believable, a planable weapons strategy for the American military — a war that can be waged, and theoretically won."

Gail Chase's slideshow on the Greenham Common peace camp showed the determination and spirit of the women there in the face of extremely harsh conditions and the daily harassment and repression brought down by the forces of the state. In response to a question from the floor about the kinds of women at the camp, she explained that, "The youngest woman there is about 18 years old. I don't know about the oldest woman, but I do know that the oldest woman to go over the fence and dance on the missile silos last December was 74." (This got a big round of applause from the students.)

She went on to say that a great many of the Greenham women are lesbians because "I think lesbians have been in the forefront of the women's peace movement in realizing that patriarchy can be a problem." There are also women at

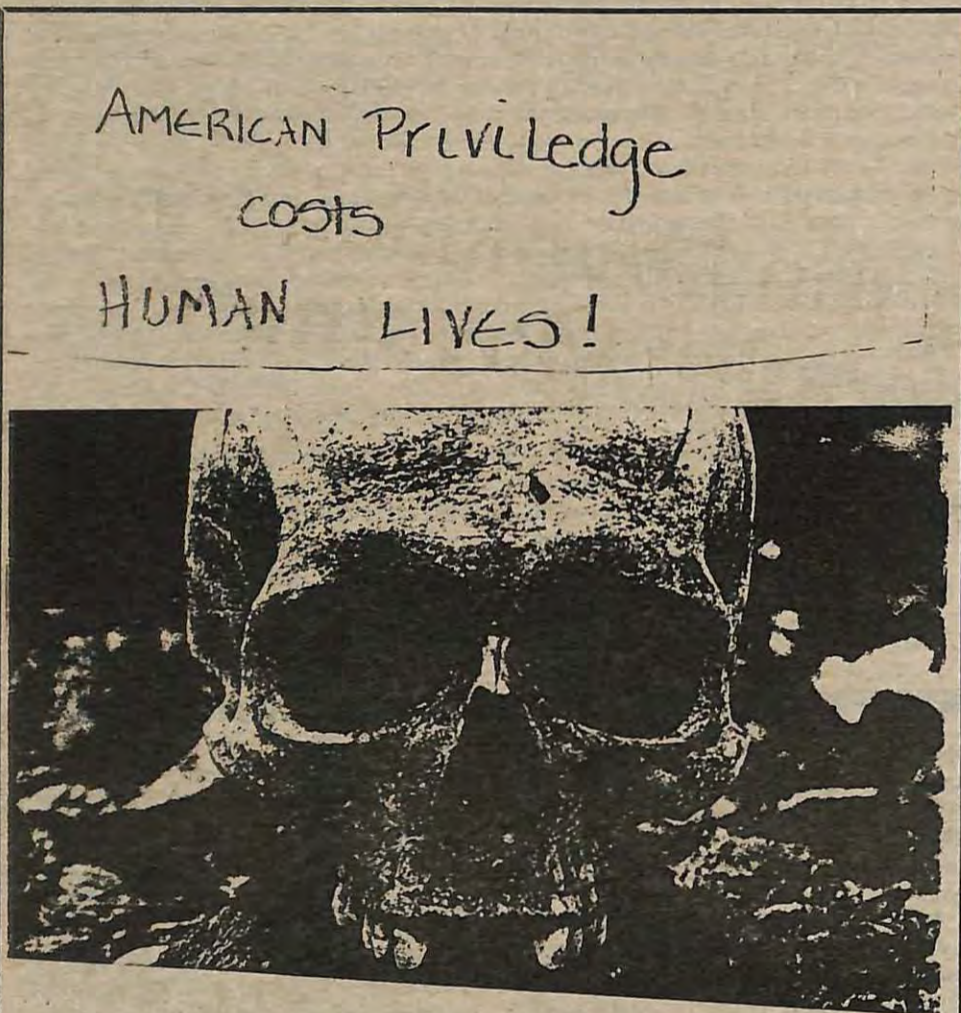
Greenham whose husbands are quite supportive, she said.

### Resist

Leonard Post spoke to the slogan that headlined the leaflet: "The meaning it has for me is that we need to resist the things that have brought us to this point, to the brink of worldwide disaster... If you've been reading the papers, if you've been listening to the speakers here, you know things have not been going well. What does that mean, what kind of resistance, how do we stop World War 3, what does 'no matter what it takes' mean? People need to organize. If it's one person standing up saying 'I don't want to do it,' there are a lot of people around you that can crush you. If there's a group of people saying 'We don't want to do it,' that's when we begin to move." Post went on to say that nuclear weapons need to be dismantled, but that is not enough: "We need to put food production in the hands of a central government of the world, we need to look at life differently, we need to respect it, we need to go out and fight for it."

In his talk, Carl Dix hit at what it is that would compel the governments to actually start hurling nukes at each other: "The point we've got to get at is that their whole system is crazy. What else but an insane system would take fertile parts of the world and turn them into producers of a single cash crop for export to make money while large numbers of people producing these very cash crops suffer from starvation... it's crazy. The very workings of this insane dog-eat-dog system is dragging the world to the brink of war, with potentially unprecedented destruction." In the face of this, Dix said, "the urgency of taking up the question of world war is pretty clear... it's definitely off to be looking like we can rely on the government or the politicians, to convince them of the insanity of what they're planning as a way to stop them from launching this horror... my view as a revolutionary is that the only road is going up against the government. Going up against them from the point of view that they and their whole system have got to be overthrown."

The Berkeley High teach-in provided a forum for critical questions of the struggle against nuclear war, while the slogan headlining the leaflet gave a broad framework within which these questions could be addressed from various angles. It added up to a lively and politically challenging event. □



Dollars at work worldwide.

The leaflet above was written collectively by an affinity group of anti-nuke activists involved with the movement against the Savannah River Plant, some of whom are students at the Atlanta College of Art. The leaflet was handed out by a group of about fifteen art students and other activists who spent May Day marching through downtown Atlanta behind a banner reading "War Mongrels—Curb 'Em." (see story on this banner p. 15) A leaflet announcing the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement was also handed out. The marchers leafleted junior high school students on a number of schoolbuses, who grabbed the leaflets as teachers snapped "don't touch 'em!" and headed for an army recruitment office where they delivered the leaflet right to the desk of the officer in charge.

The text of the leaflet follows:

May 1st is the day celebrated all over the world by people held hostage by men who are determined to drag the world into a third and final world war. We, the people, are being called upon to support mass murder on a global scale. We refuse.

We, youth of America, join people throughout the world in celebrating the vision of a classless society, free of exploiting relationships, in which our children live in peace.

## Seattle Anti-War Speakout

At noon on May First, an Antiwar Speakout transformed the lunchtime atmosphere at Seattle, Washington's Central Community College. The speakout was endorsed by a very wide range of groups and individuals: the May 1 Committee (of Seattle's Garfield High School) a member of the Pan African Student Union at the school, Seattle Non-Violent Action Group, Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Anti-Imperialist), and Sabedaran supporters.

As seventy-five to a hundred students gathered, statements were read, political ideas flew back and forth, TV cameras taped (and later broadcast some of the footage). Numbers of copies of the Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement were sold.

The speakout brought forth an exciting variety of opinion and experience on the movement against nuclear war and other topics; the following are statements read at the speakout:

From: Seven Seattle antiwar activists

To the Hunger Strikers in Turkish prisons, the Turkish people, and people of the world:

We are greatly saddened to hear of the deaths of at least eleven prisoners from

the hunger strike at the Diyarbakir Prison. We support the strike and an end to the political imprisonments, the torture, the junta, and United States and West German governmental aid to the junta.

The struggle against fascism at home in Turkey and imperialism from abroad is of global importance. As the U.S.- and Soviet-led blocs accelerate preparations for World War III, the third inter-imperialist war of this century, they also drive large numbers of people into motion against the war. The opposition of the West German people to the deployment of the Pershing missiles was joined by Turkish proletarians who had been thrust by the workings of imperialist economics into the heartland of W. Germany. The support of W. Germany and the United States for the junta is a result not only of their need to live off the backs of the Turkish people. The possibility of a socialist revolution in Turkey that would have ripped it out of the imperialist system was and is a nightmare for the global war strategists.

Not only does Turkey guard the eastern flank of Europe, it also strides the strategic Middle East. It is central to the war plans of the Western bloc. A proletarian state in Turkey would make it

Continued on page 14

*This was read in San Francisco at the rally and celebration of the founding of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement:*

**May Day Statement by the General Union of Democratic Students and Patriotic Afghans**

May Day is a day of joyous celebration and determined struggle for the proletariat and oppressed people all over the world. This year's May Day is especially significant. The revolutionary proletariat in many countries of the world are taking May Day actions under the unified May Day slogans of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement — such a thing has not happened in many years. On this historic occasion, we, the General Union of Democratic Students and Patriotic Afghans, would like to make a statement of solidarity.

It was a great pleasure to hear of the successful conclusion of the Second International Conference of Marxist Parties and Organisations and the signing of the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*. The historical importance of the formation of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is not merely the property of one country or one nation — it is of great significance for the emancipation of *all* human beings from the yoke of imperialism and reaction.

As the imperialists' contention for redividing the world rapidly nears a climax, the world is entering into an historic conjuncture. The human race is

faced with a vital decision over which road to take. One road leads to life and prosperity for all human beings — the other leads to a deadend and perhaps complete destruction. The first is the road of revolution to overthrow all imperialism, social-imperialism and reaction. The other is the road of capitulation to one imperialism or another.

The advanced proletariat, the vanguard and class-conscious forces, must and will step forward to put an end to imperialist oppression. The formation of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is historical evidence of such a possibility. However, there are great tasks that yet lie ahead. All anti-imperialist forces must be solidified, the ideological and political lines sharpened, and that line must be even more broadly spread to the international working class and oppressed people and further transformed into a strong material force for revolution.

With these tasks in mind, we would like to express our solidarity with Revolutionary Internationalist Movement in its struggle for human emancipation. We anxiously await the publication of the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*. Aside from joining the May Day activities here in the U.S., we have sent word about the formation of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement to revolutionary Afghans in Germany, Pakistan and Afghanistan itself, and have urged them to study the *Declaration* when it comes out.

**Greeting From Mao Tsetung-Kredsen, Denmark**

The heroic stand of Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao upheld the red flag, spread Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought inspiring revolutionaries all around the world. The formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement shows in encouraging way the further maturing of the revolutionary movement, both ideologically, politically and organisationally.

We want to express our admiration and our full agreement to the significant achievements of the Second Conference. This is a very timely and necessary step forward, giving firm ground for further uniting revolutionary forces all over the world. Living as we are in a small but not at all insignificant imperialist country profiting from exploitation of not only our own people but in vast degree also from the neo-colonialist plunder, we feel the urgent need of close ties to the internationalist movement. The protesting activity of our working class as well as others is very much influenced by reformist, economist, revisionist forces, which in fact are the main obstacle to preparation of a revolutionary public opinion among labouring people.

We adhere fully to the statement that "further uniting our ranks, by further grounding our revolutionary determination in a scientific understanding of the nature, means and goal of the class struggle, we can, together, help hasten the destruction of the forces of darkness and advance forward in our glorious battle to build a world without classes and exploitation."

