

Peru Support Sprouts Everywhere

"There is no room for doubt: in its struggle Sendero Luminoso enjoys growing international support." Thus wailed *Oiga*, Peru's leading newsweekly, in one of a recent series of major articles. "It is no accident that this propaganda campaign has been stepped up, in an organised way, since the middle of last year.... The explanation for this is to be found in the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* issued in March 1984."

For once, this Peruvian pro-government mouthpiece spoke the truth. But it was quite a change of tune.

From the start of the armed struggle in Peru in 1980 until only recently, the Peruvian authorities used as one weapon in their arsenal of lies (along with their other arsenal) the charge that the PCP was "completely isolated" from the worldwide revolutionary movement and that its outlook was "nationalistic." This went along with their habit of only referring to the PCP as "Sendero Luminoso," "Shining Path," as if it were some kind of sect and not a communist party at all. But in the last year the Peruvian reactionary press began to run screaming headlines about the "Sendero's International Connections," or what they've called the

"Senderista International." These "reports" have been replete with all kinds of fanciful articles about various imaginary RIM meetings and other concoctions.

Late last year the Peruvian government denounced Britain for harboring a "centre for internationalist terrorism," apparently referring to support for the PCP being built there, a charge sparked among other things by activities of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement and its Information Bureau in London. This past 21 May, in a Lima press conference given in the waning days of his term in office, President Belaunde blasted support for the PCP in Paris and New York.

Not very coincidentally, the day before *Oiga* had published the results of its "investigation" into the Peruvian revolution support movement in the U.S. (an "investigation" based mainly on public activities and leaflets). Rhetorically the magazine demanded to know if the U.S. government is too preoccupied with Central America to arrest people in the U.S. for carrying out such activities, "at least for disturbing the peace or hostile actions against (Peruvian) government representatives." Then, after repeating the Peruvian government's lie that the

PCP is receiving money and arms from abroad—without the slightest evidence or claim that such evidence exists—*Oiga* concludes that "The struggle against Sendero and other seditious organisations can no longer be confined to the national level. It must take place on the international level." In a previous issue, *Oiga* had even presented a world map filled with spots to show how the contagion of support for the revolution in Peru is spreading.

Various reports about the impact that this international support for the revolution in Peru is having among the revolutionary masses there can be considered confirmed by this public squirming by Peru's ruling classes. Of course like all attacks by the enemy, this has two aspects: it should be taken as congratulations on a job well begun, and in that sense as a call to step up and strengthen support work, but is also, as usual, a lie, in that support activities for the revolution in Peru have already broken out on a far wider scale than these reactionaries have indicated.

Delhi, India, on October 8th, 1984 was the scene of a mass rally near the Peruvian embassy to denounce the Peruvian government and declare solidarity with the revolution in Peru. About 200 peo-

The Italian Campaign...

The following is taken from information submitted by the Committee for International Support to the Struggle of Oppressed Peoples, formed in November 1984 by the Communist Collective of Agit/Prop; the Communist Committee of Trento; the Proletarian Communist Organisation, Marxist-Leninist; and supporters of the Union of Iranian Communists who live in Italy. — AWTW

Seven cities, covering nearly the whole length of Italy, were hit by a national tour in support of the Peruvian revolution in February 1985. The Committee for International Support had decided to take it up for two reasons. First, in order to break the press blackout which in Italy, as elsewhere, has meant that little is known about the revolution in Peru among the broad masses of people, while various other struggles in the oppressed countries have become well known due to the efforts or designs of various reactionary forces who seek to use them for their own ends. Second, to underline the particular character of this war, an armed struggle led by a communist party (the Communist Party of Peru—PCP) guided by the teachings of Marx, Lenin and Mao Tsetung, a war to build a New Democratic state as the first and necessary step towards socialism. There is no other ongoing people's war like it in today's world.

To the accompaniment of a flurry

of posters, leaflets and documents on Peru translated into Italian, the tour began in Taranto, an industrial city on the "heel" of southern Italy. The building of this meeting had been concentrated principally among the workers at the giant Italsider steel complex, as well as among high school students.

The next meeting was at the university in Bari, a commercial centre on the Adriatic coast to the north of Taranto. Students from a number of organisations against repression took part. A particularly sharp theme of the discussion that followed was on the differences between the PCP and other organisations in Peru which have taken up armed struggle recently and the PCP's conception of building a united front.

