



# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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## Shockwaves

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Photo: Larry Crowe/Ontario Daily Bulletin-Sygnia

# 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.

# NO MORE RACIST PIG BRUTALITY! NO TIME! WE DID NO CRIME! IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!

# REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS!

# WHO WILL BURY THIS SYSTEM? GET DOWN WITH THE RCP!



Photo: Kirk McCoy/Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles, April 29, 1992

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100s Massacred in Thailand

# BANGKOK STREETS OF FIRE

The country of Thailand, in southeast Asia, is being rocked by huge anti-government protests in the capital city of Bangkok. The government responded by ordering the troops to fire their automatic weapons into crowds of demonstrators, and streams of blood flowed in the streets. By the end of last week, there were reports that as many as 1,000 protesters had been killed and many hundreds wounded. Witnesses said that troops were hauling bodies away in trucks to hide the real number of people gunned down. The Thai government is backed by the Western powers, especially the U.S. and Japan. The reactionary regime is now in extreme crisis.

There had been several weeks of protests in Bangkok against the head of the government, Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon. Suchinda was a leader of a coup that put military generals into power last year. Earlier this year, Suchinda was appointed by a coalition of military-backed parties to become prime minister. The immediate demand of the protests has been for Suchinda to step down and be replaced by an elected prime minister.

On Sunday, May 17 the government troops charged on several thousand protesters who were marching to the prime minister's office. The soldiers tried to disperse the people with water cannons. The protesters answered back with rocks, pieces of metal, and Molotov cocktails. The troops viciously clubbed protesters and fired their weapons. TV footage showed armed troops surrounding groups of protesters and forcing them to crawl on their hands and knees. Some witnesses saw undercover cops firing into crowds. But there were also many police and soldiers who simply turned and ran at the sight of the surging demonstra-

tors. The running pigs left behind their vehicles and riot gear. Some protesters set off firecrackers to confuse and frighten the government forces. By early Monday morning many police cars and fire trucks were on fire, and the skies over Bangkok filled with columns of black smoke. The government declared emergency rule and warned people to stay indoors or be shot on sight.

But the protests continued in the face of troops who cold-bloodedly fired their M-16s at unarmed demonstrators. According to news reports on Tuesday, groups of youths ran through the streets, setting fire to government offices. Chants of "No more Suchinda! No more army!" could be heard everywhere. Bands of protesters on motorcycles cruised the city smashing windows and ripping the doors off police stations. The offices of the government radio station, the state lottery, state public relations and tax offices were ransacked. A military fuel truck was overturned and set on fire to the cheers of protesters. There were reports of anti-government protests in a number of provincial cities around Thailand.

## Protests Draw In Many Different People

University students have been the most active elements in these protests, as in the antigovernment upheavals of the past in Thailand. But the recent protests have also drawn in many different sections of the people in Bangkok. One news account said that the demonstrators appeared to be "a broad cross sections of urban Thais, with the middle class a bit overrepresented. There were high school students enjoying a day off from school and comparing sneaker fashions, gray-haired businessmen with



Protesters outside burning Bangkok police station, May 18, 1992.

attaché cases, and shopkeepers and manual laborers, both men and women." A 26-year-old worker told reporters, "We will never work until Suchinda steps down. It's up to us, as workers, to stop him. And finally, in the end, he will step down." The news reports so far have not revealed whether antigovernment activity has spread to the countryside, where the majority of Thailand's 54 million people live.

There has been little discussion of what the demands of the protests are, beyond the resignation of the prime minister and some constitutional reforms. But it is clear that *bourgeois politics and ideology* are leading the protest movement now. A former general and governor of Bangkok, Chamlong Srimuang, has emerged as the leading figure in the opposition to the prime minister. Chamlong seems to have a strong base among urban middle class people, but both he and Suchinda represent different sections of the Thai ruling class who are fighting over the spoils of power.

On Wednesday, May 20 Suchinda and Chamlong met together with the king of Thailand. The king historically has played an important role in the ruling class politics of Thailand at key junctures. For example, during the widespread student uprisings in 1976, the king stepped in to give legitimacy to the right-wing military dictatorship. This was at a time when the U.S. had been routed out of Southeast Asia by liberation movements in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. At the Wednesday meeting, the king told Suchinda and Chamlong to "prevent fighting in our own house." Afterwards, Suchinda promised to make some reforms and release protesters from detention. And Chamlong called on people to stop the protests.

## The Powers Have Blood on Their Hands

Thailand is "independent" in name, but it is dominated by imperialist powers. Japan has huge economic interests there—factories owned by Toyota and other Japanese companies surround Bangkok. The U.S. has long-standing ties with the Thai rulers. During the Vietnam War, Thailand served as an important base for U.S. military operations. Many top government officials, generals, businessmen and others in the Thai elite have been educated and trained in the U.S.

The extent of U.S. influence over the Thai government can be seen by the fact that the Bush administration basically vetoed the man who was premier before Suchinda. The U.S. accused the man of connection to international drug trafficking and denied him a visa. This led to his fall and the appointment of Suchinda as prime minister. (It is shameless hypocrisy for the U.S. imperialists to throw around accusations about drug trafficking in Southeast Asia. There is much evidence of the CIA's long involvement in drugs in this part of the world.)

At the time that the Thai government soldiers were firing on the demonstrators last week, 9,500 U.S. troops were in the middle of Cobra Gold '92—a major military exercise with the Thai armed forces. And protesters in the street picked up empty cartridges from M-16s supplied to the Thai military by the U.S. The Pentagon came out to say that the U.S. troops were being withdrawn from the area because "it makes sense in a time of problems in Bangkok not to have pictures of U.S. forces storming the beaches in Thailand." But such despicable maneuvering cannot hide the fact that the U.S. powers have the blood of Thai people on their hands.

## Maoist Revolution Needed

As we go to press, it appears that large-scale clashes have stopped for now in the streets of Bangkok. On Sunday, May 24 Suchinda announced that he would resign as prime minister. But there is clearly smoldering anger at the military's brutal crackdown on the protests. On Thursday, the day after the king's meeting with Suchinda and Chamlong, a limousine carrying a general was attacked by people who kicked the doors and spat at the windows. A group of youth rocked an army jeep that stopped at a red light, and other youth painted anti-army slogans on walls. A CNN news report said Suchinda's resignation announcement did not produce "total satisfaction" among the young protesters.

The crisis in Thailand is another crack in the "new world order" declared by the U.S. powers. The Thai people are rising up against a reactionary government backed by the imperialists. But the Thai people do not need a replacement of the military regime with another government that may have a more "democratic" face but is still an oppressor of the people and is still tied to the powers. Revolution is the only road to real liberation for the Thai people. What is needed is a Maoist people's war—a revolutionary war of the masses to overthrow the reactionary order and kick out the imperialist dominators. □



Mass arrest of demonstrators in Bangkok.

**Statement by Relatives of Revolutionary Prisoners In Peru****"Defend the Best Sons and Daughters of the People!"**

The reactionary Fujimori government of Peru had thrown more than 500 prisoners of war behind the walls of the maximum-security prison at Canto Grande and left them to die of disease or starvation. Many of the prisoners were peasant guerrillas from the mountains and jungles. The government, desperate to defeat the Maoist people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru (known as the Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path in the press), targeted the prisoners for persecution. But the revolutionary men and women turned the two buildings where they were kept apart from the other prisoners into a "shining trench of combat." They lived collectively and continued to contribute to the revolution through productive work, political study and cultural activities. Stung by the resistance of the prisoners—and suffering serious defeats at the hands of the revolutionary armed forces led by the Communist Party of Peru—the Fujimori regime ordered heavily armed troops to attack the captured revolutionaries at Canto Grande.

The revolutionary prisoners, their lawyers and relatives had warned for many months that the government was preparing a new massacre against them. In an attempt to create a pretext for an attack, the Fujimori regime and the reactionary media worked together to spread lies—they claimed the revolutionary prisoners were "heavily armed" and refused to allow anyone into their cellblocks. At the same time, government forces attempted several armed assaults against the prisoners but were repulsed. The following statement by the relatives of the revolutionary prisoners in Peru was issued a few weeks before the recent massacre. (See last week's *RW* for a statement from the prisoners before the massacre.) The translation is by the *RW*.

**DEFEND THE LIVES  
OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR!  
NO TO GENOCIDE!**

**DENOUNCE, EXPOSE AND  
SMASH THE PLAN OF  
GENOCIDE UNDERWAY  
AGAINST THE POLITICAL  
PRISONERS AND PRISONERS  
OF WAR!**

The relatives of the political prisoners, prisoners of war and disappeared in Peru salute the proletariat and the people. And we denounce before national and international public opinion the sinister plan of genocide which the reactionary government of the genocidal sellout of the country, Fujimori, is increasingly trying to wage against our relatives. Fujimori is following the orders of his master, Yankee imperialism. And he is acting in collusion with the reactionary and revisionist parties—Cambio 90, APRA, AP, PPC, IU, IS, MAS, etc.—and the Church who are all calling for genocide against the prisoners of war.

GENOCIDE is not just a massacre but a whole system following an ideological-political logic to the point of horrendous murder of a social, racial, political, or some other group. In Peru, genocide is against those who are rebelling—against the people who are not putting up with exploitation, hunger and misery. The government and the reactionaries are launching evil "campaigns" in the face of their own impotence and desperation at not being able to contain the just rebellion of our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, wives and husbands who find themselves in the situation of being prisoners of war in the various prisons of the country.

The genocide they are planning will not be the first. It will be in addition to many others that have been committed in the countryside (in Uchuraccay, Accomarca, Cayara, etc.), in the cities, the barrios and the shantytowns (Collique, Barrios Altos, etc.). There was also the massacre committed at Lurigancho Prison on October 4, 1985, where more than 30 prisoners of war



Guerrilla fighters led by the Communist Party of Peru.

were murdered and burned. And there was the perverse, evil and treacherous crime against humanity—the genocide of June 19, 1986 in the Shining Trenches of Combat of El Frontón, Lurigancho and El Callao, where they murdered 300 prisoners of war. They denied all the constitutional rights of the prisoners, especially the right to life that they so clumsily claim to defend. And they also denied us the right to bury our dead. That's how these "defenders of human rights" behave.

Today these murderous blood-soaked hyenas are again trying to bathe in the blood of the best sons and daughters of the people by repeated attempts at genocide. For example, they attempted a genocide on August 15, 1991. This attempt was denounced and resisted by the prisoners of war. And on December 17 of the same year, the prisoners again resisted and smashed this genocidal plan. This year, on March 17, about 500 miserable troops of the genocidal armed forces invaded to make a "reconnaissance" and to set their plan in motion. It is for this reason that they have been occupying Juan Pablo II shantytown in Canto Grande since February. The troops have even seized the communal center from the residents, who have publicly denounced the presence of the genocidal armed forces. The residents know that where the troops go, bloodbaths follow. In recent days the troops have been creating a ruckus by firing at all hours of the day, so that the masses "get used to it" and are not startled on the day of the genocide. This is only making the people repudiate the armed forces even more.