*On May 1st, in response to the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and the appearance of its Declaration, individuals and groups from a number of countries participated in May 1st in the U.S. and/or sent messages of support. These revolutionary and progressive forces, though not members of the signatory organizations, stated their appreciation and opinions on this development. Here we print a number of such statements which reflect the broad array of political views of these writers. We also encourage our readers to study the Declaration in order to fully understand its line.*

# Greeting the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement on May Day

**To the People of Palestine**

*This message was presented to Palestinian supporters of Mao who hosted a dinner party celebrating the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. The statement was signed by 17 people attending the dinner party which included people from El Salvador, Iran, West Germany, Okinawa and the U.S.*

This dinner, celebrating the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, taking place on the eve of May 1st, is an excellent example of the opportunities for the masses of people worldwide to help contribute to forging vanguard leadership in Palestine, the country oppressed by Israel & Yanqui imperialism.

The importance of breaking the imperialist chain in Palestine can't be overestimated. The Middle East is one of the most crucial areas for U.S. imperialism, and other imperialist powers, especially the Soviet Union, covet it.

All this heightens the need for a Party based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought which is the only thing that will lead this struggle to final victory.

We pledge our support to the people of Palestine in this just struggle and to take all the steps necessary to help build the Internationalist Party necessary to lead this.

**From An African Revolutionary**

*This statement was read at the May 1st celebration in Atlanta.*

The European imperialisms, feudalism and the national bourgeoisie are not the only targets in Africa. Today, in their search for influence zones and their race toward world war, the two superpowers did not spare Africa. They have infiltrated it, each at its best, and have engrossed it with more contradictions or just backed up the trend of the fights that have been going on. Thus, the social-imperialism has turned into degeneration and bureaucracies the main Movements of National Liberation and spoiled all the sacrifices done by the masses during years of struggle all over the continent. It also set up numbers of pseudo-Marxist parties whose main role is to oppose or discourage those involved in a true struggle with a correct line. In that sense the cases of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Ethiopia, to name a few, are rich of lessons and we should draw them all definitely. As for the U.S. imperialism, its ties in Africa are getting bigger and stronger than ever. After promoting the Apartheid regime and corrupting a bunch of greedy or naive leaders (Zaire, Egypt,

Nigeria, etc.) it keeps pushing forward by spreading its economical domination all over under the cover of the IMF or other financial institutions under its control. In the last analysis, it appears that almost no country, directly or indirectly, is spared by the aggressive progression of U.S. imperialism.

Therefore, we Africans born in the U.S. and particularly the revolutionary minded, we may be isolated from the African masses in their struggle, but not from the struggle, which is indeed one struggle. Our only and best way to go, is to join here the ranks of the proletariat in his fight against the bourgeoisie, under the flag of the RCP. In other words, for us over here, to fight for the liberation of the African peoples, is to fight for the overthrow of the American bourgeoisie, enemy of all peoples. This is also another reason for all freedom fighters to welcome and continue the struggle for setting up a broadly representative Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

Vive L'Internationalisme prolétarien!  
Vive la libération des peuples Africains et du monde!  
Long live May Day!

**Ethiopian Student Greets Formation of Revolutionary Internationalist Movement**

*Statement at Cincinnati May 1st celebration.*

The formation of a Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is a holiday of

Continued on page 12

For forty-two months, the Iran-Iraq war has dragged on, with a relentless ferocity and at staggering cost — an estimated death toll exceeding 300,000, many more than that injured and maimed, and hundreds of billions of dollars in direct and indirect property loss. For much of this time the war has alternated between steady simmer and furious white heat with little public acknowledgement from the imperial citadels of power. Except in those periodic instances where the war has threatened to widen into the Gulf, raising nervous fears in the West that this “jugular vein” supplying much of the “free world’s” oil might be constricted or shut off, the war has aroused little sustained outcry.

No, the major powers of both Western and Eastern blocs maintain a public posture of “neutrality” in the matter. The U.S., for example, has long cited its own neutral position so as to affirm its own lack of culpability in the accumulation of horrors that the war has become. Indeed, in portraying the war as a purely local matter, feeding on its own cyclical, internally generated hatreds, the Western nations have made convenient use of the conflict as an “exposure” of Third World barbarism and Islamic fanaticism — a cavalcade of atrocities without reason, against which the “civilized” world recoils in disbelief and horror.

The recent disclosures concerning Iraq’s use of chemical warfare — mustard and nerve gas — against Iranian troops have been largely cast in this light, even though the details of this “exposure” revealed a very different picture. (It turned out, among other things, that the civilized West supplied Iraq with the necessary chemicals. And more, the controversy was parlayed by the civilized U.S. into a “treaty proposal” with the Soviets, whereby the U.S. would boost its own nerve gas stocks!)

A different picture is certainly presented in the war’s origins. The U.S., after the revolution which toppled the Shah, encouraged Iraq to launch the 1980 invasion of Iran, and since then the war has been integral to U.S. efforts both to contain the “spillover,” destabilizing potential of the Khomeini regime and its populist-Islamic appeal in the region, as well as to effect changes benefiting the U.S. within Iran itself.

Iran and Iraq, of course, are ruled by intensely ideological regimes. Each considers itself officially nonaligned; each in fact aspires, in different ways, to a position of leadership among similarly “non-aligned” nations. And each is up to its ears in imperialist entanglement. After 42 months of war, both Iran and Iraq are even more tightly enmeshed than before in a criss-cross maze of economic, technological, and military relations and agreements, upon which the war efforts of both countries ride.

#### “Neutrality”?

Take, for example, France’s burgeoning economic and military ties to Iraq — since 1980 its arms sales have totaled some \$5.6 billion, its commercial and civilian contracts some \$4.7 billion. The French role is somewhat atypical, however, in that its high pro-Iraqi profile has led to a pronounced deterioration of its ties with Iran, so much so that it has been largely cut out of the action there. (For this reason, a number of French business leaders have decried the “short-sightedness” of French policy, arguing that the Iranian market has a much richer potential.)

In comparison, most of the major powers have managed through the war to expand their economic position in Iran and Iraq alike. Japanese interests have risen dramatically since 1980 — in trade, technological assistance, and industrial development programs, Japan now ranks among Iran and Iraq’s principal economic “partners.” Most of Western Europe conforms to this pattern, with West Germany, Britain, and Italy being the most prominent in actively dealing with both countries. And this pattern extends to the West’s non-Arab regional clients: Turkey has increased its trade with Iran, even while its oil pipeline continues to provide Iraq with its major ongoing source of revenue; Pakistan, which provides Saudi Arabia with about 20,000 of its army soldiers and is politically and financially

tied to the (anti-Iranian) Arab Gulf states, has boosted its exports to Iran to about a half-billion dollars annually. And that hardy “nonaligned” perennial, Yugoslavia, has managed to do a bang-up business with Iraq (\$1 billion worth of construction work in 1982) while upgrading its relationship with Iran, which includes a projected \$800 million of mutual trade over the next year.

Delegations from East Germany and Bulgaria have recently visited Iran, holding talks to increase trade and “economic cooperation,” and North Korea recently signed a letter of understanding with Iran to increase “economic, commercial, and technical relations.” Even if U.S. relations with Iran over the past year were marked by growing political tensions (sparked in part by the situation in Lebanon and growing U.S. preoccupation with “state terrorism” other than its own), culminating in the U.S.’s designation of Iran as a “terrorist nation” in January of this year, its 1983 trade with Iran rose to an estimated \$1.2 billion. This, of course, even as the U.S. “tilt” towards Iraq became more pronounced in the latter half of the year.

It is in the realm of arms shipments and military supplies that some of the more intense imperialist maneuvering has transpired. While most of the West professes to observe an international embargo against arms shipments to Iran, over 40 countries are known to have sold it arms and equipment. This is not mainly a function of war profiteering (though, with Iran often paying three times the world market price for arms, there’s enough of that to spread around) nor the netherworld of international black and “gray” markets. The netherworld of imperialist calculation and intrigue provides a more cogent explanation as to why, for example, such a “natural” Iranian enemy as Israel has become one of its leading surreptitious arms suppliers.

The pattern for this was set early in the war. The U.S., in refusing to honor contracts it had arranged through the Shah, had left Iran with a massive spare parts problem. Israeli agents, contacting representatives from the Shah’s U.S.-trained army, arranged to at least partially fill the breach. The transaction served Israel’s interest in preventing Iraq, which at that time was wreaking destruction on Iran, from gaining victory. But more, Israel was here surely acting in compliance with U.S. designs, since transactions — specifically made through old allies from the Shah’s army — would help to strengthen these forces’ position within Iran’s post-revolutionary society. Since then, this conduit has been strengthened (though its current status, in light of growing U.S. concerns over an Iraqi defeat, is unknown). *Time* magazine, last July, reported that hundreds of millions of dollars worth of U.S. arms and equipment had reached Iran, including tank engines and fighter-plane spare parts — routed through Israel, as well as Canada and Britain. South Korea has also served as a middleman making 60 purchases of missiles and spare parts for Iran in one year, in addition to selling arms of its own manufacture.

In this, South Korea is joined by North Korea, which along with Syria and Libya, has served as a conduit for Soviet arms to Iran. North Korea has also served as a middleman for Iran’s purchase of Chinese-built aircraft (meanwhile China has increased its arms sales to Iraq, selling them \$1 billion worth of tanks last year). Iran, meanwhile, prefers the circuitous nature of these arrangements, insofar as they assisted in preserving its “neither East nor West” orientation, in appearance if not in fact. The circuitry involved here sometimes becomes hopelessly convoluted, leading a Syrian minister on one occasion to exclaim in exasperation, “Why can’t they just take their arms from the Soviet Union like we do?”

When the Soviet Union cut off direct arms shipments to Iraq following its 1980 invasion (the Soviet arms shipments were resumed in early 1983), the breach was filled to some degree by Eastern European countries. Still the cutoff spelled an opening for the West, not only taken by France but by Egypt as well. As Egypt’s arms industry still bears the technological imprint of its years under Soviet tutelage, it was able to provide Iraq with some 50% of certain types of weapons and ammunition

and spare parts. Or so the Egyptian minister of defense claimed in the fall of 1983, arguing that in so doing, Egypt had prevented “a certain Great Power” from continuing to exert pressure on Iraq “by not supplying it with spare parts and ammunition.” The identity of that other “certain Great Power” in whose interest Egypt has been acting shall be left to the reader to ascertain. Meanwhile, the Soviets continued to maintain an active foothold in Iraq primarily by virtue of their military shipments; such shipments, going far beyond “spare parts and ammunition,” totaled about \$2 billion last year.

#### “Who Said All Wars Are Bad Wars?”

Obviously, imperialist “neutrality” in the war hardly connotes disinterest, but rather constitutes the political cover

power than it is informed by the breadth of their ambitions.

