

REVOLUTION OR WORLD WAR 3?



"...The statement by Mao Tsetung, 'Either revolution will prevent war, or war will give rise to revolution' rings out all the more clearly and takes on urgent importance. The very logic of the imperialist system and the revolutionary struggles is preparing a new situation. The contradiction between the rival bands of imperialists, between the imperialists and the oppressed nations, between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie in the imperialist countries, are all likely in the coming period to express themselves by the force of arms on an unprecedented scale. As Stalin said in regard to the First World War:

'The significance of the imperialist war which broke out ten years ago lies, among other things, in the fact that it gathered all these contradictions into a single knot and threw them on to the scales, thereby accelerating and facilitating the revolutionary battles of the proletariat.'

"The heightening of contradictions is now drawing, and will do so even more dramatically in the future, all countries and regions of the world and sections of the masses previously lulled to sleep or oblivious to political life into the vortex of world history. And so the revolutionary communists must get prepared, and prepare the class conscious workers and revolutionary sections of the people and step up their revolutionary struggle."

—from the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*

It has been a year since the appearance of the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* which made the penetrating analysis quoted above. Since then the truth of that statement has been borne out. The two trends referred to by Mao Tsetung, those of world war and revolution, both continue to intensify at considerable rates; the prediction made in the *Declaration* that all of the con-

tradictions will "express themselves by the force of arms on an unprecedented scale" is all the more likely to take place. The terrifying reality of the danger of a third world war is making itself forcefully felt.

For many people, especially those who have been spared the daily horrors of the imperialist system, it is, perhaps, difficult to believe that the leaders of the "civilised" world could really seriously contemplate

such a crime. It might even be argued that such a crime would go against the interests of the imperialists themselves—"there can be no winners in a nuclear war," as the imperialists were *previously* fond of saying. But as Marx put it, "their soul is the soul of capital." It is the blind and ferocious need of capital to expand, a need dissected long ago by Marx himself in his magisterial work *Capital*, that requires the imperialists to knock down by fire and sword all barriers to this expansion. It must never be forgotten that these same bands of civilised gentlemen have already put the world through the horrors of two world wars and show on a daily basis in their favoured stomping grounds of Asia, Africa and Latin America that no crime is too bestial, too hideous for them to commit.

But it is also important to understand that the very conditions in the world which give rise to such crimes also create the possibilities of dramatic and sudden advances in the proletarian revolutionary struggle. Today's situation in the world is greatly magnifying all the contradictions and the storm that is threatening can, through struggle, take on the character of a mighty revolutionary downpour.

It is exactly in times of danger that there are the greatest possibilities of

advance. The history of the world proves this to be true. The great revolutionary breakthroughs in the history of the proletarian revolution, the October Revolution led by Lenin and the Bolsheviks, and the Chinese Revolution led by Mao Tsetung, were both connected with the first two great global conflicts. It is not in periods of tranquility that revolutions are made.

The basis for revolution is found in the nature of a given society and the class conflict this gives rise to, and it is certainly true that in much of the world the possibilities for beginning the revolutionary armed struggle for power are to one degree or another continually present. But even in these countries it is clear that the pace and prospects of the revolutionary struggle are greatly influenced by the developments in the world as a whole and the unfolding of the different contradictions in the world (the article by Comrade S. D. in this issue addresses this same question in relation to Iran). The storm which is building will respect no shelters.

The increasingly entangled contradictions in the world form a knot. It is a knot that must be resolved in the manner that Alexander is said to have solved the puzzle of the Gordian knot—it cannot be untangled, it must be severed.

War and Peace

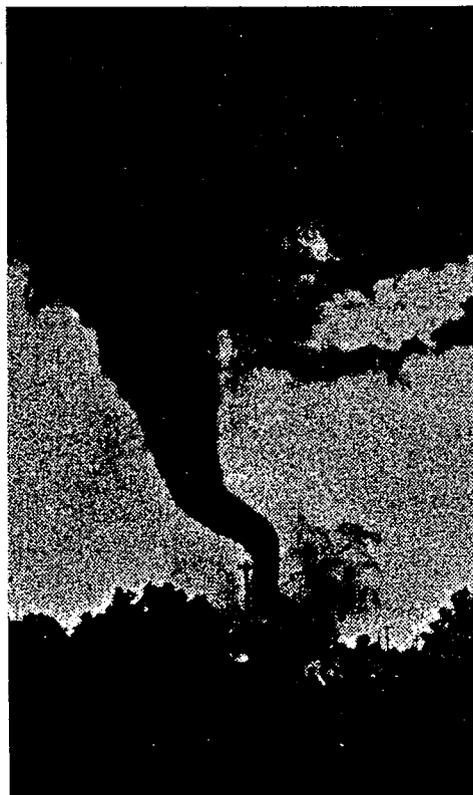
The answer to world war is not peace. We are firm opponents of world war, but that does not mean, as the revisionists would have it, for example, that we are abstract advocates of "peace" or at least of the peace that exists today.