We know very well that the presence of the troops in this shantytown is no accident. They are preparing for genocide and serving as support to the genocidal armed forces that have been stationed at the Canto Grande Prison since October of last year. We also denounce how the prisoners are always beaten and threatened every time they have to attend court hearings. They also transport the women prisoners of war in the same vehicles as the men. To this is added the constant shutting off of lights, water, food, work materials, and so on.

And most shocking is what the genocidal sellout—the slick, miserable and cynical Fujimori—said in an interview with the newspaper *Dominical del Comercio* published on February 23: "There will be a big

massacre, but it will be by the weapons of the terrorists." But what everyone can see is that today, they are again creating conditions for another genocide in cellblocks 1-A (women) and 4-B (men) of the Miguel Castro Castro Prison in Canto Grande where a total of some 500 prisoners of war are held. As part of their plan, they are utilizing the media.... The media is behaving like dirty spies, distributing lists of the prisoners who have been rescued from these dungeons and those who are about to win their release by exercising the rights established by the constitution and the penal codes.... The media all report a string of lies, libels and slanders. They claim that the prisoners are "entrenched," "have weapons," "dig tunnels," "don't work," "allow no one to enter," etc.

What is clear is that in the prison, the prisoners of war produce to provide for themselves. They have a garden and raise small animals. They weave fabrics, do small production, and so forth. Every day the Republican Guards enter to make a count...as do the employees of the INPE (National Institute of Prisons), representatives of the International Red Cross and others. Those who do not enter—and will never enter—are the genocidal Armed Forces who are heavily armed and try to invade. But our relatives have heroically confronted the Armed Forces. They know they are carrying out their duty to courageously resist this new and bigger genocide underway.

As for us, the relatives of the prisoners, we face constant harassment with humiliating searches, mistreatment and repression. They are also making a list of our membership. Since March 6 they have begun to photocopy our voting cards, in some cases even cutting up our IDs, in order to persecute, jail, disappear and murder us. (They have already come in hoods to the homes of some relatives of prisoners of war.) They want to isolate and then murder us. When we have demanded an explanation for this list, they have cynically said, "It's to find terrorists." In the habeas corpus lawsuit we filed, Commander P.S. Juan Junchaya Pantaja is quoted: "The order for the surveillance of the relatives of the terrorist prisoners came from the General Office of Intelligence in the Ministry of the Interior, DIGIMIN, and it was aimed at keeping track of them."

They are also trying to deny the right of defense to the prisoners of war and waging a vile campaign against the defense lawyers, including persecution and detention of some of them.

All this shows clearly and undeniably that there is a PLAN FOR MORE GENOCIDE against the political prisoners and the prisoners of war and against all the prisoners in the prison, as part of the genocide against the people.

We relatives reaffirm that we will tirelessly continue exposing and fighting against this genocidal plan, following the example of the prisoners of war who have not and will never get down on their knees.

We call on our combative people to join ranks in defense of the prisoners of war. The prisoners are the price the people have had to pay for their struggles. They are among the best sons and daughters of the people, our flesh and blood.

We place full responsibility for the blood flowing in the prisons on the slick, cynical, miserable and genocidal Fujimori, on the genocidal Armed Forces and Police, on the Minister of Justice, the Minister of the Interior and the commander of Miguel Castro Castro Prison.

**DEFEND THE LIVES OF THE  
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND  
PRISONERS OF WAR!**

**NO GENOCIDE!**

**EXPOSE AND SMASH THE PLAN  
OF GENOCIDE AGAINST  
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND  
PRISONERS OF WAR!**

**LISTS MEAN PERSECUTION,  
DISAPPEARANCE AND MURDER  
OF RELATIVES!**

**GENOCIDAL ARMED FORCES OUT  
OF THE PRISONS!**

**LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF  
THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND  
PRISONERS OF WAR!**

**LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF  
THE CANTO GRANDE PRISONERS!**

CFPPPGDP

Committee of Relatives of Political  
Prisoners and Disappeared in Peru

Lima, March 1992



Peruvian troops surround Canto Grande prison, April 1992.

## Statement by Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru Condemn the Cowardly Attacks on the Revolutionary Prisoners of Peru!

*The following is a statement from the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru on the massacre of revolutionary prisoners by the Peruvian government troops on May 6-9. The CSRP is circulating the statement for signatures. The Peruvian regime, their Yankee imperialist masters and the media are carrying out a shameful conspiracy of silence about the massacre. They do not want the world to know about the cowardly crime they committed against the revolutionary women and men held at Canto Grande prison. And they want to cover up the truth about the heroic resistance put up by the prisoners in the face of heavily armed reactionary troops. This conspiracy of silence must be broken! All people of conscience must speak out loudly against the massacre. Word about the inspiring fight waged by the prisoners must go out far and wide.*

\*\*\*\*\*

The Peruvian government launched a vicious assault on the revolutionary prisoners held in Canto Grande prison outside of Lima. The military used heavy explosives, automatic weapons, tear gas and nerve gas against prisoners who resisted, armed only with homemade weapons like darts, slingshots, rocks and kitchen implements. Estimates are that about 100 prisoners have been killed and that another 60-80 are still not accounted for. This cowardly assault is a replay of the infamous June 1986 massacre in which the Peruvian government murdered 300 revolutionary prisoners in cold blood. (The fierce resistance of the prisoners in 1986 is commemorated today as the "Day of Heroism.")

One of the first acts of Peru's President Fujimori after the recent military coup in April was to send convoys of troops to Canto Grande prison. Since the

coup the government has: dismantled the judiciary; instituted mandatory life imprisonment for "terrorist offenses"; arrested the leaders of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, the lawyers for the prisoners; arrested the staff and confiscated the printing equipment of *El Diario* newspaper in Lima, the only paper which supports the prisoners and their cause. The prisoners, many of them peasant guerrilla fighters from the mountains and jungles, have been targeted as a symbol of the Maoist revolution (led by the Communist Party of Peru, called "Sendero Luminoso" in the press). The government is hoping that this cowardly murder will deal a blow to the morale of the revolutionaries and oppressed of Peru.

Among the prisoners reported killed in the attack on Canto Grande were some of the most outspoken supporters of the revolution: Janet Talavera, co-editor of *El Diario* newspaper, who had been imprisoned for the crime of publishing a newspaper in support of the revolution; and three prominent members of the Association of Democratic Lawyers.

The U.S. government is the main big-power backer of the Peruvian government. The U.S. has for years worked covertly and overtly to oppose the revolution, sending Green Berets and military aid and "advisors." We in the U.S. will not sit by in silence while murderous crimes are committed against the political prisoners in Peru. We will do all we can to break through the wall of lies and silence; we denounce the attacks on the prisoners.

*The CSRP is calling on people to take this statement out broadly for signatures. Signed statements should be mailed to: CSRP, PO Box 1246, Berkeley, CA 94701.*

**COMING SOON!  
 NEW VIDEO RELEASE!**

### Shantytowns and Prisons in Peru: The Revolution Advances

*Produced by the Committee to  
 Support the Revolution in Peru*

Part one of this video is footage of heroic street fighting by shantytown dwellers in Lima who, led by the Communist Party of Peru, wage a determined battle against government attempts to evict them.

The second part of the video has scenes from inside Canto Grande Prison, the target of the May 1992 prison massacre carried out by Fujimori's military government. This remarkable footage shows how the revolutionary prisoners transformed their sections of the prison into bastions of resistance. It shows the prisoners in daily activities: political study, producing their own clothing, preparing their food, growing herbal medicine and resisting all attempts to force them to submit to prison authorities.

*Spanish narration with English subtitles*

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Summer 1991—People defend Raucana against police attack with Molotovs and rocks.

# L.A. Power Schemes

The L.A. rebellion slammed the U.S. rulers hard, it shook this country to its roots. The voices and actions of the oppressed people in L.A. inspired their sisters and brothers in the ghettos and barrios throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world. And, as in all great uprisings of the people, the reactionaries are hitting back hard. The powers in L.A. have launched a full-scale assault against the people.

The main aspect of this attack is the outrageous military repression the L.A. pigs are carrying out inside the rebellious communities. The pigs are doing house-to-house searches and raids, staging mass arrests, breaking up gatherings and continuing to enforce their own curfew in oppressed neighborhoods. But in addition to the brute terror of the cops, the system's campaign of repression has other parts. These include the appointment of a special commission, the selection of Willie Williams as the city's first Black police chief, and Proposition F, a so-called "police reform" measure on the June 2 ballot.

The commission is headed by William Webster, the ex-head of the FBI and the CIA, with the assistance of Hubert Williams, ex-police chief of Newark, NJ, and an advocate of "community policing." In the past, such commissions have pretended to study the "causes of the rebellion"—that is, the conditions of the masses that are a product of this oppressive, class system and for which it has no solution anyway. But the Webster Commission isn't even pretending.

This is a cops' commission. Its investigation is focusing on why the police didn't just come down on and blow away the masses right at the start of the rebellion. Instead, the police turned tail back to their stations when the upsurge began, and this has been the target of all the criticism of the LAPD within ruling class ranks. Webster has also already talked about "personnel shortages," and is certain to recommend more cops. One thing that's already clear about this commission is that the powers

are not just talking about how the pigs should react to future rebellions, but about unleashing their killer pigs *now*, to try to crush the people back down.

And the rulers are deadly serious about tightening up their ranks to ensure that nothing interferes with this assault on the masses. Even the mainstream media, which has fully cooperated with the police in turning over photos and videos of the masses to enable prosecution, will be investigated by the Webster Commission to see if any of its "news" coverage might have had the unintended effect of spreading the flames of rebellion.

It's no accident that the number two man on the Webster Commission is a well-known advocate of "community policing." This is a major component of the powers' stepped-up repression of the masses. Indeed, Willie Williams was chosen as the new police chief, not just because he's Black, but because he's a well-known advocate of "community policing." This means more cops to walk the beat and spy on the people, with the cops trying to know everything and everyone in the oppressed communities. And it means enlisting a section of the people to be snitches—helping to identify the rebellious youth in the neighborhood—and vigilantes patrolling the street and working with the cops.

The powers announced the appointment of Willie Williams to Gestapo Chief Gates's job just days before the Rodney King verdict came down, thinking maybe this would fool enough people to chill out the anger of the masses. NOT! In the wake of the rebellion, Williams is working overtime even before he becomes the chief. He's not scheduled to take office until the beginning of July, but he has already resigned as police chief of Philadelphia and come to L.A. to move full speed ahead with his plan, cruising church meetings and community gatherings, trying to recruit volunteers to work against the people.