The high stakes that are involved are matched by high risks. Still, so long as the war has not spilled over into wider conflict or disruption, and stayed at the level of mutually ruinous Iranian-Iraqi stalemate, the U.S. certainly has found little reason to push for its end, and has ample reason to encourage its continuation. U.S. officials have on occasion been almost cavalier in stating their cynical enthusiasm for the conflict. “Who said that all wars are bad wars,” one high-ranking U.S. diplomat said in 1980, in response to a question about U.S. policy towards the war (quote taken from “The Forgotten War,” by Edmund Ghareeb, *American-Arab Affairs*, No. 5). A State Dept. official, quoted in a *Time* magazine article last summer, added, “We don’t give a

## The Myth of Neutrality



behind which an active cultivation of interest transpires. Surely “neutrality,” even of itself, does not explain the almost total absence of any international “peacemaking” overtures of the kind so often employed by the U.S. and other imperialist powers as an instrument of coercion or pretext for outright intervention.

Beyond its own military capacities, and those of its allies in and around the Gulf, the U.S. sits atop an international network of military and economic relations and interests without which the war efforts of either Iran or Iraq could not have gone very far for very long. For all the U.S.’s public declarations of disinterest, it has actively maneuvered throughout to cultivate interests and enhance its position within both countries, and more broadly. U.S. “neutrality” in the war is largely determined by the danger that in more forthrightly choosing one side, the other would be pushed toward the Soviet camp. And the Soviet Union’s own “neutrality” is governed by the same consideration. It is this very active neutrality which has set the framework in which both powers, along with the junior partners of their respective blocs, have maneuvered for advantage since the war’s beginning. At stake is not simply the question of gaining ground in one or both countries; the Gulf war and its outcome are major determinants of the balance of power in a region of critical global significance, a region which has loomed ever larger in the all-around military preparations and global war drives of both the U.S.- and Soviet-led blocs. While the Iran-Iraq war is often pointed to as an example of the limits of “superpower” regional influence, their position is less conditioned by the limitations of

damn as long as the Iran-Iraq war does not affect our allies in the region or alter the balance of power.”

Although the war soon proved a disastrous miscalculation for the Iraqi regime, which had envisioned a relatively easy victory over the then fledgling Islamic Republic, Iraqi misfortunes themselves have provided the U.S. with some additional opportunities. As the Iraqi regime has grown increasingly hard-pressed, it has adopted an increasingly “moderate” role among the Arab states, a trend signified by its position towards Egypt. Where Iraq once led the ostracism of Egypt from Arab affairs over its Camp David transgressions, in the last year it has played a pivotal role in paving the way for Egypt’s return to the Arab fold. This, along with Iraq’s strengthened ties with Jordan and friendlier relations with Saudi Arabia and the oil sheikdoms of the Gulf, complements its more general shift towards the West over recent years. Still, American officials, along with some of their Arab counterparts, remain suspicious of the intentions of Iraq’s leaders, on occasion wondering aloud as to whether Iraq’s welcomed “moderation” of recent vintage represents a lasting trend or simply a temporary ploy to be discarded at war’s end and at first opportunity. Economically integrated into the West, politically aligned with the pro-West Arab mainstream, Iraq’s continuing military ties with the Soviet Union spell continued uncertainty over its future direction.

The war’s impact on Iran’s internal situation presents a still more complex picture. Things have gone through stages. After a brief initial period, the war became a reactionary endeavor on all sides. While a

quick victory over Iran was originally conceived, as the war has gone on it has in important ways strengthened the Khomeini regime, creating patriotic unity around the government. It also provided the regime with the opportunity to effect a practical alliance (though still rife with contradictions) between the "old" and "new" elements of Iranian society; between such seemingly incompatible poles of political interest as the Revolutionary Guards — who, by their religious zeal and the sheer intensity of their activism have been the indispensable props of the mullahs' rule — and elements of the Shah's U.S.-trained army, whose political rehabilitation was hastened and secured in the ensuing war effort. (In addition, the security and intelligence services — reorganized and strengthened since the revolution — are mainly led by

loyal troops," there are widespread desertions from the front. The concentration of military strength on the Iraq front has given freedom for the antiregime struggle in Kurdistan to expand. The regime's continuing ability to galvanize broad national unity around its war aims must be questioned.

In any event, as far as the U.S. is concerned, it has found Iran's preoccupations with Baghdad over the past several years to be preferable to any outward thrust directed elsewhere, particularly against the militarily weak and politically vulnerable Gulf states, Saudi Arabia and the oil sheikdoms. By virtue of its proclaimed "neutrality" in the war, the U.S. has kept its hands at least nominally "clean," a matter of no small importance considering present and future U.S. intrigue inside Iran. And, as indicated

As for the Soviet Union, its position has shifted somewhat through the war's course. For the Soviet leaders, the Iranian Revolution had spelled both possible opportunity and trouble. Hardly enamored of the Khomeini regime's militantly Islamic character — all the more so given the Soviets' own problems in neighboring Afghanistan — the Soviet leaders nonetheless hoped to find common ground with the new regime.\* To this end, Soviet intelligence provided Iran's leaders with a detailed report of Iraq's invasion plans in 1980, several weeks before it took place. Such an act could hardly have endeared the Soviets to their erstwhile Iraqi allies and was one of a series of Soviet initiatives in this period designed to enhance their own influence, and that of their Tudeh Party protégés, within Iran. Such overtures have met with little enduring success, exemplified, for one thing, by the recent crackdown and humiliation of the Tudeh Party in Iran. Still, in the Southwest Asian arena, the war poses some advantages to the Soviet Union — insofar as the war with Iraq has overwhelmingly absorbed Iran's energies, it has weakened its abilities to add to Soviet problems in Afghanistan through support of the insurgents there. Within the Arab context, support for Iran by the Soviets' major allies, Libya and Syria, can be construed as a long-term investment on the Soviets' part. At the same time it has in the short-run added further strain to these countries' relations with other Arab states. And in recent years this has complicated somewhat the Soviet efforts to forge an "anti-(U.S.) imperialist" consensus among Arab states, a consensus based on these states' contradictions with Israel and on the continued erosion of the posture of U.S. "evenhandedness" in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. has played off the Gulf war, and the "Iranian threat" more generally, so as to further prod the "moderate" Arab states away from their

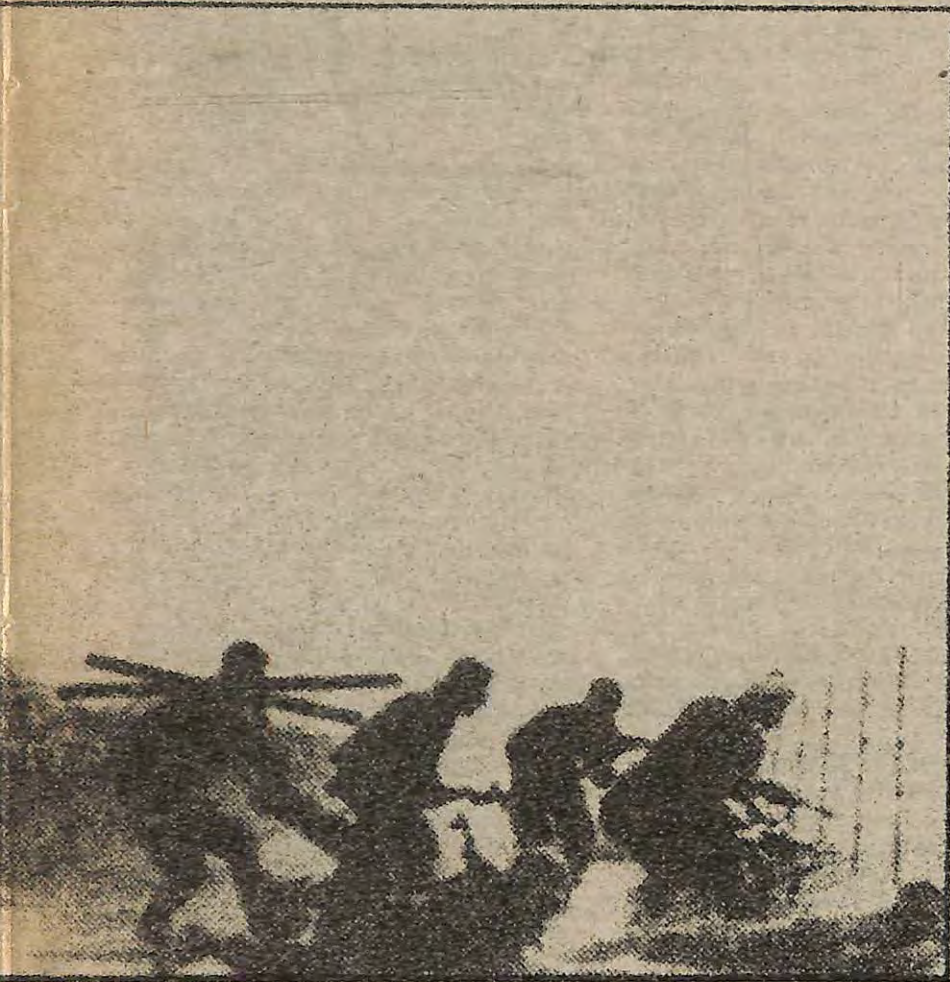
traditional preoccupations with Israel (the anti-Israel posture of these states, however hollow, has long served as the *raison d'être* of their armed forces) and towards a more all-around, "enlightened" perception of their security interests. U.S. efforts to enlist the Arab states in an anti-Soviet, anti-Iranian "strategic consensus" have been heavily oriented towards the situation in the Gulf, in particular the need to coordinate military efforts in the area.

The resumption of more open Soviet support for Iraq can be seen in part as an effort to deny the U.S. an open field in this endeavor. Resuming massive arms shipments in early 1983, it began to show a more marked political tilt towards Iraq late last year, generally reflecting the Iraqi viewpoint in its news broadcast statements. Such a tilt coincided with the growing U.S. debacle in Lebanon, and the suggestion of new opportunities for the Soviets among the Arab states — the feelers sent out by the Egyptians, for example, concerning a resumption of diplomatic and limited economic relations with the Soviets. At the same time, the consequences of Soviet moves to improve ties with Iraq should not be exaggerated. Like the U.S., the Soviets seek to prevent an Iraqi defeat, but not necessarily much more than that. In this respect, it has not only to consider its future relations with Iran, but the viability of its foothold in Iraq as well. So long as the war is on, Iraqi dependency on Soviet arms is assured, the importance of these arms to its war machine serving to amplify and underline a continued Soviet influence there. In this, the Soviets are apparently as distrustful of a postwar Iraqi leadership as the U.S. And in this respect, both prefer the maintenance of a continued stalemate in the war and continued "neutrality" in which further jockeying for position may take place.

All of this points to the fact that for both the U.S. and Soviet Union, the war has been more than acceptable as a framework through which each has maneuvered for advantage. And because the Gulf is an area in which U.S. and Western interests are predominant, the war has been of particular use to the West in a number of respects. If the Iranian Revolution marked a major loss, since 1979 the U.S. has maneuvered to consolidate its position elsewhere in the Gulf on a higher level, all the while maneuvering inside Iran. And because the war has remained at a relative stalemate these past years, it has enabled the U.S. to restore a certain equilibrium in the region. That such an "equilibrium" has been maintained through the prosecution of this incredibly bloody conflict testifies not only to the utter cynicism and reaction of U.S. interests and designs in the area, but to the instability of its position as well. For the war carries its own internal dynamic,

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# ty and the Gulf War



former members of the Shah's infamous SAVAK.)