In Perugia, in central Italy, the meeting took place at a university famous for its large number of students from all over the world, which allowed for a broad discussion and comparison of experiences between Peru and other liberation struggles. Students from Eritrea, where there is a national liberation war being waged against the Ethiopian government, played a prominent part in the discussion.

The meeting in Bologna was particularly significant because this city has been a stronghold of the revisionist Communist Party of Italy and allied organisations which run the city council, while the rest of the political movement has long been

dominated by anarchists and the *Autonomia* movement. In other words, it is a city where Maoists have faced hard going for a long time, unlike some other places where the pro-Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought forces of the sixties and seventies were able to win wider influence. In this sense, the meeting there represented an offensive by the RIM forces, who found themselves debating with the pro-Soviets and others on the difference between the strategy of protracted people's war in the oppressed countries and armed insurrection in the imperialist countries, and the unity of these two types of revolutions as part of the world proletarian revolution.

The University of Padova, in the north, was gripped by an intense climate of repression, including police interrogation of some of the organisers of the Peru meeting and other people in the city. There had been a series of arrests aimed at an organisation against political repression in Italy. Not only was the meeting held there despite police efforts to stop it—efforts that took place in nearly every city and which differed in Padova only in degree—but also there was an appearance on a local radio talk show, despite strong opposition from some "leftist" forces, which led to a long and lively on-the-air discussion about the Peruvian revolution in which all kinds of callers participated, many very enthusiastic in

ple from Faridabad, Panipat, Punjab and Delhi as well as Nepalis who live in India and Afghan refugees marched to the site past the U.S., Soviet and Afghan embassies, where they took the opportunity to chant slogans against both sets of imperialist butchers and denounce Soviet crimes against the people of Afghanistan as well. The demonstration, organised by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, was addressed by speakers from the Nepal Com-

munist Party (Mashal); *Communist Worker*, organ of the Revolutionary Communist Centre, India (Marxist-Leninist); Central Reorganisation Committee, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist); Revolutionary Communist Party, India; and the Afghan Students Association.

Also, in Punjab, 800 people from all walks of life, including proletarians, peasants and intellectuals, signed a petition demanding the immediate release of Laura Padilla,

also known as comrade Meche, who is being held by the Peruvian authorities on charges of being an important member of the PCP. Many of those who signed could not write; they signed with their fingerprints.

In Paris, ongoing activities by the Comité Sol-Peru included a week of activities during the first week of October 1984 in celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the PCP.

A very significant mass meeting



Meeting in Bologna, Italy

ference between this and the armed struggles now going on in Central America? How is an armed struggle launched? What has this one accomplished? What does the PCP think of Pol Pot, liberation theology, European imperialism, the United Left in Peru? What is going on with women in this revolution? What does the PCP mean by the term "Maoism?" Who is Comrade Gonzalo and what is meant by the term "guiding thought"? What's the PCP's position on the elections?

The Committee for International Support to the Struggle of Oppressed Peoples which had organised this tour met afterwards to sum it up. Despite some shortcomings, they judged it a resounding success, above all because of its broadness, which had made it possible to mobilise many local groups and forces on a national scale, with real international significance, in order to support the revolution in Peru. It had been able to explain the PCP's ideological and political line, in confrontation with that of other forces, including from other armed struggles in the oppressed countries, and in this way launch a real revolutionary countercurrent in the Italian political scene after several years of difficult going for the forces that follow Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought.

This Support Committee plans more actions around the revolution in Peru and other campaigns. □

their support for the revolution in Peru.

The meeting in Trento was met by a strike of high school students in the city in support of the revolution in Peru. There has been nothing like this anywhere in Italy for a long time. About 400 high school students took part in the meeting in a local movie theatre, where they sang a song written by one of them in honor of the PCP. This was recorded so that somehow it could be sent to the revolutionary prisoners of war in Peru's El Fronton prison island. The support for this meeting involved the broadest political forces of any of the meetings of this tour.

The Torino meeting was especially important because of the

participation of a large number of employed and laid-off workers from the city's giant FIAT auto complex. The meeting involved some serious discussion about questions of revolutionary strategy, and as in several others, a discussion that strongly emphasised the role of women in Peru's armed struggle and the revolutionary significance of that.

