



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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

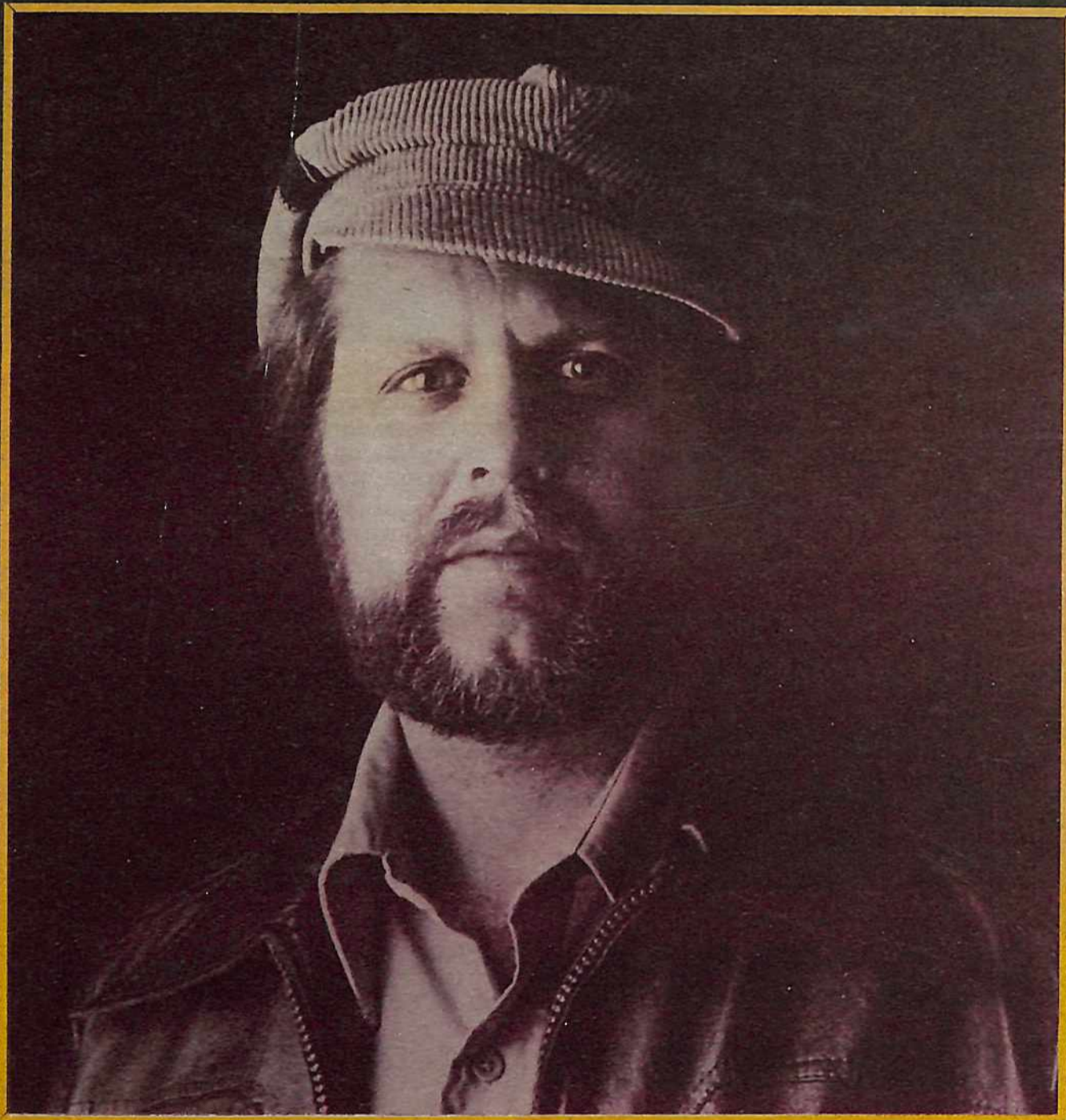
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From the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA:

Our ideology is Marxism-Leninism-Maoism

Our vanguard is the Revolutionary Communist Party

Our leader is Chairman Avakian



Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP, USA

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism

**New Statement On
Our Revolutionary Science**

See centerfold

Three Main Points

by **Bob Avakian**
Chairman of
the RCP, USA

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

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

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

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning. □



Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

The *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* was adopted in March 1984 by the delegates and observers at the Second International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations which formed the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

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U.S. Navy Report on Iran Air Flight #655

Murderers Find Themselves Not Guilty



On August 19 the U.S. Navy came out with its "Formal Investigation into the Circumstances Surrounding the Downing of Iran Air Flight 655 on 3 July 1988." The criminals who shot down a civilian airliner and killed 290 people investigated themselves — and found themselves to be 100 percent innocent. There is not even a trace of apology or remorse about the deaths. Instead, the report is unrepentant in upholding the shootdown as "justified." It is a study in gangster logic and reactionary arrogance.

Lies from the Beginning

The first version of the U.S. cover story on the downing of Flight 655 by the U.S. warship *Vincennes* was given at a July 3 press conference in Washington by Admiral William Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Crowe claimed that the Iranian airliner was flying in a "threatening" manner, giving the captain of the *Vincennes* no choice but to shoot to "defend" his ship. He said that Flight 655 was flying outside the civilian air corridor; that it was at a low altitude and descending; that it was going at a very fast speed; that the plane's transponder was sending out signals tagging it as a military aircraft; and that the Iranian pilot ignored many warnings from the *Vincennes*. These factors, according to Crowe, added up to an "attack profile" of an F-14 jet and led the captain of the *Vincennes* to order the missiles fired.

The Navy report admits that each and every one of these claims made by Crowe and repeated by other U.S. officials were distortions or just flat-out lies.

Flight 655, a regularly scheduled flight which appears in internationally available airline schedules, clearly was flying well inside the civilian air corridor assigned to it. Its flight was perfectly normal for a civilian airliner: 13,500 feet elevation, 380 knots speed, and on a "continuous ascent" from the time it took off from the Bandar Abbas airport in Iran.

The Navy report points out: "Iran Air Flight 655 squawked Mode III-6760 code from take off to missile intercept." Mode III-6760 is the signal sent by transponders on civilian planes. The Navy now says that the military signals the *Vincennes* picked up were from another plane still at the Bandar Abbas airport. Even at the time of the incident on July 3, the U.S. warship *Sides*, which was stationed near the *Vincennes*, had identified Flight 655 as a civilian plane and a "non-threat."

The report admits that it was not surprising that the pilot of the Flight 655 did not hear the warnings from the *Vincennes*: "Due to heavy pilot workload during take-off and climb-out, and the requirement to communicate with both Approach Control and Tehran Center, the pilot of Iran Air Flight 655 probably was

not monitoring IAD [International Air Distress]." The report also says that even if the Iranian pilot had heard the *Vincennes'* warnings, they may not have been clear anyway: "Current verbal warnings and challenges used by [U.S.] units are ambiguous because they do not clearly identify to pilots exactly which aircraft the ship is attempting to contact." For example, one of the warnings from the *Vincennes* began, "Iranian F-14 this is USN warship...."

Blaming the Victims

So where does all this lead to? The Navy report insists that the Aegis radar and weapons system on the *Vincennes* worked without a hitch. If there were any problems, the report says, they were with "human error" and "combat stress" among the crew. But these are dismissed as minor problems by U.S. officials. "Mistakes were made on board *Vincennes* that day," Crowe said at the press conference to release the Navy report. But, he said, "Singly, the errors or mistakes were not crucial to the fateful decision. Even cumulatively, they do not appear to change the picture in a decisive way."

Crowe, along with U.S. Secretary of Defense Carlucci, gave full endorsement to the decision to fire on Flight 655: "Given the operating environment, Captain Rogers acted reasonably and did what his nation expected of him in defense of his ship and crew." When the Navy report was finished, the general in charge of the Central Command, which is responsible for the American military forces in the Persian Gulf, had issued a "nonpunitive" letter of reprimand to a mid-level operations officer aboard the *Vincennes* for passing on incorrect information about the Iranian plane to the captain. But even this mild action was withdrawn because, Carlucci said, the letter might be seen as "punitive."

Just who is to blame, then, for the 290 deaths? According to the U.S., Iran is the guilty party. Crowe and Carlucci accused Iran of causing the slaughter by

starting a combat in the waters near the *Vincennes* and then letting a commercial airliner fly over the area. "I believe the actions of Iran were the proximate cause of this accident and would argue that Iran must bear the principal responsibility for the tragedy," Crowe declared.

Never mind that the so-called "combat situation" started when helicopters from

Continued on page 15



The Real Mission of the Vincennes

Two news items which received very little attention or went unreported in the U.S. provide more proof that the American government's claims about the *Vincennes* and other warships being in the Persian Gulf to "protect neutral shipping" are just plain lies:

- On July 2, the day before the shoot-down of Flight 655, there was a report in the *International Herald Tribune* (an English-language paper in Europe) that the U.S. had stationed the *Vincennes* in the Strait of Hormuz specifically to target a Silkorm missile site in Iran. According to the report, Lieutenant General Crist, head of U.S. Central Command (responsible for U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region), said that the *Vincennes* was "ordered to fire against any Silkorm launched, regardless of its intended target." Crist added that "U.S. military leaders were trying to devise a strategy for destroying the site, which would require use of so-called 'smart' bombs that are highly accurate." Also, Crist said the *Vincennes* was "moved there because of increased activity by Iranian fighter

planes, although the planes' operations apparently are directed against Iraqi air attacks rather than U.S. ships."

- As this report makes clear, the *Vincennes* did not "just happen to be in the area" at the time of the Flight 655 shoot-down but was sent there on a mission to attack a military target on Iranian soil. It would not be surprising if the *Vincennes* had standing orders to attack anything "suspicious" flying out of Iran.

- A February 15 article in the *International Herald Tribune* reported on an incident a few days earlier involving the U.S. destroyer *Chandler* and an Iraqi warplane in the central Persian Gulf. The *Chandler's* radar operators spotted the Iraqi plane coming up behind the ship. The captain said afterwards, "Having watched the geometry of their attacks for some time, I was concerned that he would be firing his missile while he was heading toward us." The captain tried to warn the Iraqi plane away by radio, but the pilot apparently did not understand English. Then the *Chandler* fired two warning flares. But the Iraqi plane still fired two

missiles at the *Chandler* — both missed. In May 1987 an Iraqi plane hit the U.S. warship *Stark* with two missiles. The *Chandler* almost suffered the same fate, but the incident caused hardly a ripple.

The U.S. government claims that a big factor in the downing of Iran Air Flight 655 was that the captain of the *Vincennes* had only a short time to decide if the radar blip was hostile before deciding to fire the missiles. But in the *Chandler* incident, although the captain knew that there was a good chance the Iraqi plane would attack, he still took time to warn the pilot on the radio and then fire flares. Even after these warnings failed, the *Chandler* still did not fire at the Iraqi plane. Clearly, the key difference in the decisions taken by the captains of the *Vincennes* and the *Chandler* was that one was dealing with an Iranian plane and the other with an Iraqi plane. Since U.S. policy was one of supporting Iraq in its war against Iran, the *Vincennes* fired its missiles while the *Chandler* did not. □

BIKO LIVES!