And there is compulsion for the war's continued prosecution. Having suppressed more genuinely revolutionary currents internally, the Iranian regime persists in its efforts to "export" abroad its own version of the "revolution," or face a major deflation of the ideological stance and values with which it has legitimized its rule. The war with Iraq has become the main focus of this outward thrust. The Iranian regime is demanding \$150 billion in war reparations and the removal of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. It would be very difficult for the regime to depart from its war aims at this time: to what purpose, then, could it justify the war effort?

So, the regime needs the war — but there are grave risks involved. Iran is a country replete with serious political fissures, easily antagonized by the war's strains. Within the regime there is ongoing conflict among reactionary class forces, and there is considerable friction between the leading institutions of power. The regime's initial populist appeal has been greatly tarnished by the draconian nature of its reactionary rule and its consistent resistance to reform — land redistribution, for example, has been effectively thwarted, 80 percent of the land remaining in the hands of large landowners, a situation maintained in large part through the vociferous insistence of landholding mullahs that it would be "un-Islamic" of them to give up their holdings. Increased oil revenues are offset by severe dislocation in other economic sectors, and by the expense of the war. The high number of war casualties is clearly having an impact. And despite all the stories of "fanatically

above, U.S. allies have used the situation to strengthen the grip of Western imperialism inside Iran, including strengthening the position of pro-U.S. forces in the Islamic Republic Party.

\* While the Soviet 1979 invasion of Afghanistan was largely prompted by the deterioration of its position within Afghanistan itself, it was hardly unrelated to the turmoil in neighboring Iran. Prior to the Soviet invasion, relations between Afghanistan and Iran had become very bad; Hafizullah Amin had succeeded in arousing widespread Islamic resentment through his rather clumsy and erratic "communist" policies, and one of the first tasks of his Moscow-picked successor, Barbrak Karmal, was to pursue a more conciliatory line towards Islam, both within Afghanistan and in relation to the Iranian leadership. Karmal moved quickly to restore the green national flag — the color of Islam — which his predecessor had replaced with a red one. Soon after Soviet tanks had placed him in power, Karmal sent Khomeini a personal message, attempting to make common cause with the Imam by equating Amin with the Shah, and pleading for "consolidation of the fraternal and friendly Islamic relations between the Afghan and the Iranian people." All to little avail, and the Soviet campaign in Afghanistan has proved a major point of friction in Iranian-Soviet relations, as overall relations since that time have badly deteriorated.



# The Myth of Neutrality and the Gulf War

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the belligerents their own interests and necessities. And over the recent period, the war has threatened in numerous ways to widen in scope and impact, with possibly far-reaching consequences.

## The War

Iran presently has an estimated 500,000 troops massed on the Iraqi border, presumably poised to resume the offensive it began in February. The Iranian leadership recently designated this to be the "year of final decision," and Iraq has likewise intensified its range of activities — from diplomacy to chemical warfare to escalating attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf — to thwart the Iranian war effort. The fighting in February was marked not only by the savage intensity of the ground battles, but by unusually fierce Iraqi and Iranian artillery and air attacks against cities, infrastructure, and industrial areas. This wave of attacks on civilian targets, coupled with the fighting on the ground, represented more than quantitative escalation. The Iranian offensive, and the nature of Iraq's response, signified a growing impatience and desperation on both sides, a recognition that the war is coming to a juncture of sorts, one which may weigh heavily on its future course. A look at the interpenetrating military, economic, and political considerations facing both belligerents helps show why this is so.

Since Iran successfully drove the bulk of the invading Iraqi army from its territory in 1982, the initiative has been largely in its hands. But it has been unable to translate this into decisive advantage, and the war has come to be characterized by military stalemate. Iran has a number of strategic advantages over Iraq — a 3 to 1 population ratio, and far greater territorial depth. But possessed of a badly deteriorated air force, generally outgunned by superior Iraqi firepower, and with the locus of fighting having shifted to Iraqi soil, the Iranian regime has been unable to sustain its thrusts into Iraq for very long.

Given these factors, the Iranian regime has, since 1982, primarily opted to wage a war of attrition, conducted with the aim of encouraging internal turmoil and revolt inside Iraq, hoping in this way to topple Saddam Hussein and his regime. Integral to Iran's calculations has been Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority; while Hussein and most of his ministers are of the Sunni minority, the regime is formally of a secular character (though hardly averse to employing its own brand of religious demagoguery), and Iran's appeals to Iraq's population have been based on both sectarian appeal and on the notion of holy war against the bankrupt infidel "socialism" of Hussein's reigning Ba'ath party. But most important to Iranian strategy is its estimation that Iraq's economy simply cannot shoulder the rising burdens of the war. Through maintaining a pressure-cooker situation in this way, then, Iran anticipates that the necessary conditions for Hussein's downfall will sooner or later be realized. In respect to its economy, Iran is better situated than Iraq.

This strategy has taken its toll on Iraq. With its own oil export facilities in the Gulf rendered unusable since the early part of the war, and with its major oil pipeline through Syria cut off since 1982, Iraq's prewar export average of over 3 million barrels a day has been reduced to about 700,000. Its prewar foreign currency reserves of about \$36 billion, out of which it had intended to finance a major economic development program, have long since dried up, and it is now in debt to the tune of over \$30 billion. Its economy relies increasingly on domestic austerity programs and foreign import credits to keep afloat (this in addition, of course, to the \$26 billion or so loaned Iraq by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait since the war began).

Iraq is presently taking steps to alleviate this situation. A project to enlarge the capacity of its oil pipeline through Turkey should be finished in July. Work on a new pipeline through Saudi Arabia is already underway and scheduled for completion next year. And an additional

oil pipeline is to be built through Jordan, with a projected capacity of 1 million barrels a day. Bechtel Group Inc. (the name should ring a bell with those familiar with the business histories of George Shultz and Caspar Weinberger) has submitted a bid for the contract, and the U.S. Export-Import Bank is expected to provide funding.

The net effect of these moves, when completed, would enable Iraq to restore its oil export potential to about 80% of its prewar levels. The prospect goes a long way to providing for future Iraqi solvency and stability, and thus undermines a major part of Iranian strategy. Thus, the massive scale of Iran's February campaign, which may yet be resumed in coming weeks, suggests a new urgency on the part of Iran's leaders, an effort to bring matters to a head within the shortest possible time.

An indication of this was to be found in Iran's February bombing of several major Shi'ite population centers, such as the southern city of Basra. In the past, Iran had refrained from bombing such areas, hoping instead to win the hearts and minds of the population there, enlisting them as "natural allies" in the struggle against Saddam Hussein. Apparently having lost patience with this approach, Iran turned to sterner forms of persuasion, hoping that its bombs, sowing chaos and panic, might succeed, where its Islamic appeals had thus far failed, in destabilizing the internal Iraqi position.

Iran's main form of assault, of course, remains its ground forces. Waves of poorly trained, ill-equipped irregulars have been hurled repeatedly against Iraq's heavily fortified and mined defenses in order to clear the way for Iran's Revolutionary Guards and regular army forces. This medieval military doctrine is born both of convenience — the irregulars are largely drawn from the bountiful "surplus" population from Iran's moribund rural economy — and necessity. "We have so few tanks," an Iranian officer explained recently to an Eastern European journalist visiting the front. Hence, the cynical calculations behind the Ayatollah Khomeini's assertion that Iran is a "martyr-nurturing nation." (Khomeini's military tactics have, of course, drawn repeated Western media attention, analogies to World War I, etc. — further proof of barbarism unleashed. This is presumably in contrast to the more enlightened military doctrines of the likes of Kissinger and McNamara and the humane H-bomb.)

While Iran's ground offensive has met with mixed results, Iraq remains vulnerable despite its superior air force, firepower edge, and the fact that it is now fighting on its own territory. Its major population centers are mostly situated close to the Iranian border; the eastern highway linking Baghdad to Basra (a highway heavily relied on by the military) has major stretches only about 20 miles away. The February offensive brought the war much closer to "home" for many Iraqis than had previously been the case. The bombing of Basra in late February sent tens of thousands of residents in flight, many of them crowding into Kuwait, the tiny sheikdom nestled along Iraq's southeast border. Previously, Iraq's population had for the most part been spared such direct contact with the war; while suffering the war's strains and burdens, daily life for most had remained by and large removed from the situation on the front. That front, however, has now moved with new intensity onto Iraqi soil, and on the other side stand a half-million Iranian troops.

Just what the present situation will lead to, on the battlefield and in respect to Iraq's internal situation, remains unclear. Iran's February offensive was at least momentarily halted — though the Iranians, maintaining control of Majnoon Island, can claim their first clear territorial conquest of the war. Clearly the Iranian forces are catching their breath, patching up their supply lines and logistical support from the rear, upon which any further forays into Iraq would depend. In the interim, the Iranian leadership is taking full advantage of the

furor over Iraq's use of chemical weapons in an attempt to undercut Western support for the Iraqi regime and isolate it politically.

What is clear, in any event, is that the situation has become an increasingly intolerable one for Iraq's leaders. And herein lies a major departure point between their agenda and that of the U.S. Insofar as the U.S. has "tilted" towards Iraq's defeat, not in any particular way to hasten the war's end. U.S. assistance to Iraq has been largely designed to lighten some of its burdens, shore up its economic prospects, and thus insure the continued viability of its war effort.

Thus, the growing proclivity of Iraq's leaders to attempt to "internationalize" the war. "The continuation of the war will inevitably widen it," warned Iraq's undersecretary for foreign affairs, following a trip to the U.S. "We have the means to do great damage and we retain the right to do it if necessary." Thus, Iraq's continued attacks on Gulf oil traffic. Iraqi attacks on Gulf oil tankers have been fairly haphazard — in March, for example, its missiles struck tankers belonging to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (its main financial backers in the war); last week a Saudi supertanker was severely damaged by another Iraqi attack. Whether this is due to the inexperience of Iraq's pilots, the sloppiness of its intelligence, or the deliberate calculation of its leaders, it adds to the more general impression that Iraq's actions in the Gulf thus far have represented less a serious effort to stop Iranian oil export traffic, and more resemble the actions of a provocateur, attempting to intensify international nervousness over the possible disruptions in Gulf oil supplies, and in this way increase Western pressures against Iran.

Saddam Hussein warned a group of Arab ambassadors assembled in Baghdad earlier this year that "If I go, everyone goes," adding that he was perfectly willing to risk provoking "the third world war" if necessary. Hussein's remarks might be seen as the hollow bravado of a rather desperate man. Of Hussein's desperation there can be little question. But neither can it be questioned that the Iran-Iraq war exists in hair-trigger proximity to a number of possible international chain reactions.

The most widely discussed of these, of course, has been the well-known scenario wherein Iraq, in stepping up its attacks on Iranian shipping and export facilities, prompts Iran to respond by closing the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian military capabilities to actually pull this off have been fairly widely discounted in the West, but it is acknowledged that the sinking of even a few ships would raise insurance rates precipitously high and insure a fair amount of disruption. About 40 percent of Western Europe's, and about 60 percent of Japan's, oil supplies go through the Strait of Hormuz. And while there is a current abundance of oil in the international market, the question is not one of availability of oil per se. As always, the distribution and allocation of oil is mediated through capitalist relations, and significant disruptions in supply lines at the very least raise the possibility of hoarding and panic buying on the oil spot market, which accounts for about 25 percent of the international market. This could threaten to play havoc with the oil pricing structure, putting additional strains on an already shaky financial system (analysts are particularly worried about the effects on such oil-importing debtor nations as Brazil and Argentina, already hard-pressed to pay the interest amount on their colossal debts).