A list of the most common questions that came up in this tour gives some of the flavour of the broadness and depth demanded by those who came to listen, discuss and debate. They include: What is "Sendero Luminoso" and who leads it? What relations does it have with Russia, China and Albania? What's the history of the PCP? What's the dif-

took place that week in Rome as well, attended by a rich mixture of veteran revolutionaries from a wide variety of local collectives in cities up and down Italy as well as some younger people, including activists from the *Autonomia* movement. This event, sponsored by the three participating organisations of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement in Italy, was the first held under their auspices in the capital city, and in turn served as the prelude to an extremely successful

nationwide speaking tour (see accompanying report).

On 26 January, a similarly successful mass meeting took place in London, which also created a bit of stir on the political scene. Here too it was apparent that the revolutionary armed struggle in Peru has given heart to quite a few people who once considered themselves active Maoists, as well as bringing forth new forces. A broad array of people participated, including people from other European countries,

India, Iran and elsewhere. It was organised by the Nottingham Communist Group, supporters of the Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran) and individual RIM supporters.

On Peru's election day, April 14, as Peruvian residents in the UK were due to file into the Peruvian embassy in London to cast their compulsory ballot, RIM supporters held a picket line and distributed copies of a PCP leaflet calling for a boycott to those entering the building and passers-by.



"SOON MILLIONS OF PEASANTS WILL RISE LIKE A MIGHTY STORM . . . ALL THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTIES AND COMRADES WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST BEFORE THE PEASANTS AND WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE WHICH SIDE THEY WILL TAKE".

Agosto-84

Mao Tsetung

Quechua, "Let Us Rise Up Together"

Local people from Peru's loyal opposition, the "United Left," were completely scandalised at such disrespect for Peru's death squad "democracy" in "democratic" Britain which has profited so well from the oppression of nations. Also going more than a little berserk were the official embassy officials, who mounted a veritable forest of cameras in their windows to record all those responsible for such deeds.

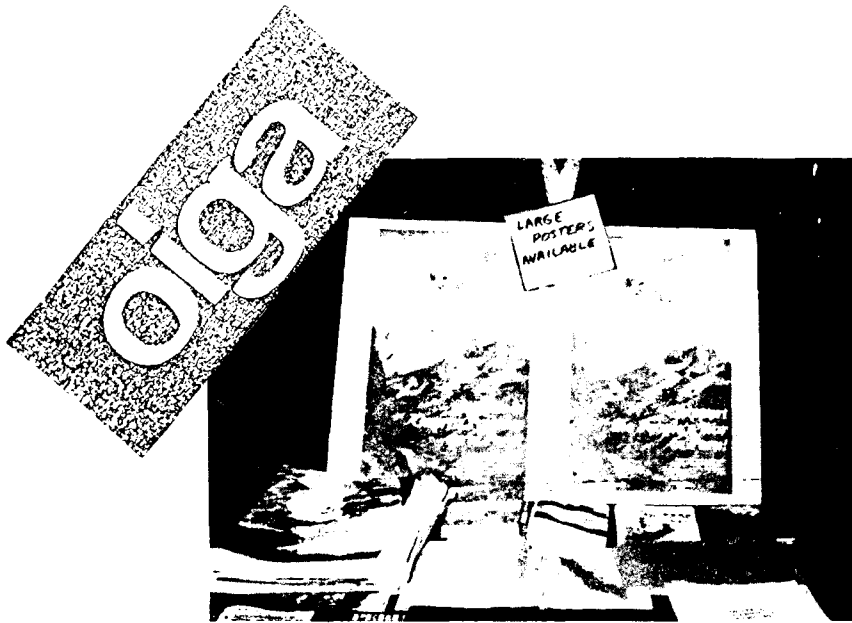
This same kind of leafletting and picketing in front of the Peruvian embassy in conjunction with the PCP boycott also took place in Stockholm, where there are many Peruvians and other Latin Americans exiles. Several weeks later, on May 1st, about a hundred people gathered around enormous banners in support of the PCP and the RIM, forming a contingent in

the traditional May Day labour parade. Parade officials, linked to Sweden's ruling Social Democratic Party, sent in thugs to stop the contingent. But it drew enough support from other participants and onlookers to repulse the attack and continue marching.

In the U.S., on May Day the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru held a "night in solidarity with the revolution in Peru" in the San Francisco Women's Building. Representatives of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA; the (Azanian) Black Consciousness Movement, U.S. Region; and the General Union of Patriotic and Democratic Afgans addressed the 200 or so participants, who also gave an enthusiastic reception to poems and songs in support of the revolution in Peru. The RCP,

USA dedicated the May Day activities it led in areas across the U.S. to "all the revolutionary people of the world, but most especially to the heroic revolutionary struggle being waged by the people of Peru and the Communist Party of Peru."

