

Quebec/Canada

'Hasten the Coming Socialist Revolution'

(A Canadian Party of Labor / The Worker, Editorial).

Either the revolution prevents the war, or the war makes the revolution. That was the astute observation of Mao Tse-tung in the days when he was still a revolutionary. The logical outcome of the class struggle is: Heads the workers win, tails the bosses lose.

However, that is a strategic, or long range, perspective, and we live and work in the short range. We need that perspective to carry out work and eventually to bring down the capitalist class. Something else from Mao: slight the enemy strategically, but take full account of him tactically.

As we approach May Day, the day on which we affirm our internationalism, and the goal of socialist revolution, we want to have our strategic perspective clear in mind.

So let's ask these questions of Mao's propositions: What war? What revolution? The world war that must inevitably result from the bitter economic rivalry of the great imperialist powers—U.S., Russia, Germany and Japan. These great powers, as Lenin argued in 1914, divided the world between them and can only re-divide it by seizing one another's source of markets resources and cheap labour.

That can mean promotion of one side or another in regional wars, such as the Soviets backing of Egypt against U.S. support of Israel a few years back. Fighting for control of oil by means of proxies. In that instance the U.S. ended up with the oil and Egypt and the Soviets went back to the drawing board.

Another instance of local war to promote great power interests lie with the more old fashioned and

more volatile introduction of Cuban troops to bring off a power seizure in former Portuguese Angola. Then it was the turn of the U.S. to lick its

wounds and plot a comeback.

Plots and counter-plots are more and more the story and sooner or later more likely sooner, the great powers are going to come to direct blows. The U.S. has great economic power, but a weakened and questionable military capacity as the masses of U.S. workers have resisted being bled in defense of the profiteers' racist empire. The soviet imperialists have considerable military swat, and the advantages of not being linked to the remnant of the old colonial ruling class in much of the world. They can pose as champions of the new nationalist forces. However, their reach exceeds their grasp in that their economic strength is not equal to the U.S. and they have trouble holding on to their beach-heads—India being a case in point.

All this testifies to a sharper give and take with the emphasis on the take. The world's major capitalist states are all experiencing crisis and they're all solving it in the same manner; driving down wages, increasing unemployment, inciting racism and patriotism and beefing up for the next major war to divide the world.

In a recent issue of the Worker we further underlined the increasing instability among the great powers by printing an open letter by the French bourgeois philosopher Jean Paul Sartre, which called attention to the fact that German imperialism has begun to feel its oats. German bosses are heading a government for a European state that would be a formidable military and economic

power, eliminate the left and impose a freeze on wages. In a nutshell, he said the plan is for fascism and war—to maintain the very vulnerable bourgeoisie of Europe. He quoted Brecht: The womb that gives birth to the fascist beast is still fertile.

And revolution? The revolutions have been the other half of the story of the decline and fall of the imperialist systems and capitalist wars. World War I set the stage for the revolutionary seizure of power by the Bolsheviks in Russia and a string of near victories by workers throughout Europe. WW2 marked another breakdown for the imperialists with communists leading workers to power in China and Eastern Europe, (with a near miss in Greece).

Today, with the return of bosses to power in the former communist states, the world revolutionary movement—as an organized political force united around the principles of Marxism-Leninism—is in disarray. And nothing could be more tragic, because the revolutionary activity of the working masses is on the increase. The opportunity to knock over a crumbling bourgeoisie crops up with inviting regularity. Trudeau and company are sitting on dynamite. One million workers unemployed, no hope for an upturn, and the workers of French Canada constituting a powerful class conscious movement (Huge May Days endorsed by major union, general strikes, plant occupations, teachers unions producing socialist study plans, etc.) that has caused the bourgeoisie to set up a progressive nationalist, Rene Levesque, to act as a road block to the revolution.

As they set up Levesque to siphon off class war in Quebec, Trudeau works the other side of the street in English Canada by stirring up the most dangerous brew of all—anti-French racism. It is a dangerous move and shows the desperation of Canada's rulers. May it blow up in their faces.

The C.P.L. and all class conscious fighters have to see the revolutionary opportunity in these circumstances. We must establish the tightest unity of French and English workers to enable our class to overthrow the capitalists from sea to shining sea.