## Global and Regional Contention

Important as such considerations may be, they hardly delimit the stakes involved here. The fall of the Shah marked a major setback for the U.S. The Iran-Iraq war has provided the opportunity for the U.S. to strengthen its position in the Gulf region, further cement its own imperialist alliance and prepare for war with the Soviet bloc. The Gulf itself has emerged as a major focus of international contention, a primary point of U.S. and allied "power projection" scenarios, and the object of large-scale military buildup and "Rapid Deployment Force" maneuvers.

In moving to upgrade and accentuate its role as military policeman of the Gulf since 1979, the U.S. has emphasized its role as the guardian of the Gulf's oil shipping lanes. The vulnerability of its major

allies in Europe and Japan to any disruptions in Gulf oil shipments is clear; by adopting the mantle as principal Gulf policeman, the U.S. has given weight and definition to its own role as foremost military power amongst the allies, underscoring their dependency upon that role and thus making more "persuasive" the facts of U.S. military and political leadership within its bloc.

Alongside this, allied concern over the Gulf has emerged as a major factor in U.S.-European efforts to redefine and broaden the scope of NATO's "legitimate security interests," beyond the purely European theater and into more far-flung regions of vital mutual interest. Towards this end, Britain and France have devoted themselves to developing a naval interventionary force capable of moving into the Gulf. The terms of such allied efforts are doubly advantageous to the U.S., as it has sought throughout this period to forge a more articulated military alliance among its major partners. The Gulf situation has provided compelling incentive for the European powers to pick up on "their fair share" of the burden in policing the frontiers of a wobbly empire, but in such a way that reinforces the hierarchical relations within the bloc. In the Gulf, as in general, the U.S. remains the main and leading military power, in support of which the other Western nations must tailor their own efforts.

Growing emphasis on the Gulf over the past few years has gone hand in hand with intensifying U.S. efforts to mount a counteroffensive against the Soviets, to reverse a trend in which the Soviets had, since the mid-'70s, enjoyed some success in moving into areas previously considered the exclusive preserve of Western imperialism. In the Middle East, the Soviets have sought to advance their own imperialist designs mainly through taking advantage of U.S. difficulties in the area, whether in relation to the Arab-Israeli conflict, or through riding the back of popular (or inter-bourgeois) discontent against local rulers strongly identified with the U.S. And while the '70s were marked by a decline of Soviet fortunes in much of the Arab world, it had established itself fairly strongly, by decade's end, in a number of states of the Middle East's geographical periphery — in the case of Ethiopia, South Yemen, and Afghanistan, the Soviets were situated on the periphery of the Gulf itself. The Iranian Revolution seemed to open further opportunities, and if the Soviets have proven unsuccessful in establishing a beachhead there, it hasn't been for lack of trying.

Thus, as the U.S. came increasingly to target the Gulf as a strategic object of allied concern, the question of "containing" the Soviet Union was pushed to the forefront. The Gulf took on a twofold geostrategic importance — in its own right, as a primary source of oil for the West, and as the geographical pivot of a projected "Arc of Crisis," extending from Pakistan to the Horn of Africa, an arc in which the nations were said to be falling, domino-like, to the voracious Soviet bear. As U.S.-Soviet contention pushed ineluctably to the forefront of international relations, prominent American analysts, and government officials more prominent in beating the war drums, invariably focused on the three "primacies": the primacy of the Gulf, the primacy of restoring American military supremacy and enhancing power-projection capabilities, and the primacy of containing the Soviet Union. In the various scenarios advanced concerning potential international flashpoints, all three concerns have often been compounded; World War 3 scenarios, which had heretofore been largely fixated on Western Europe as the starting point of geometrically escalating hostilities, have in recent years focused on the Gulf as a likely touch-off point. The Soviets, on their part, have similarly "red-lined" the region — a U.S. invasion of Iranian territory, Soviet officials have stressed, would necessarily trigger a direct Soviet response. Such projections as these, of course, should not be equated with hard and fast likelihoods. They do indicate the high stakes involved, in a volatile region overshadowed by a war — the longest running large-scale conventional war since WW2, by the way — which, having been encouraged and fanned by the imperialist powers from the beginning, shows little sign of abatement or resolution.

# May Day at Damián García Park



Revolutionary Worker

May Day in Los Angeles featured a convergence at the intersection of Seventh and Alvarado, entrance to Damián García Park and scene of significant May Day activities in Los Angeles over the past few years. About 150 people gathered at the park entrance while another 125 took up posts behind the police lines on the other three corners.

The highlight of the May First rally was a speech by a representative of the RCP, the second major party speech in the park in nine days. This one focused on the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and the *material* — not merely symbolic — strengths of proletarian internationalism that it provides. As each party and organization adhering to the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement was mentioned, a cheer went up from the crowd and red flags waved. Cheers were particularly strong at the announcement that the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* had been published and was now available.

The role of the more advanced was particularly significant around May First. In preparation, for example, a group of proletarians met with a party member who gave a presentation on the struggle in India, based on the book *Spring Thunder*. Following the meeting, a banner was sent to India. And at the May Day convergence, there was a squad of Latino immigrant proletarians, including some who've been around the party for several years and some newer forces who just came forward this year — with both being inspired and drawn closer by the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement; they took up posts on a wall at the entrance to the park and, outfitted with red carnations, red flags and Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and May Day stickers all over their clothing, led the gathered crowd in chants. There were two youths from the East Los Angeles housing projects where Comrade García had

been murdered, announcing where they were from and that they had made the banner they proudly displayed; when the inevitable organized crew of police-led religious reactionaries began shouting "God bless America" at them, the youths began to loudly agitate against going into the military "to die for the rich who rule these big powers in the world." An activist in the Native American struggle began agitating about the American flag, calling it a symbol of crimes of oppression all around the world, including against the indigenous peoples and "the rape of Mother Earth"; he later said that he had been trying to keep his agitation "both red and Indian." These celebrants were joined by a large section of immigrant youth from the central L.A. area, a few Black youth from various parts of L.A., punks, art students, and some people from the anti-nuke/antiwar movement.

The L.A. city fathers' plan for this May First included the usual armed-camp atmosphere in the neighborhood surrounding the park — helicopters circling overhead, a fleet of pig cars, marked and unmarked, roaming the streets with American flags on their dashboards in honor of the holiday, and several teams of mounties in position in the park and immediately adjacent to it. A parade permit had been "granted" — not for the route originally sought but for a route that LAPD Chief Daryl Gates approved — and the area marked off was completely separated from the masses. This had the distinct smell of an ambush, and the proletariat declined to march into it.

Unlike previous May Days, the phalanxes of police, while certainly on hand to *intimidate*, did not launch their usual exhibition of all-out thuggery, and Chief Gates was on the scene to show that he was personally in charge of the operation. Police tactics this year were undoubtedly conditioned by the fact that the Olympics are less than three months

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# San Francisco March

On May Day in the San Francisco Bay Area, the RCP and the Bay Area May Day Committee called for a convergence and rally in the Mission District to celebrate the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

The May Day slogans of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement were emblazoned on red banners around the BART Plaza at 24th & Mission Streets. Amplified sounds of May First rocked through the streets, including a speech by the RCP, and statements celebrating the founding of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement by the General Union of Democratic Students and Patriotic Afghans, and by supporters of the Union of Iranian Communists.

The scene at the Plaza was intense — on the one hand, there were so many

police that anyone who wanted to enter practically had to run the gauntlet; on the other, a group of defiant rebels did run that gauntlet, especially revolutionary youth, including Black and Latino proletarian youth, anarchist-leaning punks from Berkeley and San Francisco, and a scattering of revolutionary youth active in political movements, including a small number of proletarians from the Mission. One immigrant from a fascist country told of struggling with his friends to come, and then when he could not win them over, coming anyway himself, even though he felt he ran a risk of arrest and even deportation. He felt that this May Day celebration just had to happen.

As the rally ended, the celebration formed into a march, led by a banner with the slogan "Long Live Red First of

May, Symbol of World Proletarian Revolution!" The marchers swept out of the plaza, an image of internationalism, with many wearing Palestinian Kafiyehs and Sandinista bandannas. The target of the march was the Armed Forces Recruiting Center, 20 blocks away, where the May Day Committee and the RCP had promised to deliver a message from the international proletariat about imperialist war preparations.

The march itself had about 120 at its peak. For three hours, it moved through mainly proletarian neighborhoods, chants resounding through the streets. All along the way, it was "escorted" by SF pigs; another small army of cops rushed to be at the recruiting center ahead of the marchers.

At the edge of the Mission, the march passed along a small, mainly Black project. A crowd of youth gathered at the edge of the project, agitation rang out, and a mother of one of the youths put her

head out of the window and urged on the youth to join the march, crying "This is against oppression." Meanwhile, two youths off to the side began to burn red flags, but others literally danced in the streets waving the red flags high. Then, about ten youth formed up into an impromptu brigade, and marched down the street and then across to the march, waving red flags and chanting, especially "World revolution not world war!" In all, about 20 people from the projects, including some adults, joined the march.

As the march drew nearer the Armed Forces Recruiting Center, the police set up barricades around the center, and formed into double and triple lines behind them, batons out and helmets on. There were massive reserve forces in waiting — motorcycle police, cops on horseback, dozens more riot police; undercover cops of every kind swarmed around, with and without cameras.

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# Greeting

Continued from page 7

the world proletariat. It is a holiday that should be celebrated with pride, indignation and a commitment to accomplish the task of uniting the world proletariat to wipe out reaction from the face of the earth. At a time when U.S. imperialism is running rabid from Lebanon to Grenada, from Poland to Central America, in an attempt to save its crumbling world empire, at a time when Soviet social-imperialism is perverting and sabotaging the world proletarian movement to rally it to its side, at a time when the Chinese revisionists bow to the dictate of their master, U.S. imperialism, and turn China into a neo-colony, the arrival of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is timely and we should applaud its birth.

The contradiction between the two imperialist powers, the U.S. and the USSR, is reaching a point where it has to be resolved through world war. The preparation for war by the two imperialist powers is bringing about a revolutionary situation worldwide. It should be the task of the world proletariat to take advantage of this situation and unite its scattered forces to make a worldwide revolution. This task can only be accomplished by a united Revolutionary Internationalist Movement with a common programme, strategy and goal. I do feel that the newly formed Revolutionary Internationalist Movement will be able to carry out this task and every progressive person who wishes to see a revolution should be responsible in sharing the task.

Last but not least, I would like to pay respect to RCP of USA for diligent work to bring about this happy moment.

Long live the unity of the world proletariat.

An Ethiopian student living in the U.S.

