

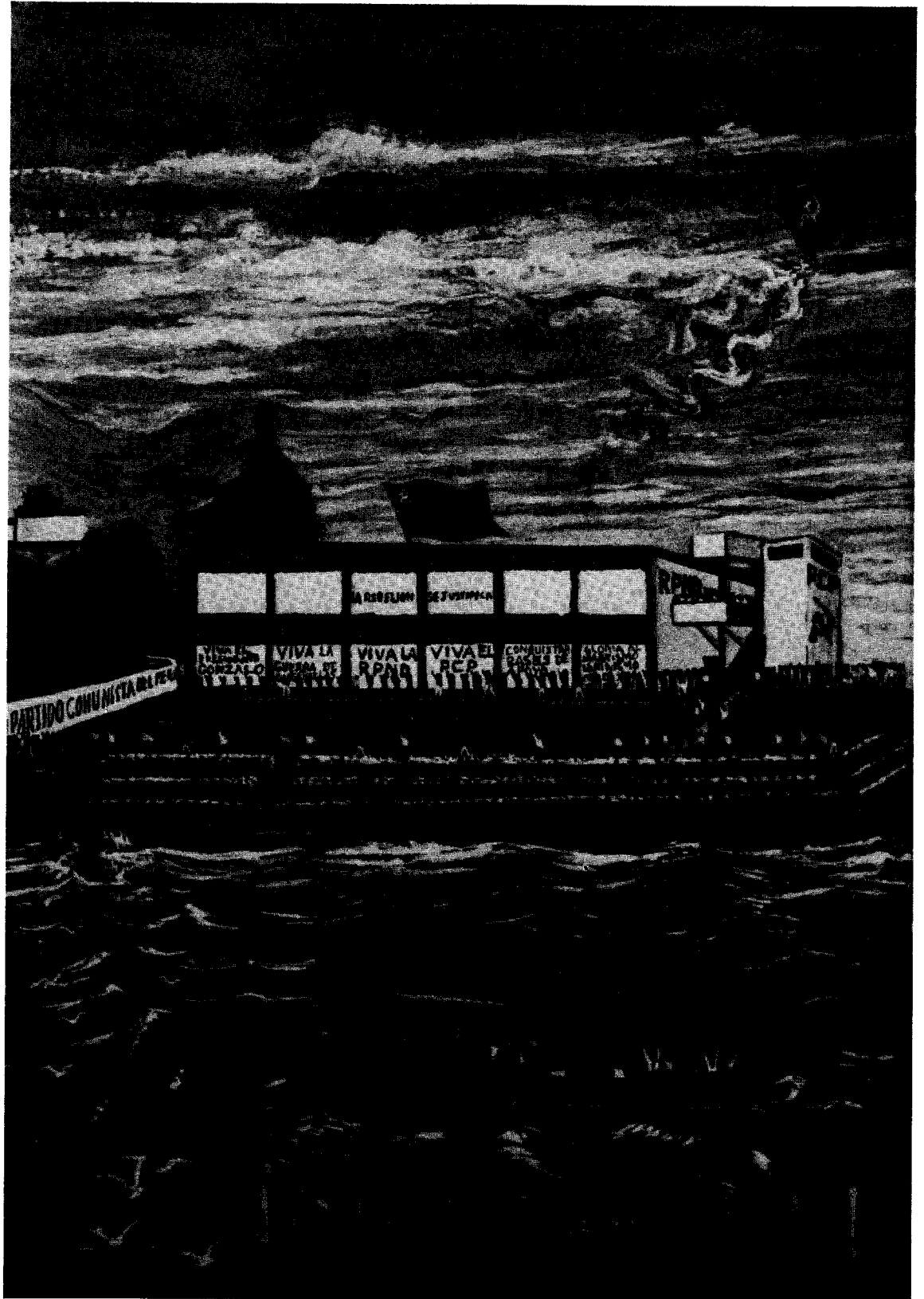
A
"SHINING
TRENCH
OF
COMBAT"

—Statement on the Massacre
of Our Comrades in
Peru's Prisons

By the Committee of the RIM

The Peruvian government, egged on by imperialism, has sent its marines armed with heavy machine guns and antitank weapons, its helicopter gunships and its naval artillery to crush the struggle of the prisoners of war in the Callao, el Fronton and Lurigancho prisons. Since the García government had failed to resolve its problem with propaganda outside the prison and repression within, it tried to wipe out the symbol of revolutionary resistance these prisoners have become by killing them. This is the same method it has used to try to quell the

Painting done at Lurigancho prison depicting El Fronton on visiting day. 'A warm reception' say the words at bottom.

