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# BOB AVAKIAN DEMANDS POLITICAL REFUGEE STATUS IN FRANCE

Statement by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central  
Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

March 19, 1981

I have today demanded political refugee status in France.

This demand is based not only on the fact that I have been the focus of blatant political persecution and have been singled out from the start for special attack as a revolutionary leader in the case of the Mao Tsetung Defendants, facing a possible 241 years in jail:

The murder of RCP member Damian Garcia by a police agent provocateur, besides the many police assaults against, and the more than 1000 arrests of, RCP members and supporters within the last year alone, including people arrested on the charge of "sedition" just for putting up a poster featuring a statement from me on the key role of the Party's newspaper in building toward revolution in the U.S.;

The exposed acts and plots of prison and other government officials (including FBI) to murder political prisoners in jail, including the recent murders of Dallas Thundershield and Bobby Garcia, Native American freedom fighters, and the ongoing plotting against their brother in struggle Leonard Peltier, along with the long list of revolutionaries framed-up and/or murdered by the ruling class and its agents in recent years as well as throughout the history of the U.S., including Malcolm X, Fred Hampton and other members of the Black Panther Party as well as many others;

The fact that the political police (FBI, etc.) and other government agencies and bodies have continued and over the past several years stepped up their attempts to subject me to "investigation," to keep me under surveillance and more than that to make me a target of their infamous COINTELPRO program (whose widely-exposed methods include murder of revolutionaries) and similar repressive schemes;

The fact that five people in Greensboro, North Carolina demonstrating against the Ku Klux Klan and describing themselves as "communists" were shot down in cold blood by Klan and Nazi scum, working with a member of the political police and the obvious complicity of the local police, that this murder was brazenly carried out in front of television cameras and displayed to tens of millions of people across the U.S. and then these murderers were helped through the court system by judge and prosecutor to a verdict of "not guilty," set free and encour-



Bob Avakian at the Wall of the Communards in Paris.

aged (along with others like them) to commit more such outrageous acts, and that our Party has received open death threats from a major Nazi leader behind those murders, openly boasting of plans worked out with the police to carry out such threats;

The fact that there have been numerous threats of this kind against myself by police, prison guards and others in the state apparatus as well as "unofficial" reactionaries and imperialist mercenaries;

All these things, among many more, are clear indications that if I were to remain in the U.S., and unless I renounced my most deeply-held principles and abandoned the cause of proletarian revolution and proletarian internationalism—which I refuse to do—I would continue to be the target of mounting attacks, through the "legal machinery" and otherwise, by the ruling class and its armed enforcers and agents, and I would be forced to devote my efforts more and more, during such a decisive period, merely to trying to stay free of their murderous clutches and dodge their assassination attempts.

This demand for political refugee status is thus a necessary step as a result of the increasing and increasingly vicious moves of the imperialist ruling class in the U.S. and its state apparatus and loyal assassins (whether wearing government uniforms or not) to suppress rebellion against them, to cripple the developing revolutionary movement in the U.S. itself and in particular to crush and wipe out the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA and myself as its Chairman. This demand is a crucial part of the battle to defend our Party and enable it and myself as its Chairman to fulfill our responsibilities to the proletarian revolution in the U.S. and make the greatest possible contribution to this process worldwide.

In all this, and overall, it is vitally important to grasp not only the temporary difficulties and the necessity the imperialist ruling class is able to impose in the short run on the revolutionary forces and the fact that it has real teeth, but more fundamentally the deepening crisis the imperialists are engulfed in and the fact that their teeth (along with the rest of their system) are rotting and remain only to be yanked out. The period ahead,

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# Latest U.S. Dual Tactics in El Salvador

If you have been watching the TV news or reading the daily bourgeois scandal sheets lately, you might have noticed a certain shift in U.S. propaganda about El Salvador in the past week. Whereas the previous month's reporting was filled with stories of the U.S. "drawing the line in El Salvador" against "Soviet and Cuban indirect armed aggression"—all stemming from a government report on Soviet intervention in El Salvador, with an accompanying focus on U.S. military escalations to protect its Central American turf—the more recent coverage has emphasized supposed "land reform success," "grateful peasants" loyal to the fascist junta, and "lack of popular support" for the Salvadoran guerrillas. But what you might not have noticed is that all this is a result of a little "briefing"—or what could more accurately be described as the issuance of a directive by a State Department official to the most respected members of U.S. "journalism." On March 2, John Bushnell, a State Department specialist on Latin America, told the assembled reporters that while they had been "very cooperative... (in) getting the story out on what the Communists' (read: Soviet imperialists) worldwide network had done," they had "overdone it" on their hornblowing for U.S. escalations—especially the part about direct U.S. military involvement. "This story has been running about 5 times as big as it is, and we figured if we talked to you about it, you might not make this thing such a big deal." Gee, why would he figure that? And here all this time they've been telling us that the Soviets were the only imperialists with a "government controlled press."

Of course, none of the new "emphasis" to the press from U.S. officials reflects any change in current U.S. policy toward El Salvador or Central America—a policy overwhelmingly determined by geo-political jockeying with the Soviet Union in the region. Indeed the press remained "very cooperative" in publicizing Secretary of State Alexander Haig's testimony this week before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on "Latin American Terrorism" by the Soviets. But the new propaganda efforts do reflect some twisting and maneuvering by the U.S. within this overall context. In particular both the need to cover their increasingly exposed ass for their continued military escalations and a possible opportunity to take advantage of some apparent cracks in the Salvadoran opposition are lurking behind Bushnell's calls to the press to cool it with the war talk and

move on to a "new stage" in El Salvador.

While some of the reporters expressed indignation at being blamed for the "over kill" ("after all, we were only doing what you told us to do"), the media overall have quickly and dutifully rallied to the heightened imperialists' necessities. Within the first four days following the State Department meeting, the *New York Times* ran two articles on the fabricated glories of the junta's "agrarian reform," one article totally devoted to the guerrilla offensive's "failure to gain popular support," and a myriad of photographs from a little town called Suchitoto, where grateful and humble peasants smiled benignly at Salvadoran army troops bringing them precious water and being *ever so nice* to their little children. And the *Times* also managed to downplay the announcement that, according to official figures, 15 Green Berets were going to El Salvador behind the "cautious" words assuring all that these were only "teachers" and no more would be needed. This was a nice touch given this outfit's worldwide reputation for counterrevolutionary crimes.

But the fact that the U.S. has to resort to such absurd efforts as a resurrection of the widely exposed "agrarian reform" to promote a new, "reasonable" image in El Salvador is a sign of just how desperate their position is. This imperialist effort at counter-insurgency—jointly designed by the CIA and the AFL-CIO—involves holding out the promise of land to a few peasants who are loyal enough—or intimidated enough—to join the junta's "peasant organizations" which serve as recruiting grounds for paramilitary groups like the notorious ORDEN. These privileged few get to slave away on their old plantations just like before, while the majority of the rural population remains landless and homeless. But the big difference is that now, they take their orders directly from the junta (and

indirectly from the U.S.) instead of individual landowners, a few of whom have had their property bought by the government at higher than market value. These "happy peasants" have been promised that the land will someday belong to them—yes they can even pay off the government for the amount of compensation, a process which would take 30 years if they had the credit, equipment, etc., necessary for full-scale production. They don't. But there is one other difference between these "peasant cooperatives," as they are euphemistically called by the U.S. press, and the old way of agriculture in El Salvador. Many of the former farm hands are no longer on the job; rather, they now lie in shallow graves. In fact, the main and overwhelming effect of the "agrarian reform" has been to identify to the junta's security forces all those peasants who might possibly feel they deserve real landholdings. They are then dealt with in the typical U.S. imperialist manner—literally thousands of peasants have been murdered in conjunction with this "pacification program."

As to the U.S. press claims that the program has resulted in increased production due to peasants' "motivation," if this speculation is true (no figures are given), it only proves that the constant presence of machine gun-pointing national guardsmen can certainly have an effect on the pace of production, at least temporarily. Nationally, the government's own figures show that the three main export crops in El Salvador's imperialist-dominated agricultural economy are biting the dust. Cotton production is down 35%, coffee (which has been virtually unaffected by the "land reform") is down 10%, and according to *Inazucar*, the national sugar institute, this year's harvest will only come to 1/2 that of last year (a fact which the *New York Times* somehow translated into "sugar is up slightly").

As for the pictures of the happy pea-

sants of Suchitoto, this whole disgusting panorama offers a microcosmic view of the entire U.S. ad campaign—pretty words and pictures on top with U.S. war crimes exploding underneath. This town, 35 miles north of San Salvador, is an example of what the U.S. used to call "strategic hamlets" in Vietnam. Two months ago, there were 18,000 peasants in and around the town, but massive firebombing, mortar attacks, and aerial bombardment have either killed or driven out over two-thirds of the population (there are an estimated 150,000 refugees in El Salvador from this and similar U.S.-ordered operations in various parts of the country). Those that remain in Suchitoto are being treated to a joint National Guard-Army "search and destroy" mission in the area outside of the center of the town. Anything that moves is a target. When this maneuver started, it was called a "clean-up" operation by the junta. As we go to press, ten days later, the fascist troops are still facing fierce resistance from the armed masses, and their casualties are mounting. But similar counter-insurgency assaults have been launched in a number of areas, most notably in the northern province of Chalatenango and in the eastern province of Morazan, two of the guerrillas' strongholds.

### New Imperialist Maneuvers

As the examples above so vividly show, the U.S. has in no way changed its basic policy—or its genocidal application of same—toward El Salvador. It is still stepping up its open military role, only it is now trying to cover it up more actively. And some feverish political maneuvering is going on to try to turn the situation around, if only temporarily, to the U.S.' advantage.

When the U.S.' rapidly deteriorating situation in El Salvador and Central America as a whole forced the decision for a more massive influx of U.S. "advisors," helicopter gunships, counter-insurgency equipment and weapons, the big propaganda blitz "drawing the line against Soviet and Cuban intervention" was a necessary part of this move. On the one hand, it offers a justification for U.S. escalations by couching them as a response to Soviet escalations (weapons shipment, etc.) in the region—a move that not only is necessary for the mass consumption and diversion of public opinion which has been and continues to be increasingly opposed to U.S. war moves in El

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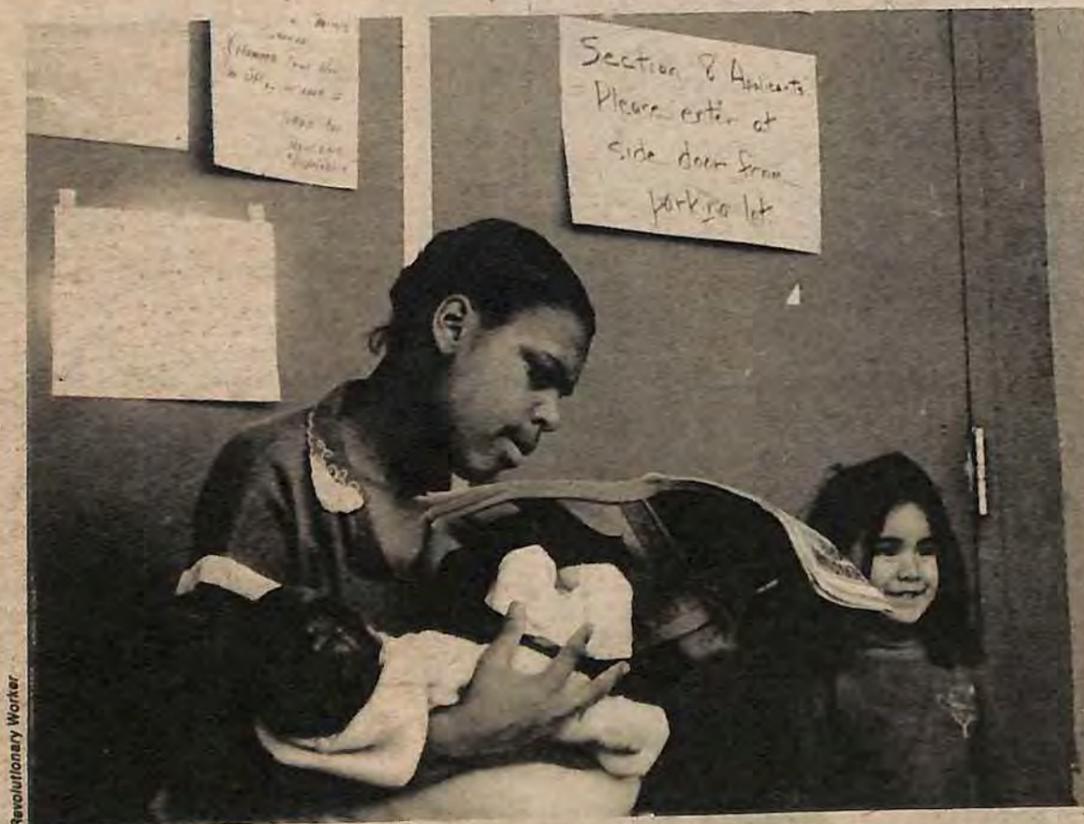
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Revolutionary Worker

# PROFOUND OUTRAGE, REVOLUTIONARY STIRRINGS OVER ATLANTA

Atlanta. A 13-year-old Black youth was last seen on Friday, March 13. The youth lived only a few blocks from the Atlanta University Complex, in an area where several of the murdered youth had lived. The disappearance of this 24th Black youth (21 bodies have been found) fit the murderers' recent pattern of kidnapping a child every other week. This case is not being investigated by the Special Task Force. Across town, at a huge fast-food restaurant near Techwood Homes, the oldest project in the U.S. and one of the largest in Atlanta, some youth found graffiti scribbled on the wall coldly declaring that the next abduction would occur at that project.

It was revealed last week that an attempted abduction of two Black youth last January, which was reported to the Task Force, was never investigated. Less than a month after this attempted abduction, one of the two youth involved disappeared and his body was found two weeks later.

Escalation of more official repression against Black people also continued this week in Atlanta. Vice President Bush took a 90-minute whirlwind tour of the city last week to announce that the federal government is giving \$1.5 million to the police "investigation." Bush and his wife cynically held a private meeting with some hand-picked relatives. One of these relatives later coolly commented, "(Mrs. Bush) said the president was really worried about the problems the killings were causing the city." And this is true: as a result of this worry, the bulk of all this federal money is to be earmarked for overtime pay for the police. In recent weeks there has been a 1/3 increase in police patrols, primarily coming from massive overtime. In the last two months over 1500 youth have been picked up for curfew violations. Swarms of police descend nightly on some neighborhoods, blasting over bullhorns that it is 7 p.m. and all youth must go inside. The tension is extremely high.

"Everywhere you go, on the bus, downtown, everyone is trying to figure out who's killing the kids, and why they're doing it now. You can't get away from political debate. Some people have it all wrong, but the discussion is deep and intense" These words of a Black worker vividly described the mood in Atlanta. No matter how many times Mayor Jackson and others plead with people to "lower their voices," very sharp contradictions are arising not only in Atlanta, but nationwide, as the struggle rages over these hideous murders.

Political struggle has erupted everywhere. This has been shown by the fact that virtually every significant political force in the U.S.—and some beyond the U.S.—have by now spoken out in one way or another over the Atlanta killings. And more, it's been shown as thousands in many cities have begun taking to the streets.

In New York City, on Friday, March 13, 15,000 people demonstrated. Called by a variety of community forces and others, the "candlelight march" began at 110th and Lenox in Harlem and ended with a rally 20 blocks north. A certain religious atmosphere some organizers had called for, highlighted by the candles, existed side by side with large pictures of Malcolm X, displays of revolutionary culture, and even an old "Free the Panthers" banner from the '60s brought by demonstrators. The crowd was overwhelmingly Black, and significant numbers of whites and Latinos also participated.

Another demonstration took place in Atlanta itself on Sunday, March 15. This was called by the Martin Luther King Center, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and different Black student groups. Representatives came from many cities. The march drew a very diverse crowd of around 1400.

An important fact about this demonstration was that it revealed the contradiction various Black "leaders"

are caught in presently. They have been widely discredited in the eyes of the masses, particularly in Atlanta, and were forced to call this march; they are also under attack from reactionary elements who want to put an end to the Black political structure in Atlanta. On the other hand, they are all too aware of the extremely volatile mood of people in that city, one which they must try to keep within safe bounds. The resolution of this problem was the attempt to restrict attendance at the march. They literally refused to build for it in Atlanta, where most people did not know about it until it was over. This accounts for the relatively small turnout. All this was seen when keynote speaker Coretta Scott King asked, "Could it be that Atlanta is being used as a testing ground for the principle of non-violence?" She went on to call for the rebirth of the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s.

Masses of people at the demonstration wanted to take things way beyond these bounds. Marshalls tried but could not prevent periodic chanting and singing, and many people refused to take down their homemade signs and banners (one from New York declared: "Kill the Klan"). King's speech was only tolerated by the demonstrators, who later booed Ben Vareen right off the stage. Vareen had been personally invited by King and had marched at her side. His attempts to calm down the crowd infuriated many; one woman yelled: "Shut up and go back and dance for Reagan." One TV station reported on the demonstration: "'We Shall Overcome' did not make it past the podium." Students from Atlanta Jr. College formed a contingent and marched the whole four miles with their fists in the air. A group of workers from a local electronics plant had press-

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Atlanta — contingent from Atlanta Junior College.



Revolutionary Worker



Harlem

Revolutionary Worker

# Miami: Co-conspirator Charged with "Criminal Anarchy"

Miami—As we go to press we have learned that on Wednesday, March 18, an active RCP supporter who has become broadly known in Liberty City for distributing the *Revolutionary Worker* was arrested on the Miami Dade Community College north campus. He was charged with "criminal anarchy"—a felony never before applied—that carries 15 years in prison and is similar to the "advocating the overthrow of the government" charge brought against two RCP supporters in Atlanta last year. This happened only three weeks after the Miami news media wildly attempted to connect the RCP with a man who, either because of his own mental problems or directly guided by the police or both, killed several of his family members in a shooting spree.

The arrest itself and events the next day in court clearly indicate that something very foul is in the works here. The RCP supporter was arrested in the parking lot of the campus before he had even gotten to the table that had been set up with the help of the Black Stu-

dent Union. This organization has sponsored the *RW* on campus ever since the cops tried to arrest distributors there several weeks ago. Along with charges of "unlawful interference with an educational institution" and "selling merchandise on campus without permission," arresting officer George Travis told the *Miami News* that he added the criminal anarchy charge because "I looked the paper over to see if there was violence advocated in it. There was." At the time of the arrest, Travis was seen looking over a field manual for the appropriate charges. He was overheard telling his partner, "There was something in here we've been discussing about criminal anarchy."

In court the next day, prosecutors and judges put on a Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde routine that would rival any. First, Judge James Rainwater made it clear that this is indeed serious business by upping the bail from \$2100 to \$5000, saying pointedly, "He has no ties in the community." Then the prosecutor, Ar-

thur Calvin, told the *Miami News* that he wanted the charge of criminal anarchy dropped, to which the DA's office replied drolly that they would have to check with the cops first before considering that. Then, as news of the bust and increased bail was splashed across the media and as many different groups began planning a press conference to expose the charges, a second judge released the RCP supporter on his own recognizance, hoping to turn the heat down and confuse things while the charges still stand.

This routine bears a striking resemblance to the Atlanta case. There too the bail was raised while the DA swore he had no intention of prosecuting. And today, several months after the charges were supposedly dropped there, the DA's office is still holding the case "on file" and can bring it before the grand jury at any time. The purpose of this act is to greatly raise the stakes for those coming forward to take up the *RW*, while at the same time claiming that the newspaper and the RCP are

"irrelevant" and that these attacks are not at all serious.

