

Pro-Albania Parties' Summer Camp

SPANISH INQUISITION NO. 2

This August a strange series of events took place which turned a summer camp, billed as an international gathering of anti-imperialist and anti-fascist youth, into an arena of sharp class struggle and the sight of phony "communists," conducting a modern day version of the Spanish Inquisition (when in the 15th century the Church and the Spanish feudal classes launched an attack on all kinds of progressive thinking, burned books, executed people for "heresy," etc).

The camp was organized in the main by several European parties which have close ties with the Albanian Party of Labor, whose leader, Enver Hoxha, has recently come out with a full-scale assault against Mao Tsetung. Hoxha and his closest followers have tried to make attacking Mao a sort of "admissions card" into what they like to refer to as the "international Marxist-Leninist movement." Several parties which only a few years ago gave lip service to Mao as the greatest Marxist of our time, have dumped him like a hot potato now that it isn't popular to be upholding Mao in certain circles and now that there is little capital to be gained from pretending to support his teachings.

But unfortunately for those who planned the summer camp, not everyone is willing to abandon revolutionary principles, and there were those at the camp who were determined that the struggle against revisionism take precedence over the singing of folk songs.

The Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile, which had participated in planning meetings for the camp, came prepared to make their new document, "An Evaluation of the Work of Mao Tsetung" public for the first time. At the preparatory meetings, it had been

agreed that all the participating organizations would be free to distribute any of their literature. But when the camp organizers saw that a defense of Mao Tsetung was being circulated, they threw a fit.

Meanwhile, outside the camp about seventy members and supporters of the Communist Party of Turkey, and its youth organization, the Marxist-Leninist Youth of Turkey (M-L) set up their own encampment. Although they had come huge distances to attend, they had been denied entrance to the summer camp at the instigation of another Turkish group which has lately been faithfully parroting any and all garbage coming out of Albania.

The combination of the presence of the Turkish youth outside the camp gates and the RCP of Chile and others within the camp itself who were fighting against the politics of the "camp counsellors" threw the latter into a complete frenzy. In violation of the previous agreement, the Chileans were ordered to stop selling their pamphlet defending Mao. When they proceeded to give it away instead, they were expelled by force from the camp, as were the delegations of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Austria and the Communist Party of Cyprus (Marxist-Leninist). The camp superintendents then went around trying to confiscate the contraband literature from all those in the camp who had gotten it—throwing it all into a giant pile. Even the Spanish police were called into the act by the camp organizer!

The defense of this cowardly action was almost as pathetic as the actions

themselves. A joint statement signed by 11 of the 25 participating organizations of the camp accused the Turkish communists of being "provocateurs" and said the RCP of Chile and an Austrian party were "sowing confusion and division among the participants."

The Communist Party USA (ML), otherwise known as MLOC, publisher of the little-read weekly *Unite!*, was also a signatory to this reactionary trash. In their paper they actually said that those who were thrown out of the camp were supporters of Chinese revisionism! Actually, all the groups who were expelled from the camp are well known opponents of Chinese revisionism—for example, the RCP of Chile was among the first parties in the world to condemn the new Chinese rulers through their Open Letter to the CPC which had wide

impact among Marxist-Leninists worldwide. Further, it is a little ridiculous to hear MLOC calling others supporters of Chinese revisionism when it was MLOC that openly hailed the revisionist coup in China—only to switch their support to the Albanians when they thought it might give them some international recognition!

The silly and childish actions of the organizers of the summer camp in burning books and expelling "heretics" cannot be seen as simply a question of not allowing democratic debate. At the bottom is the reactionary line coming from these forces, on the question of Mao and a whole host of others as well. Since their line cannot stand up to debate, and since they fear their members coming into contact with correct ideas, they are reduced to outlawing genuine Marxists from their camp and like the first Inquisition, demanding unquestioned obedience to the Pope—in this case Enver Hoxha. ■

Carter's Town Meeting Interrupted Again!

Dolton, Illinois, October 16. It was the latest of Carter's "town meetings," one of many cozy gatherings sponsored by his re-election road show to save his collapsing political credibility. What better way of "giving the people a chance to ask questions of a public official."

hand. All were carefully checked by cops and secret service men at the door. The town meeting got off to a smooth start with Carter blowing kisses on schedule to the crowd. He had just struck a distressed pose, drooping on and