While this "community policing" ap-

proach has become the most-favored one for repressing the masses in the big cities across the country, the LAPD has had a tough time implementing it. Once well-known as the vanguard police department in the country, the LAPD under Daryl Gates—who Bush called an "all-American hero" after the Rodney King beating—has been so exposed as a Nazi outfit loaded with open racists that even those who really want to cooperate with the cops have to think twice. They certainly have to worry about what the neighbors will think of them. The powers-that-be hope that putting in Willie Williams and his version of community policing will change that situation and encourage and enable some who today won't get near the police department to work with them against the more rebellious sections.

A third major part of the powers' campaign is Proposition F, which is disguised as a major "reform" of the police department. The Rodney King beating exposed the LAPD before the world as the brutal pigs they are, and provoked outrage everywhere and on many levels of society. The system set up the Christopher Commission as a lightning rod for this outrage. They went public with the "community policing" plan and called for Daryl Gates to ease himself out. To carry this out, they proposed some changes in the city government structure. The basic point was to control and regulate the infighting among the various government bodies so that the full force of the state can be directed against the masses. These changes have now become a desperate necessity. This system is trying to turn back the mass upsurge of the rebellion, and they can't afford a situation where the Police Commission fires the chief one day, and City Council reinstates him the next (as happened last summer). In fact, this infighting produced important openings for the masses of people.

Proposition F is being promoted by the city council, the Mayor, two ex-L.A. police

chiefs and corporate and religious groups. Because it is opposed by Gates and the Police Protective League, some people have been confused and some progressive forces are supporting it and putting it forward as some big "reform" of the police department. In fact, what they are supporting and encouraging is an effort to put the stamp of approval on more repression of the masses.

This is a *class society*. The big capitalists who rule over this system are afraid of those they exploit and oppress. That's why the police—the rulers' first line of defense—treat whole sections of the population, especially those who can't be relied on to be pacified by or go along with the system, as the enemy. That's the role of the police, and nothing is going to "reform" that role into something else. And in the world today, with the whole system in severe crisis and more and more people forced into desperate straits, any such "reforms" being promoted by the powers are only part of the plan to bring even more repression down on the masses.

Let's be clear: It's right to rebel! These measures being taken by the ruling class are meant to obscure and turn back what has really been accomplished in this rebellion, and to bring a thousand more miseries down on the people. The people should not be fooled by them. The basic fact is this: the system has nothing to offer the masses of people but prison, brutality and murder. What's needed is not making the system more efficient in this, but taking the struggle against this system to a higher level as part of getting ready for the time when we can get rid of this way of death once and for all.

**NO MORE RACIST PIG BRUTALITY!  
NO TIME! WE DID NO CRIME!  
IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!  
REVOLUTION IS THE  
HOPE OF THE HOPELESS!  
WHO WILL BURY THIS SYSTEM?  
GET DOWN WITH THE RCP!**

## Join the Real Clean-up Squad



# LAPD Attacks RCYB

## Hands Off Our Revolutionary Leaders!



Three members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB), including the revolutionary leader Sasha, have been kidnapped by the LAPD, are being held by the courts for outrageous ransom, and are facing threats of brutality inside the L.A. County jails. They are being charged with made-up "crimes"—disturbing the peace, interfering with an officer and inciting to riot. Even though these charges are all misdemeanors, which normally means that bail is set at \$250, the authorities are holding the three revolutionary sisters on a total of \$44,500 bail!

The three women have been separated from each other. One is being transferred to a jail in Lancaster, a desert community in Northeast L.A. County. Another is being kept in isolation because she refused to give detailed personal information on a jail form. This sister has been threatened and subjected to interrogations for insisting that she is a political prisoner, and has been threatened with being placed in a psychiatric ward. She had all "privileges" taken away and the authorities have not allowed anyone to visit her.

The sisters were busted on May 18 in front of their house in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. At 9:00 p.m., the police came in force to the block where some RCYBers live, supposedly in response to a call that some immigrants were drinking beer outside. The pigs forced people to their knees for being out on the streets, and then jumped the RCYBers for standing with the people. One sister was hog-tied and dragged across the ground. Six people were originally arrested, but the authorities decided to let three men go and hit the RCYB women with a vengeance.

This is the third recent attack on the

RCYB and supporters of the RCP, beginning with the arrests of six revolutionaries on May Day. Those arrested included Hayden Fisher, a long-time revolutionary activist who is well-known for having raised the red flag over the Alamo in Texas in 1980 with Damián García. (Comrade García was murdered a month later by police agents in an East L.A. housing project.) In the May 1 arrest, Hayden Fisher was beaten and brutalized by the LAPD and then charged with the typically fabricated lie—assault with a deadly weapon on a pig—they run out when they brutalize the people. He was originally held on \$10,000 bail and is still in jail, being held for the ransom of \$2,500.

A week later on May 9, five revolutionaries—including the RCYB women now in jail—were arrested in front of Libros Revolución. They had been passing out leaflets and calling on people to come to a program at the bookstore featuring Carl Dix, National spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party. The arrest of the revolutionaries and the subsequent surrounding of the store by dozens of pigs in riot gear did not succeed in preventing the program from taking place. At that time, the RCYB sisters were released without bail.

But with this latest arrest, the courts have revoked that release and, for two of the women, including Sasha, re-set bail of \$8,500 for the earlier arrest (plus \$8,500 for the most recent) in order to keep these sisters in jail and off the streets. The third RCYB sister was hit with \$1,000 bail for the Pico-Union bust, but this was also jacked up—to \$10,000—by a pig judge at a hearing that was called to supposedly reduce this outrageous bail.

On May 20, a press conference was held

in front of the Criminal Courts building (which also houses the office of District Attorney Ira Reiner) in downtown Los Angeles to demand that the revolutionaries be freed and the ransom demands be dropped. Half a dozen RCYB members and supporters—armed with a banner reading "Hands Off Our Revolutionary Leaders"—faced off against over two dozen pigs in riot gear in front of the citadel, with many more obviously holed-up inside the building. The pigs, in the freak-out style they find so necessary these days, told one reporter that they were there to prevent people from "rushing the building." The press conference was covered in the Spanish language newspaper *La Opinión* in an article which noted that the RCYB statement was consistent with what is being said by a number of pro-immigrant activists about police repression and brutality directed against immigrants in the Pico-Union area.

Despite the talk in the bourgeois press about "cleaning up" and "rebuilding" L.A., the streets of the oppressed communities are overrun with uniformed thugs freaking out over the continuing anger of the masses and increasing hatred of their oppression. In Watts, the rest of South Central, and other neighborhoods where oppressed people live, pigs travel in packs to better attack the masses. Despite the official lifting of the curfew, there is still a defacto curfew in effect, and Black and Latino people have been arrested standing in their own front yards. In Pico-Union, which has the largest concentration of Central American immigrants in the U.S., police have been rampaging through the area, grabbing people off the street or out of restaurants, and brutalizing them in alleyways when they can catch individuals away from their family and friends. Those they decide not to charge with a "crime" are turned over to the Immigration Service, and many hundreds of people have been deported in this manner.

At the same time, amid the whole brutal martial law atmosphere in L.A., the authorities are putting special emphasis on desperately trying to prevent the masses of people from hooking up with their vanguard revolutionary leadership. In various court proceedings, prosecutors have openly argued for jacking up bail on revolutionaries for not only standing with and among the masses in the midst of the rebellion but for leading them in getting ready for the all-the-way revolution that is so

necessary. And the L.A. County Sheriff has openly called for a federal investigation into the Revolutionary Communist Party and its activities during the rebellion.

Their desperate attacks on revolutionary leaders will not succeed. These outrageous repressive attacks must become a big rock they have picked up only to drop on their own feet. When the enemy attacks the revolutionaries like this, it is not only a sign that they fear the fact that the oppressed people are increasingly being drawn to the banner of revolution. It also helps make clear to the masses they need to come to support and join their vanguard.

This is what needs to happen in a big way right now. Funds and legal help are urgently needed to free these revolutionaries. The RCYB is asking people to call the District Attorney's office at (213) 974-7401 and the City Attorney's office at (213) 485-5470 to demand that the threats and abuse in jail stop and these revolutionary sisters and brother be freed. Lawyers are urgently needed to intervene on behalf of these sisters. The woman being held in solitary does not have a lawyer. (Along with officially throwing out constitutional protection against being held for days without charges the government suspended the right to counsel—claiming the process of assigning lawyers is overwhelmed.) Women's organizations must speak out on the LAPD and prison officials' brutality towards women revolutionaries. And bail money is urgently needed so these sisters can be freed from jail while the legal battle goes on!

Send bail to Libros Revolución, 312 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014. (Make checks out to Libros Revolución and attach a note explaining the money is for the bail fund.)

- Contact the defense team thru Libros Revolución, (213) 488-1303, 312 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014.
- Leave messages for the RCYB at (213) 840-2234.
- Protest to the judge who set bail—Linda P. Elliott, (213) 974-6081, Division 80 Municipal Court, 529 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Call and write District Attorney to protest: Ira Reiner, (213) 974-3501, Criminal Courts Building, 210 W. Temple St., Suite 18000, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Call the jail—Sybil Brand Institute for Women—to protest: (213) 780-2600. □



Los Angeles, April 29, 1992.

Photo: Alan Duignan/L.A. Times



L.A. cops beat Rodney King, March 1991.

# PIGS OR PIGS

One of the white cops who tried to beat Rodney King to death has written a book about his life as a pig. The book by Sgt. Stacey Koon, who supervised the beating, and which has not yet been published, describes his experiences brutalizing Black and Latino prisoners—experiences he sums up as producing "a high." He calls Rodney King "Mandingo," a racist term from slavery days. And he calls George Halliday, the man who videotaped the beating (and who is white) "George of the Jungle." He recalls joking about another Black man that he shot, saying, in response to another pig's question about whether the man was dying, "No way! You or I, we'd die, but not a Negro. They're too dumb to go into shock."

The Rodney King beating was not the first beating by Koon to be captured on film. An earlier incident in which he repeatedly kicked a Latino, including in the groin, was used as a training film. In fact, Koon's initial reaction to the video was delight. He thought it would be shown to other pigs and he'd be famous.

In interviews about his book, Koon insists that he's not a racist, because "There are certain professions where it's normal, acceptable behavior for them to talk this way." In other words, all pigs are like this.

# Shockwaves:

## Report from the L.A. Rebellion

### Part 2: Voices on the Edge

by Michael Slate

**“The first time wasn’t shit. That was just a little piece of cake. You just wait if this shit goes down with the four brothers from the Eight-Trays, then it gonna be the whole cake, nah man, then it’s gonna be the whole damn catering business that we take down. We got the whole motherfucking catering business going.”**

#### TRUCE

The neighborhoods in South Central are hot. The people are righteously angry and the situation stays tense. This is especially true in Watts, and even more so in the projects. We were in one of them, talking to two brothers—one Crip and one Blood.