This arrest occurred just one week before Samuel Lightsey and Leonard and Lawrence Capers were scheduled to be sentenced. Lightsey and the Capers brothers were framed on the bogus charges of murdering three whites during the Miami rebellion. Their conviction met with a wave of outrage and struggle. The *RW* has been in the thick of this struggle and the authorities are clearly concerned about its influence.

The ACLU blasted the "criminal anarchy" charges publicly and is filing a suit against them. The press conference called for Friday, March 20 to expose these charges is sponsored by the RCP, the Black Student Union from Dade Community College, North, CCRJ (Citizens' Committee for Racial Justice), the National Lawyers Guild, CARD (Coalition Against Registration and the Draft), the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Association, and others. □

# Black Man Lynched in Maryland Jail

On Wednesday, March 4, a 21-year-old Black man was murdered by the police in a holding cell in the Hyattsville, Maryland jail. Within 24 hours, the Prince George's County police had closed the books on the case, ruling that it was a suicide. But while state officials try to hide their old-fashioned lynching behind a veil of "suicide," the stench of their crime is not so easily hidden.

Curtis Pelt, his fiancée, Dolores Cook, a white woman, and Curtis' best friend, Andre Smyers, had all gone out to dinner to celebrate Curtis' income tax rebate and his and Dolores' wedding plans. Throughout the course of their dinner, the waiter, obviously in a frenzy over the Black and white couple, consistently made insulting and crude remarks. In response, Curtis decided to leave the dinner check and the \$24 for it on the table and get out of the restaurant. As they headed across the parking lot, the waiter and the restaurant manager chased after them, calling them names and claiming they didn't pay the

bill. A few minutes later the police arrived and arrested the three friends, charging Curtis with theft and pulling a knife on the restaurant manager.

Once inside the jail, Curtis was booked and held on \$1000 bail, Andre on \$500, and Dolores was released on her own recognizance. As the police filled out the paperwork on Curtis, he joked around with Dolores and Andre, while Dolores immediately took to trying to get hold of a bail bondsman. Curtis was taken back to the lock-up cells. Less than half an hour later, Curtis was dead. Then the pigs walked Andre into the back lock-up—to make sure that their message got across. At the sight of Curtis' body, Andre began to scream and struggle against the cops until they finally drugged him to shut him up.

The police say suicide. Official spokesman for the county detention center, Jim O'Neill, states that there were no racial incidents surrounding Curtis' death. After Curtis had been locked up, according to Dolores, "Cur-

tis blew me a kiss and then was taken to a back lock-up. And the officer turned to me and said, 'What are you doing with these two boys?' I answered that one of those men is the father of my baby." Everyone knows that there's no racism in Maryland. Only suicides.

The police report states that Curtis hung himself with his shoelaces. A man weighing 160 pounds, wearing low-cut, black dress shoes with short cloth laces, hanging himself with his shoelaces? Andre clearly remembers seeing a yard-long black rope around Curtis' neck. And in addition to this, apparently Curtis was found "hanging in a position such that his feet touched the ground and his legs bent at the knees." When questioned about this, O'Neill admitted that yes, it would indeed be difficult to hang oneself in that position, and that "You would have to be bound and determined to kill yourself to do it." But, according to O'Neill, this shouldn't cast any doubt on the verdict of suicide. To back it up, O'Neill cites his superior,

Dr. Arnette Gaston, the former Deputy Commissioner of Corrections at Rikers Island in New York City and an "expert" on "these types of suicides." Basing himself on Gaston's study of more than 100 "suicides," O'Neill stated, "Yes, it's unusual, but certainly not unheard of."

As their crime became more widely exposed, the cops scrambled from story to story—from originally blaming it on work-release prisoners to the final suicide story. For many, the murder of Curtis Pelt is being spoken about in the same breath as the last well known "suicide attempt" in the same police station. Only that time the tables were turned when Terrence Johnson shot two cops before they could turn him in to another one of those "suicides." No, "these types of suicides" certainly aren't unheard of—not in Maryland or any other state in the country. □

# Pick up the pen

Correspondence from readers is literally crucial for the *Revolutionary Worker*; it's key in building the newspaper as the lifeblood of the revolutionary movement. The newspaper needs active, all-round political contributions from Party members, revolutionary-minded workers and all others who support the cause. All such people should correspond with the *RW* and work to develop this paper, the Party's voice, as their own revolutionary voice.

We need to hear from you. Reader correspondence is absolutely indispensable for the *RW*. The importance of such correspondence to the revolutionary press was spoken to by Lenin in 1899. In the midst of the struggle to create a nationwide newspaper, Lenin wrote:

"... Let us take one of the conditions for the success of this plan—that the newspaper be assured a regular supply of correspondence and other material from everywhere. Has not history shown that at all times when there has been a resurgence of our revolutionary movement such a purpose has proved possible of achievement even in respect of papers published abroad? If Social-Democrats (communists—*RW*) working in various localities come to regard the Party newspaper as *their own* and consider the maintenance of regular contact with it, the discussion of their problems and the reflection of the whole movement in it to be their main task, it will be quite possible to ensure the supply to the paper of full information about the movement...."

Only through active correspondence can we forge a truly powerful, truly conscious revolutionary Party with its finger on the pulse of the objective situation in its development. There is a burning need for information on the pulse of the movement. Pick up the pen!



Streets Rock in 18 Cities Last Weekend

# THE WEST GERMAN YOUTH ARE AT IT AGAIN

On March 13, in West Berlin, in the showcase city of the country that is the backbone of NATO in Europe, several youth, demanding the release of hundreds of arrested squatters, set fire to the Reichstag. It was a gesture of unspeakable contempt for imperialist Germany and everything its rulers stand for and hope for. Official Germany—and official America—was shocked.

Almost 50 years ago the Nazis burned down the Reichstag Parliament building and blamed it on the communists as an excuse to unleash a reign of terror, while continuing to uphold everything this colossal monument to the rule of capital stood for. The building, rebuilt since WW 2, has continued on as a museum and meeting place for the Bonn Parliament, and too, it has continued to serve as an edifice to the decaying bourgeoisie whose now “democratically” adorned iron fist still rules. The attempt by youth to burn it down reveals the tremendous cracks running deep, and ever more widening, throughout the whole structure of capitalism in West Germany and the world.

The most immediate spark to this latest in a series of social conflagrations is the criminally and absurd lack of housing, in this, one of the world's wealthiest countries. In the city of West Berlin alone, thousands of buildings stand empty—police enforcing their vacancies—while according to the government's own figures some 20,000 families require apartments. Why? Because just as it is in the U.S. cities, the governments and realty kingpins who are the title holders to vast

amounts of land and buildings are actually forcing tenants to vacate—either through outright neglect, or when that appears too slow, through eviction. The buildings are sold to developers at a handsome price, and they are then renovated and resold or rented to more prosperous renters, or to commercial establishments.

In opposition to this criminal absurdity, hundreds of people, mainly youth in working class areas, have seized the dilapidated buildings and respecting neither eviction orders nor eviction attempts, have moved in. To date, the West Berlin squatters control 116 buildings and are considered to be preparing, and are capable of, the seizure of many hundreds more. This past December, as the see-sawing battle of occupation/eviction escalated, Kurfurstendamm, one of West Berlin's most fashionable districts, erupted into pitched battles between squatters and police, resulting in the hundreds arrested whose release was demanded in the flames of the recent Reichstag fire.

Many of the hardcore of the squatters movement are seeking more than simply a home in a society that offers at every turn only dead ends for the masses of youth. And from the insides of these ramshackle, falling down apartment buildings, many of these youth have started taking a look around—and have retched and rebelled over what they have seen. In the past year, the streets of West Germany have rung aloud with growing opposition to government policies and indeed the government itself. In addition to the squatters (in fact including many of

them), demonstrations have ripped the government's plans for building more nuclear reactors. Throughout the summer and early autumn months, hundreds of rebel youth crashed the mass induction parties the German bourgeoisie was throwing in order to snatch up great quantities of cannon-fodder for the upcoming war. More recently, the sounds of “U.S. Out of El Salvador,” have thundered and echoed across West Germany. And much to the authorities' chagrin, this spring has already seen the announcement of demonstrations against the deployment of U.S. intermediate range nuclear missiles—a further blow to the imperialists' plans for World War 3.

Indeed, there is more being sought here by these youth—a whole new society free of all this madness. “The No Future People” is how some among the youth have taken to describing themselves, referring not to their own futures which are becoming increasingly radicalized, but to the future of official West Germany. That the imperialist rulers—both in Germany and in the U.S.—are uptight, was evidenced by a recent article in the March 18 edition of the *New York Times*. There it was reported just why it has been a very bad year for the German bourgeoisie. For, the night of the Reichstag fire, in West Berlin, there were 39 separate attacks by youth launched against the police

and various sites. And if it was a hot time in West Berlin on Friday night, the entire weekend found the entire country rocked by youth/police clashes in at least 18 West German cities!

It is clearly a situation that is rapidly slipping out of the hands and out of the bounds of the rulers, a fact that one lamenting social worker notes with more than a bit of trembling in his voice:

“I saw people take up rocks who never would have had a stone in their hand in a million years. You have a situation where the softer (sic) ones see their interests defended by the ‘no future people’ who are ready to take any kind of risk. There's a tremendous potential there, because everything is so poorly defined, for everyone to attach their grievance to the moment and feel linked together through their disillusionment. Among the young people I know, the Social Democrats (the ruling party of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt—*RW*), who used to have strong contact with youth, are completely discredited.”

And if this one lone social worker doesn't convince the rulers from his intimate contact among youth, then the large charred spot in the Reichstag will no doubt do nicely. It is clear that what is increasingly being battled out in the streets of West Germany is just who are the people who truly have no future. □

Hamburg



West Berlin



Hannover

It's been a very bad year for the German bourgeoisie—above are pictures of only a few of the numerous demonstrations by youth that have rocked West Germany over the past few months.



Bremen

# Revolutionary Youth Write on May 1st

The following letters are reprinted from the March issue of Revolutionary Communist Youth.

(The following was received from high school students in L.A. The translation from Spanish was done by the RCY.)

This era is the most explosive one, from Central America to South America and around the world, because we have seen that the imperialist system is in decay, because we have seen this corrupt, vicious hypocritical system that castrates humanity. May Day, the day of the international proletariat, is coming closer. The day when the red flag is raised by the oppressed who are bound to win. The proletariat has begun to awaken and opens its eyes and becomes more politically mature. They have realized that there is another road and that road is proletarian revolution and the international struggle.

Today the imperialists are being fought around the world. In the most backward and underdeveloped countries of America, the students, the peasants, and the workers are striking powerful blows against this imperialist system. It's time we developed a real, proletarian internationalism where the red flag is defended for the sacred cause of the liberation of humanity, in Africa, in Asia, in every corner of the world, including here in the imperialist beast.

We are making a call to all rebellious youth to unite with the struggle to finish this system once and for all.

4 Nicaraguans  
1 Salvadoran  
1 Honduran

(The following was sent to the RCY from a Salvadoran brother in San Diego. The translation is theirs.)

Feb. 26, 1981

The First of May means a lot to me. When I was in El Salvador, I saw some of this. This is what I saw on May 1, 1979, in the streets of San Salvador. There were many working people killed by the Army, and all of the city was quiet because many people were afraid to come out because there was going to be a massacre. Of the people who were out, all of them were comrades, and many people united. In the central market all of those sellers helped because the government had treated them badly for many years. The tanks wanted to clear the market, but it was impossible for the government, because the people were also armed, and 100 more were killed. When the newspaper came out it said that their soldiers had dispersed for nothing from their posts. And of the students, the press said that more than 100 died because there was a new organization of youth that was against communism.

My opinion about what I would like to do on May First is a very simple thing. I would like to burn an American flag, which is a symbol of slavery. On May First, the first flag which is seen will be the first one burned.

RCY,

I would like to start out by saying that i'm not a professional writer, in fact i'm not even very good at it. so don't even think of this as a written article in a newspaper, because it's not. (at least to me it isn't.) To me, it's a direct letter to YOU! so think of it as that. OKAY? Let's go.

Dear (Fill in your name here):

i'm having a rather bad time, but it's not hopeless. I have started a little RCYB chapter here, a small suburb about 50 miles from Czechago.\* Since you haven't seen me for awhile, i'll tell you a little about myself. For the past 2 years, i've been in very close contact with some friends of mine, who are Yippies in San Francisco. In December they were arrested on drug charges, so that stopped that. I thought that i'd be more useful if i got some organizing done out here.

I went to the 10 minutes silence for John Lennon to see if anything was happening. It was. I got a leaflet that led me to the "Nobody for President" demonstration, where I finally tied up with the RCYB. i am probably one of their weirdest members (and i think essential) because of the fact that I was a Yippie for 2 years. i follow the teachings of Marx. all four of them. Harpo, Groucho, Chico, and Karl.

At my school, i have been going as full speed ahead as possible in the field of organizing. (the only reason i go to school is to radicalize it.) i talk about communism with people between classes in the john. I sell papers during lunch hour. Even my very presence there radicalizes people. I always dress

in (from feet up) a pair of old tennis shoes, colored 17 different colors, faded blue jeans, my brigade t-shirt, an old army jacket with a Viet Kong flag sewed on the back and covered with red ribbons, patches, and buttons, and occasionally sun glasses and a headband.

people here think, "Hey, if this guy can be a communist and come to school dressed like that, why can't i?" (At least that's what i hope they think) I hang up stickers all over the place, especially MAY DAY stickers, as this is the most important BIG NATIONWIDE demonstration coming up. keep an eye on the RW and RCY to find out more about it. Nobody knows what's really gonna happen 'til its all over, but you'll be there just like me, right? Right! let's see, have i forgotten anything? oh, yea. Almost forgot. Another way to sell papers is like this: Find some nice stairs. have some papers in a bag. Fall down the stairs. (make sure there's a few people on them) Let the papers fall out. i sold three this way.

well, so long, my love goes with you, and keep on fighting!

p.s.: Remember, May 1st, 1981. BE THERE!

\*RCY note: The Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 happened at the same time as the Democratic Party National Convention in Chicago that year. At that convention, thousands of anti-Vietnam War demonstrators were viciously attacked by the Chicago police, so some of the demonstrators re-named Chicago "Czechago" to draw the links in the struggle against imperialism worldwide.



May Day 1980, Detroit.

# MAY 1, 1981

**A MAY DAY IN WHICH WE:**

**BREAK OUT, BREAK FREE—  
TAKE HISTORY INTO OUR HANDS**

**DECLARE OUR FIRM OPPOSITION TO IMPERIALISM**

**MAKE A LIVING FORCE OF  
PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM**

**BOLDLY TAKE THE STAND OF  
DOWN WITH THE OLD ORDER AND  
FIGHT TO BRING ALIVE THE NEW**

The RCP calls all those who participated (or wished they had) in last year's events; all who are wielding the RW today; and people everywhere that this outmoded and decadent system breeds resistance; everyone whose eyes are open and longs to end this madness; everyone whose eyes are open and outlook must and can become the property and a battle cry of the class-conscious and revolutionary-minded of all nationalities, foreign born and U.S. born, in the sweatshops and hellholes, the ghettos and barrios, the unemployment and welfare lines of this "best of all worlds"; of the youth seething with rebellion in the schools, universities and the streets; of those who are involved in cultural work or from other walks of life who despise the insanity and brutality of the "American way"; of those awakening to political life even as they are being trained as cannonfodder in the military for the impending inter-imperialist blood feast and of those burning with revolutionary hatred and understanding in places even more regimented and oppressive. Struggle over this call, debate it, deepen its meaning and take it out broadly to your fellow oppressed and transform it into far-reaching revolutionary struggle on May 1st itself—a most powerful manifesto in preparing revolutionary public opinion. Let's take up boldly our Red flag and accelerate **REVOLUTION** in step with our brothers and sisters worldwide. . . . Everywhere the modern overlords look, they must see the unmistakable sights and hear the unmistakable sounds of May First. . . . Correspond with the RW or contact the RCP locally with your thinking, ideas and plans. . . . More will be forthcoming in the RW.

# Walter Cronkite Retires And That's The Way Imperialism Is . . .

It was with an uncommon honesty that much of the capitalist media paid a tribute to Walter Cronkite on his retirement as anchorman for the CBS Evening News. For 18 consecutive years, "Uncle Walter" has stepped into the homes of millions every evening to assure them that no matter what vicious, blood-soaked crime U.S. imperialism had just been caught committing, still, "That's the way it is"—that everything was somehow all right and under control and that there was a perfectly logical and acceptable explanation for it. Cronkite's stock and trade was his unflappability while the film footage just shown may have shown children horribly burned by napalm, or U.S. "advisors" tossing suspected Vietnamese revolutionaries out of a helicopter at 1,000 feet, Uncle Walter would come back on looking straight at his audience like a soulful walrus and calmly assure that while our great country might occasionally make mistakes, it was still far far better than "the other side."

Gushing with admiration for Uncle Walter's ability to lie with a straight face, the *Washington Star* editorialized, "Mr. Cronkite made it his business to explain and seem fair. . . His genius, a word we choose carefully, has been his talent at creating a world we believe in." *Time* magazine pointed with pride to the fact that Uncle Walter was repeatedly voted "the most trusted man in America" in opinion polls. But it was left to the *New York Times* to directly relate the role of media mouthpieces like Cronkite to keeping the lid on things for an imperialist system in crisis: "When Mr. Cronkite began his run as anchorman in 1962, it chanced that his reassuring voice and manner perfectly suited a time of heat. Viewers were hungry for calm continuity, and remained so during the years of the Cuban missile crisis, the Civil Rights upheavals, assassinations, Vietnam, Watergate. Mr. Cronkite delivered superbly."

What a striking admission—here the *Times* has pointed out that the chief attribute of Cronkite was that at a time when the ruling class was hungry for calm and continuity, a time when U.S. imperialism threatened to incinerate millions in a nuclear showdown with the new capitalist rulers in the Soviet Union, a time when the oppressed masses of Black people were rising in revolt in the face of vicious repression and mad-dog executions in the streets, a time when hundreds of thousands were marching in the streets against the imperialist war in Vietnam and soldiers were deserting and shooting their own officers, at a time when the infighting in the ruling class had become so sharp that even presidents were shot down and otherwise driven from office—that in times such as these, Uncle Walter delivered. . . superbly. No matter how "60s" the news was, Walter could (almost) always give it a "50s" tone. You know, "Father (Cronkite) Knows Best" and he's assuring us everything is all right.

As the *Times* knows full well, Uncle Walter's talents and superb delivery did not lie solely in his speaking style nor in his air of pretended innocence but in his highly political ability to sift "news" from the "non-news" as an active editor of the content of the evening news. Walter Cronkite demonstrated a high level of (ruling) class-consciousness on the role of the "free press." One study made of the evening news broadcasts for the year 1969 documented well Uncle Walter's editorial ability. For example, during the period from July 10 to August 12, 1969 there were 5 major news stories concerning the liberation struggles in southern Africa. These included a UN Security Council vote to condemn Portugal for aggression against Zambia, a Security Council condemnation of South Africa's continued rule over Namibia, the setting of a UN deadline

for South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia, the protest of 25 U.S. congressmen against South Africa's refusal to grant visas to 2 Black U.S. congressmen and an 88-day trial in South Africa of two newsmen charged with publishing "false" information about prison conditions in that country. The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite did not mention a single one of these news items.

