

HAITI: THE HAS ONLY

The Duvalier dictatorship, a "presidency for life" passed down from father to son since 1957, ended abruptly February 7th when a U.S.-supplied military plane carried Jean-Claude Duvalier and his father's hastily dug-up remains to exile in France.

The *dechoukage* — the efforts of the masses to "uproot" the old order — had begun. Duvalierist and Tonton Macoutes (Duvalier's armed thugs) were driven out of their positions of authority throughout society. Many were sentenced and executed by the crowds in the streets.

Two things can be said with certainty. One is that Haiti's ruling classes are in disarray and the armed forces which are the backbone of their state are tremendously weakened, while the masses are determined to carry through their *dechoukage*. The other is that if the masses in their millions do not take up guns and overthrow the old power and replace it with a new revolutionary state led by the proletariat, in order to do away with imperialist domination,



DECHOUKAGE JUST BEGUN!

semi-feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, then one way or another the reactionary classes and the U.S. — for whom much is at stake in Haiti, in regional and international terms — will reassert their bloody power and take revenge.

The objective conditions for revolution are excellent in Haiti. They are also excellent conditions for the emergence of a party embracing all Haiti's genuine proletarian revolutionaries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and in relation to the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. A party that would put itself at the head of the mass upsurge by carrying forward a protracted people's war based on the masses and especially the peasants who form the great majority of the population. The joint call to Haiti's Marxist-Leninists put out by the Haitian Internationalist Revolutionary Group (GRIA) and the Haitian Workers Party (PTH) is a very significant step in this direction. □