Michael Rose, Ikey C. and Pablo Moses during Biko Lives! Festival, 1987.

**Saturday, September 24
12:30-7:30 p.m.**

**St. Mary's Park — 147th & St. Ann's, South Bronx
(Raindate: Sunday, September 25)**

**Azania on Fire! Take It Higher!
Free South Africa! Free the South Bronx!**

**Proletarians of the Free South Africa/Free the South Bronx Network,
July 1988**

Endorsers of the Biko Lives Festival include:

Ayizan (Haitian Rock Ra-Ra)
Black Rock Coalition
Blueprint
Lester Bowie
Bronx Council on the Arts
Bronx River Arts Center and Gallery
Robin Campbell, UB40*
Drum and Spirit of Africa Society
DST
False Prophets
First Priority Music
4 Against Babylon

Andy Gonzalez, Conjunto Libre*
Keith Haring
High Quality Brothers
Ikon
E. Jam
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Resurrection Roman Catholic
Church, Harlem*
MC Lyte
Pablo Moses
Mutubaruka
Oku Onuora

RCP, NY District
RCYB, NY
Father Salvador Ros, Bronx
Michael Rose
South West Africa National Union
Stetsasonic
Trouble Funk
Edwina Tyler

*for identification only

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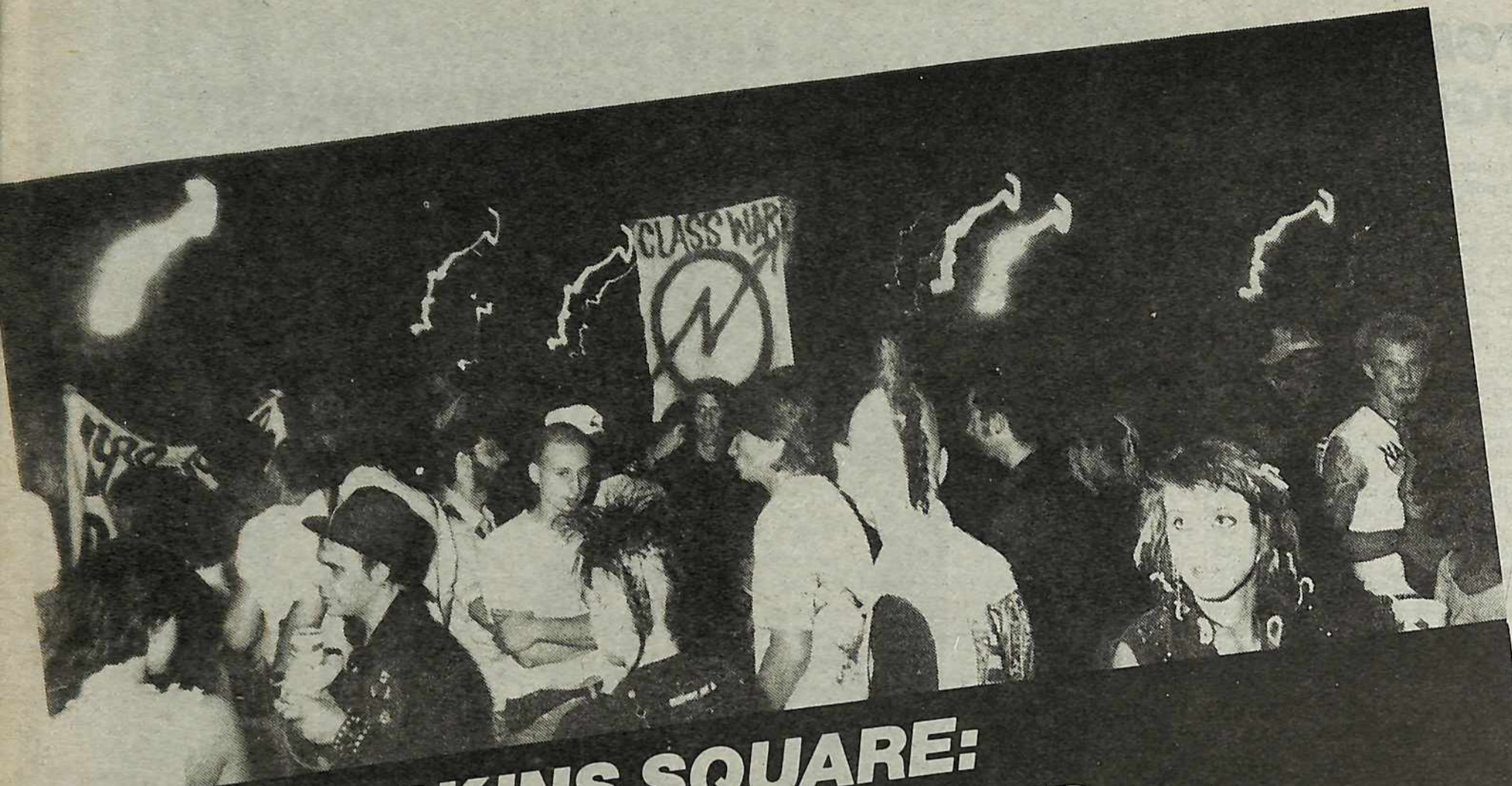
5 train to 149th St. & Third Avenue, walk east on 149th to St. Ann's, then right to 147th.
6 train to Brook Avenue, walk east on 138th St. to St. Ann's, then left to 147th.

To contact festival organizers, leave message at 212-969-0681

Big Graffiti

Graffiti on vacant hotel in downtown Richmond, California reads, "Oppressors are not protectors. Police keep us down not drugs out. Revolutionary Communist Party."





TOMPKINS SQUARE: THE CLAMPDOWN AND THE MIRACLE ON AVENUE A

Throughout New York City, and reaching far and wide into densely populated surrounding areas, in the height of international tourist season no less, "Tompkins Square" has become a household word and a big topic of debate.

On August 6, police brutally attacked protesters, and then everyone and everything in their path, in a determined effort by the city to gain control of this small center of things that are "out of their control" in NYC. Tompkins Square — one of those places where Black and Latino proletarians hang with radical artists and intellectuals, homeless, and older Eastern

European immigrants. It is one of those scenes in New York that people from other cities have never seen the likes of, where the seeds of the possibilities for the future are striking at first glance. And, as Park Commissioner Henry Stern told the *New York Times*, "If you read the posters in the park, you'd think that revolution was imminent."

Today, proletarians in the South Bronx debate the significance of seeing large numbers of white and middle-class people battling police across their TV screens. Immigrant workers in small factories in New Jersey debate the same question. A young man, arrested in the police riot and held at Rikers Island for a week, tells how excited the prisoners are about Tompkins Square — wishing and itching to get out there and join in.

For the proletariat, and all who are aching for revolution at the earliest possible time, Tompkins Square, and the continuing battle, is rich in lessons and bodes well for the future.

Crackdown on New York

A look at goings-on in New York City over the past few years makes one thing very clear — that the ruling class, looking at the future, are worried sick about New

"war on drugs."*

Particularly in Manhattan, their crown jewel, there has been a many-sided approach to gaining control. Often this has been spearheaded by systematic gentrification of neighborhoods followed by rallying new middle-class residents to become a foil against the oppressed, demanding "cleaning up the neighborhood," calling in the police to make the streets "safe" — clean of drugs and crime and clean of the people Mayor Koch has called "the element."

There have been other crackdowns as well. Bicycle messengers have been declared a "hazard to pedestrians." And, most recently, Koch has called for the help of the "good citizens of New York" in refusing to give money to "panhandlers" — that is, the tens of thousands of people in NY who survive only by the compassion of millions who recognize homelessness as the atrocity it is. To these people, the Good Mayor has essentially said, if you *must* feel such compassion, give to organized charities so that homeless people will be forced to rely on the city for their survival.

Last year Greenwich Village's famous Washington Square Park became the first target of attempts to destroy and control some of the areas that are especially characterized by radicalism. Wash-

RCP Chairman Bob Avakian has written:

"If things are sometimes frustrating for the revolutionaries, just think about the imperialists. In the U.S. they have worked so tirelessly to create the impression that everyone is united behind them; they have gone to such extremes to reassert more strongly the traditional relations and values that were so badly shaken — though not yet fully shattered — through the upsurges and changes wrought in the '60s and into the '70s; and they have done all this as a crucial part of their tightening things down for the ultimate showdown with the (other) evil empire. But when people see and feel more sharply what it is they are reasserting, what they are preparing for — and what the consequences of all this are and will be — masses of people are revolted and in turn revolt. This includes growing numbers within the 'solid middle class' and even within the ranks of the 'respectable citizens.' The turmoil and upheavals in Central America cause protests to grow against U.S. actions and agendas there; mass rebellion in South Africa provokes rebellions, among many different strata, within the USA — the real, ultimate power behind oppression in South Africa; the vicious campaign of terror to intensify the subjugation and degradation of women cannot help but call forth resistance in many forms, a resistance with a tremendously dangerous potential for a system which has as one of its main foundation stones the systematic oppression of women. And so it goes. Imperialism and all systems of exploitation and oppression, and those who preside over them, cannot help themselves. To enforce their rule, to pursue their interests, to act according to their own nature, to be what they are and perpetuate their existence and their dominant position — they must commit the most brutal outrages and monstrous crimes, they must do those things which provoke masses of people, from many different strata, into protest, resistance, and rebellion. Those who see the need to develop and transform this protest, resistance, and rebellion into a revolutionary struggle must unite with the thousands and millions who are protesting, resisting, and rebelling, but at the same time must also struggle with them to win them to the understanding of the source of all these crimes and outrages — the imperialist system — and the solution to all this: the overthrow of imperialism through proletarian revolution."

From the book *Bullets: From the Writings, Speeches & Interviews of Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA*

"I saw some miracles in the street last weekend . . . when we were collectively threatened by the police riot, all of a sudden people who hated each other recognized each other as allies."

York. And with good reason. This center of high finance, big money, high-city rollers and all is, after all, a city of more than eight million people. The overwhelming majority are a broad array of the poor and dispossessed. The homeless population alone in New York is larger than the population of some cities. And there is a tremendous amount of what constitutes the life of this city that is just plain out of the control of the ruling class.

The last few years have seen major attempts by the ruling class to bring things under control. These attempts have ranged in scope from the straight-out brutal and vicious suppression of Black people to the "things are seldom what they seem, skim milk masquerades as cream" campaigns like their so-called

ington Square Park, located next to prestigious New York University and just a few blocks from Tompkins Square, also has a long history as a social, cultural,

Continued on page 6

*In his interview "Questions for These Times" in *Revolution* magazine, Winter/Spring 1986 issue, Bob Avakian talks about the fascist offensive in the ideological sphere and the increase of repressive acts and makes the point that: "A lot of these things are sort of your 'things are seldom what they seem, skim milk masquerades as cream,' phenomena. That is, things are done under a banner which seems not only harmless but seems as if it's designed to deal with some outrage rather than to perpetrate another outrage. . . . all this is part of strengthening the repressive apparatus and doing trial runs for when these things are aimed much more directly against political opponents and revolutionary forces within this society."