When in July a contingent of 75 doctors, medical students and nurses stormed the podium of the American Medical Association (AMA) convention to condemn the AMA's support for racist, exploitative health care, it didn't make it on the CBS Evening News. In October when Judge Julius Hoffman had Panther leader Bobby Seale bound and gagged in the courtroom in the Chicago 7 trial, Seale managed to work his gag loose and denounce Hoffman as "You fascist dog, you. You rotten low-life son of a bitch." Uncle Walter with obvious distaste reported only that Seale had shouted "obscenities" at the Judge.

In July when U.S. puppet president Thieu proposed that the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam participate in elections organized by his government, even imperialist politicians like George McGovern pointed out that the NLF would not participate in elections while Thieu controlled the ballot box. But McGovern's remark was not reported and instead CBS reporter Robert Pierpoint was put on to explain how Thieu's offer now had "Hanoi on the defensive." When in July, 550 Catholic nuns sent an open letter to President Nixon accusing the administration of killing school desegregation guidelines, the event was ignored by Cronkite. And in yet another example when the 20,000 member American Women's Medical Association voted overwhelmingly for the repeal of all anti-abortion laws, Uncle Walter completely suppressed the item. These were only a few examples for one year of Uncle Walter's 18-year career at "creating a world we believe in."

## Walter's Upbringing

Another interesting point in the *New York Times* editorial is their assertion that the Cronkite phenomenon "chanced" to suit the ruling class's pressing needs in the vital area of public opinion. *Chanced?* Not really. The coming of Walter Cronkite to the CBS Evening News was due to far more than chance. And it's for this reason that virtually every story about Cronkite's retirement begins with his joining the network in 1952. It is presented as if CBS went out one day and found Uncle Walter under a rock.

Walter Cronkite began his career as a stringer for Scripps-Howard and United Press in Texas before World War 2. During the war, he became a combat journalist in Europe making parachute jumps into combat zones, and like all key war correspondents worked closely with military intelligence and the army information services. After the war, Cronkite remained in Europe covering the Nuremberg Trials, setting up UP offices in several European countries, and then was sent to Moscow as the chief United Press correspondent there.

In 1948, with the beginning of post-war disarmament and the economic blockade of the socialist countries, U.S. imperialism also began to move, quietly to organize "free world" journalists to

offset the effective exposures of Western imperialism and the electrifying effects of the anti-colonial struggles in China, India, Indonesia and Africa. Key in this effort was OPERATION MOCKINGBIRD, a program to recruit "free world" journalists onto the payroll of the CIA to help manage the news and develop a positive image of U.S. imperialism in contrast to the evils of communism. The architects of OPERATION MOCKINGBIRD were Philip Graham, publisher of the *Washington Post*, Frank Wisner, a former OSS man who became director of the Office of Policy Coordination (the covert arm of the CIA), and Wisner's deputy, Richard Helms, later to become director of the CIA. Eventually OPERATION MOCKINGBIRD "owned" hundreds of press, radio and TV journalists, each with a code name, a field supervisor, and a monetary expression of Uncle Sam's appreciation.

It also "chanced" that in 1948 two other things happened. Walter Cronkite suddenly resigned as Moscow correspondent of United Press and Philip Graham purchased the controlling interest in the CBS affiliate in Washington, WPOP. Now it also happened that about this time one John S. Hayes came to work for the *Washington Post*. During the war, Hayes had been the commander of the Armed Forces Radio Network for the European theatre, and then had been in charge of setting up post war radio and television in Western Europe under the Marshall Plan, a responsibility that was directly guided by U.S. intelligence services. Hayes' war time military network was actually an extension of CBS, so Hayes knew CBS president William Paley well, and Hayes was also a personal friend of CIA Director Allen Dulles. In fact it was Hayes and Dulles who persuaded Paley to sell the Washington station to Graham.

Hayes now, "chanced" to hire young Walter Cronkite for WPOP-TV, from where he was soon transferred to the network in New York. Ever mindful of his humble origins, throughout the '50s Cronkite returned to Washington together with CBS president Paley every year to have Christmas dinner with Allen Dulles at a private club in Washington called the Alibi.

During the 1950s both CBS and the *Washington Post* continued to stock their staffs with former intelligence operatives and the MOCKINGBIRD recruitment program continued apace. CBS was also tied into intelligence work through the development by CBS labs of the "Photoscan" electrical-optical reconnaissance system and other information systems which were subsequently employed in Vietnam.

The way was cleared for Cronkite to move up to the CBS anchorman spot only when his predecessor Edward R. Murrow, who was also a Vice-president of CBS, was moved up to higher responsibilities in the intelligence community. Murrow resigned in 1961 to take the government post of director of the U.S. Information Agency. With this post as cover, Murrow actually became a member of the Special Group CI (for counter-insurgency) which included CIA director John McCone, Bobby Kennedy, National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy and several others whose task it was to develop the counter-insurgency doctrine which would ultimately be employed in Vietnam. CBS News was also tied in, in yet another way, through the participation of CBS News Vice-president Richard

Falant in a special task force appointed by John Kennedy to develop U.S. propaganda aimed at the People's Republic of China. Others on the committee were John Hayes, from the *Post*, Zbigniew Brezinski from Columbia University, Bill Moyers who later joined the CBS News, and several CIA officials. All in all, there are a lot of good imperialist reasons for the deafening silence around Uncle Walter's distant past.

## Vietnam

As a class-conscious spokesman of imperialism, Walter Cronkite knew that dual tactics and changing according to circumstances was required. In this, too, he performed valuable services. In the beginning of the U.S. military aggression in Vietnam, there was no questioning at all by Cronkite of the government's policy. Cronkite reported the whole Gulf of Tonkin hoax as gospel truth in 1964. (This "incident against U.S. ships"—now admitted as a lie—was used to justify the approval by Congress of more military action by LBJ.) In 1965, Cronkite made his first trip to Vietnam. He was filmed cruising around on helicopter gunship missions and brought back a straight government analysis, and approval, of the war. Night after night the map of Vietnam projected behind Cronkite's desk displayed the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" bringing "outsiders" from Vietnam into Vietnam, though not once did they display the "Kennedy-LBJ-Nixon Trail" stretching 5000 miles across the Pacific. But then in 1968, the U.S. myth of victory just around the corner blew up with the Tet Offensive and the bitter street fighting in 34 cities the length of south Vietnam. Revolt spread as well in the streets of the U.S.

Once again, Cronkite travelled to Vietnam, but this time Cronkite began to sing a little different tune. It was in perfect harmony with the rising sentiment within the ruling class that the U.S. was indeed sinking in a quagmire, especially taking into account its global contention with rising Soviet imperialism. Cronkite produced a special "CBS Report" on the war—a "personal evaluation" of the war by Walter Cronkite. In this report he promoted heavily the line that the war could not be won.

Cronkite was not about to join the anti-war movement, however. It is one thing to take sides in a dispute within the ruling class—particularly the dominant side—and quite another to go over to the popular resistance. Cronkite's sudden sprouting of "anti-war" credentials were now thrown into the fray in the conscious opposition to the anti-war movement, particularly its forward, anti-imperialist thrust. He and those like him sought in every way to divert this movement from developing any real consciousness of the nature of the system. For example, Cronkite was flown around to college campuses to try to cool things out as 1968 was the hottest year to date. Speaking at the commencement at Syracuse University in June, Cronkite said, "The magnificence of the American system is that it provides for either or both revolution and evolution within the system itself. Violence not only thwarts the workings of the system but also impedes and distorts the revolution itself. . . Non-violent revolt is possible, and, indeed, may be desirable. John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., were non-violent revolutionaries. Both seek change *within* the system, *within* the philosophy, *within* the dream." It is a testament to just how far things had developed in the '60s that the ruling class was forced to treat violent revolution as a serious threat.

Yet the situation continued to explode out of control despite Uncle Walter's best efforts, and even the CBS Evening News could not avoid covering the collapse of the U.S. Army in Vietnam. In one memorable series, CBS did a several-night running special on "Charlie Company." To prepare public opinion for what was beginning to break out on a large scale, the CBS camera crew actually filmed the members of Charlie Company refusing a direct order to move out down the

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# THE REAL RUDE BOY LIVES ON... BUT NOT THE MOVIE

"Rude Boy", a film featuring the Clash, has been making the rounds as of late in a number of U.S. cities. The band reportedly severed all relations with the film before its completion, and it's not hard to see why. "Rude Boy" is a highly slanted patchwork of concert footage, conversations and scenes used to attack everything the Clash stand for.

The film revolves around Ray Gange, the alleged "Rude Boy" of the film's monicker. That Gange is cast in this role is itself a remarkable obnoxious conceit. The Rude Boy depicted in Jamaican ska and reggae music is a character of street smarts and style, of defiance to authority and the Law—a symbol of rebellion picked up on in recent years by English youth as well, Black and white. One does not have to overly romanticize the Rude Boy of legend to see that the "Rude Boy" of this film is a fraud and an insult—Gange demonstrates all the rebelliousness of a tape worm. As such he is the central device to the bourgeois "realism" of the filmmakers efforts, about which more will be said later.

You see, the film presents Gange as typical of alienated white youth that dig the Clash. He goes to the band's gigs; he gets hassled by the pigs for walking down the street. Like some members of the Clash, he is from Brixton, a working class multinational section of London. When Gange goes home to his miniscule apartment, in the midst of the crumbling, bleak tower estates that house much of London's urban poor, he puts the Clash's "Career Opportunities" on the record player while pondering the fact that he, too, has none.

But unlike the Punks, who attempted to stage a categorical rejection of English society, Gange's frustrations have a more limited focus. His quarrel is not with the utter worthlessness of a decrepit social order run by the few, he's pissed because *he* can't be one of those few. In an early scene, Gange argues feebly with the Clash's Joe Strummer and his socialist convictions. What's wrong with a few people driving around in limousines and looking down

on everyone else, Gange asks, that's what he wants for himself.

Strummer responds that even if you could be one of the few, it's a load of bollocks anyway, and he's concluded that there's "no human life on that end." The filmmaker's efforts notwithstanding, Strummer's words emerge all the stronger at "Rude Boy"'s end, for truly there is "no life, no humanity" on Gange's end either. A demoralized element, suffocating under the weight of imperialism, he still holds to the predatory outlook of the oppressor and tries to adapt that to his own situation. He mainly identifies with the Clash in the hopes that they will be his meal-ticket towards getting "his". And to this end, he makes every effort to ingratiate himself to the band, finally getting signed on to be a roadie for a few of their gigs.

Here, as part of the rough story line, we get some magnificent concert footage of the Clash, gigging their way through England during 1978-79, firing audiences with their incendiary music—the irony-edged rage of "London's Burning", punk-reggae in "Police and Thieves", and recurring bits of setcloser "White Riot". The latter, written in solidarity with the Black rebellions that had recently broken out in London's West End, is also shown being performed in front of a pogoing, multinational sea of thousands at a Rock against Racism concert. Glimpses such as these provide only a faint suggestion of what was going on at the time: the tumultuous punk explosion, thousands of youth declaring themselves "Enemies of the State," with many more aroused in anger and protest against Imperialist England. In the hands of the filmmakers, these realities become faceless, anonymous, the mere backdrop to their preoccupations with the stubbornly irrelevant Gange. You dig the Clash, you dug the youth rebellion in England, you dig rebellion at all? Forget it, it's all a passing fancy as long as you got yobbos like Gange around—and no boring detail of his existence is spared as the filmmakers

attempt to present him as the more "real".

For many thousands, the Clash embody a dream—to spit in the eye of oppression and the organized stupidities of the bourgeois order, and to do it with style. For Gange, the Clash appear as a kind of Brixton Operation Bootstrap; they are clearly going somewhere, and he wants to take the ride for all he can. Alongside this, he remains forever the philistine in relation to the rush of events around him; his racism, his self-seeking pettiness and primitive anti-communism mark his character from beginning to end. We see Gange, the "typical" Clash fan now roadie, guzzling down all the free beer he can grab backstage, Gange kicking the Clash's tour manager out of his hotel room so he can consummate his latest sexual conquest, Gange going back to his regular job working in a wretched little porno shop—truly, the stuff of which legends are made.

Plodding through his conversational encounters with the Clash in a perpetual haze, we have Gange making fun of Black people who sing along with "White Riot". He finds it "stupid" that white and Black youth are finding in common a shared hatred of oppression, checking each other out and digging it. When Clash guitarist Mick Jones tells him he's full of shit, that Gange doesn't think it odd when white people listen to Black people's music, Gange replies, yes, but at least they're not saying "Rastafari"—in other words, that's cool, just so long as whites don't pay any attention to what Black music might be saying. In another scene, Gange—listening to Jones laying down the vocal track to "Stay Free" in the studio, is obviously moved. He then attempts to blubber all over Jones about how no one else but people from Brixton (like himself) could possibly understand what the song is really about. Jones—who like the rest of the band clearly has no time for acting the condescending savior—answers sharply that there are loads of people elsewhere who are quite capable of understand-

ing. Any asshole can say he's from Brixton—Gange being a case in point—but holding onto the oppressive character of one's roots as an endless source of self-pity is hardly what the song, or the Clash, is about.

"Nobody is to be blamed for being born a slave; but a slave who not only eschews a striving for freedom but justifies and eulogizes his slavery... such a slave is a lickspittle and a boor, who arouses a legitimate feeling of indignation, contempt, and loathing." V.I. Lenin, writing 65 years earlier has Gange pegged pretty well.

Towards film's end, the filmmakers introduce another element of their "realism." Interspersed with other scenes, a progression of shots shows a group of young Blacks getting busted by the pigs. From an apartment on high, the omnipotent state carries on 1984-style surveillance on the youth below. Inexorably, the police draw the net tighter, the youth are packed off to jail where, through beatings, they cough up a phony confession to mysterious crimes. With all the piety of the most self-aggrandizing liberal, the filmmakers' evident social awareness instead reveals a further grinding of the same axe. Where the surging militancy of Jamaicans and other immigrant peoples has been a cutting edge of the popular ferment in England, this scene in the film symbolically attempts to portray Blacks simply as victims.

Increasingly, the Clash find Gange more and more intolerable, and in the end, send him packing. Most of the audience, having undergone the same sufferings, would like to do the same. Yet, the message of the film hangs in the air like a stale odor. The Clash are clearly moving onward, but what does it all mean? The film is clear enough—Blacks are helpless, whites are hopeless, and the Clash are at best irrelevant. Clearly the film is an attack, not the only one being directed against the Clash these days, and deserves to be fully exposed. At the same time, the very puniness of the film illuminates well the basic quandry facing those who attempt to put down the Clash and others like them. For if Gange is a parasite, it is the filmmakers themselves who emerge as leeches of world-class merit. Without the Clash, few would have bothered to see their movie and check out their heavy "message" in the first place, fewer still would have bothered to sit through the whole thing. In vain, they try to bring to life the thoroughly lifeless persona of Gange, a futile venture repeatedly upstaged by the appearances of the Clash, who throughout "Rude Boy" remain a vortex of vibrant energies and razor sharp social sensibilities. It says something about what is "real" and what is not when a film that tries so hard to destroy what the Clash stands for only narrowly escapes rigor mortis through the appearance of the band itself.

Given the opportunity to record on film a living tornado of social and cultural upheaval, "Rude Boy" focuses instead on the inconsequential motion of water going down the drain. Certainly events since the film was made find the Clash—and those realities and dreams they give revolutionary expression to in their music—shining more brilliantly than ever. The real Rude Boy lives on, it is "Rude Boy" the film that has failed. □



The Clash, on tour in New York.

# CHICAGO REDEVELOPMENT PLAN— INCINERATE THE POOR

Chicago—It was 3:00 a.m. on the morning of March 14 but Michael Vest, an unemployed welder, couldn't sleep. He went to the first-floor vending machine area of the apartment building where he lived at 5523 N. Kenmore to get a can of soup. Minutes later he discovered a blaze coming from the area of the laundry room. He ran to pull the fire alarm in the box outside his apartment, but it did not go off. Precious moments were lost. Someone shouted, "Fire!" just as the electrical system failed, making it impossible to see. People struggled to fight their way out through total darkness and billowing smoke. Flames were shooting out the windows as panicked residents screamed for help. The fire quickly ate its way up the wooden rear stairwell, blocking this exit and choking the residents with deadly smoke. There was no outside fire escape. As is to be expected, by the time the Fire Dept. arrived, it was too late to stop the roaring blaze. Many on the third and fourth floor of the building never had a chance. When it was all over, 19 dead bodies were pulled from the rubble—19 more victims of the bourgeoisie's by now very familiar "redevelopment" programs.

As usual, the banner headlines appeared in the Chicago press and even nationwide media coverage was accorded. The coverage was, of course, the standard disaster coverage, and within two days the story disappeared from the pages of the newspapers. Arson was naturally ruled out almost immediately and the whole thing simply summed up as "another tragedy." Even some of the usual obligatory statements of "shock and grief" from local politicians were dispensed with this time. No need for even these cynical formalities as the press summed it up as "the flop-house fire," labeling those killed as "derelicts." No big deal after all, it was only one of hundreds of such fires in the Uptown area of Chicago and only one of thousands nationwide in communities of poor people with high concentrations of national minorities that are targeted for "redevelopment."

In fact, what stands out about this example of mass incineration is just how typical it is, and the fact that such a vile crime is looked upon as just another common occurrence is itself a searing indictment of the very nature of this system. The Uptown area, where this fire occurred, is a neighborhood of poor Black, white, Native American and Latino residents on Chicago's North Side. Situated on Chicago's lakefront, it is some very high-priced property adjacent to a score of luxury high-rise apartment buildings. It has been targeted for redevelopment by the city and a continuing and very sharp battle has been going on to prevent them from forcing people out to make room for some more "respectable" clientele (that is, white and upper-class). In 1979 alone a staggering total of 392 fires swept this one community. Many were directly set by arsonists while others were simply the result of conscious neglect by slum-

lords.

This latest fire is a classic case. An early report from the fire chief on the scene said that it appeared to be arson because the fire had started in two places. But now the Police Bomb and Arson Unit denies this and has tentatively found faulty wiring or an electrical malfunction as the cause. But whether the fire was actually set deliberately on March 14 or not is of little importance. All that really has yet to be determined is the method of arson used—direct torching or indirect malign neglect. The landlord, Mosche Menora, had been deliberately letting the place fall apart. The electrical system in the building simply functioned as a delayed fuse for the landlord's torching of the building. One resident explained that the lights would frequently dim or that sparks would fly out when the lights were turned on. One former resident had moved out because the landlord refused to fix the electrical system.

Besides refusing to correct this dangerous situation, Menora actually contributed to it by installing hot plates that overloaded the aged electrical system. The burned building, formerly the Royal Beach Hotel built around 60-70 years ago, was never equipped to handle such a load. Installing the hot plates, by the way, was not for the convenience of his tenants but part of a money-making scam for Menora. In exchange for satisfying the "kitchen facilities" requirement necessary to establish residency for a welfare check, Menora in turn cashed these checks and took a cut. This leech is typical of the slumlord species—an expert at sucking people dry and thriving off their misery.