## Student From Bangladesh Greets Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

April 29, 1984

The formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is definitely a major event defining a transition in the history of mankind. The present situation of world politics clearly indicates sharp contradictions among the imperialist forces which in turn causes us to be afraid of third world war. The contradiction among the imperialist powers is not at all undesirable, rather it is a good sign on the part of the struggling masses of proletarians. As a matter of fact such a contradiction is inherent in the capitalistic system and constitutes its characteristics. This inevitable phenomenon pushes the capitalistic system toward collapse. The question of concern is however the possibility of the eruption of world war as an outcome of this contradiction; as we know the imperialist powers, for the sake of self-defense, get themselves involved in world wars and thus try to get temporary relief. This tendency can only be stopped by the revolutionary forces. Handling the existing contradiction in a proper way and thus nullifying the possibility of world war is the most important task of the day for the revolutionary forces all over the world. Success depends absolutely on this strength.

In my opinion the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement has correctly defined the most immediate tasks to do at this moment. In addition I want to express my hope that the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement will be able to consolidate and coordinate the revolutionary forces scattered in various parts of the world by introducing a scientific method of organizational practice. "A revolution is impossible without a revolutionary organization." This should be properly understood and all the features of a revolutionary organization must be incorporated among the forces of revolution. Once again I wish to offer congratulation on the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

Long live revolution!

A citizen of Bangladesh studying in North America

## Statement to May 1st Rally in Miami

My name is Anna Maria. I can't be here personally to read this declaration because of problems with the state. Nevertheless, I can't let this chance go by to celebrate this May Day. This is the time to expose and denounce imperialist oppression throughout the world. Let's get rid of the weary concepts against Marxist-Leninist philosophy the bourgeoisie has imposed on us through education and the media. Let's open our minds to investigate and inquire the necessary transformation to come up with a clear judgement about this ideology that can lead us to the recognition of this political thought as an alternative and to change the world bringing about a new establishment representing the world proletariat. This is a particularly important time to take up the struggle because of the rebellions derived from Nevell Johnson's death and so many others that have been kept silent by the media. We have to understand the need to change this rebellion into political organization and to be able to create a revolutionary consciousness. Also let's keep in mind the need to unite in unity to form a powerful revolutionary force. There is not such a thing as a Black struggle, a Latin struggle or American struggle but revolutionary internationalist struggle. Let's not forget that the solidarity of the revolutionary forces throughout the world is the only way to prevent third world war which has stopped being a myth and become a certainty. Let us denounce and expose the injustice of the arrests made during the rebellions and everywhere else in the world where there are revolutionaries in prison. Let us unite to create a mighty revolutionary force that can allow us to overthrow imperialism throughout the world.

A supporter of the RCP from South America

## From A Peruvian Internationalist in Berkeley, California

The struggle to forge a new communist international is an event of great historic import.

Imperialism and social-imperialism form a worldwide system of oppression of the proletariat and the exploited masses all over the world. Thus the class struggle of the proletariat must be seen in the context of the international arena — it is nothing less than the struggle between revolution and counterrevolution on a world scale.

Counterrevolution is united in both imperialist power blocs headed by the U.S. and Russia and they are preparing feverishly for a new imperialist world war for a redivision of the world. Today they are fighting hand to hand for hegemony in many places in the world. This is the present tendency of counterrevolution, the product of the deep imperialist crisis that is dragging the whole world into the most devastating of all the wars that humanity has ever witnessed.

The international communist movement, political vanguard of the international revolutionary proletariat which, with Mao Tsetung leading the Communist Party of China, developed and led the struggle against contemporary Soviet revisionism, suffered a great crisis after the counterrevolutionary coup of the revisionist bourgeois clique of Deng Xiaoping. With the loss of the red fortress in China and the cunning anti-Maoist, trotsko-revisionist blow from Hoxha of Albania, the revolutionary proletariat and the communist movement have temporarily lost their strongholds. But you can't make history go backward, there will be temporary and brief reversals but through twists and turns history marches forward to higher levels.

Karl Marx pointed out that the proletariat will avail itself of state power through a series of seizures and reseizures; these words are not from a prophet, but correspond to the dialectical and materialist vision of history, which confirms the great experience of the Chinese Proletarian Cultural Revolution which is the highest peak reached by any revolution.

The revisionist forces, above all the pro-Soviet revisionists nurtured by social-imperialism, represent the most

dangerous force in the ranks of the world proletariat. Today their influence has enabled them to capitalize on, and absorb in the interests of Soviet social-imperialism, revolutionary movements like in Central America where today they are gaining a firm foothold in the very backyard of Yankee imperialism.

Chinese revisionism, which has become part of the Yankee imperialist bloc as a power of second order, finds itself between purgatory and hell. Its followers and disciples are acting like bourgeois democrats and the best defenders of the Yankee bloc and its own bourgeoisies, just as the reactionary theory of the three worlds preaches.

This crisis and dispersion has been characteristic of the situation of the international communist movement resulting after the revisionist coup in Maoist China. Today's world situation has been throwing us rapidly on the threshold of great historic events. These events, accelerated by the tendency towards war, a war compelled by the interimperialist crisis, come pregnant with revolution. Mao correctly pointed out that either revolution will prevent war or war will give rise to revolution. And if the revolutionary forces, followers of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, are not prepared to prevent war through the revolutionary seizure of power, they had better prepare themselves to rise to the occasion and give leadership during those events when the devastating effects of the imperialist bloodbath unleash the revolutionary storms which will criss-cross the world, especially in those places most affected by the war and when the situation will push millions and millions of the exploited and dispossessed to seek, through violence, an independent alternative and way out.

In this context the actual struggle forcefully comes into play to staff the world proletariat with an internationalist vanguard adhering to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. The events will not sit still and it's important to prepare, through a firm struggle in all spheres and on all planes, the proletarian vanguards so that they will be able to take advantage of the revolutionary situations that inevitably to one degree or another of intensity must arise and will continue arising. Lenin pointed out that not every revolutionary situation necessarily leads to a revolution. For that to happen it is essential, in addition to objective and material factors favorable to revolution, the subjective factor, "the ability of the revolutionary class (and its party) to carry out mass revolutionary actions strong enough to break (or smash) the old government that never, not even in times of crisis, 'will fall' if it is not knocked down." The First and Second Conferences of the recently formed Revolutionary Internationalist Movement have charted the correct tasks and laid the cornerstones to rebuild the communist international's upholding of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. Within this effort, the most important thing is to work to develop a genuine revolutionary line in the communist movement based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, by keeping in mind a correct evaluation of the experience of the contemporary communist movement. Today the glorious call to war of the great leaders of the world proletariat, Marx and Engels, "Workers of the World, Unite!" rings out with more vigor, greater energy and greater force dictated by the characteristics and necessities of the struggle in the present situation — a call to form up the revolutionary forces of the proletariat and its chiefs-of-staff of war and to knock down and bury world imperialism and sweep away all the revisionist garbage.

Long Live the Struggle of the World Proletariat for a Genuine International Upholding of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought!

An internationalist comrade friend from Peru

## Comments on the Second International Conference on the Occasion of May Day 1984 (Read at May 1st rally in Detroit)

Today we are faced with rapidly deteriorating world affairs. The two superpowers, the USA and USSR, are increasingly moving in the direction of a bipolar world aimed at furthering their political and economic gains. Further-

more, the continuing arms race between the superpowers, coupled with increases in arms sales to the developing countries is at the point of no return. In their desire to compete with one another, in strategic as well as economic terms, both superpowers have created chronic problems in their economies. This is specially important in our understanding of the Reagan administration's desperate attempts to further increase arms production. The capitalist economic cycles has entered its decline phase in its longer-cycle where the short-cycles can no longer make recovery possible. The one solution seen to such a problem, in the eyes of the capitalists, is to step into a major war coupled with the creation of a war-economy just as it was seen during the pre-WWII years. Therefore, the threat of World War III is more of a reality today than ever before. When we consider the possibility that such a war can also mean the end of the human race and world destruction our struggle against the imperialist policies of superpowers becomes that much more important.

Faced with such developments it is essential for the world's Marxist-Leninist organizations and parties to enter a global dialogue to establish revolutionary unity among the progressive forces. Thus, the creation of the Second International Conference is essential for such a cause. The efforts of this International Conference will be the most important factor in preventing a Third World War by bringing together the anti-imperialist forces in the form of a global united front with clear-cut policies for revolutionary struggle. In this International Conference the true Marxist-Leninists of the world can analyze the historical experiences of different countries around the globe. This will not only further the theory and application of the Marxist-Leninist Thought but also help in displaying more effectively the faults of the revisionist theories.

However, such a dialogue should not be limited to those groups who are committed to a specific party-line. Other non-revisionist Marxist-Leninist groups should be welcomed to such debates to increase understanding and unity among the world's Marxist-Leninists. After all, our enemies are the same and unity among us is essential for the cause of world communism in a true Marxist-Leninist line.

As the revolutionary Turkish students in Michigan we support the distribution of the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* in 22 languages worldwide on May Day 1984. Also on this historic day we greet all the true revolutionary anti-imperialist forces around the world which are continuing the struggle for world communism.

Revolutionary Turkish students

## Statement From a Chinese Internationalist

I understand the significance of the Cultural Revolution in two ways: first, it was an enrichment and advance in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. It represented a development of understanding of how to fight back the restoration of capitalism through continuing the revolution under socialism. Under socialism there will always be capitalist-roaders within the communist party, those who want to return the socialist society to the capitalist road. Mao developed the theory of the Cultural Revolution to continue the struggle toward communism, classless society.

Second, through the Cultural Revolution the Chinese people have been educated to expose those capitalist-roaders within the party. Through the actual struggle that went on everywhere, in culture, in education, in the countryside and the city, in the factories — they struggled for the correct political line. Which political line would lead back to capitalism; which one will advance socialism? This experience is planted in millions of people's minds. It will grow in the future. People will rise up to overthrow the capitalists who rule China today.

When I heard about the resolution honoring Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao, I see the revolution and the struggle is still continuing. The future is bright!

Detroit  
May 1st, 1984

# The Day They Nuked Juárez

The city of Juárez sits right on the border between the United States and Mexico. It's not unusual for so-called "illegals" to cross the Rio Grande here, risking being arrested or shot at by the Border Patrol — sometimes simply to get the ten bucks the South El Paso blood bank offers for a pint of blood.

Tourist brochures paint border towns like Juárez with phrases like "perennial fiestas" and "colorful sidewalk shopping." But anyone who's been there knows of the grim poverty that lines the streets at every turn. Small children sell shoeshines and beg; the older ones offer cigarettes. People are hustling everywhere just to eke out a living. The curio shops are plentiful and filled with trinkets owners hope will find the fancy of some tourist who has come across for the day to do some shopping with dollars.

Over a million people live in this city. Outside the downtown area houses made of clay and stucco, or sometimes just cardboard and scrap lumber, line unpaved streets and not too far away huge factories greet passersby with signs announcing U.S. companies like RCA or General Electric. Ninety percent of the tens of thousands of people who work in these places are women. And at the same time border restrictions are eased so that other women of Juárez can cross the border daily into El Paso to work as maids.

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Twenty years ago, the Picker Company in Cleveland, Ohio manufactured a cancer therapy unit called the Picker 3000. To assemble one of these units, small pellets of metallic cobalt that have been made radioactive are placed in a stainless steel container and tightly sealed in a tungsten wheel about the size of a tricycle tire. The whole thing is then secured behind a thick lead shield. Radiation is emitted out of a tiny pin-hole in this shield in order to treat patients with localized cancer.