TOMPKINS SQUARE

Continued from page 5
and political center of the unorthodox. Here, break-dancing crews from around the city would meet for contests judged by the applause of diverse crowds of hundreds, while folk singers led group sings of hundreds more a few feet away. Caribbean soccer teams played alongside student frisbee games. Elderly people and even "yuppies" played chess and backgammon with Black and Latino ex-prisoners and homeless people. Comics doing political satire honed their acts by performing to the widest and wildest audiences. And not too surprising in America 1988, drugs have been available to those who are interested. Suddenly, last year, the TV announced that the residents of Greenwich Village were demanding the "clean up" of the park. After erecting huge fences and shutting it down completely for weeks, the city reopened it complete with curfew, noise regulations, increased police presence, and a "sanitized" atmosphere with the clear message: "oppressed and rowdies, stay away." (Another park with a similar atmosphere in mid-town Manhattan has been contracted out by the city to a very expensive, exclusive restaurant.)

But it was at Tompkins Square Park that the powers-that-be met their match. Similar in character in some ways to Washington Square, Tompkins is located in the middle of "nothing to lose" territory in the East Village/Lower East Side section of Manhattan. Perhaps one element of the city's inability to pull off another Washington Square is that Tompkins is much more central to the survival of the lower strata in the area. Some residents pointed out that the system gets "uptight when they see people doing for themselves." Whether it is squatting, homesteading (taking over burnt-out buildings and organizing to fix them up and take over ownership), growing gardens in vacant lots, or sleeping in the park to avoid the nightmare of city shelters, the authorities are worried about this spirit that has characterized this community for years. It was in the context of all of this that Tompkins Square erupted and backfired on the ruling class.

The Logic of the Enemy

Veterans of the 1960s who were hanging out in the area hours earlier said that they could "see it coming." Police arrived on the scene with badges off or tape covering name plates and badge numbers. They came in riot shields. They swaggered around swinging their clubs and playing with them in the sick way they do when they are out for blood. The commanding officers disappeared at just the right moment (supposedly going fourteen blocks away to use the wash-room!).

At first the mayor and police commissioner stood boldly and firmly behind their police, with seemingly prepared statements about small bands of malcontents who want to take on the police and what will happen to them if they do. It was only after it was clear that police had been caught red-handed on video tape that they backed down. The *New York Times* ran an interesting little article on how video tape was once a key weapon in the hands of the police but has been turned into a mass weapon against them. And, adding fuel to the fire, the police managed to attack members of the bourgeois press and even significant numbers of the "respectable" community who had been dragged into the "mandate to clean up the park" in the first place.

It is worth noting, however, *how* they backed down. On August 11 Police Commissioner Ben Ward released his criticisms of the police to the public. There was not a single word about brutality, about violation of civil rights, about the abundance of rabid racist statements that spewed forth from the pigs that night. No, Ward's criticisms were of a strictly military nature. (See "Pig Self-Criticism.")

Since this time, in a more "civilized" police manner, there has been systematic targeting of key people in demos. Further, having temporarily lifted the curfew on Tompkins Square, Koch has vowed to reinstate it as soon as things "cool out."

NEW ISSUE! REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST QUARTERLY



IN ISSUE NO. 11....

PALESTINE: LET THE INTIFADA PAVE THE WAY FOR PEOPLE'S WAR!

Resolution on Palestine; RIM Committee Statement in Support of the Uprising in Palestine; "Israel: Imperialism's Attack Dog in the Middle East," a history of the Zionist state from the Balfour Declaration of 1917 to the present; "The Soviet Union and the Founding of Israel," a critique of Soviet support for the Israeli state; "Arab Reaction — The Other Enemy of the Intifada," an analysis of the role of the Arab governments; *Intifada*, photos, poems, and historic accounts of the Palestinian struggle.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's beautiful sea coast is world renowned. But in recent years the former British colony of Ceylon has been more known as the site of bitter warfare pitting the reactionary authorities against Tamil liberation fighters. An analysis shows that, far from bringing "peace," the recent agreement between India and Sri Lanka is another attack on the Tamil fighters and a new obstacle to revolution on the whole island.

SOVIETS ON "TERRORISM"

Under the guise of criticising "terrorism," a recent Soviet book sings the praises of the bourgeois state in the Western imperialist countries and condemns all who would dare to make revolution in these countries.

DOCUMENTS FROM THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PERU AND MORE...

FROM A WORLD TO WIN

"... *A World to Win* has been inspired by the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement announced on March 12, 1984, which has regrouped many Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations from around the world. ... *A World to Win* is not an official organ of the RIM and its pages are open to all those on the same side of the barricades in the fight against imperialism and reaction."

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These are desperate fools. Clearly, the battle is not over.

Miracles on Avenue A

Tompkins Square is very far from "cooled out" these days. On the day after the riot, inside of one hour, *RW* sellers in the park got out 500 posters reading, "Everybody Is Talking About Crime, But Who Are the Criminals?... Is There a Solution? Yes. Revolution!" One week after the riot, literally thousands of people from all over the world passed through an all day and night rally in the park. Dozens of bands played. A supporter of the RCP spoke, putting the at-

tack on the park in the context of broader attacks going on throughout society. A resident, who had videotaped most of the events of the riot, spoke about all the harassment he is getting from the state, including death-threat phone calls. An older Black woman spoke about a plaza in the community that the city wants to rip up where there are sixty murals and a soup kitchen that feeds close to 1,000 people each day. And many, many more stepped to the microphone and spoke their minds. The Revolution Books table in the park featured showings of the video on the RCP, USA, *They Say They Will*, throughout the day; and a *New*

York Times writer took note, "During the rally... some people watched a television screen showing a video tape of 1960s riots across the United States, including a speech by Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California, denouncing protesters."

An interview with one young activist at the rally captured some of the way that the authorities picked up a rock only to drop it on their own feet. "I saw some miracles in the street last weekend... when we were collectively threatened by the police riot, all of a sudden people who hated each other recognized each other as



Southern California

**La Migra
Street
Corner
Raids**

The second phase of implementing the Simpson-Rodino law is underway: Attacks on immigrants without papers are being stepped up and the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) is being given more manpower and newer, sharper teeth to bite with.

Recent events in the Los Angeles area reveal just what Simpson-Rodino is really all about. On July 28 INS Western Regional Commissioner Harold Ezell called a press conference at his Los Angeles office and made a high-profile announcement of a new program — a program which signals an escalation of the INS's offensive against people without papers. This is aimed especially at immigrant day laborers. The INS is beginning a "zero tolerance" program, similar to that being used in the so-called "war against drugs." Ezell, quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, said, "Under federal law, we can, and do, seize vehicles that are used to transport illegal aliens and we

are issuing the warning today that people who violate the law are in jeopardy of having their vehicle seized." According to the *L.A. Times*, the INS will devote 200 agents to this program in a five-county area that includes Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. In order to make it crystal clear that the main target of this program is immigrant workers, Ezell told the *Orange County Register*, "We're very serious about endeavoring to do everything we can to move these people off the corners."

Within a week of this press conference *la Migra* began its offensive with a vengeance. On August 4 they raided a major day-laborers corner in the San Fernando Valley. Earlier, in its coverage of the "zero tolerance" announcement, the *L.A. Times* had named this particular corner as a major gathering place for immigrants. Ninety-nine immigrants were deported from this corner alone.

During the first week of August, as

these raids were being carried out, Los Angeles City Councilman Nate Holden publicly called for the INS to do something about immigrant day laborers on street corners. Along with other city officials, Holden took a walking tour in some neighborhoods in his district, supposedly in response to complaints by residents and merchants who claimed immigrants were ruining the area and driving away business. Then in the press Holden singled out the intersection of Pico and La Brea, which is in a predominantly Black neighborhood and is one of the largest hiring spots for day laborers in Los Angeles. (Holden, who is Black, also played a reactionary role in supporting the LAPD's "Operation Hammer" — massive arrests and attacks which were directed mainly against Black youth.)

There have also been other moves and efforts to back up INS street-corner raids. On August 9 the city of Glendale, a largely white suburb of Los Angeles, was supposed to vote on an ordinance which is openly directed against immigrant day laborers. This proposed ordinance would make it illegal to solicit work on city streets and sidewalks. A decision on this measure was reportedly postponed because of opposition to it by both local residents and immigrant rights lawyers. But now the city is saying the measure will be taken up on October 4 if no solution to the "problem" is found. Meanwhile, in the city of Costa Mesa in Orange County, another anti-immigrant/day laborer law has been talked about. In this instance the city is proposing that a "staging area" be set up for day laborers as an alternative to street corners. In this "staging area" immigrants would be "allowed" to wait for employers to hire them — and perhaps be open targets for the INS as well! At this point, though, this proposal is not being supported by the INS, and Ezell has threatened to charge any city officials who set up such programs with prosecution in federal court.

Tightening Vise

The rulers of this country admit that driving all immigrants out is not possible nor absolutely necessary and desirable from their point of view. But it is their in-

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We received the following letter:

¡Basta ya!
Recently *la Migra's* dogs have accelerated their vicious attacks against our immigrant brothers and sisters. In the last few weeks, *la Migra's* dogs have carried out raids in the style of Nazi Germany. These raids began at the corners frequented by day laborers seeking work in order to feed their families. But *la Migra's* dogs chased them and arrested them, and also stated officially that those employers that supply work to the day laborers will have their cars confiscated and in addition immigrants will be arrested and deported! In one morning alone, ninety-nine men were arrested in the San Fernando Valley.

Another major abuse occurred in a neighborhood of the oppressed near the corner of 23rd and Hoover, which is a "Migra Watch" community. Three unmarked vans with *la Migra* dogs inside came and parked at the side of the street. Out of the vans came two Latina women, two white men and one white woman, all dressed in street clothes. They took over two of the street corners and stopped and arrested everyone that passed by. The arrested men were handcuffed and made to climb into a van. The same was done to the women, including a pregnant woman who was

**From Comité ¡Ojo a la migra!
Basta Ya!**



thrown inside the van. And they did this to a young boy who told them in English that he had been born here, but they arrested him and took him away anyway. Some of the women displayed their papers through the van windows. There were witnesses to all this, and the people who passed by saw these maneuvers as they unfolded. But at first they weren't sure what was going on because the agents of *la Migra* weren't dressed in their uniforms and they were difficult to identify. The witnesses said this operation lasted approximately an hour and a half. The priests from a near-

by church came running to help out the immigrants and asked the agents of *la Migra* who they were, since they couldn't identify them. But *la Migra* wouldn't pay any attention to them.

This is an example of how vicious and repugnant they are, and of their desire and hope that they will be able to carry out their work of controlling and beating down the immigrants without opposition from the people. But the Migra Watch Committee is firmly resolved to organize people from everywhere, immigrants and nonimmigrants, to oppose these fascist at-

tacks. We are in an urgent situation that requires urgent action on our part, and it is for this reason that we must organize people wherever we are to resist these attacks. In fact we have no other alternative. We talked with people who saw what happened but who didn't know what to do about it at that moment. But we of the Migra Watch Committee told them that if even one person with a whistle had blown the whistle on *la Migra*, that act would have created a completely different situation and the *Migra* would not have been able to so easily terrorize the neighborhood. This is the reason why it is so important to organize more such committees.