The brother was kneeling down taking care of his pigeons. He keeps them in a cage improvised out of wood scraps and milk crates. It was a trip—each of these young brothers had been stabbed, shot, beaten and thrown in jail. A month earlier they would have been trying to kill each other but now we were all standing together talking about the rebellion, the power of the oppressed and the road to revolution. The only tension came from the constant pig surveillance—they were riding four deep and shotguns up, and whenever they passed by it was real slow and real careful.

The brother from the Crips continued. He wanted to talk on the truce and what it meant to be a gangbanger and what it means now that the truce is in effect. “Look, we got together and we gonna stop this shit. We came together by ourselves. No motherfucker did for us, we, the Crips and the Bloods did for self. The Crips came

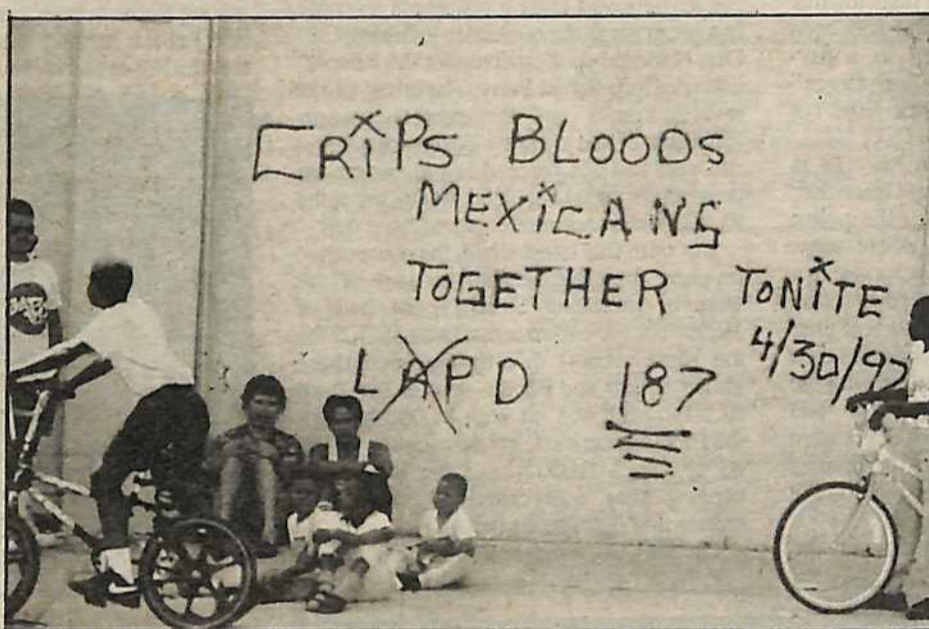
with the Bloods and we said ‘Look, why are we killing each other’ And nobody had the fucking answer. Know what I’m saying? I don’t have no answer, I’m just a Crip cuz I wanna be a Crip. He a Blood cuz he wanna be a Blood. Now this is just stupid that we killing each other. We ain’t got no answer for why we killing each other. We together as one now and didn’t nobody think we could do this shit. We been kickin it together for two and a half week and ain’t nobody tripped on nobody, ain’t nobody had no fight with nobody and ain’t been no gang violence.”

The gang truce has been big news in L.A. There have been hundreds of unity meetings and parties over the last few weeks and each one has been attacked and broken up by the pigs, geared up for a war and guns drawn. This whole scene has been an out-front exposure of the LAPD and the powers that run them. For years they have been complaining about “gang violence” and then using it to carry out wholesale attacks on Black and Latino youth. The brother from the Bloods jumped in here. He had some definite thoughts on the truce. “Let me tell you how it is. We got to watch the police. The police is tricky, know what I’m saying? Let me tell you how this shit is

kicking. They don’t want to see us together, they’ll try to kick it back off some kind of way. They send a bastard over here, some kind of agent ass motherfucker, know what I’m saying? Then this agent, he gonna shoot one of us and say some Crip set from way over there did it, they say the Crips done it. Or they might kill a Crip and say some Blood set done it. That cause floods up in people’s brains!”

The rebellion brought on some major changes in these gangs. And it’s not only a question of making peace with each other. For the first time some of these youth and other gangsters are feeling challenged to look beyond their own hood and to take up the struggle against all oppression. It’s a real mixed bag of ideas, but the struggle is live and the idea of revolution and how to do it is one major topic of debate. The brother from the Crips put out his ideas. “Now I think we need some real change and in a way I think the gangs can do it. In a way we are a revolutionary organization. We are something that is dominant over all—we are Black. Black Power is dominant over all. All I want is peace for the Black man. Now we can have war, if they want war we can have war. If we together as Crips and Bloods or Bloods and Crips then we dominate the police department. But we ain’t out to do this. Now the police might come in here and kill a Blood and say ‘What’s up Cuzz?’ like it was one of us that did it. Or they might come and kill us and say ‘What’s up Blood?’ And what we gonna do. We got no choice, we got to believe it. Instead of us acting like Black people and coming over here and saying ‘Man, which one of you all homeys done that and that?’—instead of that the homey’s gonna come over here and trip. And they these Bloods over here gonna come back on us and retaliate. That’s they obligation! That’s what they supposed to do. We obligated to hold down our hood and they obligated to hold down their hood. But now we as one and we obligated to hold down each other’s hood. We obligated to hold down each other period, know what I’m saying? Not as a gang, not as a set—but as Black people.”

The Blood was trying to bring in one of his pigeons—a dark red one that he was working on mating with other colors. He had listened to the brother from the Crips and wanted to speak his piece before he left to catch a phone call. “You know the whole thing was when Latasha got killed (young Black woman killed by a Korean storeowner), then people was like we gonna wait and see what happens with Rodney. Then when we found out that Rodney didn’t get no justice, then we felt we had to serve justice for ourselves. We had to make some noise to show we don’t appreciate what shit is going on. We out here getting fucked over by the police every day and we can’t just keep taking it. Man it’s rough for us. We don’t get no breaks. We already got it kinda hard over here in the hole and we don’t need no police coming in and trying to ride us all the time. Look, we killing each other and then we got the LAPD coming up and killing us too. They the biggest damn gang in L.A. We in the projects—know what I’m saying?—everybody in the



Graffiti in Los Angeles.

Photo: B. Strong/SIPA



Tying different gang colors together as a symbol of truce.

Photo: Associated Press

\*Michael Slate is a special correspondent for the *Revolutionary Worker* and the author of the “War Stories” series based on two trips to South Africa to cover the rebellions there in the 1980s.





Los Angeles, April 29, 1992.

projects is like one big family and now it was just time for all of us to come together. We all know what time it is."

## REAL EDUCATION

When you drive south through L.A. you eventually end up in Watts. If you continue to drive south you come to Compton. People all over the world know about the city of Compton today because it's the home of N.W.A. and the song that became an anthem of the L.A. Rebellion, "Fuck tha Police." It's a small town just hanging off the edge of Los Angeles. It's row after row of one-story, bungalow ghetto housing. It looks a lot like the black townships in South Africa. It's hardcore proletarian. Years ago Black people coming from L.A. had to stop at Compton city limits because it was a "whites only" stronghold. Today most of the people living in Compton are Black with a small and growing Latino population. The people in Compton were part of the L.A. Rebellion and the scene there is still very tense. Hundreds of heavy-

**"It was just time for all of us to come together. We all know what time it is."**

ly armed police broke up a gang unity party just about a week ago. Then, a few days later a Compton pig was given a mistrial when nine out of twelve jurors voted to acquit for the savage murder of two Samoan brothers last year. The Compton police and the LAPD were both put on tactical alert—the last step before calling an all-out mobilization—the night the mistrial was announced.

Two of the things that really marked the L.A. rebellion were how broadly it cut across the metropolitan area and how people from all nationalities actually took part in it. According to some of the statistics released from the L.A. courts, about 45 percent of the people arrested during the rebellion were Latinos and almost 14 percent were white. Compton was one of the areas where Latino youth enthusiastically took up the rebellion, and we had come there to talk with a Latino high school student who had taken part in the uprising. A broad smile crossed his face as he began his story. "My father is from Salvador and my mother is from Mexico, I came here from Salvador to L.A. since I was six years old and now I'm like fifteen years old. When I saw the verdict on the cops I just thought, No, this is too horrible. Those police, they need to be in jail. They beat Rodney King and it was even on video and they need to be in jail. It was too terrible what they did. It was so bad, man, I was in my room when I heard what happened and I got so mad I wanted to rip my pillow. These cops they supposed to be in jail. My mom agrees with me and so do my sisters. When we talk to people who say that the jury says they are innocent so they should not be in jail, I just say, 'No, you are wrong!' After the verdict my friends called me up and said, 'Hey, vato, come on let's go!' and so we left. "We went to school the next day and we

found all of the people there arguing and some were even fighting. When people would say that there was some reason that the cops went free, my friends and me would just go to arguing with these people even if they were Black, white or Mexican. I got friends from every race and if they were wrong I would argue with them.

"You know in my school on the day after the riot started, it was cool in my school. There wasn't supposed to be school that day but we all came to school anyway. We came to school to talk about it. Everybody was mad and we were all over the school shouting 'Guilty, Guilty.' Some people in the school went and painted on the walls and set fire to the trash cans. People were writing 'Peace' and 'Guilty' on the walls. Some people say we went real crazy but I think we were real mad. Somebody brought a video to school—the video of Rodney King—and then somebody put it on the television and then everybody just started to break windows and everything. Then some people got so mad they broke the television. You know what, no cops came to the school either, they were too scared because there were so many of us. The cops came later and then the security for the school made us take the writing off of the walls, put boards up on the windows and clean up the school. They suspended one of us because he stood up to the securities and said a whole bunch of things to them. They said they were making everybody who 'looked suspicious' clean up the school. When we got there they gave us paint and told us to go and paint the walls. I threw the paint on the floor and the security, he took out his club and tried to hit me but he didn't.

"You know, after the school a whole bunch of us, we went from the school to other places. We went to the library and talked to all the people there and told them to come out and join us. Then we went all over the town to talk to people. Some people disagreed and we just left them but other people agreed with us and we told

them to come with us. We went around the whole place and when we ran into some soldiers we told them to go. Some people said to leave the soldiers alone because they were just doing their job. But I said, 'No, they got to go. We don't want them here.'

"Now in our school things are getting cool. When people talk about the rioting then some of us agree and some of us disagree and there are a whole bunch of fights there. When I met people with this newspaper and they gave me a whole bunch of papers, these RWs, I took them into the school to get to people. Some people got mad and ripped them up and I said, 'okay, later for them.' But other people read them and took them home for their parents to read. Some friends came and said they really liked this newspaper and they said to give them some more so they could get it to their friends and so I gave them some more. I brought mine home and I underlined and circled things I disagreed with but I pretty much agreed with everything I read. I talked with my friend about all of this and we said that all we want is freedom. That's what everybody wants is freedom. This is what we went to talk to people about. When we went back to school some of the teachers told us to just write what we thought about the Rodney King verdict. They told us to write what we felt and I was so angry I could have written a book. Me and some others we were so angry we were breaking our pencils on the paper. And some teachers agreed with us too. I'm still very angry!"