First of all, there is no "peace" in today's world. In the period since the end of the Second World War there has been one armed conflict after another. There is the constant counter-revolutionary violence that has been used to put down the oppressed the world over, and the revolutionary communists lead the masses in countering this kind of violence with revolutionary violence.

Millions have died in bloody regional wars, such as the current conflict between Iraq and Iran which has already lasted four years, and the imperialists are hardly innocent in such affairs.

All this without mentioning the daily suffering that imperialism means for the hundreds of millions of people throughout the world who live under its bloody grip. For these victims, there is certainly no interest in preserving the imperialist peace of today.

In fact any attempt to preserve "peace" while leaving the war-breeding system in place is worse



than illusory, it is disarming.

“Communists are resolute opponents of imperialist war and must mobilise and lead the masses in the fight against preparations for a third world war which would be the greatest crime committed in the history of mankind. But the Marxist-Leninists will never hide the truth from the masses: only revolution, revolutionary war that the Marxist-Leninists and revolutionary forces are leading or preparing to lead, can prevent this crime. Marxist-Leninists must seize hold of the revolutionary possibilities that are developing rapidly and lead the masses in stepping up the revolutionary struggle on all fronts—beginning revolutionary warfare where that is possible, stepping up preparations where conditions for such revolutionary warfare are not yet ripe. In this way the struggle for communism will advance and it is possible that the victory of the proletariat and the oppressed peoples in the course of decisive battles will shatter the imperialists’ present preparations for world war, establish the rule of the working class in a number of countries and create an overall world situation more favorable to the advance of the revolutionary struggle. If, on the other hand, the revolutionary struggle is not capable of preventing a

third world war, the communists and the revolutionary proletariat and masses must be prepared to mobilise the outrage that such a war and the inevitable suffering accompanying it will engender and direct it against the source of war—imperialism, take advantage of the weakened position of the enemy and in this way turn a reactionary imperialist war into a just war against imperialism and reaction.”

It is true that the fight against imperialist war is one of the vital points of struggle against the imperialist system at the present time. It is already the case that literally millions of people have been propelled into struggle to one degree or another by the menace of imperialist war. In these circumstances the revolutionary communists must indeed lead the masses in the fight against imperialist war preparations.

And they are qualified to do so exactly because the programme of the genuine communists is objectively the sole programme that can actually *prevent* such a world war and therefore fulfill the deep desire of the masses. As the article by K.K. in this issue of *A World to Win* shows, revolutionaries can have a big impact on such a movement and their programme can help set the terms for the struggle within this movement.

But however important is the fight against imperialist war, it is not, paradoxically, this struggle *as such* that plays the most critical role in preventing such a war. This is because, as stated earlier, it is only *revolution* and no movement short of this that can prevent World War 3. Thus the struggle against imperialist war preparations takes on full and real significance only insofar as it itself can become one of the torrents that will merge into an overall revolutionary movement, only insofar as the participation in such a movement prepares broad sections of the masses to see through and reject the future proposed to them by the bourgeoisie and to cast in their lot with the proletariat and its revolutionary solution to the problem of imperialist war.

The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

As the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement* puts it, those who uphold a revolutionary line in today’s world are but a small minority encircled by bourgeois and revisionists of all stripes. Why then is it possible for this *Declaration* to confidently affirm that these revolutionary forces “represent the future”? This is not mere hyperbole but reflects a profound truth.

We are indeed convinced that those who follow the line of Mao Tsetung—and continue to do so all the more firmly in the face of the overthrow of and attacks on that line in China itself—have the line and programme capable of marching forward amidst a very complex situation, daring to arouse the proletariat and the masses to make revolution and thereby prevent the world war in the making by bringing about a different world situation.

When one looks soberly at the alignment of forces in the current world, at the relative strength of the imperialist ruling classes and at the weakness of the revolutionary forces, it is easy to fail to see how the forces of the people could possibly stop the imperialists from continuing to hurtle down the path toward world war. Some might think that the revolutionary communist proposal for the fight against imperialist war, that is, stepping up the fight for revolution throughout the world, is itself a pipedream with no correspondence with reality. Perhaps, some have said, what is needed is a more “realistic” programme for fighting against this great menace.

But it has to be said that such attempts at realism are themselves an illusion. If the programme of the communists for stopping world war seems to be difficult, with no pro-

mises of success, what should be said of the programme of the reformists and the opportunists, who would base an opposition to world war on the hope of *convincing* the imperialists of the folly of their acts. And to believe in the programme of the *imperialists themselves*, be it “peace through strength” or simply confidence in their negotiations is naivete of the worst sort (see the article on the current disarmament charade in Geneva).

The great leaders of the international proletariat have always stressed the fundamental and underlying weakness of imperialism and all reactionaries. Lenin described imperialism as a “Colossus with feet of clay,” and Mao Tsetung infuriated the bourgeoisie and modern revisionists with his oft-quoted remark, “all reactionaries are paper tigers.” These statements were not mere bravado but reflect the fact that the exploiting classes are, in the last analysis, weak because they represent and enforce a system of social relations that no longer corresponds to the current stage of history.