The Migra Watch Committee has 5 Basic Points that are very important. Every member must organize and implement these five points.

- 1) Don't go anywhere without your whistle!
- 2) Build your committee (in any place possible; school, church, office or neighborhood)!
- 3) Decorate the neighborhood (put up stickers, write on the walls, distribute leaflets)!
- 4) Unite with friends of immigrants (churches, storeowners, and friends of the people)!
- 5) Blow the whistle on *la Migra*!

Member of Comité ¡Ojo a la Migra!

MARXISM

Earlier this year, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA held an important meeting. As part of its work, the Central Committee made some important decisions which are being published in this issue of the Revolutionary Worker. The CC adopted the "three ours" — a basic, concentrated statement of what the RCP is all about. They are:

**Our ideology is Marxism-Leninism-Maoism;
Our vanguard is the Revolutionary Communist Party;
Our leader is Chairman Avakian.**

Linked to this decision, the Central Committee approved the document "Marxism-Leninism-Maoism," which is published here. This document makes a change in what our party has called our ideology (from Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism). It also spells out in a brief, concentrated form our party's views on the main, essential features of the science of revolution.

This important document was arrived at through a process that involved the whole party. It was first drafted by the leadership of the RCP in the Fall of 1987. It was then circulated throughout the party for a period of internal discussion and debate. After this rich and lively process, the Central Committee reviewed the suggestions made from the ranks of the party and finalized the document.

The Central Committee also passed a resolution hailing the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

All these decisions by the Central Committee, together with the other work done by it at this meeting, have strengthened our party's determination and ability to make revolution in the belly of this beast of U.S. imperialism — as part of our responsibilities to the proletarian revolution worldwide.

**Central Committee,
Revolutionary Communist Party, USA**

Resolution Hailing the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, passed by the 8th Plenum of the Second Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (1988)

On the occasion of our 8th Plenum meeting, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA warmly hails the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and the parties and organizations in its ranks. We express our firm support for the RIM, its *Declaration*, and for the advances achieved by its parties and organizations in our common cause. In this same spirit, our Central Committee sends its greetings and firm political support to the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement for its important ongoing work and for the fundamentally correct direction it has persevered in, on the basis of the *Declaration*.

The Central Committee resolves anew that the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA will carry out our own revolutionary tasks in the U.S., guided by the spirit of doing our part for the world revolution.

**Long Live Proletarian Internationalism!
Strengthen the Ranks of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement!**

Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World, Unite!



Introduction

The science of revolution of our class, the international proletariat, wielded as a weapon in the class struggle. Specifically we have pointed to contributions to that science as a basic touchstone and dividing line in the revisionists of various kinds who have betrayed Marxism and revised its *Internationalist Movement* it is stated: "The principle involved is nothing of the decisive contributions to the proletarian revolution and the science of therefore nothing less than a question of whether or not to uphold Marxism building on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought it is not possible to general."¹

At the time of the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist science from Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought to Marxism-Leninism, conformity with the *Declaration*, but more importantly because we thought this may have seemed a mere technical punctuation point (putting a hyphen) that the contributions of Mao Tsetung were not being relegated to a lesser discussed the reasons for this change within our party. Today we feel it is Leninism-Maoism.

In making this change we believe we are bringing the name in conformity by its practitioners and theoreticians since the time of Marx. The theoretical has been three milestones in the development of this theory. Marx founded the science, developed it to another level; and Mao took it again to another level. Presently we had entered a new era, which Mao Tsetung Thought was equated with the new era. It remains the case that this is the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution of new era with new stage in the development of the science. While there have been — there have been qualitative developments in the science made by Mao Tsetung — new and higher stage in the science. Thus we call our science Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

MARXISM-LENINISM



Karl Marx



Introduction

The science of revolution of our class, the international proletariat, has been strengthened and developed as it has been wielded as a weapon in the class struggle. Specifically we have pointed to the necessity of upholding Mao's qualitative contributions to that science as a basic touchstone and dividing line in the international communist movement, in opposition to revisionists of various kinds who have betrayed Marxism and revised its basic tenets. In the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* it is stated: "The principle involved is nothing less than whether or not to uphold and build upon the decisive contributions to the proletarian revolution and the science of Marxism-Leninism made by Mao Tsetung. It is therefore nothing less than a question of whether or not to uphold Marxism-Leninism itself. . . . Without upholding and building on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought it is not possible to defeat revisionism, imperialism and reaction in general."¹

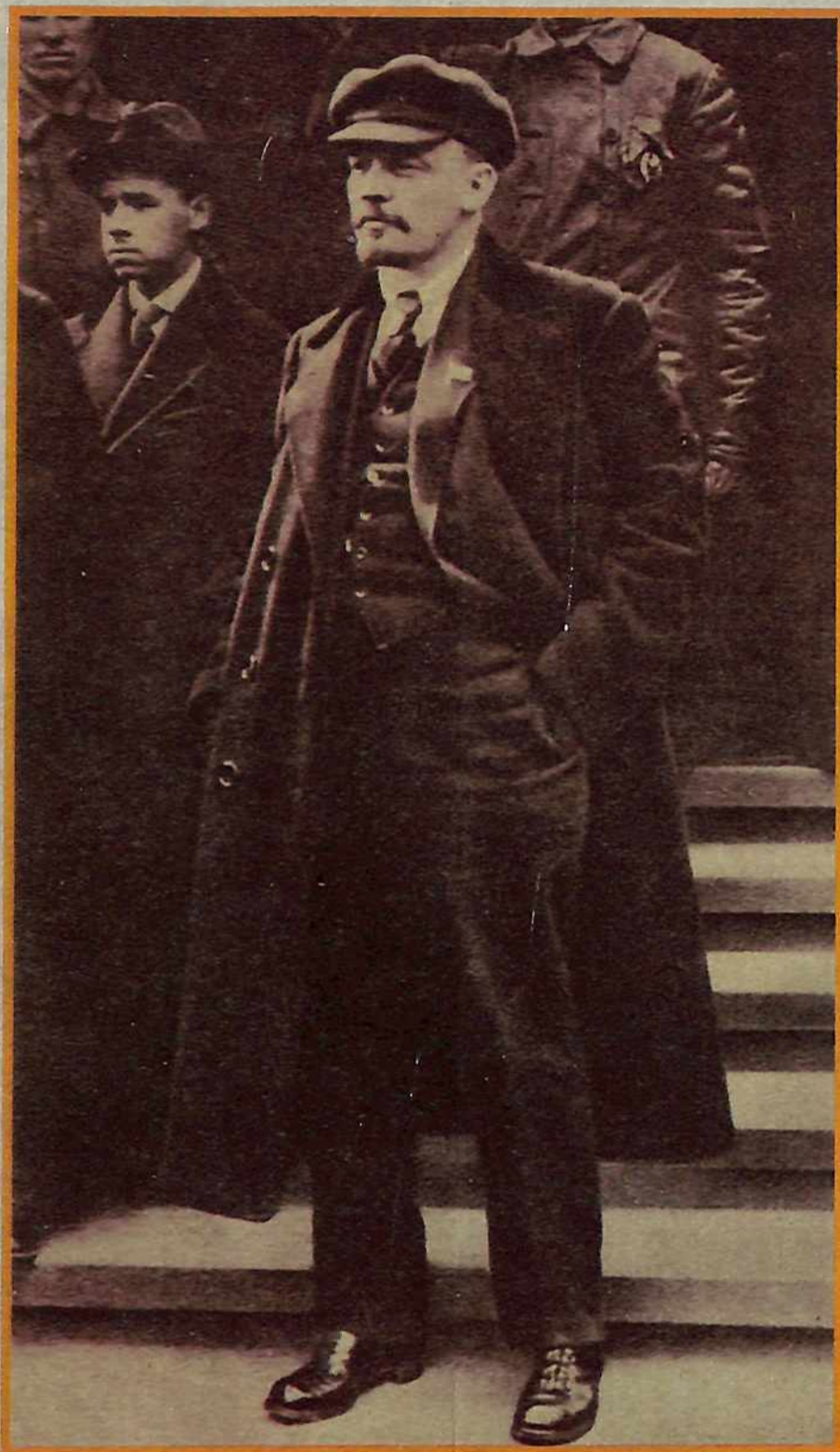
At the time of the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, our party changed our formulation of the science from Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. We did this to be in conformity with the *Declaration*, but more importantly because we thought this more correctly described the science. While this may have seemed a mere technical punctuation point (putting a hyphen instead of a comma), it was in fact making certain that the contributions of Mao Tsetung were not being relegated to a lesser role, as an appendage to Leninism. At the time we discussed the reasons for this change within our party. Today we feel it is even more correct to name the science Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

In making this change we believe we are bringing the name in correct relationship to the science as it has been developed by its practitioners and theoreticians since the time of Marx. The theoretical basis for this change is the fact that there have been three milestones in the development of this theory. Marx founded the science and laid out the basic precepts; Lenin developed it to another level; and Mao took it again to another level. Previously, in opposition to a Lin Piaoist conception that we had entered a new era, which Mao Tsetung Thought was equated with, we were careful to point out that there is not a new era. It remains the case that this is the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. However, we tended to confuse the notion of *new era* with *new stage* in the development of the science. While there is no new era — we are not in a new historical epoch — there have been qualitative developments in the science made by Mao Tsetung of such importance that we can say there is a new and higher stage in the science. Thus we call our science Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

M-L-LENINISM-M-MAOISM



Karl Marx



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin



Mao Tsetung

has been strengthened and developed as it has been the necessity of upholding Mao's qualitative international communist movement, in opposition to basic tenets. In the *Declaration of the Revolutionary* less than whether or not to uphold and build upon Marxism-Leninism made by Mao Tsetung. It is m-Leninism itself. . . . Without upholding and defeat revisionism, imperialism and reaction in

Movement, our party changed our formulation of the m-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. We did this to be in at this more correctly described the science. While (instead of a comma), it was in fact making certain role, as an appendage to Leninism. At the time we even more correct to name the science Marxism-

relationship to the science as it has been developed al basis for this change is the fact that there have science and laid out the basic precepts; Lenin ously, in opposition to a Lin Piaoist conception that we were careful to point out that there is not a new evolution. However, we tended to confuse the notion no new era — we are not in a new historical epoch setting of such importance that we can say there is a inism-Maoism.

By this formulation we mean the same thing as Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. Why, then, make the change? Because, whatever the intentions, to use Mao Tsetung Thought does not give proper weight to the contributions of Mao; it can suggest that these contributions are less important than the contributions of Marx and Lenin. We want to make clear that the contributions of Mao are on the level, of the same magnitude, as those of the other great revolutionary leaders and theoreticians, Marx and Lenin. Secondly, and as an expression of the principal reason, it is easier and better to popularize the science as Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. It is important, however, to stress that in making this change we do not have differences with the characterization of the meaning of the revolutionary science and its development by Marx, Lenin, and Mao which is found in the *Declaration*.