That means fighting for proletarian internationalism, in both French and English Canada. Internationalism is mere lip service if it does not oppose the special oppression and exploitation of the Quebec working class. Unity will only be achieved by a recognition of this fact and an all out effort to deal with anti-French racism.

Two serious developments may soon arise concerning Quebec. One would be the Levesque "referendum" on independence. Our party should urge a boycott of this rotten choice between English and French speaking bosses and urge the continuation of the powerful class conscious movement of Quebec workers which has shaken the ruling class. We must urge that ties with English Canadian and U.S. workers be strengthened, and the movement become a political force for revolution.

The second development may see the use of federal troops in Quebec to stifle any move to revolution or an "independence" that would deprive the Canadian bourgeoisie of its share of the profits.

Such an attack on Quebec workers, (make no mistake about it, whatever the ruse it would be a blow aimed at workers; should be met by a united working class organization that would lead an armed struggle against the Canadian capitalist class and the Quebec bourgeois forces that would urge national and racism war-fare. Workers in English Canada will have the task of showing immediate solidarity through every form of resistance from strikes to stopping troop movements to organizing soldiers to turn on their officers. The red forces would have one common cause: the overthrow of capitalism.

The invading Army should be turned out of Quebec by revolutionary workers that would make no common cause with any bourgeois elements. And when that armed struggle succeeds we would find that the true content of the slogan for self-determination is a proletarian dictatorship, without which the term would be vacuous.

This is not mere speculation or guessing. The problem is real, and could become tomorrow's headlines. Our task as revolutionary communists is to master the complexities of rapidly unfolding events in Canada and the world and to develop revolutionary tactics to strengthen our class and hasten the coming of socialist revolution.

Haiti: Imperialist Paradise

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 4— Hundreds of Haitians and others demonstrated in front of Congress and the Organization of American States building here in spite of the heavy rain that fell all day. They were denouncing the dictatorship in Haiti of Jean Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc). In addition they were protesting the jailings of Haitian refugees in Miami and El Paso. More than 2,000 Haitians have risked their lives by escaping from Haiti by small boats and other means. However, the Immigration Service has declared them a "threat to the U.S. economy" and refuses to give them "refugee" status. The Haitians are mostly black and they are escaping from a pro-U.S. dictatorship which considers them "subversives." Because of this, racism and anti-communism are being used by the U.S. authorities to attack these refugees.

Haiti is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Unemployment is over 60 per cent of the labor force. Only 2 percent of the 5.5 million inhabitants have received the most elementary education. Those who work make

\$1.30 a day for 12 hours of work. The average annual income is a mere \$70 a year. Life expectancy is 40 years, with 50 per cent of the children dying before their 4th birthday. More than 200 foreign businesses, mainly U.S., are based in Haiti. This country has become one of the biggest exporters of baseballs and bras, which shows how imperialism does not develop the country for the benefit of the masses.

A drought is making life almost impossible for the Haitian people. Electricity is only available four hours a day in Porteau Prince, the capital city with 700,000 inhabitants, because the water level is very low in the lake that brings water to the hydroelectrical plant. The drought, which began three years ago in the north-western part of the country, has reached the cities, and is threatening epidemics and mass deaths. While most people have to buy their water using what little money they earn, in the rich neighborhoods cars are washed with plenty of water. According to an article in the Dominican daily *El Caribe* (April 5), "Mrs. Yhislaine

Printempo, a 47 year old mother of four, who earns \$1.00 (U.S. money) a day selling vegetables in the street, must pay about 5 cents for each liter of water." The drought is affecting the already shaky agricultural production here.

The same article states: "The drought has caused an antagonism between the poorer classes and the rich ones." The relatives of the President have too much, and we don't have anything, said a Porteau Prince resident who refused to be identified."

The Haitian people have a long history of struggle. Led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, they waged the first victorious anti-slavery revolution of this era, and after fighting French troops for 10 years, they found the first independent state of free blacks, in 1804. There is much internal resistance to Baby Doc. The Haitian people will surely defeat their oppressors and will establish socialism. To achieve this victory a communist party that unites workers and peasants must be built. This is the task of Haitian revolutionaries.