In Uptown, thanks to the bourgeoisie's redevelopment plans, these leeches have more incentive than ever to bleed the tenants and let the building go to hell. The landlord knows that when he gets ready to dump the building, no matter what shape it is in there will be plenty of bankers and real estate devel-

opers ready to pay a hefty price for this extremely valuable property. But this is only the first step of a vicious chain reaction triggered by the redevelopment plans. For the enterprising slumlord about to ditch his property, not only can he cash in the fire insurance policy by torching the building, but this also assists the developer by driving the poor and minority tenants out so their apartments can be conveniently "rehabilitated" into expensive units. To the real estate and banking parasites and their slumlord partners, the poor residents of Uptown are only so many obstacles to their ambitious land-grabbing schemes, just bodies in their way to be harassed, evicted, driven out, and burned out of the way.

The millions of dollars the bourgeoisie has pumped into Uptown in rehabilitation loans to the developers, for a new college and many other projects, has been the lifeblood for this whole vampiristic venture. North Kenmore St., where 19 people met their fiery death, is one area that was singled out for "rehabilitation." The street is only one block from the string of expensive lakefront hi-rises that remained as a white, upper-class bastion in Uptown even when the neighborhood as a whole began to decline in the post-World War 2 period. In 1978, Hugh-McLevin, a big development firm, got a \$12 million loan from the Illinois Housing Development Authority to buy and rehabilitate 10 buildings in a four-block area on North Kenmore and North Winthrop Streets. By 1979, one-third of the 392 fires that ripped through Uptown were concentrated in this small area. The vicious cycle of arsons followed by pushing poor people out, jacking up the rents and enticing the new, upper-income residents in has almost been fully completed in these blocks. Walking down north Kenmore, the old, burned-out hotel at 5523 stands as a striking contrast to the newly remodeled, expensive apartment buildings. The old hotel with its Black, Indian, Latino and white residents must

have been a real eyesore to the redevelopers. It was a prime target for their next torching.

A similar pattern of death and destruction has occurred in other parts of Uptown targeted for government funds. When the city announced its plans to "revitalize" Uptown by building the new Truman City College, one fireman recalls, "That's when all the fires started burning right around the land the city wanted." One slumlord who obligingly helped with land clearance was Charlie Roberts. He began torching his buildings in the area, collecting the insurance money and then selling the land to the city. These fires and others set by the notorious arson-for-profit ring headed up by Roberts resulted in the fire murders of at least 17 people—and a handsome payoff for Charlie. The Roberts gang has collected \$560,000 on 13 buildings thus far and has claims outstanding for another \$310,000. This was even exposed in an investigation by ABC News and the Better Government Association (BGA) last year. But Charlie hasn't been touched. In light of his useful services, it is hardly surprising that a federal grand jury decided not to indict Roberts for any of these crimes.

In short, murder by fire is nothing less than a sound business practice for the bourgeoisie and a vital part of carrying out its redevelopment schemes. In the wake of the urban rebellions of the '60s, Chicago, along with other cities across the country, developed plans to remove the explosive Black and Latino populations surrounding the central business districts and replace them with politically stable, white, upper-income residents to provide a buffer against rebellions. It is the bourgeoisie as a whole that has a stake in these redevelopment plans. And while the real murderers may not have to dirty their hands by lighting the match themselves, the blood is on their hands just the same. □

## El Salvador

Continued from page 2

Salvador. Within this framework, diplomatic and political pressure has been applied to whip into line other countries in the U.S. bloc who had been lagging somewhat in supporting U.S. "hard line" policy in El Salvador. And a significant part of this "whipping into line" is an intense effort to bring pressure to bear on certain bourgeois forces in the Salvadoran opposition Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) who have been driven more and more into an alliance with pro-Soviet forces in El Salvador. And on the other hand, as far as its relations with the Soviet Union are concerned, taking a hard line is intended as a public message to the Soviets regarding the U.S. imperialists' attitude toward the growing Soviet influence in Central America (which is principally political and only secondarily military, contrary to U.S. propaganda). It is a way of telling them to back off. This is "our hemisphere", hands off.

But this open "high profile" move by the U.S.—and its unavoidable focus on a more direct U.S. military role—has created its own problems as well as have some short term positive results for the U.S. On a very significant level, the widespread exposure of the U.S. resulting from its blatant warmongering has had a real backfiring effect, galvanizing world public opinion against the U.S. The growing opposition to the U.S. in El Salvador has taken a leap in this period as massive demonstrations in West Germany, Mexico and other parts of the U.S.

bloc, not to mention significant and widespread expressions of outrage from broad segments of the population within the U.S. as well. And the Soviet Union has moved to take advantage of this anti-U.S. sentiment for their own reactionary ends. On this level of things, the U.S. has unavoidably suffered certain setbacks through the course of the turmoil over El Salvador.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig "clarified" the U.S. problem on this score in an interview the day after the State Department press briefing. Haig pointed out that the press's "episodic preoccupations" with the Salvadoran situation were taking away from U.S. coverage of the Soviet Union's difficulties in places like Poland and Afghanistan—areas where they are the brutal ruling power exposed to and opposed by millions. On the other hand, "tiny El Salvador" is where the U.S. is the brutal ruling power exposed to and opposed by millions, and therefore offers much less favorable terrain for a massive public war-drum beating effort. Therefore, from now on, the State Department said it intends to describe El Salvador as "a subset, and a fairly minor subset" of the global rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

However, this little "subset" is the actual scene of fierce geo-political jockeying—activity which is intensifying as the whole "set" heats up. While the U.S. has been forced into huge military escalations to try to wipe out the resistance of the masses and the influence of pro-Soviet forces over this resistance, and while contingency plans for further escalations, including possibly a direct U.S. military invasion, are being "sharpened" the U.S. would des-

perately like to be able to hold off any further large scale moves in this direction right now if it can. The underlying political and economic weakness of the U.S. in the region, and the widespread exposure of its role as the dominant imperialist master present real dangers that such moves could throw the whole region up for grabs, invite a more open Soviet military role, and severely upset the U.S.' ability to pull things together for the big showdown. Getting bogged down in a drawn out war even if it could somehow be limited to El Salvador could have severe consequences for the U.S.

So the U.S., even while continuing and expanding its military role, has been feverishly working on the "diplomatic components" of its policy in an effort to bring about a "political solution" to the Salvadoran crisis. And the key to this aspect of things is driving a wedge between more pro-U.S. bourgeois forces in the FDR and the pro-Soviet Salvadoran Communist Party (PCS) along with certain pro-Cuban guerrilla leaders, which exercise revisionist leadership over the guerrilla coalition Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN). Certainly part of U.S. military escalations have been to lean on these more pro-U.S. forces. And the recent emphasis on the intentions of the Duarte junta to make "reforms" and hold off the "right wing" as well as the statements about the "growing isolation of the left in El Salvador" are further efforts to coax these forces out of the FDR.

Throughout this whole period of U.S. escalations various efforts at setting up some kind of negotiations be-

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To the RW,

In light of your articles on Toxic Shock Syndrome, I think it is important for you to learn of some facts about Proctor & Gamble and Rely Tampons. In a conversation the other day with some P&G employees, an employee who has access to one of the P&G warehouses in an Eastern city informed the other people in the conversation that P&G is exporting their recalled Rely stock to Japan. As one brother said in explaining their rationale, "What's murdering a few Japanese women—to them, all they are interested in is making money."

A reader

# New Bourgeois Madness: Women Blamed As Cause of Fires

One night two weeks ago while Jeanette Williams, a young Black woman in South Central L.A., was at her job in a sweat shop box-making factory a defective water heater started her small wood-frame house on fire killing her two children. The next day, Jeanette Williams was arrested by the L.A. sheriffs and charged with felony "child endangerment." Quickly the charges were upped to murder. A week later, Evelyn Reyes, forced to survive on welfare, left her slumlord apartment in one of Chicago's barrios to buy some diapers for her children. While she was gone, a fire triggered by an ancient electrical system engulfed her apartment killing her six children. She was charged with six counts of "endangering a child" by the Chicago pigs. In both these cases the press was filled with the most vile and scurrilous charges of

"child abuse" and "wanton neglect" against these women, painting them as everything from baby killers to prostitutes. And, of course, accompanying these most slanderous and vicious charges were some of the bourgeoisie's most cynical tears for the children. The message here was clear—women, especially Black, Latino and other minority women, are irresponsible murdering creatures who deserve whatever attacks the ruling class brings down on them.

These incidents are only two examples of a systematic and growing national campaign to slander particularly women from the oppressed nationalities as part of the overall intensifying attacks on women and to serve as a justification for these attacks. Hardly a day goes by when there isn't some story in the media about an abandoned child

or a negligent mother. And this campaign has been stepped up and concentrated around the killings of Black youth in Atlanta. The newspapers, including the "prestigious" *New York Times* have flooded their pages with low-life insinuations that the responsibility for the murders of over 20 Black children there lies with the mothers who let their children run wild. As the *Times* puts it, the children "come from broken homes" and are onto the street dealing drugs and selling themselves, etc. Truly the depths to which they will stoop knows no bounds. How coldly cynical their calculations are: why not target the women for the bourgeoisie's own crimes and accomplish a double purpose—both concealing their own murderous activities and justifying their all around attacks on women all in the name of concern for the children.

The extent of the bourgeoisie's actual concern for these children is that once they are dead it's that many fewer for the welfare rolls, that many fewer to be imprisoned in their schools, that many fewer to be arrested and thrown in prison, or that many fewer to be shot down in cold blood by their pigs. That's how much they really care about these children that are being killed in Atlanta, or in these recent fires. Their concern goes no farther than their concern for the women they are tormenting, slandering, and locking up in their jails as part of this campaign. And it's this same bourgeoisie who cries crocodile tears about "the right to life" and "the rights of the unborn" as part of still more attacks on women. Isn't all this just a little bit more than any oppressed person can tolerate! □

## Angry Mother Blasts the "Rabbit Saviors"

**On February 23 a fire in San Francisco's Mission District critically injured a three year-old boy. The next day the news media made a disgusting fuss over the fact that the fire department saved a rabbit from the blaze. The authorities, as in a number of cases recently, have accused the injured boy's mother of neglecting her children and claim her 4 year-old son started the fire. The correspondence below, received by the RW from the boy's mother, is a sharp exposure of these shameless lies.**

The fire started from the back porch where the manager had left a bunch of junk, an old refrigerator, sink, couch and mattress—basically junk. Our family's backyard was cluttered with old junked cars and junk belonging to the landlord—so bad the kids couldn't play in it. The stairs were cluttered with old carpets and junk clothes, so bad that the children and adults couldn't walk through it.

Once the landlord came to fix a light in the bathroom; he fixed it but left all the wiring bare and dangling from the roof of the rooms inside the house. All did not have covers over the switches

(light) and all the wiring was coming out, bare. The fire was started by an old rundown waterheater. The waterheater was in the back porch. The waterheater was cracked and old; it didn't have a cover and had a bad leak. Whenever anyone passed by it flames would sweep out. The odor of gas in the room when you passed by was so bad that you couldn't even open the door. They said that we couldn't even use the stove because it was leaking so bad and the whole house was smelling of gas. The PG&E man came by and saw the stove and he told us we couldn't use the stove. We told the manager, we called him and he wouldn't even listen. The only thing he said was "I'll come back tomorrow" but he never did. The only thing he did was come for the rent.

I was the only one at home with the four kids when the fire started. The news said that I had fallen asleep and that the kids were playing with matches but that wasn't what it was. The way they say it in the news, TV and newspaper is all lies 'cause that wasn't how it happened.

A few days after the fire a fire inspector came to our house (Investigator, Bureau of Fire Investigation, Roger Elbeck). He waited for my son to come home and made him show him where the waterheater was. The fire inspector asked my son if he was playing with

matches and my son said no many times and showed him where the waterheater was and told him that was how the fire had started. The official fire report was that the 4-year-old had started the fire because he was playing with matches.

What really happened is that the waterheater was going to heat up again to heat up the water and flames came out and caught the mattress on fire. There was a lot of junk in there and that's why the fire started so fast. After the mattress caught on fire it fell on my 3-year-old son and then the couch fell on top of that. The other 3 kids were crying and pulling on me and I was trying to get the couch off of my son. Finally I got the couch off of him and carried him outside. After that a neighbor took me to the hospital. On the way to the hospital I saw a fireman in a fire truck and told him there was a fire down the street but all he did was drive away and go to the fire station. The firehouse was only two blocks away and it took them 15 minutes to get there.

They're blaming my older boy for the fire. They're trying to say the fire started

in the kitchen but it started on the porch from the bad waterheater.

After the fire we called the landlord to talk to him about the fire and he said, "You started the fire," and hung up on us. We tried to call him after that but he refuses to talk to us and hangs up on us. He didn't help us get another place. We were forced to go live with our brother-in-law where 3 families are now living.

The thing that makes me mad is that the newspapers are saying that the rabbit was in shock and that the rabbit this, and the rabbit that and that they lost so much money and the most important thing to me is my son. Right now my son is in the hospital with 3rd degree burns all over his body. The only part of his body that isn't burned is a small portion of the shoulder. He's had 3 operations in 3 weeks, 2 in one week. At first they gave him a 10% chance to live, and he's still in critical condition. They say that "proud" fireman because he saved the rabbit. They even put a picture of that in the newspaper. What's so important about that? Why don't they show a picture of my son and what it really is? □



Neighbors fight the fire for 15 minutes before the fire department arrives. The firehouse is two blocks from the apartment.

### Boy burned in Mission flat blaze

A three-year-old boy was critically injured in a fire that broke out in a Mission District apartment building on Tuesday night. The fire started on the back porch of the building and spread quickly to the third floor, where it caught a mattress on fire. The fire department arrived within 15 minutes, but the boy had already been burned. Firefighters rescued the boy and took him to the hospital. The fire caused significant damage to the building. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



Firefighter Ken Brodie found this badly singed bunny named Tony in building in which flat burned

Sample of news media coverage.

Revolutionary Worker

# BOB AVAKIAN DEMANDS POLITICAL REFUGEE STATUS IN FRANCE

Statement by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of  
the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

Continued from page 1

as our Party has repeatedly stressed, will not only be marked by the intensifying danger of world war, with all the terrible destruction that means, arising from the nature of the imperialist system, from the crisis of the imperialists and the contention between the rival blocs headed by the two nuclear superpowers; this period will also be marked by the growing trend to revolution, rising revolutionary upsurges and perhaps unprecedented opportunities for revolution on a world scale—holding the possibility that the most decisive destruction will be that done by the oppressed masses to the imperialist system—perhaps even pulling down major pillars of it (whether presenting the gaudy but peeling cover of “democracy” worn by imperialists like those in the U.S., or the cracking “socialist” facade behind which lurk the equally imperialist rulers in the Soviet Union and its bloc).

Seen in this light, the more unbridled and undisguised viciousness of the U.S. imperialists—throughout their empire, in every part of the world, and including within their own “home base”—must be taken as a sign of their growing vulnerability and an urging to step up the work and struggle to prepare actively for and advance toward proletarian revolution in the U.S. itself and the final goal of communism worldwide. It is with this orientation and consistent with this goal that the decision has been made to demand political refugee status in France at this time.

Thus, while on the one hand the taking of this particular step is dictated and conditioned by immediate necessity (including the fact that there are at present no states in the world where the dictatorship of the proletariat is in power and a revolutionary line representing the interests of the international proletariat is in command), on the other hand there is the question here too of transforming necessity into freedom through struggle. And this forced exile itself can and must be a focus of and vehicle for exposure of the imperialists, in particular of the bourgeois dictatorship and murderous rule that is the reality behind the hypo-

critical bombast about “democracy and freedom, the American way.” At the same time, the battle to free the Mao Tsetung Defendants and overturn that “legal” railroad must be vigorously waged, because that is a major attack that must be fought as an important part of building the revolutionary movement, because these comrades are needed out on the streets and their ability to carry out revolutionary work must not be limited by the confines of prison, and because that battle will be one important factor influencing the conditions under which, the specific ways in which—and perhaps even the extent to which—I myself and our Party as a whole are able to make our contribution and fulfill our responsibility, especially in the crucial period ahead.

And in an all-around way, the increasing necessity and opportunities to intensify revolutionary activity in the U.S. must be met and seized. Most of all that means carrying forward from the victories won in spreading the use and influence of the Party’s main weapon now, the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper, and in drawing thousands of fresh forces from among the masses into the task of wielding that weapon. This will continue to be decisive, both in more immediate political battles—such as the call for a revolutionary, international May First, building on the advances represented by and achieved since the historic demonstrations of last year, and the various aspects of the struggle to strengthen the Party, beat back attacks on it, and defend revolutionary leadership—and overall in building the revolutionary movement and preparing for the time when, with the class-conscious proletariat at the head and the leadership of the Party, political power will be seized and exercised by the masses and U.S. imperialism, that bulwark of reaction throughout the world, will be brought down and in its place will arise a socialist bastion and base area for the revolutionary struggle of the international proletariat, actively supporting and promoting the advance toward communism throughout the world. □

## Statement by Mao Tsetung

We Mao Tsetung Defendants enthusiastically and totally support Bob Avakian for political refugee status in France.

We have known from the very beginning of this battle that the ruling class’ attack has been Bob Avakian. As the economic crisis they prepare to throw the entire world into another war, they will use all forms of rebellion, all resistance to their efforts to save their rotting system ready to be buried once and for all. And they know that they especially fear and smash revolutionary leadership that exposes the nature of their system and the revolutionary way forward.

This is why they have targeted Bob Avakian. Never before in the history of our organization like the Revolutionary Communist Party in this country has there been a revolutionary leader like Bob Avakian who has so bravely and promisingly against the imperialists of this country and reactionaries who has constantly stressed that it is the masses of people themselves who are conscious and aware—who can take their destiny in their own hands. Before now have the revolutionary opportunities been greater than they are now on a world scale, as the capitalist system goes ever deeper into quicksand, trying to get out of it by unleashing untold destruction and misery for billions.

Given these unprecedented opportunities, is it not clear that a revolutionary leader like Bob Avakian to exist? Clearly they cannot get him out of the belly of the beast itself. We have learned from bitter lessons of the past that they dealt with revolutionary leaders—like in Chile and other countries where revolutionaries have either been forced to capitulate or outright murdered in cold blood like Fred Hampton and Malcolm X—that neither is going to happen this time. We know that the attack on Bob Avakian is fundamentally an attack on the masses of people here and worldwide.

That is why we fully support Bob Avakian in his demand to be granted political refugee status in France. This is an important blow struck against the U.S. ruling class, further exposing the nature of their so-called “democracy” and their efforts to get him in their clutches and silence him. We Mao Tsetung Defendants are completely behind Bob Avakian and are determined that he be able to continue his revolutionary leadership to the masses here as part of the worldwide struggle.

In the more than two years that the battle to free the Mao Tsetung Defendants has been fought out by thousands, it has come to represent a sharp divide between those who refuse to bow down to the efforts of the rulers to oppress the masses and those who resist to their system. We call on people now to step forward to support Bob Avakian in this battle through to victory as part of a bigger battle to free all

Mao Tsetung



**Bob Avakian at the Wall of the Communards in Paris. The Paris Commune was the first time the proletariat seized power, the first proletarian dictatorship. In the final hours of the Commune on May 27, 1871, the bourgeois Versailles troops cornered the last of the Communards at this spot, a cemetery. Rather than surrender, the Communards fought them valiantly all night long. At dawn on May 28 the last of them (147 people) were lined up against this wall and shot, their bodies buried in an open trench at the foot of the wall. People from all over the world come to visit this wall to commemorate these valiant revolutionaries and all that the Commune still represents for the international proletariat.**

## g Defendants

support the demand by

that the real target of the economic crisis deepens and as they need to smash all their rotten system that is especially must try to their system and points

before has there been an country. Never before who has stood uncomaction everywhere, and themselves—politically own hands. And never an they are today on a quicksand they can only y for the masses in their

that they can't allow a can't, especially not in sons of the past on how other places and in this capitulate or have been Malcolm X. We resolve attacks on Bob Avakian and worldwide.

to be given political exile e U.S. imperialists, furthwarting their attempts e completely united with e his work of providing worldwide struggle.