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism

In *For a Harvest of Dragons* Chairman Avakian explains the process of the development of this science: "This does not mean, however, that Mao Tsetung Thought is some addition to Marxism-Leninism that is relevant (only) to the 'third world,' nor still less that it is 'Chinese Marxism-Leninism' as at least some of the Chinese revisionists have been known to allege. As pointed out earlier, the greatest of all Mao's contributions is the theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, whose basic analysis of the transition to communism, as well as the basic methodology guiding this analysis, has universal application, despite the reversal of the revolution in China — and indeed in order to understand and act upon the profound lessons of this setback. And overall Mao Tsetung Thought represents a qualitative development of Marxism-Leninism. Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, then, is an integral philosophy and political theory at the same time as it is a living, critical and continuously developing science. It is not the quantitative addition of the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Mao (nor is it the case that every particular idea or policy or tactic adopted or advocated by them has been without error); Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought is a synthesis of the development, and especially the qualitative breakthroughs, that communist theory has achieved since its founding by Marx up to the present time. It is for this reason and in this sense that, as Lenin said about Marxism, it is omnipotent because it is true."

Understanding our revolutionary science as a synthesis, and using Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to give the most correct expression to this synthesis, we can identify the following as its main, essential features.

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MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM

Continued from page 9

1

The philosophical foundation of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is dialectical materialism. Dialectical materialism recognizes that all reality is material reality, that all reality consists of matter in motion, and ideas have their origin in this material reality. Further, all reality exists as the unity of opposites: The basic law of nature, society, and thought and their development is the law of contradiction, of the unity and struggle of opposites. The unity and identity of all things is temporary and relative; struggle between opposites is ceaseless and absolute, and this gives rise to radical ruptures and revolutionary leaps. All ideas of permanent equilibrium, permanent stability, and permanent order, of preordained or everlasting things — all such ideas are wrong and ultimately reactionary. This applies to human society and its development as well as to the rest of material reality. Dialectical materialism also recognizes that practice is both the ultimate source and the final criterion of truth, and it places most emphasis on revolutionary practice. As Marx so powerfully expressed this, "The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world in various ways; the point is to *change* it."³

As applied specifically to human society and its development, dialectical materialism stresses both the fundamental role of

production and the contradictory and dynamic character of production itself and of its interrelationship with the political and ideological superstructure of society. Social life begins with and is sustained by the process of social production. And, as Marx put it, "The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life process in general."⁴ But the productive forces of society can only be developed by people entering into certain production relations. Within these production relations new productive forces develop. At a certain stage of their development, the productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production. A radical rupture, a revolutionary transformation, must take place in society. This revolutionary transformation is carried out in the political and ideological superstructure, and it centers on the struggle for political power. Politics and ideology cannot create a revolution in the absence of the necessary material conditions, but once the necessary material conditions have developed — out of the basic contradictions in society — the superstructure becomes the decisive arena in which the future direction of society is battled out between the major contending forces, or classes.

2

Every revolution of the past, since the emergence of class society, has seen the replacement of one system of exploitation by another and the rule of one exploiting class by another. But the proletarian revolution is different. The very process of capitalist production has created the material conditions such that society can be organized on a whole new nonexploitative foundation, and this mode of production has forged a class, the proletariat, in whose interests it is to carry out this historic task. Herein lies the greatest significance of the motion of capitalism's fundamental contradiction, the contradiction between socialized production and private appropriation, and of its resolution by means of proletarian revolution.

In summing up some of his decisive contributions to the materialist conception of history, Marx pointed out:

"What I did that was new was to prove: (1) that the *existence of classes* is only bound up with *particular historical phases in the development of production*; (2) that the class struggle necessarily leads

to the *dictatorship of the proletariat*; (3) that this dictatorship itself only constitutes the transition to the *abolition of all classes* and to a *classless society*."⁵

This is a basic principle and foundation of the analysis of the contradictions in present day society and the road of resolving them in the interests of humanity, moving human society to a new and qualitatively more advanced stage: communism.

Marx gave concentrated expression to what is involved in the achievement of communism:

"This Socialism is the *declaration of the permanence of the revolution*, the *class dictatorship* of the proletariat as the necessary transit point to the *abolition of class distinctions generally*, to the abolition of all the relations of production on which they rest, to the abolition of all the social relations that correspond to these relations of production, to the revolutionizing of all the ideas that result from these social relations."⁶

3

Today we live in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. Lenin analyzed this as an era in which all the contradictions of capitalism are intensified. By its very nature, imperialism, the highest and final stage of capitalism, engenders violent upheavals and war. Imperialism is the economic and political system that is dominant in the world, which sets the basic framework for society on a world scale. And proletarian revolution is the only means of eradicating imperialism and all systems of exploitation from the face of the earth. This is a process which is, despite twists and turns, and very real setbacks, already underway.

The proletarian movement is an international movement. "The proletariat in advancing the struggle can *only* advance it by approaching it, and seeking to advance it, on a world level first of all. This doesn't mean of course that you try to make revolution

irrespective of the conditions in different parts of the world or the conditions within particular countries, but it means that even in approaching that you proceed from the point of view of the world arena as most decisive and the overall interests of the world proletariat as paramount. And that is not merely a good idea. It has a very material foundation, which has been laid by the system of imperialism."⁷

"Proletarian internationalism really is founded on a concrete material reality. There really is a world imperialist system that is the common enemy of people whether they reside in the citadels, the homelands, where the imperialist monster is centered and has its foundations so to speak, or whether they live in the vast areas of what's referred to commonly as the Third World, the colonial and dependent countries."⁸

4

In the world today we can speak in general terms of two types of countries: on the one hand the imperialist countries, which control and dominate the major levers of the world economy, means of production, and products of the labor of the proletariat and oppressed classes all around the world; and on the other the oppressed countries

which are overall dominated by and subordinate to the imperialists of different countries. It is from the proletariat and the oppressed in all of these countries that revolution has and will burst forward. However, there are two main streams of the proletarian revolution: In the different kinds of countries, the objective conditions — the actual



Karl Marx



Frederick Engels

contradictions — pose different basic roads for the accomplishment of the seizure of political power. In the imperialist countries, the road is what is generally called the October Road — political work and struggle leading to armed insurrection in the cities, launching a generalized civil war. In the oppressed countries, the road is generally that forged by Mao Tsetung in China, that of a protracted war based in the countryside, and accumulating strength to encircle and eventually seize the cities.

As Mao Tsetung has stressed, these two different roads to the seizure of power correspond to the two general types of countries, but in both types of countries the armed struggle for political power is the highest and most decisive form of struggle. It is the duty of communists everywhere to prepare for and wage a people's war — a war that actively involves and fundamentally relies on the masses of the oppressed — in accordance with the particular situation and the

correct strategic road for revolution.

In the two different types of countries the proletarian revolution takes place through different processes and class alliances — though the leadership of the proletariat and the ultimate goal is common to both. In the imperialist countries, the revolution is of a directly proletarian socialist character. In the oppressed countries the revolution takes place through two stages, with a new-democratic stage (targeting imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat/comprador capitalism) clearing the path for the socialist stage. In both cases, depending on the character and stage of the revolutionary struggle, it is crucial to correctly analyze who are friends and who are enemies — which are the main and leading forces of the revolutionary struggle, which social forces must be won as allies (or politically neutralized), and which must be overthrown.

5

The means of achieving the goal of communism is proletarian revolution. The basic features of this were developed by Marx, together with Engels, including the decisive lesson they drew from the experience of the Paris Commune, and its defeat, in 1871: "the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made State machinery, and wield it for its own purposes." The October Revolution in Russia, which was led by Lenin and Stalin and was the first successful proletarian revolution, further established in practice the need for the dictatorship of the proletariat. But it has been clearly demonstrated and summed up through the experience of the Soviet Union and the Chinese Revolution that the revolution must continue under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In other words, the struggle to transform all of society has proven to be a protracted and complicated process that is not "settled" once the proletariat has

overthrown the bourgeoisie and established the proletarian dictatorship, nor even once the decisive means of production have been socialized. Classes, class contradiction, and class struggle — most decisively the contradiction and struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie — continue all throughout the transition to communism. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, led by Mao Tsetung, represents the highest pinnacle yet achieved by the international proletariat in the advance toward communism: This Cultural Revolution indicates a powerful means and method for mobilizing and relying on the masses to fight against capitalist restoration in socialist society and for making new breakthroughs in carrying forward the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and advancing toward communism.

6

The party of the revolutionary proletariat plays a crucial role in the struggle to seize power and wield it. The party leads the masses in revolutionary struggle through the application of the mass line in accordance with the fundamental principle that the masses are the makers of history and must liberate themselves. The party must play the vanguard role — before, during, and after the seizure of power — in leading the proletariat in the historic struggle for communism. But at the same time, once power has been seized by the proletariat and the party has become the leading force within the new proletarian state, the contradiction between the party and the masses becomes a concentrated expression of the contradictions marking socialist society

as a transition between capitalism and communism. Those in the party, particularly its leading ranks, who take the capitalist road and try to restore capitalism in the name of "socialism" and "communism," become the main target of the continuing revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In the process of identifying and struggling to defeat these capitalist-roaders, the party itself, on all levels, must be further revolutionized and thus strengthened in its role as the revolutionary vanguard as a crucial part of deepening and carrying forward the revolutionization of society overall toward the goal of communism.

CONCLUSION

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is our outlook and methodology; it is our weapon for understanding and changing the world, in visualizing the goal, and in forging the path to achieve it.

In today's world especially, with the heightening of all the basic

contradictions, the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism have great importance and power in bringing about revolutionary victories. □

FOOTNOTES

1. *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*, pp. 14-15.
2. Bob Avakian, *For a Harvest of Dragons* (Chicago: RCP Publications, 1983), p. 114.
3. Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," original version, in Marx and Engels, *Feuerbach. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlooks* (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1976), p. 98 (also cited in *For a Harvest of Dragons*, p. 25).
4. Marx, "Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*" in Marx and Engels, *Selected Works* (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1973) Vol. 1, p. 503.
5. Marx, "Marx to J. Weydemeyer" (March 5, 1852), in Marx and Engels, *Selected Letters* (Peking: Foreign Languages Press, 1977) p. 18

(also cited in *For a Harvest of Dragons*, p. 30).

6. Karl Marx, *The Class Struggles in France, 1848 to 1850*, in Marx and Engels *Selected Works* Vol. 1, p. 282 (also cited in *For a Harvest of Dragons*, p. 40).

7. Bob Avakian, "Advancing the World Revolutionary Movement: Questions of Strategic Orientation," *Revolution* No. 51, Spring 1984, p. 4 (also cited in *Bullets*, p. 44).

8. Bob Avakian, "The Imperialist System and Proletarian Internationalism," from 1982 interview on WFRG Atlanta, *RW* No. 187, 7 January 1983, p. 4 (also cited in *Bullets*, pp. 44-45).

9. Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party, Preface to the German Edition of 1872*, in Marx and Engels *Selected Works* Vol. 1, p. 99.