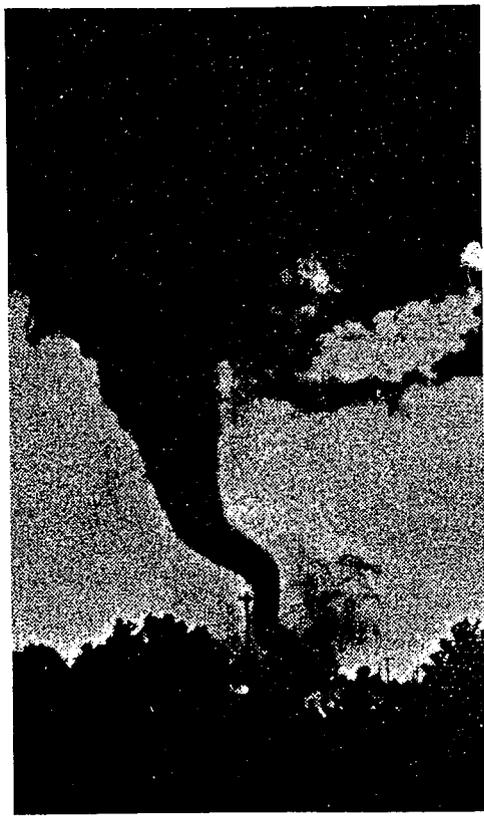
It is in periods of crisis that the illusory nature of the “permanence” of the rule of the exploiting classes becomes clearer to broader sections of the people; the *possibility* of the overthrow of the exploiters becomes

more evident. The growing dangers are real enough, but the revolutionary opportunities—and necessities—are just as real.

The People's War in Peru

It can be said that the most important element countering the danger of imperialist war today is the armed revolutionary struggle in Peru. How can this be true? Because this struggle is the most highly developed revolutionary struggle in the world that is being directed by a genuine proletarian revolutionary party—in this case the Communist Party of Peru, because it is a revolutionary struggle which is not manipulated by one or another imperialist predator. It is a struggle which is aimed against the imperialist system as well as against the reactionary regime in place in that country. Such a struggle in one country alone is not adequate to fundamentally change the situation in the world, but such a struggle can be and *is* a clarion call for the people of the world proclaiming that the struggle for communism is on the agenda and that the revolutionary position is again on the upswing.

In fact, there is no shortage of struggle against imperialism and reaction in the world and, indeed, over just the last few months there have been important clashes bet-



ween the masses of the people and various reactionaries in many parts of the world. The people will continue to resist, be it in the Philippines, South Africa, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Poland.... The problem remains that in the majority of cases the struggle of the masses of the people is not being led by a genuine communist vanguard but rather by one or another type of nationalist or revisionist force that, regardless of their subjective intentions (sometimes honourable, often not), are *incapable* of seeing beyond the narrow confines of the bourgeois order and because of this are unable to have the strategic confidence in the masses necessary to steer a course independent of the imperialist powers.

Resistance, by itself, is not enough. To deliver a hammer blow to the existing system it is necessary for the resistance to be led by a really revolutionary line, a line based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, that alone can lead the struggle forward on the path of true emancipation.

Mao Tsetung said, "The correctness or incorrectness of the political and ideological line decides everything." It is not aid, arms or foreign support that is key for the advance of the revolution. Mao points out that even if one begins

without a single soldier, soldiers will rally. Not only does the great history of our movement bear out this truth, but even the relatively short history of its rebuilding since the death of Mao Tsetung and the subsequent collapse of what had, up until then, constituted the Maoist movement, also confirms this viewpoint.

To return once again to Peru, it must be noted that a few short years ago the PCP began the armed struggle with very few forces but with a line and strategy capable of mobilizing the masses to take up the People's War—and this at a time when most of the "left" in Peru was dazzled by the so-called "democratic opening" and scurrying to get posts in parliament. Today this struggle is shaking the country from one end to the other and is reverberating well beyond the Peruvian frontiers.

What has proven to be possible in Peru is also possible elsewhere. There are a great many countries of the world where the possibilities of initiating the armed struggle for power are currently present, where what is lacking is a vanguard capable of leading and directing this process. And even where this situation is not the case, for example, in the imperialist countries where the revolution must follow a different path than that of Peru, the genuine com-

munist must gear their activity toward preparing for the seizure of power.

The struggle against war preparations must be carried out by the revolutionary communists and not left to spontaneity and/or the misleadership of opportunists. There is an especially heavy burden to increase our activities of support for the Peruvian revolution, and all the more so in the light of the current world situation.

The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement has issued the slogan "Prevent World War, Step Up The Struggle For Revolution Throughout The World." This is the fundamental response of the revolutionary communists to the growing danger of world war. If the objective situation is sure to provide favourable openings for the revolutionary struggle, it is not at all preordained that the forces capable of turning these *possibilities* into actual *struggles for proletarian power*, that is, the genuine communist forces who today are centred in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, will be in a strong enough position to maximise these opportunities and fulfill their responsibilities. As the *Declaration* puts it, "the need to race to catch up with objective conditions is still apparent." ■