Tsetung Defendants has arp dividing line for all oppress and intimidate ard to continue to fight e all of mankind.

ao Tsetung Defendants  
March 20, 1981

## What's Involved in Bob Avakian's Demand for Political Refugee Status

The demand for political refugee status which has been filed by Chairman Avakian relates to the Geneva Convention of July 28, 1951, to which France subscribes. According to this convention, "The term 'refugee' is applicable to any person... who... having cause to fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinions, finds himself outside the country of national origin and cannot, or because of this fear, will not, claim the protection of said country." Obtaining the status of political refugee gives the holder of this status the right to live and work without fear of being extradited back to the country where he is being persecuted, or being required to leave after a brief stay. Once the demand for this status is made, the case is reviewed by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (which maintains a delegation in France) which decides after a period of time whether or not to grant refugee status, and by the French Ministry of the Interior which, on the basis of the

UN Commission decision, decides whether or not to grant the applicant permanent residence in France.

France has long been known as a "land of asylum," dating back to the French revolution of 1789. Today there are an estimated 160,000 people living in France under this status, including refugees from Eastern Europe, Portugal, Greece, Chile, Argentina and Southeast Asia. While recent reports in the French press suggest that some nationalities may obtain this status preferentially, the Geneva statutes technically are supposed to apply equally to all nationalities.

Of course, nothing in the world stands above class interests and concrete international relations. The granting of political refugee status has long been supported by the basic masses in France and by many intellectuals, who view this not so much as "political capital for the nation" but as one way to combat oppression in the world. As for the leading political figures, some in France today argue for the closing of

the national borders, while others still consider it politically advantageous to maintain France's international reputation of admitting people who are persecuted by what they call barbaric dictatorships. The U.S., of course, especially in confronting the rival Soviet imperialist bloc, is more anxious than ever to hoist its tattered flag of "freedom and democracy" around the world. There will certainly be the attempt to say that Bob Avakian's demand for political refugee status is not legitimate because the U.S., after all, is a "democracy," and such political repression simply could not exist there.

This farce of "American democracy" must be sharply refuted and a powerful and systematic picture presented of the reality of the attacks against the RCP, USA and Bob Avakian, and in particular the threat he would face of being locked away and/or assassinated, especially if he remained in the U.S. □

# Chicano Activist Fights the "Caesars"

"We're being forced to fight both Caesars, the federal government and the State of Colorado." This was James Martinez' summation of the status of the struggle around the government's attempts to put Francisco "Kiko" Martinez behind bars. James Martinez, one of Kiko's attorneys, was referring particularly to the three separate federal and three separate state cases stemming from the government's attempt in 1973 to frame up Kiko Martinez for alleged attempted bombings. Currently, Kiko faces three Colorado attempted murder charges carrying sentences of 5 to 40 years each, and three related charges in each of the federal court cases, with a total possible maximum sentencing of over 100 years.

The original indictments, in November 1973, were a part of the government's general repression directed against Chicano people, its attempts to crush the upsurge of Chicanos that had been especially sharp since the '60s. They were, as Ken Padilla, another of Martinez' lawyers said, a "general inquisition into Chicano organizations." The struggle extended throughout the Southwest, and included the 1970 moratorium against the Vietnam war, as well as some particularly sharp battles in New Mexico and Colorado around

demands for land rights and against police terror. In Denver in particular, the police responded with vicious attacks on demonstrations, organizations and individuals; there were several outright murders of activists (such as Richard Falcon in 1972 and Teran Granada in 1974) by police and other reactionaries. Kiko Martinez was part of this struggle and as a lawyer defended many people arrested through it. Martinez was also active in supporting and defending American Indian Movement members and various other legal actions against police agencies, including representing Richard Falcon's family.

In March 1973, in Denver, the police launched a full-scale attack on the office of Crusade for Justice—a Chicano organization—during which four Chicanos were shot, one killed, and over 40 more beaten. Several cops were also shot as people took up defense of the office. Kiko Martinez helped defend many of those who were arrested during this attack. Police/community confrontations continued to develop, as did the government's desperate attempts to get Kiko Martinez. Suddenly in September of '73, the local media began a hysterical campaign about alleged "terrorist bombings." As James Martinez put it, "The police would call the press and tell

them they were going to find a bomb. Then the press would show up somewhere with the cops and do a big story on it." On November 1, and then again on the 8th, they came up with indictments against Kiko Martinez. Unfortunately for the government, Kiko could not be found for the next seven years, not until September 1980 when he was arrested by U.S. Customs agents near the U.S./Mexico border. Immediately, they put their attacks on him into high gear.

The original indictments, as well as the government's recent moves, themselves show desperate maneuverings against the Chicano people's struggle. The original two indictments were for letter bombs mailed to a motorcycle shop and a cop. The evidence against Martinez rested on the testimony of Denver police captain Robert Shaughnessy that Martinez' fingerprints had been found on all the bombs (including a third one sent to School Board member Robert Crider).

This is a complete lie. No such fingerprints exist. Only now, seven years after the indictments, the police lab has produced not a fingerprint but a report that claims there was such a fingerprint on only the Crider bomb—and at that, only on the envelope, not the bomb itself.

Conveniently, the Crider bomb was "accidentally" destroyed by the cops (as were significant parts of the other two bombs).

Colorado Judge Lichtenstein recently denied a defense motion to dismiss the charges which exposed the obvious fact that the indictment was based on lying testimony by Shaughnessy. As for the destroyed evidence, since it was "accidental," it was the product of "negligence" and certainly not "bad faith," so no dismissal on that either.

The very first thing the state court did was to instruct the prosecutor as to how to clean up the indictments. The *Denver Post's* headline read, "Charges Facing Martinez Pared," but what actually happened was that all the lesser charges were dropped so as to focus on the attempted murder charges; these were then rewritten according to the judge's comments, better to ensure a conviction. Plus, within a week, the *third* attempted murder charge, for the Crider bomb, was added (seven years after the alleged incident). All this doesn't even begin to exhaust all the outrages in the state's case.

Meanwhile, in the federal courts, the railroad also proceeds. The defense attorneys are preparing a motion to dismiss on the grounds that this is a clearcut case of legal "double jeopardy" since each of three state charges is essentially duplicated by the federal charges (in the state cases the charge is attempted murder and in the federal cases the main charge is for mailing a bomb with intent to commit murder). The defense has also pointed out that having 6 separate cases all going on at once is nothing but an attempt to exhaust the defense resources. They have been in one court or another every day (but four) since Jan. 23—all on preliminary hearings.

The first of the federal trials started and then was quickly declared a mistrial, as defense supporters were charged with "improper communicating with jurors." The charge, focused on in the press, was that some juror had supposedly complained about people wearing "Free Kiko" t-shirts. What the "improper communicating" amounted to was a U.S. marshal's accusation that people wearing the t-shirts were peering around doors and through windows at the jurors. The defense team believes the mistrial—and subsequently, the judge removing himself from the case—is related to a dismissal motion they were preparing based on the abundant instances of racist and otherwise prejudiced actions and statements by the court. (The federal judge presiding over the preliminary hearings is a cute character. He was seen one evening in a bar drunk, and wearing a "Free Kiko" t-shirt.)

This kind of behavior has certainly not been limited to the feds, either. One state judge, while hearing defense motions related to the prejudiced publicity on the case, called the hearing a "side-show," saying, "Let's get on with the circus." Soon after the federal mistrial a local TV "reporter," former FBI agent Pete Webb, did an "investigative report" on it. He claimed that Martinez' supporters were conducting an "organized attempt" to "lay siege" to the court and jury and "harass and intimidate" the jurors. He also reported that the judge's life had been threatened and that he was under 24-hour guard. Later, in court, one cop said that was true, while another said it wasn't. The *Denver Post* only saw fit to report the first cop's testimony.

In response to all this there has been widescale popular outrage, including a recent demonstration of 500 and another, at the beginning of the federal trial, of over 1,000 people. The federal trials are now rescheduled to begin in May and the state trials to begin in April. □

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**Sasha Cady Acquitted**

# "The Opposite of a Rapist"

On Monday, March 16, Sasha Cady was acquitted of the charge of 2nd degree assault. The announcement of the jury's verdict was greeted by the cheers and applause of supporters in the courtroom. The verdict was a stinging defeat for the state's three-month-long effort to make an example of Sasha by having her convicted for the "crime" of defending herself.

As we reported in *RW* No. 92, on the night of November 28 Sasha heard a woman scream outside her apartment. When Sasha came to the woman's defense as she had done on several occasions with other women, the woman, Diane Chaddock, had just been hit by her boyfriend, James Doyle. Sasha was able to get Chaddock away from Doyle and up to her apartment for protection. Later, Doyle, who was drunk, came to Sasha's door, and began beating on it and screaming obscenities. As the door began to crack under Doyle's blows, Sasha went to the door, opened it and maced him. Doyle forced his way into the apartment and hit Sasha on the head. Sasha, sprawled out on a table several feet away, pulled out her gun and shot and wounded Doyle. When the police arrived, it was Sasha who was charged with assault for defending herself and Chaddock from the enraged and drunken Doyle. The sergeant in charge of the arrest snarled, "You're the kind of people we like to get. You're the opposite of a rapist." Sasha was forced to sit in her apartment, while five cops took turns inspecting the walls of her one-room place. They paid particular attention to her revolutionary books and inspected her leftist and feminist posters. Repeatedly, when she was booked, the police referred to her as a "revolutionary."

Sasha, who describes herself as a feminist and a revolutionary, had no illusions about where the state would stand in this matter. "If I'd been a man, I would have gotten the citizen of the year award for protecting a woman," she remarked. And even as she talked to Diane Chaddock in her apartment about self-defense, including the laws regarding what weapons may be used and under what circumstances, she added, "Of course, if you're ever caught, since you're a woman, none of this may apply." Thus the trial was approached, not from the standpoint of relying on the state, but from the standpoint of exposing the systematic oppression and degradation of women which is a key prop of the old order.

No doubt the enforcers of capitalism's law and order thought "getting" Sasha would be easy. No doubt they figured it would be easy to make Sasha into one more example of what happens to any woman who dares to challenge the "law" of woman's oppression and the "order" of violence, brutality and degradation perpetrated on women everyday. But the rulers' calculations underestimated the seething anger and growing understanding which would be triggered by this outrageous prosecution. Women, most not belonging to any particular organization, stepped forward to take on this attack, forming the Women's Self-Defense Committee to defend not only Sasha, but also other women who face charges for defending themselves. It is reported that some 2,000 letters and cards poured into the prosecutor's office protesting the arrest and prosecution. Literature publicizing the case and a button with Sasha's picture and a slogan "The opposite of a rapist" circulated throughout the city. Publicity about the case has been so intense that the prosecutor in charge of the case kept a file of newspaper clippings. The article in the *Revolutionary Worker* on Sasha's case had such a broad impact and provoked so much interest that James Doyle himself—the man who attacked Sasha—called Revolution Books in Seattle to complain that

the article "slandered" him and that he was very upset because his friends in his neighborhood and at work were all reading it. Throughout the trial the small courtroom was packed with 30 to 50 people, mostly women supporting Sasha.

Threatened with ever more glaring exposure, the prosecutor's office and the court went through a whole series of legal maneuvers, aimed at taking the heat off them, while persevering in their savage persecution. The charges against Sasha were reduced from first-degree assault to second-degree assault with a deadly weapon, and then further reduced to simple second-degree assault. The second reduction in the charge, which removed the threat of an automatic 5-year prison term if convicted, was a decision made by the prosecutor's office after the deluge of cards and letters about the case. The political essence of the state's case against Sasha and the whole terms on which the trial was conducted is aptly expressed in the age-old reactionary slogan "Woman, know thy place!" In his closing arguments, the prosecution repeatedly emphasized that Doyle's beating of his girlfriend was nothing more than a "typical argument," and that "the situation was not unusual." Quite right, Mr. Prosecutor! There is nothing at all unusual about battered women in this vicious jungle of a society, in fact it is becoming more and more "usual" all the time.

What is "unusual" in the eyes of the state, is that more and more women are determined not to submit to this oppression. The fact that Sasha intervened when she heard Diane Chaddock scream for help and offered this woman the protection of her apartment, is, according to the prosecution, "interfering in other people's affairs, pushing herself forward." Phrased a little less elegantly the prosecution's case against Sasha was clear: her "crime" was that she is an "uppity woman." At one

point the prosecutor contrasted Sasha's aiding this woman to "what a normal person" would do, "which is call the police"—the same police who that very night arrested Sasha for defending herself from a drunken attacker who was beating down her door!

Repeatedly the prosecution called the cops who "investigated" the incident to testify that Sasha had a poster on her wall with a picture of a revolver and the slogan "You can't rape a .38." This was all part of the attempt to paint Sasha as a fanatic, man-hating woman. One cop testified that he spent "several minutes" studying the apartment door which Doyle had been beating on and claimed that it was not seriously cracked. But it turns out that this cop not only had not taken any measurements of the cracks in the door, but all the pictures he took "just happened" to turn out blurred beyond recognition, thus making it impossible to establish what the condition of the door was that night.

Just how sensitive the authorities are to exposure of their role in this case was shown by one incident during the testimony of the pig who actually decided to arrest Sasha, Sgt. Hunt. Hunt was asked why no tests had been made of Doyle's clothing to determine how far away Sasha was when she shot him. The prosecution objected to this question as irrelevant. The defense lawyer replied that the failure to run these tests could indicate that the cops had already made up their minds as to who they were going to arrest and were not interested in fully investigating the incident. The judge, furious that anyone would even dare to hint at the complicity of the police in this frame-up, quickly ordered the jury to "move out!" of the courtroom and then chewed out the defense attorney for saying anything.

Even more transparent was the testimony of the prosecution's two "eyewitnesses" to this incident. Doyle's

contradictory story was blatantly self-serving, and at one point he admitted that he had previously lied when interviewed by the attorneys in the case. Diane Chaddock, Doyle's girlfriend also testified against Sasha. Her story, which was full of contradictory statements, and also contradicted statements she had earlier given police, was aimed at nothing but backing up Doyle's ridiculous tale. On Chaddock's part this was in no way a case of trying to keep Doyle out of the clutches of the police, (who have demonstrated a thousand times over that they prefer rapists to their opposites), because no charges had ever been filed against Doyle. Sasha Cady was the one on trial. Nor does Chaddock's behavior support the contention of the state that this was a "personal" problem. There are in fact seven such "personal" problem cases where women have defended themselves against attack and are being charged for it—pending in the Washington State courts alone. What this thoroughly subservient behavior reveals is the deep hold of the oppressive ideology of male supremacy and the condition of women in capitalist society which creates such situations where a woman feels compelled by intimidation, economic or social pressure, to walk into court and lie her head off in order to defend the man who assaulted her and attack the woman who came to her aid. In one particularly pathetic moment, Chaddock attempted to justify Doyle's actions by describing his yelling vicious obscenities as he beat on Sasha's door as "an attempt to communicate." After all, ladies, he may be a brute, but he's *your* brute, even if he thinks and acts like a goddamn slavemaster. And even though you have the legal right to divorce and protest assault, what man will want you after you've testified against your boyfriend for brutalizing you. Maybe someone who hates this

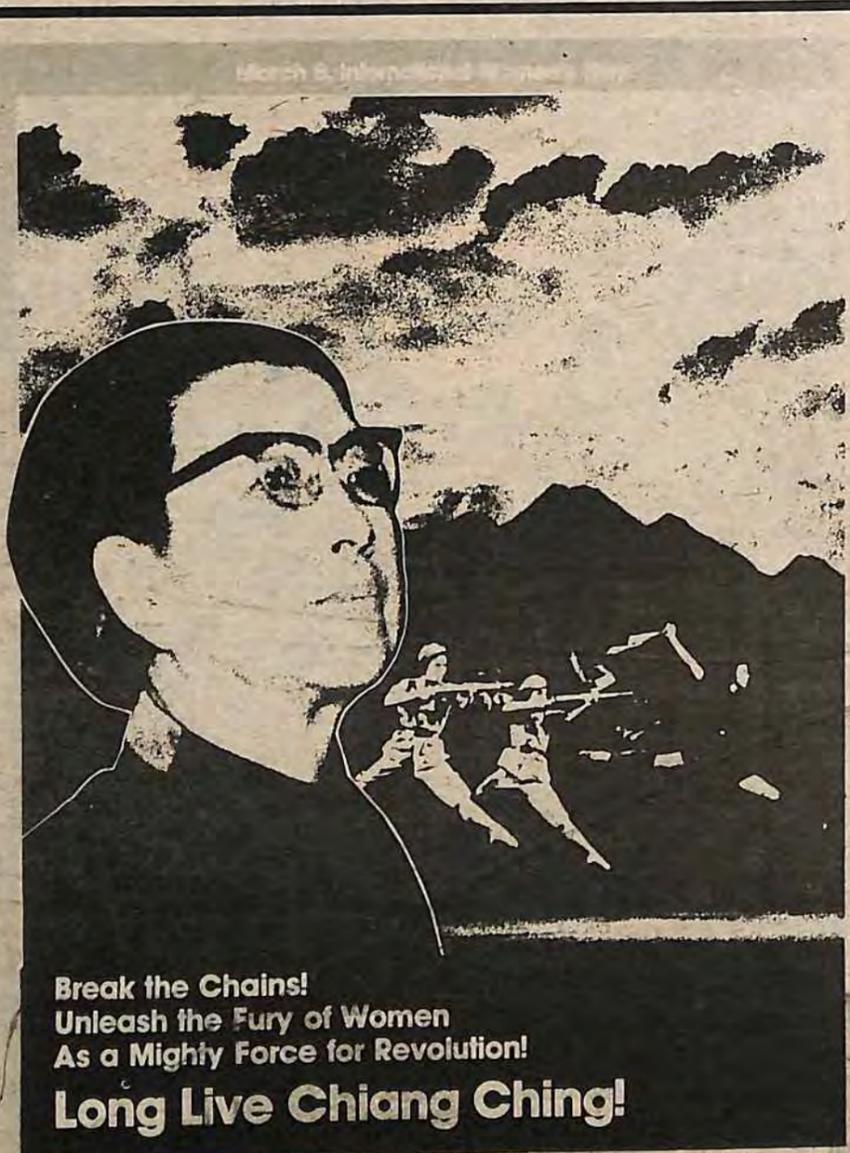
Continued on page 22

**International Women's Day  
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The materials for reproducing the poster shown at right—color separated printer's negatives and reduced size full color samples—will continue to be available for individuals and organizations to look over and make arrangements for local printing. Posters are 17 in. x 22 in., but smaller size negatives are available on request. The foreground photo of Chiang Ching was taken as she defiantly entered the courtroom on the day the revisionists sentenced her to death. The background scene is from the revolutionary Peking Opera "Red Detachment of Women" in which Wu Ching-hua, an escaped bondswoman who joined the Red Army, and her comrades battle the Kuomintang reactionary troops head on in a mountain pass. This opera is one of the most well-known of the model works produced during the Cultural Revolution under the leadership of Chiang Ching.