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin



Joseph Stalin



Mao Tsetung

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls Contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

Utmost Level of Revolutionary Fervor

I presently trust that you and everyone at PRLF are well in the utmost positive state of being during our most righteous struggle — and moving on forward towards the path of Mao Tsetung. Like Comrade Mao said, "We can learn what we did not know. We are not only good at destroying the old world, we are also good at building the new. We are aware that the oppressors will never give us the education we need to overthrow them and they are not going to teach us our true history or our true heroes, if they know that this knowledge will set us free. This is why what we know we should teach. What we don't know we should learn." Well, Comrades, presently I am on the utmost level of revolutionary fervor and in broadening my horizons as always, and like I have mentioned before, the *RW*, *Revolution*, *Red Flag* and your other enlightening collective organizers have been a major weapon and factor for the youth and the masses and as a mighty force, we must remain shining the path forward from inside this monster and outside because without unity there is no strength and without sacrifice there's no struggle. I would in the foreseeing future send you an essay that I had executed while in solitary confinement. I would like for you'll to publish and share my *spiritual strength* to all my comrade brothers and sisters. Do let me know. I will also be forwarding you'll a generous contribution shortly.

Unity will bring us victory. We have nothing to lose but our chains and we have a world to win. Until I hear from you'll, remain strong and firm. My essay is entitled, "Reflections in XXX." You'll always remain in my heart and thoughts and struggle.

Struggling from within the monster

The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and need the *Revolutionary Worker* and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism behind the prison walls, the *Revolutionary Worker* has a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund, Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654

The Fire Burns

My Beloved Brothers' Revolutionary Worker
The Fire Burns

With the upmost solidarity I send you brothers and sisters of this great paper the *Revolutionary Worker*, and the struggle of the people, all respects from the brothers here in this KKKamp with me that I share your paper with. Long Live the *Revolutionary Worker*!

Revolutionary Worker, I'm in a bind on funds at the moment but you can look for my support and the support of the brothers here at this KKKamp to support the cause. At the moment my sister is forwarding some funds to you in respect of me as well as herself. She is not as conscious as she should or could be, but she's learning and willing to do so and I thank you for awakening her through your writing in the *Revolutionary Worker*. I would like very much for you to let me know that you received the money from her — better to spend it on something that builds your level of consciousness than on something that changes your damn appearance: lipstick, eye lashes, color contacts, etc.

Revolutionary Worker, I would like very much for you brothers and sisters to forward me the books that are mentioned throughout your PRLF and other materials that I can share with the brothers to build our consciousness as one. Because the consciousness of an individual can make a spark but as a whole we can make a fire and begin to make changes instead of all this demanding and getting nothing. Inside this Koncentration KKKamp at the present time we can only educate one another, and through your paper it has begun to take a profound effect on the brothers and I (we) want to continue to receive this food for the mind and stop filling our minds with this grab the devil has floating around here, like them drugs, like this misdirected anger towards one another, like these brutal attacks on the brothers and these damn special dungeons they got cut off from the main KKKamp's population. That's where we need to be awakening the brothers because when we wake them up then, damn these dungeons, cause they don't want to have the whole damn place in a lock down because then it hurts them in that damn itching back pocket of theirs (no profits coming in). I'm concluding my scribe at this point but until my next, long live the *Revolutionary Worker* and its supporters.

Sincerely Yours
A Concerned Comrade

P.S. Orce again we thank you. "The fire burns and it's up to us to keep it burning!"

Revolutionary Greetings

Comrades,

Greetings. I send this letter with hopes of it finding all of you's at RCP Publications in the very best of health, mentally as well as physically. I send all my revolutionary love and apology for my lack of writing. And would be very grateful for your forgiveness for my sloppy handwriting and misspelled words. Peace!

Recently I received a catalog from you's and would be grateful if you's could send me a few books. I always pass on your paper and other literature I receive to other comrades here in this prison. And the brothers that I pass it on to are always as grateful at receiving it as I am. Your paper is a *very, very, very* big help in our struggle here in this hell. We all send our revolutionary love and applaud you's, those locked down freedom fighters and grand jury resisters and POWs. And we send all our love to young Tawana Brawley and also applaud her for her courage at standing up and being so strong in fighting for her rights. It's unique and very inspirational that she's so strong at such a tender age. And I'm sure brothers and sisters all across this country recognize it as

well and also applaud her. Let's hope that these crazy changes she's going through is also recognized and that more brothers and sisters stand up against this sorry ass system. America was inherited by war and all through history there's been nothing but war and unfortunately it's gonna take a war to bring about any type of real changes and until it comes, let's hope there won't be any more Tawana Brawley cases. Power to the People!!! If you's could send me these books they will be well read and passed on to others that also will read them well. The books I'm interested in are: "Summing up the Black Panther Party," by Bob Avakian; "Cuba: The Evaporation of a Myth"; "Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women as a Mighty Force for Revolution!"; and "Questions for These Times," a *Revolution* interview with Bob Avakian.

Love and Struggle

P.S. I don't want to ask much, smile! But if you have a copy of Mao Tsetung's little Red Book and any literature on Malcolm X, could you send me a copy of these books?

The following statement was sent to the RW by the PRLF:

"The *Revolutionary Worker* serves to be everything to me, it's my most treasured entertainment, my best friend... my education/instruction."

These are the words of one subscriber to the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper, a prisoner confined to the "hole" in a major U.S. prison. At Huntingdon State Prison in Pennsylvania, there are about 30 subscribers to the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper. But since October 1987, the Publications Review Committee of the prison has rejected every issue of the newspaper. As a result, the paper has been effectively banned in the prison. This gives Huntingdon the distinction of being the second place to ban the *Revolutionary Worker* outright — the first was, fittingly, South Africa!

The *Revolutionary Worker* has about 500 subscribers in over thirty prisons in the United States (and we know that for every subscriber there are countless more who read the paper as it gets passed around). Subscriptions are funded by donations (including from prisoners) to the Prisoners' Revolutionary Literature Fund. The censorship of the newspaper at Huntingdon is but another grim reminder of how prisoners are treated in this country, denied the elementary right to read what they want, to have access to international news, political analysis, and controversial thought. Meanwhile, America's rulers prattle on about human rights and the cause of dissidents.

Some background to the Huntingdon case might be helpful. Starting in May 1985, at the same time that the *Revolutionary Worker* began extensive coverage of the bombing of the MOVE house in Philadelphia and with it the brutal murder of eleven people, the Publications Review Committee at Huntingdon began to reject and withhold from prisoners various issues of the newspaper. They used as justification "Administrative Directive 814" of the Pennsylvania State Bureau of Corrections. This directive allows for banning of published materials "which advocate violence, insurrection or guerrilla warfare against the government or which create a clear and present danger within the context of the correctional institution." In response to these moves, many prisoners filed complaints, and two have pursued court cases demanding their right to receive the newspaper. In the first of these cases, this blatant censorship was upheld. So for more than two years, there was a running battle over the right of prisoners to read a newspaper that sides with the oppressed and supports the struggles of the oppressed.

Then in October 1987, things took a dramatic leap. Now every issue of the newspaper was banned. Once again citing "Directive 814," the prison officials pointed to a statement which began running on page 2 of every issue of the *Revolutionary Worker* titled "Three Main Points." This is a brief summary by Bob Avakian (Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party) of what the Party thinks people should learn from reading this paper. One of these points reads: "The system we live under is based on exploitation — here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown." The Publications Review Committee now cites this point as a reason for banning every issue of the newspaper.

This is a vicious attempt to suppress revolutionary thought and politics. In point of fact, this administrative directive is not even consistent with the standards of protected free speech currently existing in this country. The newspaper is being forbidden on the grounds of its general political philosophy. This rule and the uses to which it is being put could establish dangerous precedents in relation to what people have the right to advocate and what prisoners have the right to read. These ominous acts of thought control cannot go unopposed.

One of the two prisoners who has already taken this issue to court is Mumia Abu-Jamal. He is a former Black Panther Party spokesperson and a respected journalist. He was framed on murder charges because of his outspoken support for MOVE. He is now on death row at Huntingdon, awaiting appeal. Mumia says of the *Revolutionary Worker*: "I like the RW, first for its forthright and bold coverage of the May 13 massacre [of

MOVE]; second for its world revolutionary news; and third for its clear, urban, no-bullshit delivery — it's a refreshing break from polite (and oftentimes imprecise) 'newsspeak.'"

Can anyone seriously doubt that the Huntingdon authorities are trying to prevent prisoners from remaining "mentally alert and abreast of the occurrences in the outside world," as one prisoner described the inspiration provided by the *Revolutionary Worker*? And can there be any doubt that the authorities' fear of prisoners reading this newspaper might have something to do with who is held in jail? While Black people make up about 12 percent of the country's population, they account for 45 percent of the 547,000 inmates of the state and federal prisons. And consider the larger backdrop. There is intensifying national oppression and a growing racist offensive in this country — whether it be subway vigilantism, the murder of Blacks in Howard Beach, or police raids and roundups aimed especially at Black youth in the name of the so-called war on drugs. "Illegal" immigrants are targeted for state attack, anti-abortionists run wild, ruling after ruling of the Supreme Court opens the way for more repression and control.

The banning of the *Revolutionary Worker* is a blatant act of censorship. Revolutionary and progressive-minded people will likely recognize this as a part of tightening controls on society as a whole, especially on its "malcontents," present and potential, as the rulers try to contain and stifle the contradictions at home while in the midst of escalating war preparations and interventions overseas. And where better, and where more pressing for them, to hone various tools of control and repression than in the prisons? Certainly legal precedents are being set (soon the Supreme Court will be hearing the case of "Meese vs. Abbott," the outcome of which may be to widen the censorship of correspondence and publications received by prisoners), certain machinery is being put in place, and an already chilled atmosphere is made chillier.

Whether or not you agree with the revolutionary views and analysis in the *Revolutionary Worker*, it is important to take a stand against this attempt to ban them and keep them out of the hands of those on the bottom of our society. Now is the time to expose and oppose these moves towards thought control. People in prisons need access to news and ideas; they have a right to read and think as they choose; they want to know what's happening in the world; and they want to figure out what it will take to set things right, just as we all do.

