

Call Ducks U.S. Role In Horn of Africa

Do U.S. communists have the responsibility to expose the predatory moves and aggressive actions of their own imperialist ruling class? Should they denounce all its efforts to dominate and subjugate the peoples and countries of the world no matter how they disguise them? Not according to the *Call*, p.r. sheet for the CP (OL) (ML).

Last month *Revolution* published an article analyzing recent developments on the Horn of Africa. It described the maneuvers of the U.S. and the Soviet Union to dig their claws deeper into this region, their efforts to line up the countries on the Horn and the Arabian Peninsula and the shifting alliances that are taking place.

In a letter published in the September 12 issue of the *Call*, the CP (ML) levels a silly and opportunist attack on this article, an attack which exhibits the finest style of their polemics: lies and distortions. But their cowardly methods of polemics are getting boring through repetition and are not the heart of the matter. What is of more interest is what this letter reveals about the line of the CP (ML).

Headlined "Giving Support to Soviet Lies," this diatribe accuses the RCP of "covering for revisionism" and of being "an enemy of third world unity" as well as putting forward that "third world countries are only pawns with no choice but to line up with one or another superpower." Why? Because, they say, the RCP incorrectly claims that the "overall situation of the third world countries in the area is not one of growing unity and struggle against imperialism." They allege that "Each attempt by third world countries to unify in the face of direct Soviet aggression is labeled [by the RCP] as a victory for U.S. imperialism."

In order to validate the first charge, however, they find it necessary to never mention the very subject matter and title of the article: "Wars Flare on Horn of Africa," describing it instead as "an article on the situation in Africa." Presumably they see these wars simply as shining examples of growing third world unity! And unless you're willing to describe the fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia as a just war of national liberation on one side or the other, you have the duty to analyze the reactionary and, particularly, imperialist forces stirring it up.

If OL were merely ostriches or blinded by some sort of pollyanna view of the world, they could be dismissed as a group of harmless imbeciles. But that is not principally what their problem is. Like their brothers in the "Communist" Party, USA without the "ML" tacked on, they are attempting to make only one superpower out to be the enemy and to cover for the other. The whole thrust of the *Call* letter, as with the CP (ML) line in general, is to cover up for U.S. imperialism under the banner of anti-Soviet hegemonism.

Silence or Banal Generalities

You can search in vain through the pages of the *Call* for a concrete analysis of the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists in this region. There is little but broad gen-

eralizations. What does this letter have to say on the subject? "Undoubtedly U.S. imperialism will continue to try to gain advantages." *Undoubtedly* indeed! What exactly are they doing? How is the U.S. trying to gain advantages? Not a word! Lenin heaped scorn on similar social chauvinists and Kautskyites of his day who "help their respective imperialist governments by concentrating attention principally on the insidiousness of their rival and enemy, while throwing a veil of vague general phrases and sentimental wishes around the equally imperialist conduct of 'their own' bourgeoisie."

The *Revolution* article points out that the struggle against Soviet efforts to expand its influence and domination is an essential aspect of recent developments in the area. In fact this is a main part of the article, analyzing the role of the Soviets in Ethiopia. And the article explicitly describes how the situation has grown more difficult for the Soviets and their new clients in the Ethiopian military junta. As examples of this the article pointed to moves by Somalia, which has been closely allied to the Soviets and dependent on Soviet arms, to take a more independent position in the face of Soviet support for Ethiopia. *Revolution* also mentions a meeting in March of the governments of Sudan, Somalia, North Yemen and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen to discuss the problem of "security in the Red Sea area" and describes it as a public warning to what the declaration of this meeting hit as Soviet imperialism. In this regard the *Revolution* article also pointed to the failure and Somalia's "angry rejection" of a plan proposed during the Castro/Podgorny African safari in late March to rope Ethiopia, Somalia, South Yemen and Djibouti into an "East African Socialist Federation."

Yet according to the *Call's* yellow journalism, the RCP was "upset because in March of this year there was a meeting of these countries who are increasingly threatened by superpower interference and especially by aggression from the social imperialists."

But all these lies are only an attempt to camouflage the fact that the RCP really comes under attack for concretely analyzing how the U.S. imperialists, as well as the Soviets, are trying to lure the governments of the countries in the area into their own camp. But tell us, great internationalists, is the day gone when the imperialists try to work through the bourgeois governments of third world countries to advance their dreams of domination? Have the masses of people in the countries in the region already triumphed in their struggle to throw off the rule of comprador bourgeois elements and all reactionaries and established proletarian governments, opposing the moves of the imperialists at every turn?

There is no question that many of the ruling classes of the third world, even some that are overwhelmingly imperialist stooges, have contradictions with the imperialists, particularly the superpowers, and that they do take some actions to resist them. When and where they do they must be supported, and encouraged to do so to an even greater extent. But it is precisely because of the class nature of these governments that the imperialists are able to make inroads and stir up contradictions. And in situations of sharp conflict and war they step up their blackmail. This is the basis for the statement in the *Revolution* article (and this is what we actually said, *Call* distorters) that "the overall situation in the Horn of Africa increases the strong tendency of the ruling classes of those countries to line up with one or another superpower."