## "RIGHT ON THE EDGE"

Reading the walls while driving through South Central Los Angeles today is like reading a book on the rebellion. In the space of about four blocks we passed by taggers with names like "No Fucking Limits." A few walls down someone spraypainted the names of the cops in the Rodney King case and drew a big red X

**"All it took was a little tilt to set it off and, you know, it's right on the edge to go again and not only here but all over the United States."**

over them. "Fuck tha Police" and "LAPD 187" (187 is the legal code for murder) are among the most common graffiti. In one part of South Central there's a sign on a corner advertising the stores in a mini-mall. One of the signs is a bright new announcement for a U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Center. When you look past the sign there's nothing left but a pile of twisted metal and ash. If you turn right and drive down a few blocks there's one wall of a building left standing and "Shut 'Em Down! No Peace" is painted across it in large bright letters. A few walls away "It's Right to Rebel" and "No more Rodney Kings" stand out. In the middle of all this the police have taken up a pitifully stupid graffiti counteroffensive—crossing out some of the people's slogans and replacing them with things like "Fuck Rodney King."

We turned west off of the main street and parked the car. As we walked through the neighborhood we passed by people sitting out in their yards talking and sharing a few drinks with friends. As we approached one run-down old building on a corner I could hear an argument going on. I couldn't catch all of it but it seemed that the group of men sitting on old packing crates and broken chairs in front of this building were arguing about who killed Kennedy and what the CIA and FBI have done to people over the years. When I went up to talk with them and told them I was with the *Revolutionary Worker* they invited me to sit down and talk. They told me that they had just been discussing revolution before I came on the scene. They introduced themselves from left to right. They were all Black men ranging from 38 to 65 years old. They were homeless proletarians. One was a disabled steelworker, another was a mechanic who hadn't been able to get a job for 12 years. The youngest was a recently laid-off janitor while the oldest was a house painter who had done time on a chain gang in Louisiana. They all wanted to talk about the rebellion but decided that the disabled steelworker could tell the story and they would add on when they wanted to.

"I figure it all got started this way. See, it wasn't no surprise that these cops got off. Everybody already knew that them white guys was gonna get away with beating Rodney King up like that cause this isn't nothing no more than just another white man beating up another Black man and that's been going on in this city ever since I been here and I been here about 30 years. Did you see Gates. He knew those cops was gonna be not guilty—he looked like he was about to go to laughing when he was giving that press conference. But he didn't know there was gonna be this rebellion like there was. And once it started, I do believe that Gates got the word that he couldn't stop it cause they would have to go out in the street and just start shooting people. They couldn't do that cause that look worse than Tiananmen Square over there in China or that Kent State up in Ohio years back.

"The police couldn't do anything to stop it. They was running up and down the street with their sirens on but they wasn't stopping nowhere, they was too scared. When I heard that verdict it made me sick. I didn't know what to do. I was in the hospital when I heard and I'll tell you the whole damn hospital was ready to explode. And, if you think what happened now was something, well you just wait and see what happens if they sentence them young guys they got in jail now for beating on that white truck driver. I'll tell you what, this time it won't be just youngsters out there. This time we'll be in it. We gonna get in it this time and we gonna make sure it's real organized this time. We'll take it all to those buildings downtown. Look, how come the videotape works for that white boy when he gets beat but it don't work for Rodney King. And that little sister Latasha Harlins, the videotape

Continued on page 10

**HELP BRING THE TRUE STORY OF THE L.A. REBELLION TO THE PEOPLE:**

**Donate Money Now to the RW Emergency Reporters Travel Fund**

Make checks and money orders payable to RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654. Anonymous donations are recommended.



April 29, 1992—Women confront cops near Florence and Normandie Avenue, South Central L.A.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew/N.Y. Times

## Shockwaves

Continued from page 9

didn't work for her either. You know what they saying to Black people? And I'm saying Black people but I mean especially the poor people—they say, 'Fuck all you poor motherfuckers!'

"Black people been the most oppressed in the country. And this was worse in the last twelve years ever since Ronald Reagan, and he wasn't nothing but a lap dog for the rich. Reagan and Bush done pushed the Black people all the way down. There ain't nothing for a Black man out here no more. I know what Ronald Reagan was about when he told them he was gonna have to cut school lunches and when he was asked what the kids gonna eat he said let 'em eat ketchup. He wasn't nothing else but a lap dog for the rich. George Bush ain't nothing but a lap dog. They all lap dogs for the rich.

**"Some people said to leave the soldiers alone because they were just doing their job. But I said, 'No, they got to go. We don't want them here.'"**

"Look man, we are so depressed and so tired—we can't go out there and get a job and we want to work, I don't want to be like this, just sitting out here and having no work. But then you got these people come here from other countries and they set up business. We can't do that. And then these businesses like the Koreans, they just don't respect us. But I don't think it's the Koreans just cause they are Koreans, if you cut me and you cut the Korean who owns that store there we both gonna bleed red. We're both just human. But it's just not right the way they treat us. It's not right what that Korean store owner did to Latasha Harlins. That's just the way it is. I don't see no color.

"You know Black people only gonna get what they fight for. Nobody's gonna give nothing to us. And you know another damn thing, we got to get rid of these goddam churches you see all around here. They need to just stop building all these churches up and down these streets. They ain't teaching the people nothing. They just keep talking about going to heaven, but heaven is here and we got to deal here and they don't teach us nothing about this. And too many of these preachers just going to ride off with

your money in his pocket. And the liquor stores, we got liquor stores on every corner. Only thing a person can do around here is get high. They say we'll put a liquor store here and keep them drunk, cause if we don't they might just think about what we doing to them.

"There you go! That's what we need to do but this kind of overthrow is hard. It's hard but it's needed and it's true. Now we can't overthrow them unless we all come together to do it. You know we get nothing but lies here in this country. Somebody is lying to us. They tell us that America is the richest country in the world but from down here it looks pretty bad. They tell us they done won the Cold War but they ain't won nothing at all.

"Look here, there's a whole lot changing out here now. These youngsters around here—these gangbangers—now they gonna stop killing each other, they trying to get their shit together. But the police are not gonna let them get together, they riding around now backed up by the National Guard. Now as long as the youth quit killing each other and keep themselves together, people like me and everybody else ain't gonna let the police slaughter our young folks. I ain't got nothing left anyway, I'll die and go to hell first before I let them slaughter those young folks. It ain't got to be my son—every one of these young people around here is my son or my daughter. You know what happened here had to happen. The world had to see what was going on here. I was glad of it. All it took was a little tilt to set it off and, you know, it's right on the edge to go again and not only here but all over the United States. We ain't got nothing to lose no more. We can't live it. We don't see no way out."

### "NO TIME, WE DID NO CRIME"

Around Florence and Normandie, the intersection made famous as the place where a white truck driver was beaten by Black youths in the opening hours of the rebellion, the people are defiant and proud of the rebellion. The pigs have stepped up the pressure on the people. In this neighborhood and a number of others they ride four cars at a time and four deep in the car—all armed to the teeth. They turn off the streetlights and turn off their headlights to patrol the streets under the cover of darkness just like their racist South African soulmates in the black townships there.

All of this is justified in the name of attacking gangs. U.S. Attorney General Barr has given the official okay by announcing that the L.A. rebellion was nothing but young gangsters, so-called criminals and thugs. The powers in L.A. have just released their own study announcing that there are almost 1,000 gangs and

150,000 gang members in L.A. The study also revealed that 50 percent of all Black youth between the ages of 21 and 24 are listed in the L.A. police computers as gang members. What this means is that if you are a Black youth who wears baggy pants and hangs out with friends you are going to be listed by the LAPD as a gang member. One young brother told the LAPD that he was listed as a gang member and stopped by the LAPD about one hundred times in his life even though he was not a gang member and had never even been arrested.

This situation has sharpened up the polarization among the people. While the

**"This kind of overthrow is hard. It's hard but it's needed and it's true."**

authorities are trying to paint the four young brothers they arrested for beating the white truck driver—the LA 4—as ruthless and vicious gangsters who deserve life in prison, the people in the hood see the whole thing different. The arrested youth have been held in maximum security, without bail for a week. Then, their bail was set outrageously high, from \$50,000 to \$195,000. And when family, friends and supporters came up with bail for one of the youth, instead of letting him out of jail the federal government put a hold on him, saying he was wanted in another case.

The word on the street continues to be "No Time, We Did NO Crime." Two or three blocks into the neighborhood we ran into a carful of young sisters who had been down with the rebellion and were eager to tell their story.

"Now you see how the police coming back down here trying to act like they so bad and they can deal with us, they ain't scared. That's what they was doing when they arrested those four brothers last week. Daryl Gates, he down here showing how strong he thinks he is. But he's scared. You know what when he came to arrest those brothers he had to bring 200 police with him and he had to put on two bulletproof vests, not one but two. And before they did come in here at two o'clock in the morning, they still had to cut off all the electricity in the neighborhood and turn off all of the phone service for all the people around here. Yeah, man, Daryl Gates is a hard guy, the LAPD are real strong and brave."

"Look, I was down with what jumped off on April 29. I heard about it at work and I was just boiling. There's only seven of us Black people where I work and so while everybody else was voicing their opinions we got together to talk about it ourselves.

We just couldn't believe this was happening but I think deep down inside I wasn't really surprised. I could see it when the trial started to get so technical. The video stood for itself but when they started going through it frame by frame I knew there was gonna be trouble. They kept saying 'well in this frame it don't look like they hit him in the head.' I said what, well how did he get all them fractures and injuries on his head? You don't get them kind of injuries by falling down, not unless you gonna lay there and just keep beating your own damn head on the concrete. This should have just been open and shut, same thing with Latasha Harlins. This was all to let us know that they don't care nothing about the minority life. They saying 'We don't care, kill them all.' But that's okay, our people can deal with this.

"I came home from work and walked right around to that corner and supported Rodney King. It wasn't just a Rodney King thing, it was a lot of things. It was that little Latasha and a whole lot of things. They going to continue to treat Black people like that if we continue to let them—that's what I was thinking. We are tired of it. We need change.

"They keep talking about how we burnt down all these stores and did some looting. Well don't nobody want to talk about what it is to be a mother with two children and trying to survive on \$695 a month. They put you on welfare and tell you that you can't have this and can't have that and then tell you that you got to live off of this \$695 each month. They want you to feed and clothe the children and have a decent place to live off of this. Look, everything is against the Black people. Even when you get a job you can't get nowhere in it. I been at my job for two years and I'm still where I started. A whole lot of positions came open and I asked for them but couldn't get them cause I'm Black. It all very unfair. But then they want you to come to work and smile and be happy and support their government and all. HA-HA-HA-HA—That's a joke, that's a damn joke.