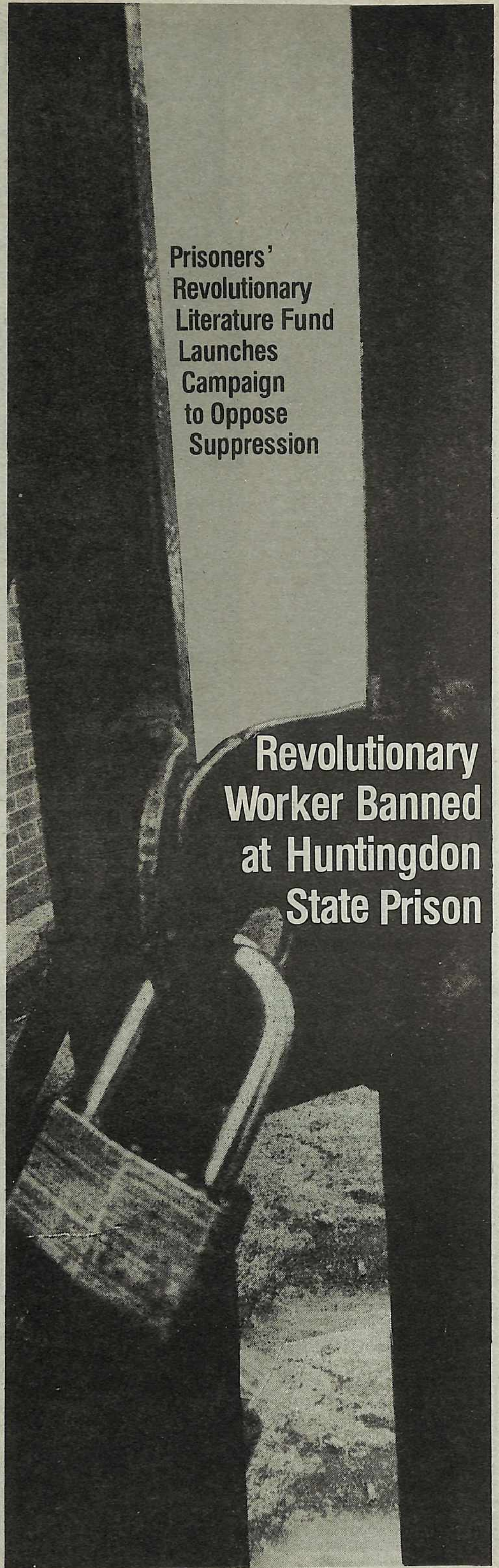
The Prisoners' Revolutionary Literature Fund is calling on people to support the prisoners there and to help publicize and oppose this censorship of the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper at Huntingdon State Prison. Telegrams of protest should be sent to the prison authorities, and statements of outrage should be circulated in different quarters. A press release will soon be sent out to the media. The PRLF is contacting prisoner support groups and civil liberties and anticensorship organizations. Attempts are also being made to further draw friends and family of the Huntingdon subscribers as well as subscribers in other prisons into opposing this ban. The scope of these efforts must widen and we call upon diverse forces to join in this effort. Please inform the PRLF of statements drafted or activities planned in support of these prisoners, which we will publicize where possible. A gauntlet has been thrown down. Whether and to what degree this attack is resisted will certainly have consequences for the future. The *Revolutionary Worker* must be put back into the hands of these prisoners.

Prisoners' Revolutionary Literature Fund
c/o RCP Publications
P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654

Send telegrams of outrage to:
Steve Polte, Media Review Committee
or
Thomas A. Fulcomer, Superintendent
State Correctional Institution
at Huntingdon
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Prisoners' Revolutionary Literature Fund Launches Campaign to Oppose Suppression

Revolutionary Worker Banned at Huntingdon State Prison



TOMPKINS SQUARE

Continued from page 6

allies. I saw a junkie who had pulled an axe on me a month and a half earlier fall down in the street during the first police charge. And I saw the picture of American Corporate Womanhood scoop him up out of the street and keep him running up the block. Then a couple of hours later, something similar, a young woman who looked like she was probably a student at NYU fell off her bicycle in the face of the fifth or sixth or seventh or eighth police charge, and two skinheads and a Rastafarian scooped her up and kept her running. Five minutes later, a bunch of hip hop kids, Black kids who like rap music, came up the block with her bicycle going, 'Yo, where's that blond girl with the bicycle? We got your bike. Hey, where are you, we got your ride.'

"What this proves is that what Ronald Reagan and Ed Koch and even Michael Dukakis have been trying to make people believe — that all is well in America, that it's morning in America, that anybody that's dissatisfied in America is just a belly-aching malcontent — is an outright lie. Happy people do not riot. Happy communities do not have everyone from teenage runaways to 80-year-old Polish Jewish refugees fighting the cops in the street Saturday night. It may seem like a fun thing to do once it gets going, but people don't usually get the idea before it happens. A friend of mine had her life saved by a little old Polish Jewish refugee lady who pulled her into a doorway and then stood there with her, telling the cops that she was her daughter and that she lived there. And then when it was finally safe to go, my friend tried to thank her. She said, 'It's okay darling. I grew up under Hitler in Poland. These people are no different. Give them one for me.' The cops have said an awful lot about bottles and stuff being thrown. The majority of debris flying into the police lines were flower pots coming from the windows of the old Polish people along Ave. A. They've seen this before and they don't like it any better this time than they liked it last time."

The Battle Widens

It is in this spirit, the coming together of all these diverse forces, that many people — including a significant number of those who were sucked into the "clean up" campaign — are beginning to understand that all these elements of crack-down going on around New York and



PIG SELF-CRITICISM

The self-criticism of Police Commissioner Ben Ward of the handling of the Tompkins Square incident by his troops, as listed in the *New York Times*, is as follows:

1. The police failed to close Avenue A, opposite the park, to vehicular or pedestrian traffic as a precaution.
2. After demonstrators sat down on Avenue A, the police mounted units were brought forward too quickly to confront them.
3. A police helicopter that was used to illuminate the area hovered too long over the scene, kicking up debris and drawing additional crowds.
4. The temporary headquarters for the

police was set up inside the park, forcing officers arriving for assignments to wade through demonstrators first.

5. No evidence was found to support the contention of some police officers that they had moved against demonstrators partly to free motorists trapped on Avenue A.

6. Very few arrests were made considering the reports of widespread violence against the police at the scene.

7. Not enough was done to secure nearby rooftops, from which projectiles may have been thrown at officers.

8. Apparently, no senior officer was in charge of coordinating assignments of police officers as they arrived at the

scene.

9. The ranking officer at the park may have left his post at a crucial time to go to the bathroom at Manhattan South Headquarters on 21st Street. Tompkins Square Park stretches from 7th to 10th Streets.

10. The usual communication chain apparently failed, and Mr. Ward and other top officials were not notified of the riot until the worst of it was over.

This is not a criticism of police violence but a military critique by a commander who wants his soldiers to do a better job of suppressing the people next time. □

across the country are bound together. As part of this, there is increasing recognition that all that the authorities despise about Tompkins Square Park are the same things they cracked down on at Washington Square. And so, in addition to the outrage over Tompkins Square there is a growing determination to retake Washington Square Park. On the nights of August 11 and again on August 20, demonstrators marched from the East

Village to break curfew on Washington Square Park. On August 20 they managed to enter the park for a few minutes. About a dozen people were targeted for arrest. "Crowd control" by the police to push the demonstrators back to the East Village succeeded in alienating many more people out and around the Village, a popular Saturday night-spot for the middle classes. Once again the TV news featured middle-aged, middle-class white

women screaming at police, who acted in a more controlled but sufficiently rough and brutal way to everyone on the street.

Lessons

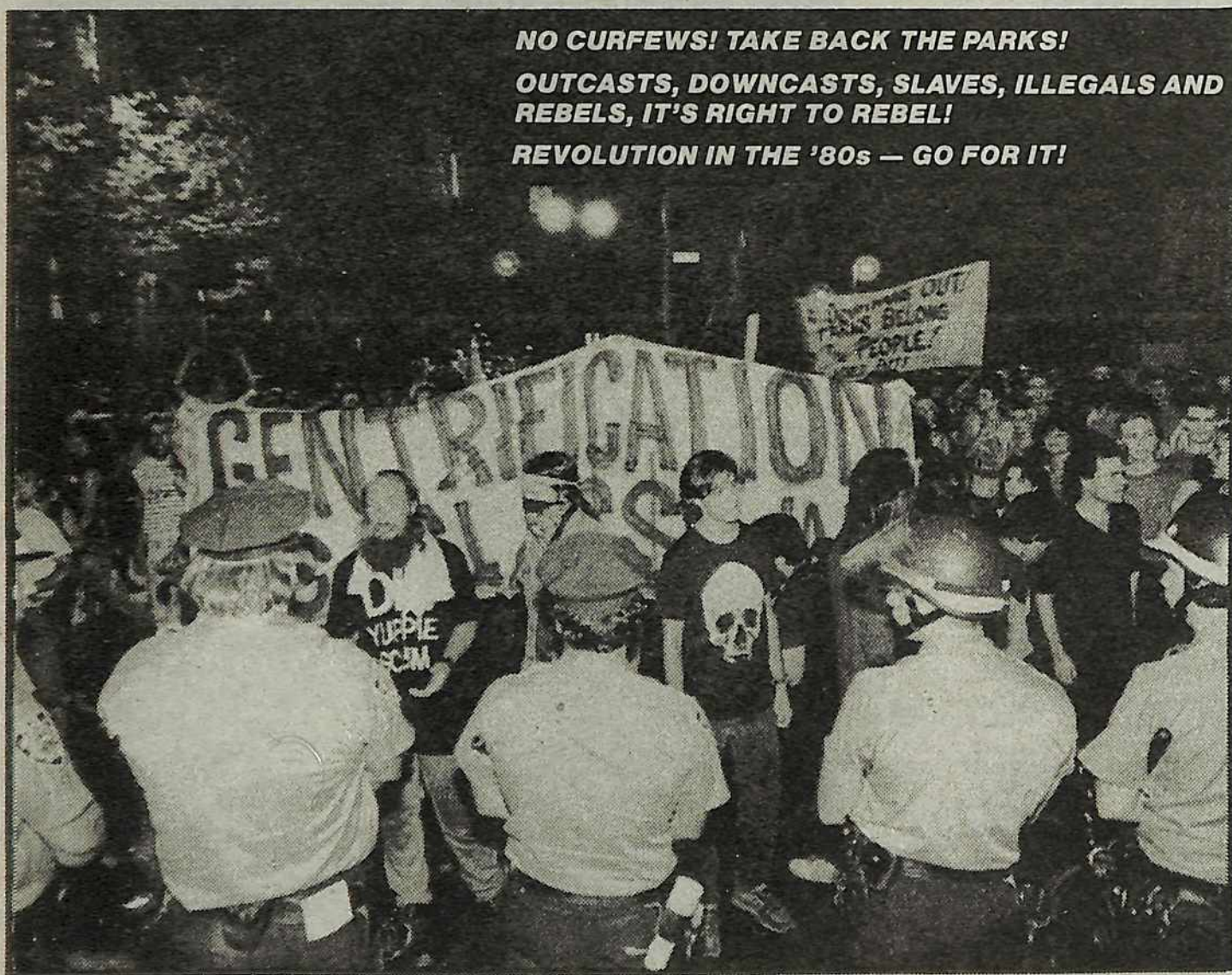
There is continuing and ongoing struggle among all of the various forces involved in this struggle to figure out the road forward, over what is the main issue, and who is the target. Overall, though, from the strategic perspective of the proletariat the situation is excellent. The coming together of these diverse forces in resistance to these acts of repression, the determination of the masses to reclaim these parks, and the political electricity that has been sparked far and wide are new winds of change stirring in NYC. As the article in *RW* No. 468 said, the powers-that-be "have succeeded in creating new enemies in one of the ruling class's strategic cities where keeping the lid on is a potentially life-and-death question for this system. In their own perverse way, the rulers understand what the revolutionary leader Mao Tsetung meant when he wrote: 'A single spark can start a prairie fire.' And New York City is a dry urban prairie with international significance."

