

# I WOR KUEN OPENS

August 21 marked the opening of the San Francisco branch of I Wor Kuen at 850 Kearny Street. I Wor Kuen (IWK) is an organization of Chinese people in San Francisco and New York, the location of the two largest Chinese ghettos in America.

The name can be loosely translated to mean "Getting Together". But the Chinese ideographs say it better, "Righteous Harmonious Fist". The anti-imperialist Boxer Rebellion (1900) in China was named after the fist symbol of the original IWK.

The IWK was a peasant aid society that existed for 2000 years before that, at times openly, at times underground. As the life of the peasant became worse with the coming of

foreign factory owners, merchants and armies (French, British, and American), IWK became a militant society, organizing protests and rebellions against the "foreign devil" imperialists.

IWK represented one of the many anti-imperialist forces in old China that were soon welded into a solid force by the Chinese Communist Party. It was not Marxist-Leninist or able to lead a revolution over all of China, but without it and groups like it, the final victory of the People's Republic of China and Mao Tse-Tung Thought would not have happened.

The present IWK in America sees itself as one of the many anti-imperialist forces in America who will

soon be welded into the fist of the American revolution. While its main work is in the Chinese communities of America, it also works wherever possible with other anti-imperialist groups, for in the words of Eldridge Cleaver and Fred Hampton, "We're going to fight racism with solidarity."

Their programs in San Francisco include bust, draft, and immigration legal services, free public showings of films from the People's Republic of China, plus literature and books in Chinese and English. The IWK paper comes out every month, alternately from the East and West coasts. For those who want to find out more, drop by 850 Kearny or call 398-2212.