"Look, when I came home from work on April 29 I went right out there to the corner to stand with my people. It was the first time in my life it felt great to be Black. I was standing out there with my people and saying loud that we're all together and we ain't gonna let them run us into the ground. Hey now, Fuck tha Police!" □

TO BE CONTINUED

### Correction

In last week's RW (#657) the "Shockwaves: Report from the L.A. Rebellion" article incorrectly spelled "Eight Treys," due to a typographical error. The correct spelling is "Eight-Trays."

# Fighting Our Way From South Africa to L.A.

## Part 2

All over the world—from Peru to Palestine, from South Africa to Los Angeles—when the people rise up to fight the powers, they come up with all kinds of creative ways to do it. These stories, taken from the RW series "War Stories: Return to South Africa" are a good example of the revolutionary energy and creativity of the youth:

### The People's Court

Soweto-by-the-Sea was one of the areas in the country where the old authority had been pretty thoroughly intimidated and the new "People's Authority" that was born in the rebellions really began to take root. Literally every aspect of life in the squatter camp was affected by this—from culture to politics to home-life. The People's Courts were very strong in Soweto, and so I asked the comrade if he could tell me a little bit about them and arrange for me to meet some of the people involved in them.

The young comrade smiled shyly as he said, "You have been talking to one of the people all day. I am the leader of the People's Court for my section of Soweto. I have been elected by my comrades and the people in the community. We are elected because of our contribution to the struggle. The Street Committees and the People's Courts are only to make the struggle go ahead. We said that the white man must have no say in our communities. We must organize ourselves and take care of our own communities. For the Courts, we do many things from small to big. There is only one condition — that we must help the struggle. There was a time when we saw that the big double-decker shebeen (bar) was having a very bad effect on the people. It was open the whole of the day, from morning to next morning. Some of the people were drinking too much and they would fight or they would be picked up and by being drunk they might tell some things to the police. So we told the shebeen owner that he must only operate during certain hours and then we made certain that he obeyed us.

"One very bad thing that happens is husbands beating wives. We will not allow this. If we have a woman come to us to say that her husband or some other man is beating her, we act fast. We punish the man in different ways and sometimes we say the woman and other women must punish the man. This is our justice."

From RW No. 629, November 3, 1991



South Africa

### "We Must Have a Total Change"

We had to speak loudly to hear each other over the constant hammering of woodpeckers against the trees. Every now and then something would disturb the leaves in the thick grove of trees, and the squawks and cries of a dozen different types of tropical birds made all talk impossible. Small lizards clung to the sides of the rocky walls just behind us. Off in the background we could just barely hear the voice of a lifeguard on the beach and the screams of roller coaster riders at the amusement park. Up above us, up and above the trees, a South African cop sat watching the tourists and white vacationers parade down to the beach. The comrade explained that this was one of the safest places in the city to sit and talk. He also laughed about liking the idea of talking about the Revolution while we sat right under their noses in one of their cherished "African playlands."

"I do my revolutionary work in Lamontville and I started there before I finished school. I first got involved during the days of the Asinimali projects where people were striking because they had no money and they were not paying the rents. From there I met some other revolutionaries and I became involved in the philosophy of the Black Consciousness. We fought but we also developed political education classes where we tried to develop the ideology of Black Consciousness by talking of the problems we were facing and trying to solve them. From there we also began to discuss the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Because of that I started to get in touch with the *Revolutionary Worker* and wrote to other revolutionaries and began to get books and literature that I could not get here. I got and studied Mao, Lenin, Stalin and others, especially books by Bob Avakian. From there I still did my revolutionary work in the township, but I also began to study and write with others about the problems facing our revolutionary struggle.

"When we fought in the township it was at first mainly against the SADF (the army) and the police. We would fight them with rocks and bottles and then we would try to create zones in the townships—I don't know if you would call them liberated zones—but they were places in the townships where the soldiers could not come because we would keep them out. We would set up roadblocks by bringing trees onto the roads and setting up the burning tires and when the soldiers tried to remove these things we would throw our rocks and bottles and what not, so that it would be impossible for them to come to our area. We did have Street Committees for some time but we started having People's Courts only when the fighting among the people started. We, the comrades, were called on to intervene in this fighting—first gang fighting and then the so called inter-tribal violence. We had to intervene to expose to people what really causes this violence. We also intervened to bring up discipline among the people, but mainly we wanted to bring up who is the enemy, that the enemy is the system."

"We were thinking that our fight was to destroy the whole system and come with something new. We wanted the smashing of the state as such and from there we will bring something that is new and different. In Mandela and de Klerk's new South Africa, will the economics of imperialism still run the country? Will the townships still be the places for the masses of our people to be held? Will the land that is now owned by the whites be taken and given to our people? I don't think Mandela and de Klerk's new South Africa will change any of this. When we discuss these things in our township, then we see that these negotiations are not what we need and that these negotiators must get out of the struggle. We must have a total change and that can only come with the total smashing of the state power.

From RW No. 648, March 22, 1992



South Africa

After the Rodney King Verdict:

# NY Powers Move to "Keep the Peace" —

## DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE!

When the L.A. rebellion jumped off, many people in New York City, especially the youth, looked for ways to protest the verdict and act in support of the rebels in L.A. In New Rochelle police were driven from a housing project by rock-throwing youth and stores were trashed. "Trouble" erupted in Jamaica, Queens among Black youth. Hundreds of students walked out of high schools, possessed up, and challenged the police for control of the streets. A thousand people of all different nationalities demonstrated in Times Square. And when the police attacked people marching toward Greenwich Village, they were pelted with rocks, bottles and garbage.

But the powers were moving too. Mayor Dinkins and police chief Lee Brown put the police on full alert. And cops were sent out to employ contain-divide-beatup-rapid-arrest tactics at demonstrations. At the same time, the powers mobilized all kinds of so-called "community leaders" to act as political firemen. The morning after the King verdict, Dinkins organized 300 people from various community programs to try and suppress any protest. On Friday, the city took extraordinary measures to lock down the city, closing down corporate firms in the middle of the day and forcing a panicky exodus from the city to the suburbs.

The result of all this was a standoff. The people took to the streets in many parts of the city and tried to take things higher. But the authorities were able to keep things from escalating. And so far, they have managed to keep things contained.

Now Dinkins has been all over the media "congratulating" the youth of New York for showing how "responsible" they are. "Increase the peace" is Dinkins' rallying cry. Schools and social agencies have been unleashed to promote this crap too, and to promote the LIE that in L.A. "the people only hurt themselves."

The youth and others urgently need some straight talk on what's really going on here. What the rulers are running is nothing but the counterattack of a stung enemy. It's right to rebel! Slaves do not hurt themselves when they burn down slave quarters. And when the enemy counters, the people need to take things higher.

The real deal is that Dinkins represents the class of people on top, in power in this country—the imperialists. The interests of that class is to keep things under control, to keep things as they are, to keep the status quo that means nothing but ongoing oppression. Dinkins and Lee Brown are enforcers of this system. And when Dinkins says, "Increase the Peace," what he really means is *increase the police*. And that means more Rodney King beatings, and more murderous pig bullets.

The truth is this call to "be responsible" is part of a whole package that is a BIG LIE. The system pumps out the lie that if you behave yourself and act responsibly, you'll succeed. But in the real world you be "responsible" and they beat your ass. It's a lie that youth have a stake in this setup. The only future this system has to offer youth is poverty, forced motherhood, rape, prison, or the army. This system builds prisons and bombers, not houses and schools. Black men in Harlem have a life expectancy the

same as a man in Bangladesh. The police have permission to straight-out brutalize and murder the oppressed. And no cop has ever been convicted for murdering one of our people. These hired thugs have helped inspire a generation of racists who've been given a green light to do the same. The people are not responsible for this, so why should they act that way.

The real deal is that there has been a powerful struggle against the oppression of Black people in New York over the past few years, including three days of rebellion and fierce fighting in Crown Heights last August. And the rulers are scared shitless of what more might go down in New York. They didn't go into a high-speed clamp-down because they thought nothing was gonna happen! They were terrified of rebellion erupting there and how that might join together with the powerful rebellion in L.A. to further change the equation everywhere. For that very reason, the powers moved swiftly to contain things and are now trying to use the intense "calm" in New York as part of the club being brought down in L.A. They want to be able to say New York swallowed this verdict, L.A. should too. They want to hold New York up as a "model" of restraint and responsibility (read submission) to suppress and punish our people in L.A. This cannot be allowed to happen. It's right to rebel!

Dinkins says the youth of New York should be "proud" that things did not go higher. That's his class outlook—and his number one wish. But for our class, the proletariat, the only thing we should be proud of is how our own in L.A. put the

enemy on the run. That brought REAL hope for a new day for our people and all who hate this system. The L.A. rebellion put the brutality of this system on front street for all to see. It did this in a profound way that no "peaceful demonstration" could have.

### THE PROLETARIAT MUST LEAD

Some other things have been going down in New York that are confusing to some youth and other people. A section of the Black empowerment, nationalist movement with a reputation for militancy joined in with the efforts to cool things out when the Rodney King verdict came down. In the opening days of the rebellion, Mayor Dinkins could rarely be seen on the TV without Rev. Al Sharpton, who has a "militant" reputation for calling people out into the streets to protest racism. Sharpton is currently running for U.S. Senate and has his own reasons for keeping things in line. Also, in a May 9 article of the *Amsterdam News*, the largest Black newspaper, activist attorney Alton Maddox took credit for the efforts to "keep the peace" in New York. (Alton Maddox was active in the Howard Beach case and other murders of Black people by cops and white racists. For this he has been attacked and because of his support of Tawana Brawley, he faces permanent disbarment.)

Maddox wrote, "Ironically, the white power structure cashed in on this effective grassroots leadership in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. New York's super landlords can continue to collect exorbitant rents without the loss of any property.... New York's financial success depends on

the continued pacification of our community. Since Blacks have no financial stake in this city, it is a miracle that this city has not erupted despite principled grassroots leadership. New York is living on borrowed time." And he then adds that if Rodney King had had an attorney willing to put his career on the line, and "had an Al Sharpton who had promoted 'Days of Outrage,' Los Angeles may have been inconvenienced but lives would have been saved and property would have remained intact."

This view represents the outlook of the Black middle class. This section of the people opposes the oppression coming down on Black people, they are victims of it themselves, and they are propelled by the

**When Dinkins says,  
"Increase the Peace,"  
what he really means is  
increase the police.**

system itself to stand against it. But they are also influenced by their middle class position and promote solutions which will not lead to genuine liberation. In fact, Maddox is praising the leadership of this movement for keeping the lid on New York. People like him have often supported mass resistance, but this movement ultimately represents a section of the Black middle class that wants in—but has been kept out—economically and politically, of the mainstream positions of power in this country. And if their class outlook leads, the anger of the basic people will get mobilized only to be channeled into dead-end solutions.