The RCP and RCYB are raising the following slogans to push forward the struggle around Tompkins Square and Washington Square parks:

**NO CURFEWS!
TAKE BACK THE PARKS!
OUTCASTS, DOWNCASTS,
SLAVES, ILLEGALS AND REBELS,
IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!
REVOLUTION IN THE '80s —
GO FOR IT!**

A closing thought: A quick overview of the situation in NYC these days — continuing volatility among Black people; an upsurge of Latino immigrants and Black masses against police brutality and national oppression in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, just across the Staten Island border; and now this mix, right inside the "crown jewel" Manhattan. Not a bad line-up at all for the proletariat. And not a good one at all for the bourgeoisie. □

**NO CURFEWS! TAKE BACK THE PARKS!
OUTCASTS, DOWNCASTS, SLAVES, ILLEGALS AND
REBELS, IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!
REVOLUTION IN THE '80s — GO FOR IT!**



La Migra

Continued from page 7

tention to drive some people out and create a class of people with no rights and no recourse. Control and subjugation is the point of Simpson-Rodino.

The *L.A. Times* has characterized the Simpson-Rodino law as having a "tightening vise" built into it. And this vise is being tightened very quickly. The INS told the press that in the first couple of weeks of their new campaign they have arrested about 600 immigrants in street-corner raids alone. At the July 28 press conference Ezell claimed that since the beginning of Simpson-Rodino, the number of day laborers seeking work on the streets has doubled. And he pointed to this as a result of implementation of the employer sanctions provisions of Simpson-Rodino which make it illegal for employers to hire immigrants without papers.

In fact, since the passage of Simpson-Rodino the number of immigrants forced out of steady work and onto street corners looking for work has mushroomed. La Migra is going after people, both at the workplace and on street corners. And the overall job situation for immigrant workers is going from very bad to worse with more people having to look for work on a day-to-day basis. The INS told the *L.A. Times* that now, as part of "zero tolerance," they are videotaping certain corners and checking license plates in the area in order to be able to arrest employers who "regularly" use "illegal aliens."

Broad Offensive

These attacks are the leading edge of a broad offensive in which immigrants are being hit in different ways. For instance, there has been an ongoing effort by a city council-created task force made up of both L.A. cops and L.A. city health inspectors to harass street vendors. The current focus of this task force are the vendors in the Plaza of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church, popularly known as "La Placita." These particular vendors are almost all from Central America or Mexico. According to immigrants' rights activists, the inspectors have been enforcing the most petty regulations and people are being cited for things like not having a

proper license (which most of the vendors can't afford), having food positioned too close to the ground, or not listing ingredients in the proper order. The *L.A. Times* reported that the number of vendors at La Placita has been cut in half in recent weeks because of this harassment. In response to these attacks, the church just recently declared the plaza a sanctuary for the vendors.

There have been recent neighborhood raids as well, including one with a particularly vicious twist to it. The intersection of 23rd and Hoover is nearby a neighborhood with a "Migra Watch" set up by the "Ojo a la Migra" Committee. On August 2 this intersection was raided by *la Migra* from 10 a.m. till noon (see accompanying letter). From what area residents told the *RW*, the INS conducted the raid with agents dressed totally in street clothes. And the attack, which was centered at a bus stop, used male and female Latino agents. At least twenty-two people were deported. One woman who was arrested asked to be taken to her house so she could get her children and then her kids were deported also. A shopkeeper in the area of the raid told the *RW* that since the raid his business has dropped by three-fourths because people are afraid to go out. A Latino clerk in another store said he's seen immigration raids before but never totally undercover. Several days after this raid, civil rights and immigrants' rights attorneys questioned the INS's legal right to carry out such undercover raids. And in response, an INS official offered remarks Councilman Holden had made on his neighborhood tour as "authorization" for the raid.

Defiance

Part of what the authorities want to do with these raids is create terror among the immigrants themselves. But another crucial part of their plan is to "pre-empt" any opposition by creating a sense of resignation broadly in society that nothing can be done about these attacks. Some forces, though, are definitely not "resigned" to this and are stepping up their opposition and becoming even more defiant of the clampdown.

On August 12, priests and nuns from two Catholic Churches, La Placita and Delores Mission, held a press conference in downtown L.A. along with about forty

immigrant day laborers. Both parishes declared themselves to be sanctuaries for day laborers and employers seeking to hire them. The *L.A. Times* coverage of the event noted that immigrant day laborers spoke and also carried homemade placards, some of which read in Spanish, "Stop the raids!" and "Here we are and here we stay. We are all illegals!"

Another significant act of opposition was a press conference initiated by La Resistencia, held at the intersection of Pico and La Brea. This is the major day laborers corner that Councilman Holden had singled out. This press conference included a speaker from La Resistencia; Delfino Varela speaking for the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA); Sister Annette Debs, Director, Community Law Center, Santa Ana, CA; Howard Johnson, Immigration Attorney; and Moises Placentia, President, MEChA (for identification purposes only), Cal-State, Fullerton. Michael Zinzun, Committee Against Police Abuse, also sent a message to the press conference. In addition, scores of immigrant day laborers found ways to participate, and the press conference was basically turned into a demonstration.

After learning of the La Placita/Delores Mission press conference, Harold Ezell lashed back within hours. Ezell told the *L.A. Times* that "If we find there is harboring, aiding and abetting of illegal aliens... we will not turn our head, play the ostrich for La Placita or anyone else. If they break the law, they will be held accountable."

Actually carrying through such a threat to go after these churches, which are very much a part of the community, would be a serious escalation of their attacks on immigrants. The decision to declare themselves sanctuaries created controversy among the parishioners at La Placita and Delores Mission, who are overwhelmingly Spanish-speaking Latinos. But the priests and nuns took these actions after consultation with the parishioners and do have the support of a clear majority. An attack on the church by the INS could result in even more opposition and outrage from the masses. Still, the possibility of such an attack can't be ruled out. In the past the INS has collaborated with other federal agencies to openly go after (as well as send under-

cover agents into) churches involved in the sanctuary movement.

The situation at La Placita, in particular, has explosive potential. This church is a major symbol in the community and is a national historic site. (The Pope on his last trip to the U.S. said mass here.) But La Placita is more than just a symbol of religious sanctuary for immigrants. It is literally home to homeless day laborers, most of whom have no papers. And it has declared sanctuary for those who cannot qualify for "amnesty," as well as for those Central American refugees fleeing repressive, U.S.-sponsored dictatorships. Further, as in the recent press conference it called, this church has provided a platform for the oppressed themselves to speak from. These actions are at once an inspiration and a challenge to others to join the battle.

In implementing the "amnesty" section of Simpson-Rodino the ruling class has given one section of potentially disloyal people the "gift" of a noose which they are told to place around their own necks. Register for amnesty, the INS says, tell us everything about yourself, and don't ever screw up or you'll face deportation. According to Simpson-Rodino, the price of the so-called "freedom" of amnesty is simply that you live the life of a slave. And the alternative to this is to be hunted and hounded by *la Migra*. With jobs harder and harder to get, and with the growing risk of getting caught, authorities hope to drive those who either don't qualify or don't even apply for "amnesty" even further into the shadows. The imperialists fully realize that those who have to stand on a street corner and sometimes beg for work don't exactly love this country. And they know that many of them had a lot of reasons to hate the U.S. before they even came to the United States. These day laborers are part of those in society who truly have nothing to lose. And they are part of the forces in society the rulers fear.

The vise of Simpson-Rodino is being viciously tightened, and determined and uncompromising resistance is demanded by the situation. The course of events can be significantly altered through struggle. And most importantly, through this political battle now we can prepare the ground and prepare our ranks to seize the time for making revolution when the time is ripe. □

Murderers

Continued from page 3

the *Vincennes* buzzed near Iranian gunboats in Iranian waters. Or that air traffic controllers in Bandar Abbas and the Iran Air pilot had no knowledge of whatever skirmish was going on. For the U.S., none of these facts has anything to do with the claim that the *Vincennes* shot the airliner down in justifiable "self-defense."

U.S. Targets Iran

In reality, the shootdown of Flight 655 was a direct result of moves by the U.S., based on its imperialist interests, to have its way in the Persian Gulf. From the start of the Iran-Iraq war eight years ago, the American government has played both sides and adjusted its tactics depending on the ebb and flow of the war and the specific U.S. goals at the time. For the past year or so, U.S. actions have been

focused mainly on bullying and bashing the Khomeini regime into submission, especially by leaning toward Iraq's side in the Gulf war.

This bully-boy posture aimed at Iran — not Iranian "recklessness" — caused the massacre on July 3. The Navy's own report — to the degree it can be believed — illustrates this fact. The report notes that "Iranian intentions in the Gulf were suspect at all times" and that "Iran should be aware that any fixed-wing aircraft flying over the waters of the Persian Gulf to or from Iran is suspect as to its intentions toward U.S. Naval Units." As soon as Flight 655 left Bandar Abbas it was labeled "unidentified, assumed enemy" by the *Vincennes*. The crew continued to view Flight 655 as a hostile enemy aircraft, even when the radar evidence showed otherwise. According to the report, this was "an unconscious attempt to make available evidence fit a preconceived scenario."

The Navy report's cold-blooded and

hypocritical excuses for the Iran Air slaughter are based on strategic interests and necessities facing the U.S. rulers. The report on one hand covers up the crime committed by the *Vincennes*; on the other hand it threatens more such bloodshed if the Iranian government goes against U.S. interests. "Commercial air, particularly commercial air from Iran, is at risk in the Persian Gulf as long as hostilities continue in the area," warns the report. And the report does not recommend any change in the military "rules of engagement" which the captain of the *Vincennes* followed in shooting down Flight 655.

Since the July 3 shootdown, the Khomeini regime has made conciliatory moves toward the U.S., including accepting conditions imposed by the United Nations for a cease-fire in the war with Iraq. The Navy report is a notice to the Iranian rulers that they will suffer more blows

unless they continue to come more closely under Western control.

The U.S. officials also want to make it clear to their own military forces that the crew and officers of the *Vincennes* had acted correctly. By not issuing even one wrist-slapping reprimand, the government is sending a message that it would have been a punishable offense *not* to have fired the missiles at the Iranian aircraft. They do not want their troops to be having second thoughts when faced with similar situations in the future.

The U.S. has invested billions of dollars in high-tech weaponry, and the report puts a strong stamp of approval on the Aegis system on the *Vincennes*. An imperialist military depends on overwhelming technical superiority and force to fight effectively. When this breaks down, the strategic weaknesses of such a military begin to stand out — the bombing of the U.S.S. *Stark* by an Iraqi plane last year was one example. Some of this also comes out when the Navy report discusses the problems involved in its troops handling such high-tech equipment during high-stress situations.

The Criminals and Their System

The shootdown of Flight 655 and the Navy's report give a revealing look at the character of those who rule the U.S. They will not hesitate to kill hundreds of innocent people in the interests of their empire. And these same criminals are in the position and possess the means to unleash much bigger and bloodier destruction on the world.

After the 1983 shootdown of KAL 007 by the Soviet Union, the U.S. tried its best to use it for propaganda attacks against the rival Soviet imperialists. America's U.N. ambassador at the time, Jeane Kirkpatrick, declared that "violence and lies are regular instruments of Soviet policy" and that "we are dealing here not with pilot errors but with decisions and priorities characteristic of a system." Put in the word "American" for "Soviet." Doesn't that describe perfectly what the U.S. did to Iran Air Flight 655? □

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