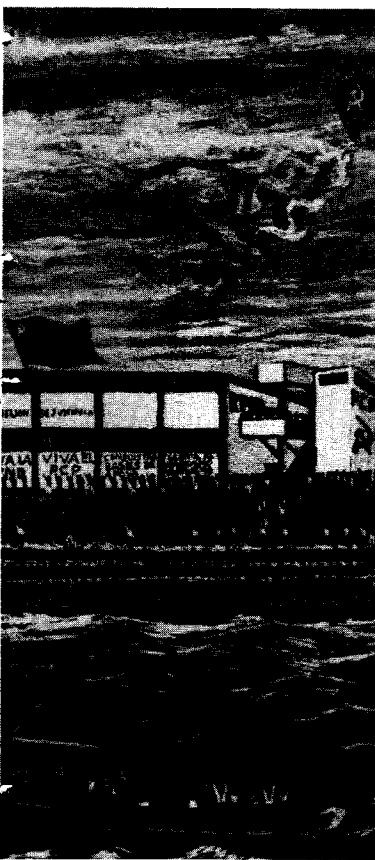


revolutionary flames which have flared throughout Peruvian society.

We do not know how many of our comrades were murdered. We do not know how many fell in combat and how many were shot after they were captured. But we know that these comrades were our class brothers and sisters. We know them, though we have never met, because of the line of the Party whose leadership they so firmly upheld, and because of their proletarian disdain for all the enemy could do and even for death itself, as they raised the bright red banner of our proletarian revolution high above prison walls under enemy fire for the world to see. This is the courage of men and women who even in the bowels of the enemy's dungeons are infused with confidence in the ability of the Peruvian masses to free themselves and who understand the importance that this revolution being led by the Communist Party of Peru, a participating party of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, has for all the wretched of the earth. It is a courage based on thoroughgoing materialism, on the ability to see the outlines of a future earth without classes, even in the midst of today's gunfire and suffering and the twists and turns through which our communist future is being fought for.

The Peruvian government tried to justify this massacre by claiming that our comrades sought to "endanger the prestige of the Peruvian government" on the eve of the Congress of the Socialist International in Lima. The world's reactionary media have parroted the outrageous lie that our comrades deliberately sought their own deaths at the hands of the army. In fact, the García regime had been planning this massacre for some time, as even the foreign press later admitted. The García government was anxious to prove its reactionary capabilities to the U.S. government, the International Monetary Fund and other imperialist representatives to whom the Peruvian government is beholden. The Peruvian government provoked the prisoners, went back on agreements previously signed with them, and deliberately timed the attack it unleashed when the prisoners of war reacted with courage and determination. The Peruvian government knew full well that the Socialist International and imperialism as a whole would applaud this action with which Gracia proved himself worthy of their credit. But with this crime García and his regime have only dug their own grave deeper. The towering contrast between the government's murderous cowardice and the selfless resistance of the prisoners of war has become another powerful call for revolution in Peru and throughout the world.

In unleashing this murder as the first course in an international banquet of false "socialists" and bloodthirsty "reformers" from all over, including representatives of the ruling parties and loyal oppositions from many imperialist countries, the García government has shown — again — that it is like every reactionary government bound to preserve its rule and the reactionary social relations it embodies at all cost. There is nothing worse for the "prestige" of such a government than to show "weakness" in the face of the determination of the oppressed. After this massacre, the García government acted in the honoured tradition of its fellow members of the Socialist International such as those in Israel: first kill as many people as possible and then call an investiga-



tion to appease those who want to believe there is some peaceful alternative to revolutionary armed struggle. Isn't it the essence of social-democracy in power, after all, to alternate hideous crimes with the pious promotion of illusions which make more crimes possible?

The García regime has also been praised by the Chinese revisionist government and pro-Soviet forces as well, though it is linked to the U.S. bloc. With this massacre, once again a dividing line has been drawn between all those for whom imperialism and imperialist domination is intolerable on the one side, and on the other the various pillars, lackies and apologists — even “radical” or “leftist” apologists — of a system that thrives on the blood squeezed out of billions of people on a daily basis, a system that has committed uncounted blood crimes for which some day there must be an accounting and that is preparing to shed even more blood on an unprecedented scale in a world war for the redivision of empires.

This massacre, and the implacable resistance put up by our imprisoned comrades, give proof to the truth that the García government and its backers sought to wipe out: that no other basic course of action but revolutionary warfare led by the proletariat and its party can possibly change this state of affairs, whether this warfare come sooner or later in the various countries, and that only the politics and ideology developed by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung and not any pro-imperialist, reformist or social-imperialist outlook can guide the world's oppressed workers and peasants to achieve victory in the course of this battle.

It was the great advances the revolutionary proletariat has been making in Peru that forced the enemy to react in a way that has only further exposed the nature of all the various reactionary political forces which have united against the just people's war in Peru. People all over the world will draw lessons from these events. The red base areas in Peru are base areas for the world proletarian revolution. Proletarians and oppressed people all over the world are proud of the spirit and the advances won by our class's detachment in Peru. These events inspired them with both class hate and an uplifting, renewed resolve to hasten the elimination of imperialism and reaction from the face of the earth.

We know that it is on the field of battle that the Peruvian revolution will give its reply to this massacre and its homage to these fallen comrades. Comrades everywhere will also give theirs by fighting in revolutionary war or preparing to do so at the earliest opportunity. Other comrades will step forward. As the comrades in the women's prison in Callao put it, in their defiant chants which could be heard outside the prison walls even after the military regained control, “La Sangre Derramada Jamas Sera Olvidada” — This blood that has been spilt shall never be forgotten.

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