This is because middle forces like this vacillate. They are pulled by their class position to want IN on the system—they want to get ahold of some capital to go into business for themselves (and exploit others), and they will support a Black mayor who may give them a piece of the "action" in return. They tend to think that the solution is the further buildup of the Black middle class and "Black capitalism." A section of this class will oppose the proletariat's initiative to "take things higher" out of fear that they will lose their position, their share, their stake in the current setup. And they will push to get their class interests in front when the proletariat does rise up, 'cause they think that what's good for them is good for everybody else.

Their solution, concentrated in a program of "Black empowerment": Black politicians, Black police, Black-owned businesses, is an illusion for the masses of people. It leaves the system intact. It calls on everyone to take up a program that means a handful of Black people will become part of the exploiting classes rather than doing away with the whole system that exploits and oppresses people of all nationalities the world over—a system where the systematic oppression of Black people is key to its very existence.

If this class outlook, line, and program leads, the masses of people cannot really fight the power and will not get free. RCP



May 1, 1992—300 students march across Brooklyn Bridge to protest King verdict.



Students who walked out of New York's Art and Design High School in protest on May 1, 1992.

Photo: Special to the RW/OR

National Spokesperson Carl Dix put it this way, "If this line leads the struggle, we won't get anywhere. When I say this I don't mean that the proletariat can't unite with people who got this kind of class outlook and program in the struggle against the powers. But if we're going to be able to unite everybody who can be united against the real enemy and deal them some powerful blows, our class, the proletariat, and its program have to lead the way."

### UNITE AND TAKE IT HIGHER

The proletariat is the class of exploited people, with no property at all and nothing to sell but their ability to work. The proletariat includes people of all nationalities and has a high proportion of oppressed nationalities—Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, and immigrant workers—in its ranks. This lays a strong basis to weld together the movement for proletarian revolution with the struggle against national oppression.

As the exploited class, the proletariat has no interest, NONE, in cooperating in any way with the program of Dinkins and the big capitalists he represents. The only thing that can speak to the interests of the proletariat is an all-the-way revolution.

The proletariat cherishes heroic battles such as the L.A. rebellion and is proud of our people, our youth. Such rebellions help to develop the fighting spirit of the masses, break down the awe of the enemy, bring the hatred of the people for the system into concrete expression, and give life to the desire of masses of people for a better way. In this way, such rebellions can contribute to bringing closer the day when the people can actually launch a real revolutionary uprising.

The proletariat and its party oppose attempts to suppress the people's anger and channel it into harmless dead ends. As the RW said, "In the face of counterattacks, the people—in Los Angeles and around the country—have to find ways to regroup, support the rebellion, oppose the clampdown, strengthen the people's unity and take on the powers."

In the spirit of Carl Dix's statement above, the proletariat should lead all class forces who can be united to support the rebellion, oppose the clampdown and take things higher. There are huge sections of the Black middle class furious with the Rodney King verdict. Many of them have been brutalized and oppressed by the present clampdown and can be won to be allies of the proletariat as it wages uncompromising struggle against the system. In this way the proletariat can bring out the best in forces from movements of different classes against the oppression of Black people and other forms of oppression. In this way it can really forge a strong united front, based on struggle against the common enemy, today and for the future.

Now that the people have acted so powerfully, there must be no going back to the way things were before. We need to fight the powers today, and using our revolutionary science, do this in a way that prepares for THE TIME when this whole system can be overthrown. REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS. □



New York, May 1, 1992

Photo: Michael Ackerman/City Sun

## Pigs in High Gear

After the Rodney King verdict there were significant outbreaks of rage among the people in New York City. But the powers immediately went into high gear to put a lid on the people's anger. It's important to know your enemy. So here's a look at how the powers in New York reacted and some of the ways the police moved against the people:

N.Y. Police Commissioner Lee Brown had just gotten off a plane from South Africa when the Rodney King verdict was announced. It's unclear exactly what his visit was for. But no doubt he shared more pig experiences with the oppressors of that country like he did on a previous trip when he spoke to the South African police. Brown immediately called together the top police brass. He told *Newsday* he did this "to prevent anything from happening and to be prepared for anything that would happen." An order went out to the commanders of the 75 police precincts to establish contact with community leaders. Potential "trouble spots"—such as Crown Heights—were put under special police watch and "community leaders" were put into the streets. Borough task forces, which are the forces trained to deal with demonstrations and riots, were put on alert.

Where anger erupted in the streets, the police moved in immediately and with force. Arrests were made quickly. Demon-

strations were met with police tactics of divide, contain and isolate protesters; scores were arrested.

Rumors of riots, or impending ones, swept New York. Stores and businesses closed. Major firms shut down midday, sending office workers off to Penn Station and Port Authority in a frenzy to get out of the city. The police encouraged all this.

Shutting down major commercial areas, especially in Manhattan, gave the police more mobility and limited the number of people on the streets. The pigs like this, just like curfews, because they can then justify pouncing on anyone in the streets.

At the same time, city administrators got on the phone to social service agencies all over the city. These agencies were called up to act as police. These service agencies were given instructions to get into the streets and squelch any disturbances.

A special rumor control hotline was set up. The 911 lines were jammed with people calling to check on rumors. But the main reason for this hotline was that it gave the powers a way to control the situation by controlling what information people were getting.

Brown told the press that the NYPD had studied the findings of the Christopher Commission which investigated the LAPD after the Rodney King beating. He said the NYPD had already adopted much if not all

of its recommendations, and that the NYPD's guidelines on the use of force are a model to the rest of the country. What he's talking about here is the "community policing" model he's been instituting. Brown cut his teeth on that model in Houston a few years ago where he did things like set up community pig storefronts where "neighborhood" pigs would be stationed. This, along with beat cops and pigs living in the neighborhoods they oppress, sometimes even going door to door introducing themselves—are all part of trying to put a new face on the same old brutality.

In New York Brown is emphasizing pigs working on a neighborhood level and assigning specific pigs to be the "community police officer." This means not only having police that can more easily develop street snitches and such, but also who can learn who the "responsible leaders" are and who the potential "troublemakers" are. This is all part of being able to, as Brown said, "prevent anything from happening and to be prepared for anything that would happen."

The rulers are trying to put a nice face on their armed thuggery with this "community policing" program. But it's a fascist policing program for the '90s based on drawing sections of the people into suppressing the oppressed and those who stand with them. And it must be exposed and opposed. □

# Black Students vs. KKK at Olivet College



Intense debate on Olivet College Campus.

Olivet College has been rocked by racist incidents and by protests from Black students and their supporters. On April 2, Black students were assaulted by a group of 50 white students, and college officials have refused to make Black students feel safe or welcome on campus. In response, most of the Black students packed up and left three weeks before classes ended.

Olivet is a liberal arts college affiliated with the United Church of Christ and is located in a rural area between Lansing and Battle Creek in south central Michigan. It was founded by abolitionists before the Civil War, and has always claimed to have a "liberal, enlightened attitude" toward Black students. Yet only 57 of the 704 students are Black—amounting to 8 percent in a state which is over 13 percent Black. And not a single full-time faculty or staff member is Black!

Students say that a climate of racism had been building during the school year. Then, on April 1, a vicious false rumor was spread that a white female student had been mugged and gang-raped by four Black men. Early the next morning, fires were set in a dormitory hall where several Black students live. That evening, a white woman in the dorm telephoned a fraternity, claiming she was being hassled by her boyfriend and by two Black students outside her door. Soon a group of 50 whites, mostly from the frat, converged on the dormitory with lynch-mob shouts of "Kill the niggers!" and viciously attacked some 20 Black students with fists, rocks, and racist slurs. Two Black students were sent to the hospital.

This sequence of events had all the markings of a Ku Klux Klan-concocted campaign to beat and burn Blacks out of town. The rural areas of south central Michigan have long been headquarters of the KKK and other reactionary white groups.

"This is the KKK. We want you dead, nigger" was the message one Detroit sophomore, who had tried to fight off the racist attack, found on his answering machine when he returned to his dorm room at Olivet the following Monday. Sounds of gunshots were also left on the tape. Several other Black students received KKK death threats, yet college and police officials refused to take them seriously. "I tell people of higher authority that I'm getting death threats and all I'm told is turn off my answering machine," the sophomore complained to the press. He was eventually suspended by the college.

College president Donald Morris and his administration, far from taking action against the attacks, actually protected the racists. When none of the racist students were arrested, Morris justified it by saying

it may never be known "who threw the first punch." When the Black student body called for the expulsion of 21 white fraternity members involved in the racist attack and for the suspension of the frat's charter under college rules that students who are violent must be removed from campus, Morris claimed that he could not act "without due process" and that there was no "clear and present danger." Yet this very rule about violence has been enforced in the past against Black students.

The U.S. government has also aided and abetted the racist activity at Olivet. The FBI promised an "investigation," but six weeks later no arrests have been made. No prosecutors or investigators were sent to Olivet and the U.S. Justice Department simply turned the matter over to its Community Relations Service. The service dispatched two mediators to "ease tensions" on campus, reflecting the fact that federal and other officials are treating this matter mainly as a PR problem.

But as the Black student body and their supporters united to take on the attacks, they were able to expose how serious the situation is. A clearer picture emerged of a town and campus hostile to Black people. One Black alumnus said that "racial tension is nothing new at Olivet at all." Even the town mayor had to admit that it was

"obvious as all get-out" well before April.

An economics professor revealed that in March, in sorting through applications for professorships in accounting and marketing, the college hiring committee had immediately ignored one-third of the resumes because they had ethnic- or foreign-sounding names. President Morris could not deny this, saying only that it was "not standard operating procedure."

Most of the Black student demands made in response to the ugly racist incident were stonewalled by President Morris. In response to the demand for a Black student center on campus, he said he was "not receptive to that." To the demand for action to ensure the physical safety of Black students, Morris responded by simply installing a few more doorlocks and hiring four Pinkerton security guards.

It was at this point that most of the Black students decided they couldn't protect themselves except by leaving campus. One Black man explained, "This institution cannot protect 40 Black students. We believe it is our duty to remove ourselves from a hostile environment... We completely feel this institution is not deserving of our financial support or our presence." A Black student packing to go home to Detroit said she felt Olivet "is still proving to be a racist institution who supports and

breeds racism." Another student said, "The Black student body asked ourselves: how logical is it for us to stay and fight for our civil rights when this institution fails to even recognize our basic human rights?"

The faculty, many of whom supported the Black students in leaving campus, later made arrangements for classwork to be finished by mail.