This in no way undercuts the fact that the third world, which has been the victim of colonial and neocolonial plunder, ravaged and held back, kept in chains by the imperialists, since World War 2 has been the storm center of the world revolution, and the struggles of peoples in these areas have been the main force striking at the imperialist system. This has most powerfully been the case in countries like those of Indochina and China where the masses under the leadership of the working class and its party have united all patriotic classes to achieve national liberation and embarked on the socialist revolution. Nor does it deny what was stated in an article in the July *Revolution* on the "three worlds" that "in addition to these popular revolutionary struggles, particularly with the relative decline of U.S. imperialism and the rise of Soviet social-imperialism contending through the world with the U.S., many governments of Third World countries, even reactionary governments, have to one degree or another taken advantage of this situation to push for more independence. Such actions, while not striking the same powerful blows as mass revolutionary movements, have further weakened the imperialists."

But the RCP is soundly castigated by the great dialecticians of the CP (ML) for saying that the countries in the Horn of Africa have only made "some moves" to oppose the two superpowers. Do they view the

recent docking of U.S. naval ships in Sudanese ports as an example of anti-imperialist action?

CP (ML) Slips and Slides

The *Call* was particularly indignant because *Revolution* describes how U.S. imperialists are using the reactionary feudal and bureaucrat capitalist government of Saudi Arabia in an effort to lure countries in the region into its bloc through promises of large-scale economic aid. "Even the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen," they say, "a country which has firmly opposed imperialism and fought for national independence, is slandered with the accusation of being bought off by Saudi 'checkbooks.'" Of course, we said no such thing, instead describing what the U.S. and the Saudis were attempting to do. Do we see the CP (ML) charlatans standing up to defend the royal family of Saudi Arabia as great promoters of anti-imperialist solidarity, or are their "checkbooks" overwhelmingly in the service of imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism?

Their self-righteous defense of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is especially interesting and revealing in view of the fact that it was only a few years ago that this same *Call* was denouncing the struggle of the people of neighboring Oman and those supporting it, foremost of which was the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), because of "the Soviet domination of these groups." (*Call*, October, 1974) They attacked Marxist-Leninists for spreading "the lie that China supports these organizations"—namely, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Now the RCP is attacked for showing how the U.S. is trying to bring the PDRY into its orbit. First an attack for backing Soviet agents, now an attack for slandering these same forces who have "firmly opposed imperialism and fought for national independence." How interesting!

The consistency comes down to one thing. It is the CP (ML) line on the responsibilities of the internationalist duties of U.S. communists in action. According to the CP (ML), when the Soviets seek to influence forces resisting U.S. imperialism, not only must the Soviets be denounced, but the forces resisting U.S. imperialism must be denounced as well. But when the U.S. imperialists try to do the same thing, it is inopportune to speak of it. According to the *Call*, exposure of U.S. machinations only gives "support to Soviet lies" and strengthens social-imperialism. After all, the main blow of U.S. Marxist-Leninists must be directed "internationally" at the Soviet Union!

The CP (ML), pitifully following in the tradition of phony revolutionaries like Kautsky, continues to repeat time-worn betrayals of Marxism-Leninism. For these social chauvinists U.S. communists have a special duty all right, to prettify the actions of U.S. imperialism under the banner of anti-hegemonism, and with platitudes, not Marxist analysis, about third world unity.

Bakke ...

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petition between pre-med students as they try to insure their successful advance into medical school. Pre-med students, as many magazine and newspaper articles have pointed out in the last few years, ruin each other's lab experiments, steal classroom notes, steal important books out of the library to deny others the use of them, to name a few of the cutthroat tactics. Obviously, this detracts from quality medical education and, in the end, from decent medical care for the masses.

Continuing the Struggle

The Revolutionary Student Brigade on the West Coast, the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR), an organization of progressive doctors and other health professionals, along with other organizations, have been involved in the fight against the Bakke attack. This struggle is being pressed forward as the time of the Supreme Court decision comes closer, recognizing that it would be suicide to be lulled to sleep by Carter's actions.

Even if the court goes along with Carter's formula, the struggle also must be waged to insure that no programs are thrown in the dustbin under the excuse of eliminating "rigid, exclusionary quotas." Affirmative action must be defended and fought for. At the same time, cuts must be fought, bringing out the need for bigger enrollments in medical schools.

The gains of the Black liberation struggle and other minority struggles will continue to come under attack as capitalism's crisis becomes more deep and profound. But the victories of these powerful movements were paid for in blood. The people will not give up lightly and the struggle around the Bakke case is bound to be just one battle in a struggle to defend past victories and go forward.

(Much of the information for this article was taken from "The Bakke Case, The Gains of Minorities Under Attack," a pamphlet by MCHR. Copies of the pamphlet are available at 50¢ per copy plus 25¢ postage from MCHR, Greater-Boston Chapter, PO Box 382, Prudential Center, Boston, MA 02199.) ■

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