One such Picker 3000, through a series of incidents, found its way to Juárez and is now being targeted as the source of what some are calling the biggest and most dangerous radiation accident that's ever happened in North America.

In 1977 the Lubbock, Texas hospital which had been using the Picker 3000 sold it to an x-ray equipment company in Fort Worth which then made a deal to sell the device, by then somewhat technologically out of date, to Centro Médico, a clinic in Juárez. The sale finalized, the unit was transported to the Mexican city, but once there, never was used. In fact, it just sat in a warehouse for the next 6-7 years because the clinic could not afford to hire the kind of specialists and doctors who could operate such a unit.

## Sale

Then last November, Vicente Sotelo, an electrician (who also makes some extra money on the side, hauling and selling junk) went to the warehouse to pick up a bunch of material and take it down to the Jonke Fenix Junkyard. One of the things he and a friend threw onto the back of Sotelo's truck was the heavy radioactive tungsten wheel, which was then lying on the floor, unmarked except to say, "Made in Cleveland," and outside of its big protective lead casing. At the junkyard, Sotelo was able to get a quick \$9 for the capsule-filled wheel, but before this, out of curiosity, he forced the unmarked capsule open as he stood in the back of his truck. Hundreds of the 6,010 silvery pellets spilled onto the truck floor as Sotelo tossed the wheel aside, and by the time he had driven to the junkyard, some of them had rolled off the truck and lay all along the roadway. After leaving the junkyard Sotelo drove home to his neighborhood in another part of Juárez and parked his truck on a small back street. The truck then stayed there for the next eight weeks, crippled by a flat tire.

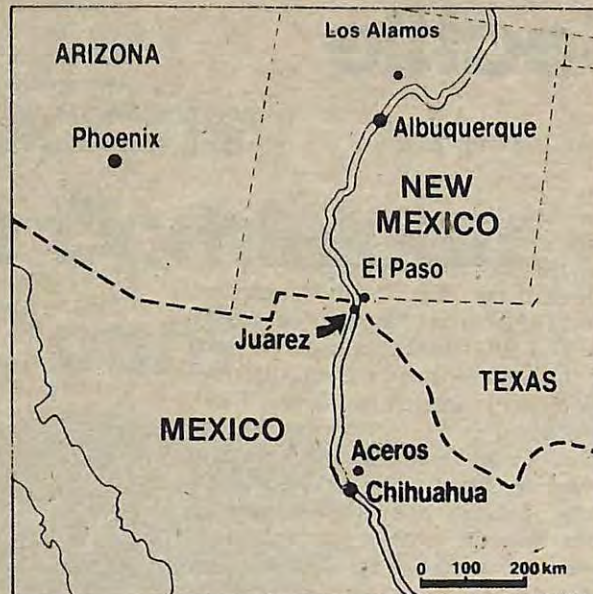
During the following two months many people would walk by and children



Chromosomes damaged by radiation (the extra twists shown by the arrows).



The radioactive truck



played on and around the truck which at this point was dangerously "hot." The whole capsule had held all together about 400 curies of radioactive cobalt — and of this around 60 curies had been scattered about in the truck. Anyone walking close by was immediately exposed to a significantly high dose of radioactivity — the equivalent of 50 rads an hour at one yard of radioactivity was emitted. (One to 50 rads per hour is considered a significant radiation dose; consider that the highest exposure a bystander reportedly received from the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island was 100 millirads, or about one-tenth of a rad. And for half the population, 450 rads received instantaneously over the whole body is a lethal dose.)

## Scrap

As the truck sat radiating people for weeks, back at the junkyard the remaining 340 curies worth of cobalt pellets were contaminating "saleable" junk; scrap metal to be loaded onto trucks and taken to Mexican foundries where it is then recycled. As the giant magnet swung around picking up scrap metal the capsule was scooped up and cobalt pellets fell out all over the yard. Most of the deadly pellets mixed in with various piles of scrap metal. Others found their way onto the road where trucks ran over them, picked them up temporarily in tire treads and later spread even more of the deadly beads all over the highway. It is known exactly what day Sotelo sold the capsule to the Jonke Fenix Junkyard — December 6 — because all paperwork dated that day and afterwards was later found to be radioactive.

But this horror story continues. The junkyard regularly supplied stuff to two foundries in the area. One of these was the Falcon which makes table legs for one of the largest distributors of restaurant tables in the U.S. The Falcon company was nearby, also in Juárez, and is an affiliate of a U.S.-owned company. The junkyard also made frequent deliveries to a Chihuahua foundry which produces steel rods, or rebar, used to reinforce concrete in buildings.

It is at these two places where 300 curies of radiation was delivered and subsequently melted down with the rest of the scrap metal — the end product being

literally several thousand tons of radioactive table legs and building material.

Still the deadly accident continued to go undetected as hundreds of deadly pellets remained in the back of Sotelo's truck and at the junkyard. But later in January some 600 tons of the contaminated steel was shipped to the United States. On January 17th it just so happened that a delivery truck carrying some of the stuff took a wrong turn and accidentally ended up near the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, a major facility for nuclear weapons research. The stuff in the truck immediately tripped off a radiation alarm. And so it was only through this happenstance that American and Mexican authorities learned of the contamination and traced the radiation back to the Juárez junkyard and Sotelo's truck which was still idled with its flat tire.

American officials, alerted to the danger of contaminated steel crossing the borders into the U.S., quickly tracked down all the table legs and steel rods in February and March and promptly returned all the stuff back across the border to Mexico! The shipment that had tripped off the alarm at Los Alamos had actually only been measured at 6 millirems per hour, but another shipment was found that was emitting 200 millirems per hour at a distance of six inches (the equivalent of about four x-rays). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was consulted and it informed officials that recommended levels of radiation exposure should be no more than 500 millirems per year.

Immediately, State Health officials, Geiger counters in hand, set out to inspect newly built homes, shopping centers and swimming pools in the U.S. — areas where the steel had been delivered and used. Then just as efficiently, they publicly determined that while some of the material had indeed been somewhat "hot" (some emitting up to 600 millirads per hour), "most of the metal produced very low levels of radiation and never posed a serious health threat to Americans who came in contact with the metal. . . ."

## Mexico

But the source of the problem in Mexico wasn't "cleaned up" quite so quickly.

About 40 curies of the cobalt pellets remained around the junkyard for another two months and a significant amount of the stuff still lay along the highways. One newspaper reported that last month a special reconnaissance helicopter provided by the United States Department of Energy flew over the area and found no less than 22 radioactive sites. And at least eight pellets have been dug out of roadway pavement in the area. (The article failed to mention whether the U.S. Department of Energy had done anything to actually clean up these "hot zones.")

While table legs and such were being methodically tracked down in the U.S., thousands of tons of the contaminated rebar found their way into four or five more Mexican states. At this point, in hundreds of homes in Mexico people are probably sleeping next to walls that contain the radioactive rods.

The cost of dealing with all this has been high for Mexico. But there is an even bigger price being paid by the people who've been exposed to the radioactive cobalt. Most of these people will probably never even be able to take the necessary tests to find out if damage has been done, let alone be treated if they do have significant, even mortal damage. The standard method of assessing radiation exposure, which involves testing for chromosome damage, costs about \$1,000 per person; the cost of treating the effects are of course much higher still.

There were tests done on 10 Juárez residents, including people from Sotelo's neighborhood and some of the junkyard workers, and all ten showed chromosome damage. But it appears that these tests were done as a sample, so that officials could ascertain some estimate of the dose of radiation that had been taken in the area. From these tests it was determined that indeed, quite a number of people, some 200 at least, had been exposed to 150-200 rads — an amount higher than the doses received by people on the Marshall Islands when radioactive fallout fell on them from U.S. nuclear testing.

Some news articles in the U.S. press are now putting the blame on Sotelo, saying the whole thing wouldn't have happened if Sotelo didn't steal the radioactive capsule in the first place!

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# Seattle

Continued from page 6

more difficult to win a world war, and could serve as a base area for anti-imperialism in the entire region.

Despite the rhetoric of Democracy, this was and is something the rulers of the U.S. and BRD cannot allow. The junta and the attacks upon Turkey's left opposition are intimately tied to the West's war plans.

We are working in the United States to prevent nuclear war. We see the struggles of the Turkish and Kurdish peoples against imperialism as an essential part of preventing world war. Because the government here does not represent the people or listen to reason, we engage in people's actions against the war preparations. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Turkey.

*From: An activist of the group Planetary Initiative.*

May Day arouses the voices of many of the human species in public remembrance of our age-old struggles of oppressed against oppressors throughout history. Today the shape of history changes fast in eerie twists and turns, where oppressed and oppressors may repeatedly trade places, or may all die together, or, may

with new tools all win a new happiness. Darkness of oppressions are fierce in many assumed "liberated" nations, and many would-be "liberators" will be soon tempted to enact nightmares of germ-war, poisons, neutron bombs, torture and such — and the wierdly world-suicidal "nuclear winter" phenomenon (only recently discovered by the world's scientists) means the supposed "experts" of supposed "stable" nations have all brought total doom much closer than anyone ever thought, and yet equally strange is that these times are rare moments with unparalleled hopes and blazing rays of brightness — the end of smallpox, the increased hopes to end world hunger, the growth of the environmental movement and anti-nuclear sanity.

People are experimenting with lifestyles and therapies which seem to grant more happiness with more gentleness than most history would indicate is possible. Today's planet is a confusing rush of light and dark, and only some of us dare even try to respond to the planet's crisis — some being people who fiercely struggle to end the dark, and some being people who gently struggle to build the light. All should learn from each other's struggles — toward maximized humane effect. Thus diverse groups and persons should exchange simple praises and complex far visions on May Day — pointing at simple effects of our best work, and pointing on, far, towards inevitable unseen outcomes.

*From: An African patriot from Central Africa :*

*In Solidarity with the Speakout against the War preparations of the two super-powers.*

For quite some time it has been clear that the two superpowers are gearing up for the day when they will throw away their pretensions about the "need for World peace" and plunge the World in the Third World War.

Recent events, Afghanistan, Lebanon, South America, Angola, and the South Korean jet incident all point to an accelerated pace of United States and Soviet Union on their collision course.

World War is not something imperialists can avoid, the only way they can redivide the World and maintain their spheres of influence is through brute force, and not through conferences of detente or disarmament.

However World War is not in the interests of the masses of the World's people. Unlike the oppressors and the exploiters, the masses of the people desire to live in peace and friendship, and want to end oppression and exploitation once and for all.

That is why our people in the Third World have not given up the fight against imperialism and neo-colonialism. Our people have seen through the sham of military dictatorships, International Monetary Fund-sponsored "aid" and other tricks put forward by the imperialists to hoodwink our people and while they continue the same imperialist relations and pass this off as "national independence."

We in the Third World applaud and support the struggle of the working and all oppressed and exploited people of the

# Operation Mundo

The last time a U.S. imperialist nuclear test was reported in the pages of the *Revolutionary Worker*, was when the U.S. exercised a little gruesome symbolism and shot off a nuke to coincide with last summer's anniversary of the Hiroshima attack. For similar reasons, we present the following little news item:

May 1, 1984 — The United States and Britain held a joint nuclear bomb test in Yucca Flats, Nevada, code-named Mundo. The nuclear explosion was approximately 15 times more powerful than the bomb that hit Hiroshima.