All those who want to print and/or distribute of this poster can contact the RCP in one of the following cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. (for phone numbers and addresses, see page 20) or send \$50.00 in check or money order now to RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Chicago, Illinois 60654. Cost includes printing negatives, full color sample and express postage. Specify English, Spanish or French. Please include your phone number, address and the nearest Post Office or Airport to your location.



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Long Live Chiang Ching!**

## Anti-war Activists Spill Blood to Expose Trident

On March 11, four members of the Pacific Life Community were arrested for climbing an eight-foot fence surrounding the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale, California and pouring bottles of their own blood over missile parts, blueprints and themselves in yet another striking exposure of the U.S. rulers' plans for carrying out nuclear war. Coming hot on the heels of the trial of the Plowshares 8 for destroying two nuclear nosecones in Pennsylvania at the King of Prussia GE plant, this latest action is a message to the government that, despite their attempts to squelch such protests, they have by no means seen the end of them. It is a timely vindication of Phillip Berrigan's words uttered after the kangaroo-court conviction of the Eight: "We see this as part of their war moves and we will resist at every turn."

The protest by the four activists—Dan Delany, Larry Serlazzo, Kristina Selvig and Larry Purcell, a Roman Catholic priest—was aimed at the Trident missile, a submarine-launched missile and one of the key links in U.S. imperialism's arsenal of strategic weapons. Lockheed is the prime contractor for Trident, and the Sunnyvale plant is the manager of all production. In a

statement passed out to Lockheed employees after the action, the four said, "We bring our own precious life blood to pour over the Trident missiles manufactured here in this factory of death. We will also pour this blood on ourselves to show that these weapons are murderous and meant to destroy innocent millions." The four activists were busted inside the part of the complex where much of Trident production goes on, cited for misdemeanor trespassing, and offered release on their own recognizance (OR). They have refused OR, and at their arraignment, the charges against them were raised to one misdemeanor and two felonies—vandalism, and entering a building with intent to commit a felony. As of this writing, they are still in jail.

The Pacific Life Community is based in radical Catholic and pacifist circles and it is linked with Life Communities across the country (including the Atlantic Life Community of which the Plowshares 8 are all members) that have been carrying out protest actions against the U.S. rulers' nuclear arms build-up in preparation for world war. Six members of different Life Communities are scheduled to go on trial on March 23 for an action taken against the Pantex

Corporation in Texas, one of the few plants in the U.S. that actually assembles the components of nuclear bombs. The Pacific Life Community has been targeting the Trident project at Lockheed since 1975 with sit-ins, leafleting and various symbolic actions. Their members have been arrested many times, but this recent action is the first time that felony charges have been lodged against them—a sign of the government's desperation in the face of such exposures and of the severity with which they are beginning to deal with any, even explicitly pacifist, attempts to oppose their growing war preparations.

As a leaflet passed out at Lockheed Sunnyvale pointed out, "Trident... is an aggressive (first-strike) weapon." Current imperialist plans call for rapid escalation and major advances in the Trident system, including the influx of a significant portion of the billions the government is adding to the "defense" budget. In the past, one of the major weaknesses of submarine-launched missiles has been that submarines deep beneath the sea have not been able to pinpoint targets as accurately as land-based missiles. The Trident system is designed to overcome this difficulty by guiding the missiles to their targets us-

ing a system of Navstar global positioning satellites. Pinpoint accuracy is needed to destroy Soviet ground-based missiles in "hardened" silos and crucial to the success of a U.S. first-strike attack.

Robert Aldrige, a former Lockheed engineer who worked on the Trident and who quit his job to join forces with the Pacific Life Community and other anti-war activists, has consistently exposed the Trident system. He was one of the expert witnesses prevented from testifying for the defense in the Plowshares 8 trial. Speaking about why the Lockheed defendants escalated their actions in this time of intensifying repression against those who go up against war preparations, Aldridge said, "Things are getting very dangerous. If nuclear war ever starts, taking this kind of risk is peanuts." The Pacific Life Community, in the leaflet passed out to the Lockheed workers, called for people to take up "the truly 'hard' questions facing humanity," and ended with: "The time, therefore, for creative dissent is not past; if we are to win the future, the time to speak out has just begun." □



## Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions

by Bob Avakian

A summary of the essence of Mao's thought and teachings, which he developed through the twists and turns of over 50 years of revolutionary struggle.

This book delivers a powerful blow in defense of Mao's revolutionary line at a time when everything he fought for, everything that inspired millions about revolutionary China, is under fierce attack.

It blasts the slander that Mao was an idle dreamer trying to impose an impractical vision on the world. No one knew better than he that there was no straight line to liberation but that through continued struggle the world would be won and remade by the people. "The ceaseless emergence and resolution of contradictions as against all notions of absoluteness and stagnation... this Mao grasped as the driving force in the development of all things... and this understanding runs like a crimson path through Mao's writings and actions."

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# Revolution Books Fights Ban in University Towns

The questions grow sharper and the demand for answers grows stronger as the masses of people in this country are daily confronted with the absurdity and crimes of this system. The bourgeoisie is determined to feed people a steady diet of lies and illusions, to keep them from learning and acting on a clear understanding of the true nature of their rule and the need to overthrow it. But revolutionary theory and propaganda and exposure of imperialism are increas-

ingly spreading widely, playing a vital role in spreading a conspiracy that will spell death to this system.

The Revolution Books stores, nine different stores around the country, have been drawing fire—in many forms of both political and physical attacks—for their work to expand the wide distribution of progressive and revolutionary literature on campuses, in communities, through other bookstores, and throughout society. In particular, the last year

has seen four different eviction attempts on Revolution Books. In New York City, the landlord and government marshalls succeeded in locking up the store for only one week in early January before being forced to back down and re-open the store. In Seattle, after months of attempting to evict the store, the landlord finally agreed to negotiate a new lease. Both of these victories came as a result of significant mass support mobilized around the stores. To one

degree or another, thousands of people have seen the desperate moves of the rulers of this country and their agents as clear and blatant political attacks, and because of that have actively taken part in these battles. The following articles are reports on the continuing struggles to defend Revolution Books in Boston, Massachusetts and Berkeley, California.

## Berkeley, California

Arrests, rallies, FBI photographers, mass debates, scuffles with the cops. The Berkeley campus—in fact, the whole town of Berkeley, California—has recently been the scene of intense and daily activity centering around the battle to reopen Revolution Books.

The forcible eviction of the bookstore by city cops last December came after months of back and forth struggle between the store, with growing numbers of supporters, and the landlord. Ever since then, the city government and their various reactionary allies including this landlord have continued in their attempts to ban revolutionary books from Berkeley—doing all they can to prevent the store from finding a new location and constantly hounding and harassing the store's temporary mobile booktable. On the other side of the battle lines, more and more people are stepping forward to check out these books that the authorities are so desperate to suppress and lending their support to the revolutionaries.

Things began heating up last January, when 2 bookstore staff members attended a class on China at UC Berkeley. The learned professor of this class had refused to consider using any books exposing the revisionist coup in China and the revolutionary role of Mao Tsetung (in particular 3 books by RCP Publications: *Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions*, *The Loss in China and the Revolutionary Legacy of Mao Tsetung* and *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*) saying, "I don't want books that don't support Deng Xiaoping, and I certainly don't want books that uphold Chiang Ching and the Cultural Revolution." The staff members challenged this professor to explain to his class why he would not add these books to the reading list and exposed him as an apologist for the new rulers of China. Rather than discuss the question, he immediately called for the cops and had them arrested!

In the weeks that followed, as the store's daily booktable on campus and these "banned books" became the focus of more and more interest and debate, staff members and supporters were arrested and rearrested on various flimsy pretenses—sometimes with no charges being brought—with the obvious purpose of driving a wedge of intimidation between the students and the store staff.

At one noon rally called to step up the fight for Revolution Books, students, supporters from other bookstores in town and representatives of campus groups were coming to the mike to speak. The UC police suddenly pulled the plug on the sound system and then claimed it was broken. As anger about this ploy and the heavy police presence at the rally began to grow,

several cops were overhead planning to jump a Revolution Books staff member and bust him for assault. When their plans were loudly announced to all by the rally speaker, a huge crowd of students formed a circle around the targeted brother and escorted him safely off campus.

At every Revolution Books rally held, FBI photographers hang from surrounding balconies. One day the Berkeley DA himself graced the student plaza with his presence, "gathering evidence" for court cases. Bullhorns have been confiscated and held—for no cause in particular, just "as evidence." Leaflets are ripped off kiosks by cops who are then confronted by angry students shouting at them to put them back up! And the Dean of Student Affairs has threatened to throw the booktable off campus—along with the newly-formed Friends of Revolution Books—for any "minor infraction of the rules." All this in Berkeley—with its liberal reputation where "freedom of speech and expression" is supposedly revered by the city government.

Meanwhile, revolutionary books are being bought and read more widely than ever, and people are enlisting in the efforts of the store to actively sell these books to find a new storefront location.

But the bourgeoisie is more afraid than ever of Revolution Books reopening with the aim of carrying thousands of revolutionary and progressive books and spreading revolutionary theory widely. Vacant storefronts in Berkeley remain closed as landlords refuse to rent to the bookstore either openly denouncing the store's politics or because they're intimidated by the threat of retaliation to anyone leasing to Revolution Books. The battle for public opinion around this situation has grown very sharp. Many progressive forces have added their names to a statement of support, including Moe's and Cody's bookstores (with Cody's inviting Revolution Books to set up a table right outside its front doors.) Three rock bands recently threw a benefit concert for the store at a major local dance center, whose owner donated the use of the center for the benefit. And the "banned books" are being displayed in many stores and on one church's literature table. Try as they might, the ruling class cannot keep revolutionary literature out of the hands of the masses. The distribution of this material is so dangerous to the bourgeoisie will increase and the battle to reopen Revolution Books will continue until the doors can open on a new center for the dissemination of and debate over the books so necessary to understanding and above all changing the world. □

## Cambridge, Massachusetts

On Thursday morning, March 12, the Cambridge Massachusetts District Court put its legal stamp of approval on Limestone Realty's efforts to evict Revolution Books, using the familiar refrain, "There's nothing political going on here; just a simple landlord/tenant dispute." Then, several hours after that court hearing, the prospective tenant for the whole building that now houses the store—none other than the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)—was instructed in a public hearing before a Board of Zoning Appeals to demonstrate "good faith efforts" to redo its alteration plans for the building and keep the bookstore on the first floor—or to help find a place for the store to "relocate"! Meanwhile, an appeal of the eviction ruling is being filed as the store's staff continues to build broad and active support from people throughout the Boston area.

The determined effort to shut down Revolution Books that this "simple dispute" represents was brought out very clearly in the court hearing on the eviction. The original excuse given by the landlord for the eviction—that Revolution Books had been delinquent in its rent—was quickly dropped last November when it was exposed that not only was the bookstore up to date in its rent, but that Limestone Realty continued to hold a deposit equal to three months rent. When confronted with these facts and an initial wave of statements from neighbors and customers of Revolution Books protesting the eviction, the landlord had replied that it was not a question of late rent, but simply that there was a new "tenant" who had to be in by December 15, and who would be paying more rent. But by the landlord's own admission, back in March and April when the bookstore was attempting to renew its lease, there was no prospective tenant and yet all the store's offers to discuss a new lease had been rejected out of hand. Their story has had more twists and turns than can be counted, as they have contradicted themselves time and again, trying to cover up their real "plans" for the building.

A new slant was added to this whole picture several weeks ago when the landlord's lawyer let it slip out that the new tenant was MIT, which was planning to move a fraternity into the building. The university is notorious for buying large residential tracts of Cambridge and razing the homes for expansion and land speculation. It has earned the hatred of thousands, including many of its own students. MIT had tried, rather clumsily, to hide its participation in the attempts to close Revolution Books. On February 27, over three weeks after the fraternity (which has become MIT's tool in trying to move out the bookstore) had applied for a zoning variance, and over three months after MIT and Limestone had come to an agreement on their plan, an

MIT dean and the president of the fraternity were both quoted in an MIT student newspaper, the *Tech*, denying any involvement in the eviction of the store. All these denials and maneuverings were brought out in the court hearing and linked to political attacks going on across the country against Revolution Books.

In waging the battle to keep the bookstore open and expand the distribution of revolutionary literature, the staff has tapped wide-ranging and broad support. Well over 600 individuals and organizations have signed a statement of support or have written their own. These have included hundreds of students and professors from schools throughout the area (with many of these being from MIT), other bookstores and bookstore staff members, including New Words, a feminist bookstore; the manager and two staff members at Harvard Bookstore; and the manager at the MIT Press Bookstore; South End Press; Carrier Pigeon Distributors, *Second Wave*, a feminist journal; and staff members from *Radical America* and *Dollars and Sense* magazines, along with U.S. and foreign-born students from over 25 countries, including El Salvador, Iran, South Africa, South Korea and China, including Taiwan.

It was in the face of this mass support and under pressure from the wide publicity being generated around the eviction of the store, that the Zoning Board was forced to only "conditionally approve" a variance allowing MIT to use the building to house a fraternity (that condition being 2 weeks to demonstrate "good faith efforts" referred to earlier.) Many people are not fooled for a minute that MIT will suddenly break with its entire institutional history and start acting in "good faith" for anything but its own and the bourgeoisie's interests and it's clear that this ruling represents more maneuvering with the continuing aim of shutting down Revolution Books.

The plans for locking up revolutionary theory have been dealt a serious blow in the course of this battle, hundreds of people have not only stood in opposition to the eviction but have come forward to take up the very revolutionary theory which the ruling class is trying to suppress, and the political influence and activity of Revolution Books have grown significantly. Support for the store continues to grow and will be decisive in the upcoming weeks in creating the political conditions to defeat this attack and to keep Revolution Books open. □

# LETTERS ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME & DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE RCP, USA



"Dare to Grapple with the Battle Plan for Revolution," was the call issued by the Revolutionary Communist Party some time ago. This was a call to take up, discuss and criticize drafts of the New Programme and New Constitution of the RCP, USA.

The drafts of the New Programme and New Constitution are truly profound and pathbreaking documents. They are a battle plan for proletarian revolution and the establishment of socialism—the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat—in this country. The documents are drafts, weapons in preparation. They represent a concentration of the science of revolution—Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought—and the application of this science to the specific conditions we face in this country. The real possibility for revolution in the next decade demands that those who burn with the desire for such change seriously throw themselves into the struggle over the draft New Programme and New Constitution.

We have solicited comments, questions, agreements and disagreements over the new documents, and encourage the submitting of letters for publication in the

Revolutionary Worker. Groups and individuals are urged to contact the Party with their ideas and to set up discussions.

Any topic covered in the drafts will be open to discussion. The publication of letters does not indicate that the Party necessarily agrees with the position stated in them. Others are free to respond to the points raised in any letter. The Revolutionary Worker will on occasion respond directly to points raised, but as a rule we will not. This is because this process is not a series of questions and answers, but a process of discussion, struggle and sharpening of the drafts which will culminate in the final version of these documents. This process will last for a couple of months and will conclude with an even higher concentration of a correct proletarian revolutionary line by the leadership of the RCP. The final New Programme and New Constitution will be published shortly thereafter. The result of this process directly involving thousands will not only be deeper unity over the political line of the Revolutionary Communist Party, but a deepening of the line itself. And the proletariat will have an even sharper weapon in its revolutionary struggle for political power.

I have some disagreements with the letter on the *Draft Programme* in *Revolutionary Worker* No. 93 entitled "Position on Labor Aristocracy is a Leninist Position." Even with such a title I think the letter itself was not Leninist. Indeed the question of the labor aristocracy is a serious question. Ostensibly the letter deals at some length with the "skilled trades." His conception of the actual condition tradesmen live in is narrow, at the very least. On the one hand he speaks specifically to in plant (large-scale industry—auto, steel, rubber, etc.). He then goes to construction. He isn't just talking about machine repairmen at Ford or GM. To set the record straight, a majority of tradesmen make considerably less than production workers in auto or basic steel. Broadly across the country a large portion of skilled tradesmen make *minimum wage*. I mean carpenters, roofers, tanners, plumbers, pattern makers, mechanics, machinists in job shops and construction jobs across the country. Specifically many underlying presumptions in the letter concerning the trades—high pay, stable working conditions, generous concessions in terms of benefits—do not hold true. The average "tradesman" is more likely to make \$5/hr than \$10. Today it is a minority of skilled trades in construction who are even in unions (not that you have to be in a union to be in the labor aristocracy). Even many of those in the trade unions making \$14/hr find themselves scrambling to get by. In one particular industrial city the unemployment rate amongst the trades is 56%. In a particular "high growth rate" area of the country the membership of the district council in 1974-75 went from 5,000 members to 3,500 because the workers couldn't find work. In addition 1,700 of those remaining were on the out of work list.

In short there is a relatively small, clear-cut, definite group in different localities who work regular, enjoying very substantial benefits, living above what not only others generally in the USA and for sure around the world live like, but even far above those they work with directly. Herein lies one particular disagreement with the letter in *RW* No. 93. One dude in particular who was in the trade for 42 years couldn't retire because he was looking at retirement to the tune of \$67/month. Lenin quotes Engels in "Imperialism and the Split in Socialism": "... the second edition of *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, 1892. Here he speaks of an 'aristocracy among the working class', of a 'privileged minority of the workers', in contradistinction to the 'great mass of working people'. 'A small, privileged, protected minority' of the working class alone was 'permanently benefited' by the privileged position of England...." On the one hand the labor aristocracy certainly includes sections of skilled trades. But as a whole, skilled trades do not enjoy the "economic sops" which are the basis for the political and ideological capitulation of the labor aristocracy to imperialism.

Here I'd raise another disagreement. Point at the hard hats led by Peter Brenan who attacked anti-war demonstrators and say "See—here is your labor aristocracy!" Don't think that this even is the only example of such occurrences and, oh yes, this is your labor aristocracy. But to say that Peter Brenan speaks for the "skilled trades" is a lie. Or the smashing of the Toyota might at that particular time have been the work of the ISTC, however it is certainly not a phenomenon limited to skilled trades. To be blunt, broadly speaking, auto workers—production workers—or for that matter those who work in basic steel, rubber, even mining, enjoy more job stability, more benefits, even a higher wage rate than skilled workers in its broadest context. The argument here is not to strategically concentrate on the skilled trades, but rather bourgeoisification is one thing, the labor aristocracy another. I think according to the arguments laid out in the letter, the author would include the whole of the "basic industrial proletariat" in the labor aristocracy. It is not. The trades—bourgeois unions indeed. Any more so than local 600 of the UAW? That bourgeois dead ends, reformism, buy American campaigns, national chauvinism, etc. are rampant and the guiding political and ideological shit guiding the trades officials and their loyal lackeys distinguishes them not one iota from what goes on in the production locals in auto or steel or rubber or....

Mr. "Leninist," wielder of the "Marxist-Leninist" sword, what line are you polemicizing against? I am not here arguing for nor have I ever heard argued the line "In revolution, the skilled trades, rely on the skilled trades!" However the issue of who is the labor aristocracy, who are our friends and who are our enemies, is not settled. The letter is profoundly pessimistic not because he picked on the skilled trades but because his analysis would put the "basic industrial proletariat" in the camp of the enemy.