The climate did not improve for the few Black students who decided to stay on campus. One student got notes slipped under his dorm door reading: "A few more niggers to go. KKK lives!" and "Die, nigger, die! Yours truly, white power." But as he later said defiantly, appearing on the *Sally Jessy Raphael* show in a Malcolm X hat and T-shirt, "I'm not gonna give 'em the satisfaction to see me leave. It may be gettin' hot in the kitchen, but I got a lot of air conditioners ready. So all you neo-Nazi KKK who been sending me those things: come on, come on, I'm still gonna stay there, I'm not gonna leave!"

After classes ended, the college imposed year-long suspensions against one Black and one white student, completely covering over the racist nature of the assault. This "judicial hearing" was held behind closed doors and apparently involved whites only.

Shortly after the college handed down the suspensions, the faculty gave President Morris a no-confidence vote. Two days later, Morris announced he would resign and retire in August.

Since February, there has been a wave of racist attacks against Black students in Michigan and Indiana, especially at small college campuses with few minority students. Hate mail, fascist pamphlets, fliers with racial slurs, telephone threats, and fires and other physical attacks have been seen not only at Olivet but at the University of Detroit Mercy, Oakland University in the northern Detroit suburbs, Hope College in western Michigan, and Valparaiso University in northwestern Indiana. Many Black students are determined to take these attacks head on and in late April, Black students from five Michigan colleges and universities met to form the Michigan African Student Coalition in order to combat "racism, injustice and manipulation." □



Black students announce they are leaving campus.

## Las Vegas: Cops Still on the Run

Following the Rodney King verdict, Las Vegas, Nevada was one of the cities outside L.A. shaken by rebellion. The Westside, a mainly Black area not far from the gambling and hotel district, went up in flames. Over 90 fires broke out, including at the state parole and probation office at the Gerson Park housing project. A police officer was shot and police cars were hit by gunfire. The City Council declared a state of emergency and a curfew. The governor of Nevada ordered 400 National Guard troops to move into the city. The police had to set up a barricade at an underpass just three blocks from downtown to stop groups of youth from reaching the hotel/casino area, known as the "Glitter Gulch." A police lieutenant said, "It's too horrible to consider. If we had not turned them back, it would have been a repeat of Los Angeles."

Almost three weeks later, the Las Vegas pigs are still on the run. The Las Vegas police reported clashes with crowds on 16 of 18 nights immediately following April 30. Shots have been fired at pigs from rooftops and open windows. The police have resorted to cruising some streets in armored personnel carriers borrowed from an atomic bomb test site operated by the Energy Department. The chief of police said that many more cops would have been hit without the APCs. Here are some of the incidents reported in the press:

- May 11: After police shot an 18-year-old resident of Gerson Park housing project, there was a shooting confrontation where several squad cars were hit.
- May 12: More than 50 gunshots struck a police armored personnel carrier as the

pigs were trying to disperse a crowd along Martin Luther King Boulevard.

- May 15: An angry crowd of 1,000 people confronted three police armored personnel carriers. The police vehicles were hit with about 50 rounds of ammunition. Forty people were arrested.

Overall, more than 200 people reportedly have been arrested in clashes with police and on charges such as arson. The pigs on the street are under orders to break up any gathering of over 10 people.

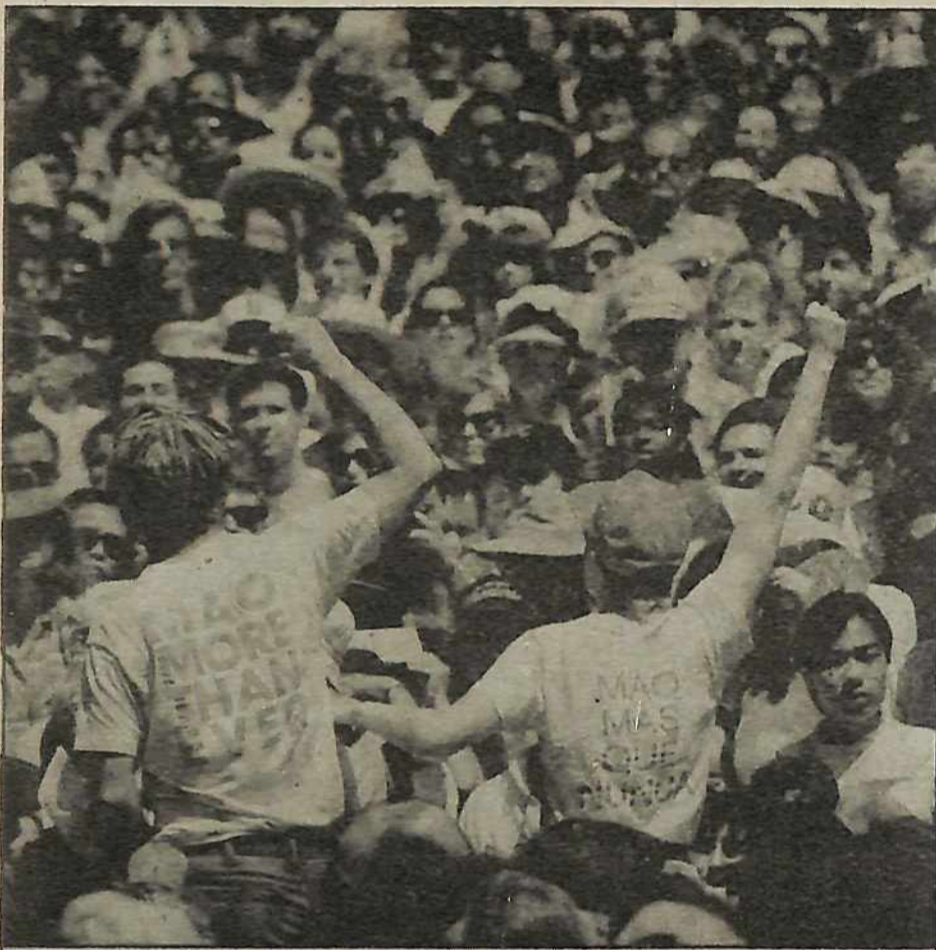
The authorities and the media claim that what is happening in Las Vegas has nothing to do with outrage at the King verdict and the oppression of Black people. They say that it is just "gangs taking advantage of the situation." A headline in the *New York Times* read, "Mob Violence Continues in Las

Vegas."

It is ridiculous for the powers to start getting all worked up about "mob violence" in—of all places—Las Vegas! This is a city that was built by the mob and is controlled by big-time criminals. Its casinos, hotels and prostitution rings are run by the Mafia. The whole city is a symbol of the dirty, rotten reality of the capitalist system.

The real worry of the powers and their enforcers in blue is that they have been unable to put out the flames of anger among Black people in Las Vegas. The pigs used to strut and push people around. Now they hide fearfully behind armored personnel carriers. □

## Revolutionary Maoists Disrupt Gorby



Stanford, California, May 9—Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the now-defunct Soviet Union, gave a speech at Stanford University as part of a two-week trip through the United States. Gorbachev was in the U.S. to plead for economic aid to help capitalists in Russia. During the tour he was flown around in a 727 jet named "Capitalist Tool," owned by the imperialist business magazine *Forbes*. Four days after the Rodney King verdict, Gorbachev was in Simi Valley—to accept a "Freedom Award" from Ronald Reagan at the Reagan Library. Gorbachev did not say a word about the verdict or the righteous rebellion.

Revolutionaries were not about to let this capitalist fool get away without being called out. At Gorbachev's Stanford speech, two supporters of the RCP passed out leaflets for the new book by RCP Chairman Bob Avakian, *Phony Communism Is Dead... Long Live Real Communism!* And when Gorbachev began talking, the Maoists disrupted the speech by running through the audience with a banner upholding the great revolutionary Mao Tsetung. They shouted, "Phony communism is dead in the Soviet Union and China. Long live real revolutionary communism!"

## 500 Demonstrate on Malcolm X Day

On Tuesday, May 19, Malcolm X's birthday, 500 people came to a march called by the December 12th Movement and other progressive and revolutionary Black and Latino organizations. The crowd was mostly Black people with a mix of other nationalities. Red, black and green flags, Malcolm X T-shirts and signs with quotes from Malcolm were worn or carried by many at the demonstration. There were also two red flags with the letters "RCP."

Marchers formed up near Grand Central Station at the beginning of rush hour and blocked traffic in one of the busiest areas of the city. Organizers split the demonstration into three groups which marched throughout the area. One of the marches stopped at St. Patrick's Cathedral, home base of the well-known reactionary Cardinal O'Connor. Newspaper accounts say that marchers were able to get past a police line and into the church.

The three groups met back at the streets in front of the UN, where the police launched a vicious attack. The racist police beating of Rodney King was replayed again and again as the pigs pushed, shoved and hit people. At least one Black man had his head busted open by police clubs. An *RW* stringer described the scene: "I saw sisters and brothers being pinned inside the police lines, trying to get out. The police were surrounding the whole area and they blocked them in. They were telling people to move to the sidewalk. A white pig turned to the crowd and said, 'You all fucking niggers want some action? We're going to give you fucking niggers some action!' I saw about five officers jump this Black guy, throw him to the ground and bang his head on the street, and he was bleeding from the head. Everybody was saying 'leave him alone,' 'get your hands off of us.' People were chanting, 'How many more Rodney King's and Philip Pannel's are you going to beat up and kill?' In the paddy wagon one of the people arrested overheard the cops say to each other, 'Remember them niggers two weeks ago? These were the same niggers that we dealt with two weeks ago in

Harlem.' "

More than 65 people were arrested. In what appeared to be an attempt at preventive detention to stop the demonstration, the police arrested leading members of the December 12th Coalition and many of the marshals for the demonstration who were identified by scarves worn around their faces. The pigs also arrested at least one legal observer, including Jill Elijah, a Black woman from the Neighborhood Defense Committee in Harlem. Seven people were hurt, two serious enough to go to the hospital. The charges they face include disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, assault on a police officer, and obstructing vehicular traffic.

The police attack did not intimidate the protesters. Although the UN police tried to prevent it, petitions condemning U.S. crimes against oppressed people in the U.S. and worldwide were delivered inside the UN. After the arrests, about 400 people were able to regroup and held a militant march through the midtown streets and blocked rush hour traffic. People chanted, "No justice in L.A., no peace in New York", "What's coming? War! Who's gonna win? We are!", "Malcolm X, live like him, dare to struggle, dare to win", "Remember L.A.", "Shut It Down" and "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" People marched three miles to where people were being held and refused to go home until everyone was released from jail.

A large section of people at the march strongly supported the L.A. rebellion and wanted to take the struggle higher. A Black student from CUNY told the *RW* he felt the people should go beyond just reacting to what the powers are doing and go on the offensive. Copies of an *RW* editorial supporting the L.A. rebellion went out among the crowd. An older Puerto Rican man from the Bronx carried the red RCP flag through most of the last part of the march. He said the red flag is "for revolution and it needs to be here." □



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Liberating  
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And How All Oppression  
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