An imperialist statement on May Day about their understanding of the world situation and their task? □

World. We support and benefit from their struggles against oppression and exploitation.

We join you and support your speakout against the war preparations of United States and Soviet Union. We also realize that the greedy imperialists will not become "sensible" or "reasonable." It's only their defeat that will bring peace on our planet.

Down with the War preparations of the two superpowers!

Long live the anti-imperialist struggle of the World's peoples!



Revolutionary Worker

# A Call for Red Wages

*The following leaflet was distributed in Silicon Valley, California.*

Fellow electronics workers in the Silicon Valley:

We are a group of immigrant electronics workers from below the border who were very inspired to see the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. This movement means a lot to us who really yearn to see the whole world rid of exploitation and oppression. Especially now, with the threat of destruction that the two superpowers (the U.S. and the USSR) are posing to us in a world war that they are preparing for — there urgently needs to be another path of proletarian revolution all over the world.

It is difficult to fight and overcome the apparent strength of the imperialists. But with the forming of a movement on a world scale with a single-minded program, our fighting capacity is truly increased. It is out of this necessity that we ask all of you to contribute to this fighting movement and help to bring an end to all the ugliness in the world and forge a brilliant future before the imperialists start World War 3. Sometimes

it is easy to forget how much and how long the U.S. imperialists have been sucking the life out of the countries it oppresses because things seem so "democratic" here. But we are reminded every day as daily degradation goes on in the form of raids conducted at a moment's notice and working in subhuman conditions. We urge all workers to take note of the importance of helping to lift this monster — U.S. imperialism — off our backs and thus join together to put an end to it once and for all. To us, it is no great sacrifice to contribute a day's wages to support the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement — because it has everything to do with the path to true liberation and nothing to do with prolonging this horror that we are subjected to every day. We strongly urge you to contribute to this cause on Red Wages Day.

**SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS — BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE A DAY'S WAGES LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST MOVEMENT!**

# San Francisco

Continued from page 11

The march formed into a line in front of the barricades, with youth waving red flags right in the face of the pigs. Suddenly, almost out of nowhere, there appeared a squad of five actual, squealing piglets. These were the four-hooved kind dressed in red, white and blue bunting, and led by chief squealer "Colonel Pork Chop." But the Colonel did not have very high pig discipline over his troops; four of them quickly wandered into the middle of Market Street, the main downtown street in San Francisco, and this at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, rush hour. The pigs in blue and in plainclothes started to fight among themselves over who was going to suffer the humiliation of chasing down the squealing piglets. By the time the "big pigs had rounded up the little

pigs," as one laughing observer put it, all the animals were pretty upset and the police presence, which was supposed to be somber and intimidating, was beginning to look a little raggedy.

(As we go to press, the authorities have attempted to exact retribution for the successful May Day festivities. They arrested two men in front of the recruiting center, and are holding them for seven felonies each, including conspiracy, obstructing traffic, disturbing the peace, and cruelty to animals; bail has been set at \$5,500 apiece.)

The demonstration then moved four more blocks down Market Street, converged and defiantly sang the *Internationale* even while the police pressed in with their riot gear. The march then dispersed, but celebrating continued late into the night, and the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* was taken out into the rebel corners of the Bay Area. □

# Juárez

Continued from page 13

But the real concern by the U.S. government is to prevent any more of the stuff from finding its way across the border back into the U.S. One of the ways they are dealing with this problem is that they've asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to place scores of radiation detectors at all major border crossings. Undoubtedly, they will be placed right alongside the La Migra anti-people detectors already "guarding" these sacred borders.

\*\*\*\*\*

A challenge for our readers... How many different examples can you find in the above story which reveal the thoroughly exploitative and parasitic relations born and bred of imperialism? □

# Internationalist Banners



May Day this year was enriched by many banners greeting the First, displaying its slogans and especially welcoming the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. The following is a small sampling:

### From Atlanta Prison to Turkish Prison

Break the Chains, Unleash the Fury of Women as a Mighty Force for Revolution

The following letter accompanied the hand-crocheted banner:

To the prisons of Turkey from the prisons of the U.S.:  
Revolutionary Internationalist Greetings!

May First is approaching and we, like you, will celebrate our Red Holiday behind bars. And like you, we will be preparing for and dreaming of the day when imperialism is overthrown and wiped from the face of the earth.

We are 7 women incarcerated in the jails of Georgia, all from Atlanta, Georgia — the infamous home of the Black youth murders. Three of us are political prisoners, jailed for leading a mass burning of American flags on May First, 1981, and the others awakening to the need for revolution.

News has reached the U.S. of the furious repression being heaped on the prisoners of Turkey, especially in Diyarbakir; and of your firm and heroic resistance, including the thousands of people on hunger strike. We are sending these May First greetings to convey to you the tremendous inspiration your consciousness and courage means to those of us who will have the honor of being part of the slaying of the Beast of U.S. Imperialism here in its home.

At the same time, we think it's very important for you, and all those around the world who are held down in the neo-colonies of the U.S., to understand that there are real cracks and fissures even today in the power of the U.S. As the U.S. strikes out to assert its power and prepare for imperialist world war in Lebanon and Grenada, for instance, reports leak out of resistance and desertion within the U.S. army. And most importantly, there are forces here in the U.S., in the Belly of the Beast, many of them led by the RCP, that are actively preparing now to rise up decisively when the time is right.

And then comes the very welcome news that on May First, 1984, we will all celebrate the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement with the distribution of its *Declaration* in 22 languages, greatly enhancing the possibility of revolution in many countries around the world and strengthening the possibility of revolution in critical imperialist countries BEFORE they launch imperialist world war.

To convey all this, we are sending you a hand-crocheted May First banner with the slogan "Break the Chains, Unleash the Fury of Women as a Mighty Force for Revolution." As women prisoners, we are allowed and encouraged to pursue "lady-like" activities like crocheting baby blankets. We have seized this opportunity to weave our internationalist call into a bright, Red future without classes, exploitation, and oppression.

Long Live Red First of May,  
Symbol of World Proletarian Revolution

### From Washington, D.C. to the Dominican Republic

To the People of the Dominican Republic: We are the proletariat living in the U.S. We live in the barrios, we have been in its jails and its army. But we have also been in the mountains of Peru, the valleys of Kurdistan, the streets of Belfast and the hills of

## Damián García Park

Continued from page 11

away and an image is needed of a police force that is in control and capable of managing any protest. And a big attack on May Day would have invited the obvious spontaneous comparisons: when it comes to suppression of antigovernment demonstrators, and support for pro-government demonstrators — what's the damn difference between the "evil empire" and the good old USA? This would have complicated other necessary Olym-

pic (and general) imagery — that of the "pluralism" and "freedom and democracy" of the host country.

A series of mobile marches were conducted on the sidewalks surrounding the park, taking the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, and in particular the *Declaration*, to the people who had been on the outskirts of the celebration. As the agitators held up and waved the red booklets, on several occasions people jumped out to grab them up and pay for

Eritrea. In the U.S. as in all parts of the world, the international forces are gathering — preparing for the final defeat of imperialism!

Build the Unity of the International Proletariat! Hail the Formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement!

(This is the English translation of a banner that was done in Washington, D.C. and included signatures by people from El Salvador, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Azania.)

### From Salinas to Peru

Victory To The People's War In Peru  
An Inspiration To The People of the World,  
A Firm Struggle Against All Imperialism  
Long Live The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement  
Long Live The Red First of May

Signed by  
20 Farmworkers Within The Imperialist U.S.  
Salinas, Calif.

(Translated from Spanish by the RW)

### From Proletarians of Oakland and Richmond, California To:

**THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY/MARXIST-LENINIST AND THE  
REBELS OF MAMAK AND DIYARBAKIR PRISON AND  
ALL TURKISH REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS AGAINST IMPERIALISM**

We are Black proletarian fighters from the plantation called the USA. We know what it is to be lynched, tortured and murdered. We have suffered mentally. They have used drugs as a weapon against us, to enslave our consciousness. We have also tasted the joy of rebellion. But we know these chains need more than rattling. They must be broken! On the eve of world war 3, Turkey has had its foundations shaken by the strikes of the prisoners. This heroic struggle is a tremendous inspiration to us here who are faced with daily execution on the streets of the USA. In the face of these brutal attacks, we can see this struggle is spreading. This is a challenge to everyone of us who has hungered for liberation to move forward the struggle for REVOLUTION.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE PRISON REBELS!  
ALL POWER TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE  
AGAINST THE US-BACKED JUNTA!  
DOWN WITH US IMPERIALISM!

Signed by 54 proletarians

### From Miami to West Germany

Prevent World War, Step Up The Struggle For Revolution  
To the Rebel Youth of West Germany from the Rebel Proletarian Youth of Miami  
Signed by 50 people

### From Atlanta To The Dominican Republic

WAR MONGRELS, CURB 'EM

Signed by 70 people

(This banner was made by art students and signed at the Atlanta College of Art and then carried in a march through downtown Atlanta on May Day.)

### From Chicago to India

Internationalist Greetings from Chicago to India—

Long Live Red 1st of May, Symbol of the World Proletarian Revolution! Build the Unity of the International Proletariat! Hail the Formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement! Prevent World War! Step up the Struggle for Revolution Throughout the World!

— 41 proletarians from throughout the world, now living in Chicago

### From the Mission District, San Francisco to Iran

To Union of Iranian Communists (Sabedaran)  
May Day '84 We March With You Against all Imperialism  
We Salute The Struggle Against The Reactionary Khomeini Regime/U.S. Imperialism  
Uphold The Heroic Amol Uprising  
Support The Struggle of the Kurdish People  
Forward With The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement!

Signed by 75  
Proletarians and Progressive People  
from San Francisco Mission District

### From Silicon Valley in California to Peru

To The Communist Party of Peru

On Red May 1st — We support your struggle to fan the flames of revolution in the Andes!

We are much inspired by your refusal to capitulate to all imperialism!

Long Live the Armed Struggle in Peru!

Down With the Belaúnde regime and its U.S. imperialist masters!

Long Live the Maoist guerrillas and their leadership, the Communist Party of Peru!

Long Live Internationalism!

Signed by 70 electronics workers in the  
Silicon Valley, California

(Translated from Spanish by the RW.)

them — taking them right out of the agitators' hands. At the conclusion of the convergence, squads of volunteers (mostly immigrant youth) were formed up on the spot to take the *Declaration* out into the tightly packed apartment buildings of the neighborhood. At several stops, squads sang the *Internationale*. The response was warm and enthusiastic, with some people obviously knowing about the *Declaration* and eagerly awaiting it, and others, like the young Mexicano, reading down the list of organizations involved and immediately buying the booklet. Some people said they wanted to send copies to friends and

relatives in Latin America. The celebration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and its *Declaration* took place throughout the streets of this immigrant barrio until quite late at night. □

### CORRECTION

In RW No. 247 (March 16, 1984), a letter by Zee Smith on page 12 contains a typographical error. In the second paragraph, the second sentence begins: There is now a need. . . should have read: We are thankful there is no way to keep the strength of rebellion contained. □

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