Another point, there has been some rather ongoing struggle, since in fact the founding of the RCP. There was the line that "We should devote attention down there on meat packing row. Historically a concentration of workers from oppressed nationalities. A place where a) the face of oppression is much more open, b) the level of struggle against oppression is even today at a much more intense level." The other: "But can't you see, this plant over here, there is 3,000 workers. In this strategic industry, and you can see how quickly in that strike they moved their national guard in." Again the point isn't so much to argue "Who Shot John," but more what are the terms of the struggle. Okay, let us quote Lenin from "Imperialism and the Split in Socialism": "Neither we nor anyone else can calculate precisely what portion of the proletariat is following and will follow the social chauvinists and opportunists. This will be revealed only by the struggle, it will definitely be decided only by the socialist revolution. But we know for certain that the 'defenders of the fatherland' in the imperialist war represent only a minority. And it is therefore our duty, if we wish to remain socialists, to go down lower and deeper, to the real masses; this is the whole meaning and the whole purport of the struggle against opportunism." I think the line of the letter in *RW* No. 93 only serves to obscure the struggle to grasp and deepen this.

S.T.M.

**New Programme and New Constitution of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (Drafts for Discussion).**

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In a situation which is developing as rapidly as today's, the actions taken by the advanced section of the proletariat are of decisive importance. They will in no small part determine how far along we are and whether we are able to break through all the way when the conditions fully ripen and the opportunity for revolution is there to seize. These moments, particularly in a country such as this, are rare in history and their outcome has a profound influence on history for years, even decades, to come. Those who do understand what is going on and choose not to act are contributing to the prolonging of this destructive and decadent rule of imperialism. This programme is a declaration of war, and at the same time a call to action and a battle plan for destroying the old and creating the new. It must be taken up.

Today the words of Mao Tsetung ring out with full force:

**"Seize the Day,  
Seize the Hour."**

# Lying Witness in Pontiac Trial Reveals Frame-up

Chicago—As the trial of the Pontiac 16 continued into its second week, the state prosecutors worked furiously to lay more legal track for this railroad. On March 11, the prosecution presented its star witness, Danny Dill, one of two guards stabbed and injured during the 1978 Pontiac prison rebellion. Dill, the first witness to directly implicate any of the Pontiac Brothers in attacking the guards, identified Steven Mars and Kevin Tolbert as the prisoners who assaulted him, and he identified Mars and Ronnie Newby, another defendant, as two of the inmates who killed guard Stanley Cole.

The contradictions in Dill's testimony were so wide and the holes so deep that Dill himself was forced to admit under cross-examination that he had lied repeatedly; then he lied some more during his two-day stint on the witness stand to explain why he had never identified any of the Pontiac Brothers as responsible for attacking the guards until seven months after the rebellion. During Dill's seven-month spell of amnesia in regard to the three Pontiac Brothers, he named many other prisoners as responsible for the attacks. But it seems that his memory in regard to Mars, Tolbert, and Newby was miraculously restored in time for his testimony before the grand jury on February 22, 1979. His identification of the three men was tailor-made to fit the case that the state had already built against them.

Dill's testimony shows that the real question for the state in the aftermath of the Pontiac rebellion was how to crack the whip against the backs of the rebellious prisoners and bludgeon them into submission. The so-called "investigation" into the attacks on the guards was nothing more than a convenient vehicle for doing this. It allowed the state to single out for indictment any rebellious elements who refused to give phony testimony or act as stool pigeons. After the state arrived at its handpicked scapegoats after months of interrogation, Dill's testimony was conveniently altered to fit the planned indictments like a glove.

The long and winding road of Danny Dill's conflicting statements in the wake of the rebellion is recorded in his series of interviews with the Illinois Dept. of Law Enforcement (IDLE), responsible for conducting the "investigation."

These interviews were documented and submitted as evidence in the trial. From letters written by Dill to the state's attorney's office, it is very clear that Dill played hard-to-get with his testimony to the state, dropping names here and there but holding out for a better deal concerning job security and protection for himself and his family before he would agree to positively identify anyone. These letters were also submitted as evidence.

Here is a sample from the amazing saga of Danny Dill's testimony: in an interview the day after the rebellion, the guard who found Dill after he was stabbed said Dill's words to him were, "I know who killed Officer Cole and I know who stabbed me"; he named prisoner Rufus Tyson. Several days later while looking through mug shots, Dill named three different prisoners as "similar" to those who attacked him. Two

of these men later turned up on the state's list of potential witnesses! In mid-September, in an "informal" interview (in which Dill complained in a letter to the state's attorney that IDLE agents tried to get him drunk), the agents reported that Dill would not positively identify anyone "until written confirmation from the governor references certain requests forwarded by Officer Dill's attorney"; but at the same time Dill hinted it would be "smart to look at Tyson" and Powell (who also appeared later on the state's list of witnesses). Dill made no further statements until his grand jury identification of Mars, Tolbert and Newby.

Because of his string of contradictory statements, defense attorneys made a pre-trial motion that Dill's identification of the defendants be suppressed. During a pre-trial cross-examination by defense attorney Stan Hill, Dill admit-

ted outright that his sudden change in testimony came after he had made a deal with the state. Dill testified that he decided to identify the three Pontiac Brothers in a meeting with an IDLE agent three hours before his grand jury testimony because he got "answers to questions" concerning protection for himself and his family.

Naturally this blatant admission of a frameup had to be cleaned up some before Dill's appearance in the actual trial. On the witness stand he claimed that he had lied repeatedly out of fear of reprisals from inmates, but that an attack of "moral conscience" before his grand jury testimony had forced him to tell the truth at last. How touching! As the trial continues and the state presents its inmate-witnesses we will no doubt be hearing about many other attacks of "moral conscience" to explain away lies.

**"Smash the Frameup! Free the Pontiac Brothers!"** These demands were the rallying cry for 150 Blacks, whites and Latinos who demonstrated March 16 outside the Cook County Court House where the state's attempted railroad of the Pontiac Brothers is in session. The diverse forces attending the demonstration—from revolutionary nationalist Blacks and Latinos to progressive clergy and laity—shows the broad support that has come forth since the state began to engineer its railroad of the Pontiac 16 two and a half years ago. The links between this case and the murderous attacks on Black people from Atlanta to Buffalo was pointed to by the main speaker, Chokwe Lumumba of the Republic of New Afrika, one of the defense attorneys. The demonstrators applauded as Chokwe declared, "There is no justice in the courtroom. If there was justice in the courtroom the case of the Pontiac 16 would never have come to trial. Only the support of the people can free the Pontiac Brothers." Demonstrations to free the brothers were held in ten other cities around the same time.

The following message from the Pontiac

Brothers expressed their determination to fight this frameup: "We, the Pontiac Brothers, want to send our greetings and solidarity to each of you. Our struggle has been a long and difficult one but we can only see victory ahead of us. Your support to our cause has made this possible; with a multitude of people coming together as one to fight at our side. We have overcome a great many obstacles since July 22, 1978, and more obstacles are in our path. But like true victors, we have stood strong in this storm together. We've fought racism! The odds are stacked against us but the people have given us the strength to stand tall and shown us in many ways that we are not alone.

As we hear the chants grow stronger (free the Pontiac Brothers!) our victory becomes a victory for all people. Victory means we will no longer sit back and watch our brothers get stabbed by racism and false justice. We will fight till all people are free from the injustice of this society. We hear your voices. Our hearts are filled with joy. We love you all. Your support and strength is needed by us to see victory. Free the Pontiac Brothers!"

## How the Press is Instructed in Rebellion Reporting

"The ability to report on public events based solely on judgments of newsworthiness is precisely what distinguishes the press in a free society such as ours from totalitarian states, where the primary role of the news media is to advance governmental goals and policies." These fine words were spoken by a television executive before the House Subcommittee on International Terrorism during congressional hearings in 1978. Ironically, however, the bulk of these hearings were devoted to the problem of "urban unrest" within the boundaries of the United States. And one thing the honorable representatives seemed particularly concerned about (and since Miami, they are clearly even more concerned about it today)

was the "newsworthy" manner in which such public events as urban riots, rebellions, upheavals, etc. in the U.S. are being reported by the news media. A reader recently called our attention to the transcripts of these hearings which provide a glimpse of how the media handles such outbreaks.

As one NBC official told the committee hearing: "There were suggestions during the 1967 riots that television was causing the very disturbances it was reporting..." Not so, he said. The TV news was only doing its duty in a "free society." Quoting from the President's National Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders (Kern Commission) he noted an interesting dilemma for the bourgeois media: "Once a disturbance

occurs, the word will spread independently of newspapers and television. To attempt to ignore these events or portray them as something other than what they are can only diminish confidence in the media and increase the effectiveness of those who monger rumors and the fears of those who listen." Yes, word of urban rebellions and other outbreaks does indeed spread quickly among the people. And to reassure the concerned congressmen of the fact that television newscasters have been doing their best to help spread such word in a "responsible" manner, this executive went on to offer as evidence some of NBC's 14-point "Riot Coverage" Guidelines.

The guidelines, he pointed out, were

originally issued "before the city riots of 1967," but they are still quite appropriate and "are periodically reissued to all our news staffs." For example, Point 1 instructs reporters: "Do not describe a disturbance as a 'riot' unless the police or some other responsible agency or official so designates it." In fact, there is little reason for agonizing over how to characterize such disturbances at all since the guidelines make clear in a number of places that reporters are to get their stories from the police or some similar authority in the first place and, further, that any and all police bulletins are to be directly reported as "news." Beyond this, Point 3 states that any "news tip" should not be reported "until

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## Red Blooms in Washington D.C.

In Washington, D.C. tens of thousands of people, mainly Black but including significant numbers of white people, are wearing bright red ribbons as a badge, a sign of outrage around the killings in Atlanta. The idea for red ribbons was brought into D.C. when the Georgetown University basketball team returned from a game in Philadelphia. While in Philly the Georgetown team pinned green ribbons on their uniforms. When they returned to D.C. the coach of the team upheld the players wearing the ribbons and then stated that he personally felt they should be red—red for the blood of the children killed in Atlanta. Around the same time, and more significant in terms of spreading the idea broadly among the people, the D.C. Taxi Drivers Association overwhelmingly voted to display red ribbons on the antennas of their cars. Many of

D.C.'s 15,000 taxi drivers are foreign students and themselves revolutionaries for whom the color red stands for much more than outrage: it stands for revolution. In fact, a number of African drivers stated that they were doing their most to popularize the red ribbons as *red flags*. They have told of being harassed by police when they tried to expand the tiny band of red into something more flag sized on their antennas.

Major Black radio stations have called for people to take up the ribbons and have passed out thousands of them; storeowners have been passing them out at their counters; workers in restaurants, hotels and cafeterias of government office buildings are wearing them. Students have been passing the ribbons out at the city's busiest intersections. The ribbons line the fences

around construction sites, decorate people's mailboxes and windows. Bus drivers are wearing red armbands—in every corner of the city from youth hanging out in the southeast to the hospital workers in Georgetown, the red ribbons are being displayed. A red flag from May Day 1980 was seen hanging at a McDonald's.

The ribbons have come to mean a variety of things from anger at the killings and symbolizing blood to straight up opposition to the government and increasing national oppression. Two Black youths standing in line at McDonald's were overheard talking about what the ribbons meant for them. They talked about going to a party with a bunch of ribbons and struggling with the other people there to wear them. One of them said that he had decided not to take his ribbon off when he went

to work in the morning. "Sure they hassled me, but I really didn't care. You know things are coming down more and more on Blacks, look at what Reagan's doing. We're going to be seeing some heavy duty riots. We're gonna have a revolution."

Large numbers of people are wearing the red ribbon in direct opposition to the hysterical yellow ribbon campaign—particularly pronounced in D.C. One of the sharpest signs of this is that numbers of people have taken to putting the ribbons around lampposts and trees which used to display yellow ribbons. One woman said, "I hope the red ribbons spread as much as I hope the struggle spreads. Yellow ribbons didn't represent the people and the red ones do." □

## The Loss in China and the Revolutionary Legacy of Mao Tsetung

by Bob Avakian

Text of the speech given by Bob Avakian at the historic Mao Tsetung Memorial Meetings which were held in New York City and in the San Francisco Bay Area in September, 1978. These programs were held on the second anniversary of the death of Mao Tsetung at which time the RCP made public for the first time its analysis of the reactionary October 1976 coup in China. *The Loss In China and the Revolutionary Legacy of Mao Tsetung* gives a blow-by-blow account of the class struggle in China leading up to the coup and analyzes why the reactionaries were able to gain the upper hand after Mao's death. It also goes into the effects of the coup on the international situation, and its implications and lessons for the revolutionary movement worldwide. 1978. 151p.



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## Atlanta

Continued from page 3

ed their union officials about calling the union out to the march. (This was in the same plant we reported on in a previous issue. The company had reprimanded workers for circulating a leaflet protesting the murders.) The officials originally refused; the infuriated workers spread the word anyhow. The hacks finally did call for a contingent, and spent efforts at the march in attempts to keep the workers from chanting and disrupting speeches. Andrew Young sensed the situation; he marched, but left the scene before his slated speech. Mayor Maynard Jackson didn't show up at all.

The revolutionary sentiments the situation around these murders has given rise to were concentrated at a forum in the week prior to the Sunday march. The meeting was called by the Atlanta Black Student Awareness Organization. (This group was formed at the Atlanta University to stop a campus administration-sponsored debate featuring former KKK leader David Duke; the struggle successfully forced the "debate" off campus.) 250 students came to the forum to hear a National Black United Front (NBUF) speaker, several of the mothers of the murdered youth, and others. The NBUF speaker was given a standing ovation and roundly applauded throughout. He called for armed revolution and spoke to the question of revolution in Latin America, relating this international struggle to the opportunities for revolution in this country, "We are in a period of the decline of capitalism and imperialism throughout the world. In the 1960s we said that America on its deathbed will go down like a wounded beast. The victims are now the Black youth." He called on people to come to the April 4th demonstration called by the NBUF and planned for 20 cities nationwide.

At another meeting on the Atlanta University campus called by a fraternity that had participated in the King march, a Task Force detective was bombarded by questions from an audience of 300 students. A former Black Panther Party member was applauded even before he asked his question, just because of the revolutionary heritage he represented.

Meanwhile, meetings called and tightly organized by the police officials were aptly characterized by a reporter who went to one of them, "George Napper (the police chief) was one of the few people to attend the meeting."

This widespread struggle has naturally been reflected in culture. Last week, the Steel Pulse, a well-known reggae band from England played to a sellout crowd at a New Wave club in Atlanta. Singing songs about the revolutionary spirit of George Jackson, and against the Ku Klux Klan, the group dedicated one of their songs to the murdered Black youth. The multi-national crowd of youth rocked to their songs: "Black

men are still not free... we still have to fight for equality..." with a chorus, "What it's gonna take is revolution." Fifteen white youth did a syncopated chant and dance to this chorus adding their own words, "Ready for—revolution!" The week before this concert, a local New Wave group playing at the same club changed a few of their songs to deal with these murders and with aspects of the world situation.

From all this, it's clear that a politically explosive situation exists, and not in Atlanta alone. Outraged by the killings, angered at the developing attacks against Black people which provide the context for these murders, fundamental questioning of the system is widespread, as are revolutionary strivings. *RW* sellers from Atlanta reported being bombarded by questions of youth while distributing the newspaper: "What kind of revolution are you talking about? How will it be different for Black people? What do these murders have to do with it? How can all this happen?"

Especially important is the influence of international events and the connection countless numbers have drawn between events in Atlanta and the role of imperialism around the world. Similarly, connections are being drawn between the struggle in Atlanta and those around the world. Speakers at all the events cited here raised these questions from different points of view. In Harlem one speaker warned against "the dangers of war" and talked about El Salvador. Points made by the NBUF speaker in Atlanta mentioned earlier are an especially significant illustration of this. International events even entered the speech by SCLC president Joseph Lowery at the Sunday demonstration, if in a twisted way. He complained of "\$25 million going to El Salvador, only \$1 million to Atlanta."

People have been drawn into political motion, their anger raging, their horizons expanded. Atlanta has become one of those crucibles that Lenin spoke of, a "minor" crisis which "discloses to us in miniature the elements, the rudiments, of the battles that will inevitably take place on a larger scale during a big crisis." A vast array of political and social forces have entered this struggle, and its intensity does not relieve class-conscious proletarians of responsibility: quite the opposite. Atlanta has created a profound hunger for revolutionary political exposure and proletarian revolutionary politics in general. And if this hunger is profound, even more so is the need for the ranks of the class-conscious to broadly spread these politics, to go out in the midst of this struggle, unite with friends and expose the enemy. The terror imperialism has unleashed against Black people in Atlanta deserves one answer: proletarian revolution. Only by seizing on the opportunities now can we bring revolution closer. □

Roy "Death to the Tiller" Prosterman Driven Off Harvard Campus

## New England Students Protest U.S. Claws in El Salvador

In opposition to U.S. involvement in El Salvador and in support of the struggle of the Salvadoran people, the Harvard-Radcliffe El Salvador Committee initiated a series of activities at Harvard two weeks ago. The high point was a demonstration on March 12 when 3000 students and others rallied right in the heart of this venerable institution—the Harvard Yard. The demonstrations coincided with the appearance on campus of CIA Professor Roy Prosterman from the University of Washington who was speaking on "land reform" and world hunger to the Institute of Politics Study Group. Prosterman is the architect of the Salvadoran junta's "land to the tiller" program (more accurately known as "death to the tiller"). His credentials as a death merchant include helping to design the "pacification program" in Vietnam known as Operation Phoenix in which 40,000 Vietnamese peasants were "neutralized" and a nearly identical program for the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines as well as similar "land reform" projects in at least 15 other countries.

The response to the call for a rally

drew students from colleges all over New England, including Tufts, Brandeis, Boston University, Boston College, University of Massachusetts at Boston, Suffolk, Dartmouth, Northeastern, Vassar, Yale, and a contingent from the University of New Hampshire, along with such well known figures as John Womack, Nobel laureate George Wald, and Rev. H.F. Reisz, Jr. (president of Harvard United Ministries) who were among the speakers at the rally.

The chain of marchers wound around Harvard Yard and through Harvard Square, chanting slogans reflecting diverse political views and all opposing U.S. aid and military intervention in El Salvador. One group of youth involved in the anti-draft and anti-nuke movements chanted, "Pigs out of El Salvador" while carrying a papier maché pig inscribed with "USA" on it which was appropriately roasted to a crisp. The march ended up at Widener Library, where a variety of speakers, including a speaker from the RCP, denounced U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

Political controversy over U.S. involvement in El Salvador and the world

situation and what to do about it, which had been going on throughout the march, began seething in the crowd as many began to think about going to the John F. Kennedy School of Government (K-School), where Prosterman was debating an anthropologist from MIT, Professor Martin Disken, who opposes Prosterman and his activities. The audience there had already gotten right to the point, calling Prosterman a "liar" and "fascist." As Prosterman pleaded for "tolerance" of his ideas, someone shouted "not when there's genocide in El Salvador!" Meanwhile, at the rally, a student seized on the sentiments of many of those who wanted to confront Prosterman and called on the crowd, "Can we stay out here and give speeches to ourselves, or can we get down to the JFK?" About one-third of the demonstrators headed for Prosterman. By the time the marchers had reached the building, Prosterman had been whisked away through the back door by a security guard. People then continued rallying and expressing solidarity with the people of El Salvador inside the building for about 20 minutes.

As a result of all this, Prosterman was forced to promptly cancel another debate scheduled for the following Saturday. Instead, he taped a discussion in the security of a radio station in which he aired his defense of his imperialist "land reform" programs—after he had safely left the area. This was done, said Prosterman, to "avoid another three-ring circus" and hopefully to reach a wider audience than the one he had gotten at Harvard. However, the fears of Prosterman and his imperialist backers of just how "wide" their audience is in fact becoming on the question of El Salvador were expressed by a State Dept. spokesman at a press briefing in Washington, D.C. two days after the Harvard events held to focus people's attention on "more important matters" like Poland and downplay what was described as the "fairly minor policy question" of El Salvador. According to the *Boston Globe*, this "Washington source" remarked: "Let's face it, if this escalation continues, it's only a matter of time until 100,000 people march on Washington..."