The same day, in front of the Peruvian embassy in New York, about 30 people picketed and gave out leaflets in support of the revolution in Peru. A representative of the Haitian International Revolutionary Group proclaimed, "Our comrades in Peru are in the forefront of the international struggle and we are looking to them, not only we here, but throughout the world. The imperialists, they dream of crushing that struggle. We, the people, do not want that struggle to be crushed; we want that spark to light up the entire world."



EN INGLÉS y castellano se venden y distribuyen afiches cuyo tema es: ¡Apoyar la guerra popular en el Perú!

SENDERO EN NUEVA YORK

COMO en las principales capitales europeas, también en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica viene reanunciándose una activa campaña de propaganda y de captación de fondos en favor de la lucha armada que desarrolla en el Perú la organización terrorista Sendero Luminoso.

La campaña se ha venido desplegando, sistemáticamente, desde mediados del año pasado en Estados Unidos. Comenzó en Boston, cuando un grupo de activistas colocó un letrero en la puerta del Consulado peruano. En el letrero pudo leerse el texto siguiente: "Contra la diplomacia burocrática... Sendero no perdona".

A partir de esa primera acción, los diplomáticos peruanos acreditados en

USA han recibido constantes llamadas telefónicas y mensajes escritos amenazadores.

Pero, en los últimos meses, la ofensiva de intimidación y de propaganda senderista se ha intensificado, incluyéndose en los operativos manifestaciones callejeras frente a los locales de nuestras sedes diplomáticas. Encapuchados, cubiertos sus rostros con pasamontañas, senderistas y sus aliados norteamericanos de extrema izquierda han efectuado protestas callejeras contra el gobierno democrático del Perú y en pro de la subversión en nuestro país.

Las autoridades norteamericanas, al parecer sólo preocupadas por el problema más cercano que tienen con Nicaragua y Cuba en Centroamérica, han mira-

do hasta hoy con indiferencia esa campaña y no han detenido a ninguna persona, ni siquiera por alterar el orden público; bastar a los representantes de un gobierno o de un país con el que guardan cordiales relaciones diplomáticas y de amistad.

Hace dos semanas, nuevamente en Boston, se produjo una manifestación. Y diez días atrás, en plena tercera avenida de Nueva York, los propagandistas de Sendero realizaron una protesta frente al Consulado General del Perú. Esta última manifestación fue puntual y oportunamente registrada por las cámaras de televisión y llegó a transmitirse en el Canal 2 de Lima. ¿Quién tuvo tan excepcional "olfato periodístico" para es-

(Pasa a la página siguiente)

OIGA, 20 de Mayo de 1985

29

Committees to Support the Revolution in Peru have also been formed in the Dominican Republic and in three cities in Spain, where a great many people have come to follow the news from Peru and a variety of forums on the subject have been held. In Colombia, Spain, New Zealand, Denmark and other countries, leaflets and newspaper articles in the revolutionary press have helped rattle the walls of silence and slanders with which the imperialists and their various flunkies have attempted to contain the revolution in Peru.

These events have revealed a little of the potential. All kinds of people have stepped forward to support the revolution in Peru, with varying views and viewpoints, impelled to take action by the sentiments and outright demands of revolutionary-

minded masses of people themselves. Apparently something really revolutionary, a struggle not subordinated to some bourgeois end or power but instead determined to win real liberation and push forward the world-wide proletarian revolution until classes and class society are abolished all over the earth, an armed struggle carried out by the masses themselves, guided by the most revolutionary of ideologies, pushing forward vigorously and irresistibly—apparently a great many people have found this revolutionary war led by the PCP to be a ray of light in today's world and have proved their willingness to welcome it with broad and abundant support.

The revolutionary people's war being led by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) has greatly

stimulated the world revolution, giving heart to old and new revolutionary forces and oppressed people everywhere. It has greatly increased the prestige of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and aided the regroupment of the world's genuine Marxists. Now the increasing support for the revolution in Peru has begun to have an impact on the political situation in its own right.

It is against this backdrop that the effectiveness of the efforts launched so far have to be judged. As one Londoner remarked about the Peruvian government's sputterings about support in Britain, "Thanks for the encouragement, but really there's rather a lot to be done yet." □