## Latest U.S. Dual Tactics in El Salvador

Continued from page 10

tween FDR leaders like Guillermo Ungo have been pursued by U.S. bloc countries, most notably West Germany and Mexico. Now, Teddy Kennedy has also jumped into the fray championing the cause of the bourgeois liberal "opposition" by introducing a bill in the Senate which would tie future U.S. military aid to the fascist junta to the "U.S. encouragement of international mediation of the conflict." This is a perfect example of the fundamental difference between the liberal "opposition" and current U.S. policy in El Salvador—no difference at all. In fact, the U.S. has always used both the "military component" and the "diplomatic component" in its efforts in El Salvador and throughout the world and it will surely continue to do so. Prior to the January escalations, which all these "liberals" supported, the U.S. met secretly in Honduras with Ungo, a former junta member and president of the FDR, in hopes of pulling off moves toward a "political solution." The key to that effort was a U.S. proposed "ceasefire"—but only by the guerrillas of course. When this attempt failed, and an opposition offensive ensued, the new U.S. military escalations were accompanied by more behind-the-scenes maneuvering to get Ungo to "negotiate" directly with the junta, but Ungo refused, insisting that the U.S. be a direct participant—a move that the U.S. rejected since it would represent a certain acceptance of the pro-Soviet influence over the FDR at that time.

### Soviet Response To U.S. Moves in El Salvador

But what about the Soviet response to all this? While they have continued to utilize the escalated war moves for further exposure of the U.S., they have not met the U.S.' "hard line" with their own "hard line" response. The Soviets have much more freedom to politically maneuver in Central America than the U.S. There have been a number of reports that Soviet-bloc arms shipments to the guerrillas getting hung up in transit. And Nicaragua, undoubtedly with Soviet and/or Cuban advice, has backed off from open support for the opposition considerably, with its latest move being the ouster of the guerrilla's clandestine *Radio Liberación* from Nicaraguan territory. Surely, if the Soviets had offered them "protection,"

the Sandinistas would not have been so quick to retreat. But as the Soviet Union well knows, the underlying economic and political contradictions in Central America will not allow any "stabilization" of U.S. dominance to be more than a passing fancy—a temporary phenomenon amidst a definite downward spiral. It appears that Soviet imperialism is content to sit back somewhat and await further opportunities to make advances in El Salvador while making maximum use of the exposure inherent in U.S. military moves in the area.

The U.S. also knows that any "political solution" to the Salvadoran crisis will be a temporary thing, but that it is the best that it can hope for at the present. Its major hopes are being pinned on the eventual showdown with the Soviet Union for a redivision of the entire world—and this is what has fueled its fierce maneuvering in El Salvador. But with all this superpower heavy weight being thrown around, it is not surprising that the internal class forces in leadership of the Salvadoran opposition are being sharply affected, and there are signs of cracking under pressure coming especially from the bourgeois forces led by Mr. Ungo.

Ungo recently stated in Rome that he was in favor of "mediation" by the Pope or any other "third party"—the first time that he has not insisted on direct U.S. participation. Furthermore, he offered to cooperate with forces in the fascist junta, saying that such a mediation effort "must seek the eventual points of agreement between the two parties and must identify within the members of the government junta those sectors who truly want peace and dialogue and therefore be political solutions of the Salvadoran problem." This was the most openly capitulationist gesture that Ungo has made since he joined the FDR last April, but is not surprising coming from a "man in the middle"—as are all the bourgeois forces in the opposition. Ungo is a little more susceptible to Western imperialist pressure than most since he is a member of the Socialist International, a social-democratic organization led by Willy Brandt of West Germany. But overall these forces are definitely feeling the combined heat of U.S. military and diplomatic escalations in El Salvador.

Certainly, Ungo's gesture did not go unnoticed by either the U.S. or its pup-

pet Duarte regime. Just two days after Ungo's statement, Duarte gleefully laid out the U.S. terms for further "dialogue": "In such a negotiated solution, the leftist sectors who now believe that we will negotiate with them will not be included." This was also a first—the first time that he had publicly excluded the guerrillas and their supporters, as well as the PCS, from any potential deal-making.

As for the response of the PCS and other pro-Soviet and pro-Cuban forces in leadership of the FMLN, their most recent public statements have concentrated on worried expressions over the U.S.-backed efforts to drive out the population of a number of rural areas where the guerrillas have had a great deal of popular support. Of course, these revisionist leaders have long worked to keep this situation on the level of support for the guerrillas, and oppose the political mobilization of the broad masses as part of the revisionist strategy of working for "historic compromise" in El Salvador—that is sharing power with pro-U.S. forces in the government. And insofar as they've

been successful at this, it has fueled the conciliatory tendency of the bourgeois forces in the FDR, whose own vacillating ability to stand up to the imperialists is directly related to the actions of the broad masses. All this vividly illustrates that with the revisionist line in leadership of the armed struggle, the masses' real aspirations for liberation from imperialist domination can never be realized.

Just how far Mr. Ungo and others will bend over in the face of the intense heat is unclear at this time. And while the U.S. desperately needs to pull off some kind of a settlement, there is only the possibility that its current diplomatic maneuvers, coupled with its continuing military attacks, will achieve even a partial success. One thing that is for sure is that through various twists and turns and imperialist maneuverings, El Salvador and Central America will continue to be a point of weakness for the U.S., subject to increased military intervention, and a focal point of increased superpower contention in a world situation headed toward world war.

## Mass, Proletarian War Crimes Tribunals of U.S. Imperialism

The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA is now calling on all proletarians in this country, together with all progressive individuals and organizations, to join with us now in forging the initial plans for a series of mass hearings on U.S. imperialism's war crimes against the peoples of the world. At present, there is a high-echelon effort under way to reverse earlier—and correct—verdicts on these crimes in order to commit still more (and more foul) acts. Reversing correct verdicts goes against the will of the people, and there are many, many people in this country—foreign born, veterans, and many more oppressed who have rich testimony to offer.

- \* Our Party proposes that a panel would be formed soon and begin travelling across the country, collecting evidence and testimony in mass meetings from proletarians and others on these war crimes—past and present. It would culminate after around a month's work and publish its findings.
- \*\* Representatives of U.S. imperialism would also be invited to attend and defend their views and actions. Former hostages, certainly, would be challenged to appear, since they missed their opportunity for such a trial when they were in Iran.
- \*\*\* Veterans, foreign born, all proletarians and progressive groups and individuals contact the RCP, USA locally or nationally and assist in making these plans and launching them into action soon.

## "The Opposite of a Rapist"

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shit as much as you do—sorry your honor, but such people do exist.

Approximately half of the defense's testimony was excluded by the judge. Particularly revealing in this regard was the testimony of Dr. Jennifer James, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Washington, who has spent 12 years studying the effects of violence against women. Similar testimony has been systematically excluded from recent trials of women in Washington State who have defended themselves against attacks, for those who preside over the courts know well what the effect of such attacks is on women. It is oppressive, and right in

line with one of the oldest "laws" in their books. Unfortunately for them, there is a more powerful law of history—oppression breeds resistance.

The refusal of the court to allow the defense to present much of their case did not prevent the real issues from coming out in the courtroom. Sasha's own testimony was a firm defense of her actions and her beliefs. During a long, badgering cross-examination by the prosecution, Sasha remained unshaken, shoving the prosecution's attempts to poke holes in her defense back in their face. Even during arguments over such questions as the instructions to the jury, continual references were made to the cases of Janice Painter and Yvonne Wan-

row, women who were convicted for defending themselves. In both cases, the Washington State Supreme Court was forced to reverse the convictions due to the mass outrage these cases sparked, but the viciousness of the state has been revealed even more starkly, however, by the fact that the authorities have continued their legal attacks on these two women, even after the convictions were reversed.

"I'd do just what I did before," said Sasha after the verdict was announced. "I'm not going to let this stop me from helping anyone else." The stand of women like Sasha Cady challenges the hell out of the ruling class, triggering savage efforts to "right the wrong" done to their

ugly way of life. This is particularly true in Sasha's case because not only did she defend herself, but she actively fought for the right of women to defend themselves in the face of mounting violence and attacks on women. This has become a broad social movement, one which the rulers are compelled to intimidate, suppress and derail. The trial of Sasha Cady is one more example of why it is necessary, not only to continue to fight against such outrages, but to fight for the day when women won't have to walk around with guns in their purse for such "usual" "romantic" occasions. Further destruction is clearly required. □

## And That's The Way Imperialism Is . . .

Continued from page 8

road. Approaching one soldier, CBS correspondent John Laurence asked, "Was there a rebellion today?" "You might call it that," the soldier replied.

But the dispute within the ruling class over Vietnam was never over the righteousness of that bloody U.S. endeavor—all sides, from liberal to conservative, wanted desperately to smash the heroic liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people, and would grab at any chance to do just that. So when Nixon's sudden invasion of Cambodia offered up the fleeting illusion of quick and painless victory, the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite was right there. And who did they happen to film? Why, Charlie Company, of course! CBS correspondent John Laurence: "The men moved quickly on orders now. They are in a strange and mysterious new war zone, behind enemy lines, in Charlie Country, as they call it. . . . Some, like Sergeant Dunnuck, are looking forward to the action, intrigued by a military offense designed to destroy the North Vietnamese headquarters, if it is still in the area."

With these impeccable imperialist credentials, there was not the slightest question what was up when Walter, in a "dramatic moment" said he was "stepping aside" from his role as anchorman and editorialized that people should support one of the last big, peaceful anti-war marches in Washington, D.C. Then it was absolutely clear that the most powerful sections of the ruling class had decided that enough was enough, it was time to cut losses and

run and try to jump upon and kill the anti-war movement, too.

### Too Valuable to Lose

A man like Cronkite—an imperialist parrot in whom years of training has been invested—is very valuable to the bourgeoisie. His replacement, Dan Rather, is certainly loyal enough, and certainly well-versed at lying for the imperialists. But Dan has his drawbacks. His arrogance and self-righteousness—while certainly good and typical bourgeois virtues—are often so over-bearing as to be grating. On the air, that can create problems. For example, in an editorial a couple of months back, Dan was heard going on and on about the results of a Japanese survey that showed a higher incidence of health problems among non-smoking wives whose husbands smoked than among those whose husbands didn't. "What's true of Japanese wives is certainly true of American wives," pontificated Rather, "and what's true of American wives may also be true of co-workers in offices with those who smoke at work." Even though this was a radio commentary, you could just see Dan's face getting redder and redder as he went on in growing fury against those who would infringe on his health by smoking. Rather is the kind of guy who would try to get you kicked out for smoking in a restaurant where he was eating. An excellent example of bourgeois ideology, but not quite as good as Walter for the 6 o'clock news.

It is very important for the imperialists to have their system appear to be calm, confident and in order. It's kind of like the old phrase about the wheels of God grinding—they grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine. Breakdowns, jolts—even screeching and frantic-sounding reactions by the ruling class—all this can give the masses the sense of the instability and lack of permanence of this system. This could be dangerous—a weakness smelled is often a weakness taken advantage of. The imperialists will go to great lengths to conceal such weakness, and it has been the special virtue of Walter Cronkite to give a white-haired, grandfatherly "all's well" flavor to the cracking world of U.S. imperialism. Such a reassuring voice is too valuable to be tossed out lightly. So it isn't being tossed out.

As the old soldier Cronkite said on his final sign off, "I'll be away on assignment." Later this month he will be in Moscow to film sections for an upcoming CBS propaganda blitz—a 5 hour CBS special report on "The State of America's Defenses." Who better to prepare us for war than our old Uncle Walter. And then, revealing some nervousness on the part of the imperialists about Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" (perhaps they felt it was too "dangerously scientific"), they are preparing a 13-part series to be hosted by Cronkite called—are you ready for this?—"Walter Cronkite's Universe." □

## How the Press is Instructed

Continued from page 19

it is confirmed by the police, your own reporter at the scene or by other recognized authority or sources."

In case some reporter were to get the foolish idea of asking any of the masses about what's going on, Point 7 should clear it right up: "Regard with suspicion any interviewing of participants during riots. It is questionable whether such interviews serve a valid purpose and they may incite rather than inform. Trained persons, including police, officials and articulate onlookers may offer useful facts." And Point 8 warns reporters to, "Be extremely cautious of interviews with self-appointed 'leaders'... 'activists' or 'militants.'" Instead, reporters are to "cultivate, expand and maintain contacts between appropriate members of your news staff and responsible news sources within organizations and communities potentially subject to racial tensions"—that is, "responsible" organizations approved by the police! On this subject, CBS News (whose own "Riot Coverage" Guidelines were also presented before the committee) takes a slightly different tack. Its Point 8 mandates that reporters "balance statements by participants or their supporters with contrary statements (if any) by other responsible sources."

Deeply concerned as NBC is for high journalistic standards, Point 10 says, "Avoid the use of stereotyped phrases like 'the city was rocked by' or 'police and demonstrators battled.'" Likewise the CBS guidelines tell reporters not to use such "meaningless phrases" as "police brutality." While there is certainly no dearth of stereotyped phrases on the 6 o'clock news when it comes to describing "wild-eyed rioters and looters", it seems that some descriptions (those that tend to "incite" rather than "inform") perhaps are just not acceptable. For example, NBC's Point 13 cautions newscasters to "Avoid description of how homemade weapons are made."

And finally, just to cover his ass in case NBC's reportage is not always quite "objective" enough for the authorities, this official whined that, "It is recognized, at the same time, that these emergencies often reach a scope of violence and mass emotion requiring extraordinary vigilance by editors over accuracy, irrelevance, judgment, perspective, detachment and balance." Indeed, with such "extraordinary vigilance" the government authorities can certainly rest easy knowing that the news is in the hands of such "responsible" journalists who will base their stories "solely on judgment of newsworthiness" and who are not the least bit interested in "advancing governmental goals and policies." And they can rest even easier knowing just precisely whom this "free press" is responsible to! □

### NOW AVAILABLE!

"Bob Avakian Speaks on the Mao Tsetung Defendants Railroad and the Historic Battles Ahead" is the text of a speech by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA delivered on November 18, 1979 in Washington D.C. at a rally of over 800 people at an important juncture in the battle to free Comrade Avakian and the 16 other Mao Tsetung Defendants, arrested on charges totaling 241 years each. The government had been forced to retreat and maneuver, temporarily dropping all charges in the case in the face of broad and very active support for the defendants all across the country. Since that time the decision to drop the charges has been overturned in federal appeals court and the government's railroad is back on track.

Comrade Avakian's speech, delivered at a crucial turning point in the battle sums up what the government was up to at that particular point in the case and goes deeply into why they are going after the RCP and why they came down so viciously on the January 29, 1979 demonstration against Deng Xiaoping's visit to Washington D.C., which the charges against the Mao Tsetung Defendants stem from. Even more significant is Comrade Avakian's profound and sweeping presentation on the objective situation today facing revolutionaries and the masses of people, the real necessity and possibility for making revolution in the period ahead and urgently preparing to do so today. Finally, he speaks powerfully for an uncompromisingly internationalist and revolutionary stand in support of the struggle of the people of Iran, who had just delivered a body blow to U.S. imperialism with the taking of the U.S. Embassy and hostages in Tehran.

Contains the text of "Iran It's Not Our Embassy," previously published as a separate pamphlet.

# BOB AVAKIAN SPEAKS

ON THE MAO TSETUNG DEFENDANTS' RAILROAD AND THE HISTORIC BATTLES AHEAD

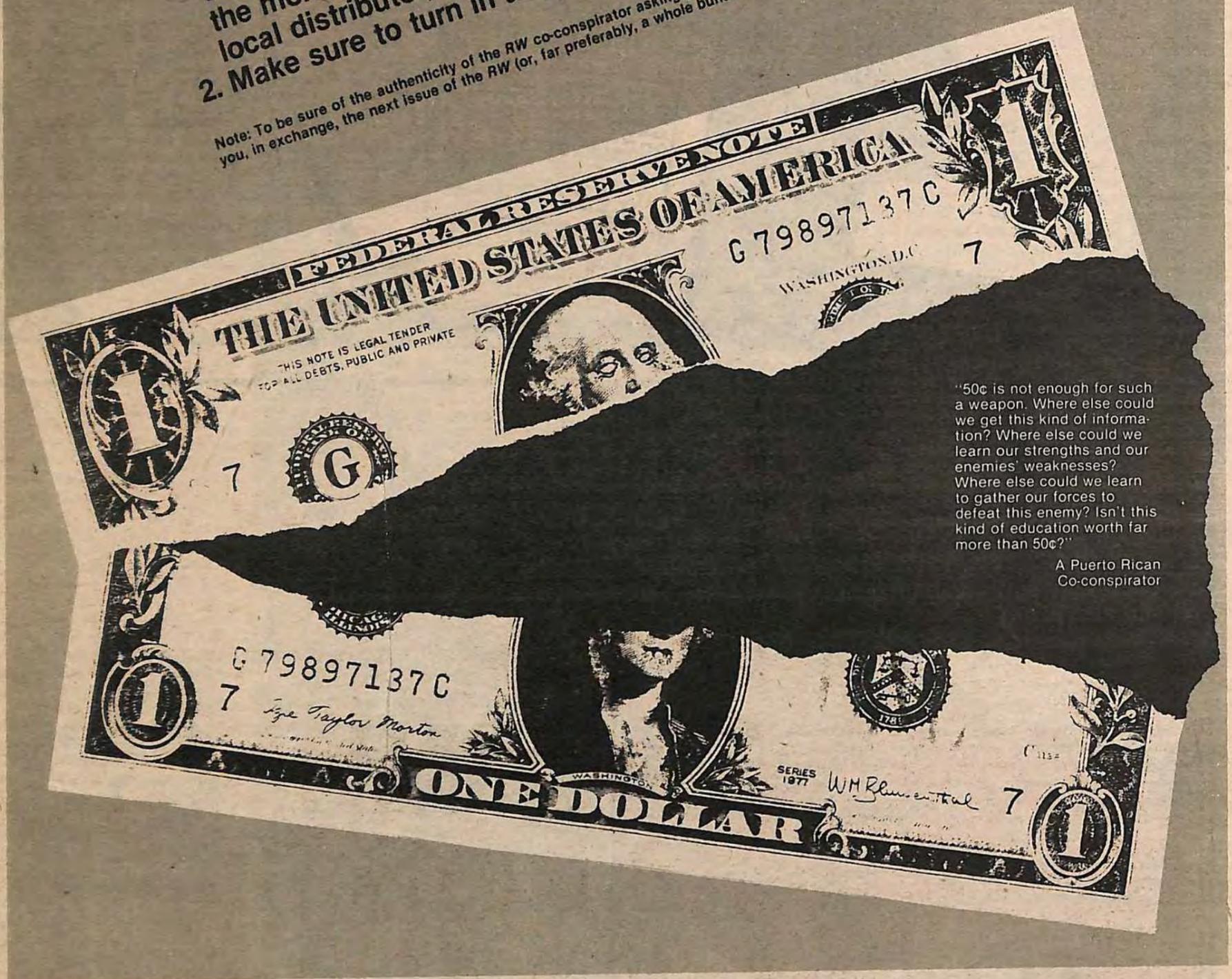
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