

CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RCP, USA

Snapshots: 25 Years in the Vanguard

Part 1



Black Panther Party

The great upsurges of the 1960s forge a new generation of revolutionary fighters. Influenced by Maoist China, a new generation takes up Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

Spring 1969—the Revolutionary Union, led by Bob Avakian, publishes *Red Papers 1*, calling for a new party of communist revolutionaries to lead proletarian revolution in the U.S.



Maoist Red Guards in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China



Movement against the Vietnam War



Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP, USA

October 1975 — The Revolutionary Communist Party is founded.

"The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA is a party of struggle. A party of slaves who are determined not to be slaves any longer."

Bob Avakian, *Our Class Will Free Itself and All Mankind*, 1976

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Revolutionary communists go deep among the basic people, to organize the proletariat as the leading force. May First, International Worker's Day, is reclaimed as a revolutionary day of struggle.

1969—RU defends Black Panthers who are under heavy police repression and builds links between striking Richmond oil workers and revolutionary currents of the San Francisco Bay Area. 1972—RU builds countrywide support for the Farah strikers of El Paso. Mid-1970s—the newly formed RCP plays a leading role within the defiant movement of coal miners who launch waves of wildcat strikes.



Red Papers 1, 1969



San Francisco 1970—The RU plays a key role in the rebirth of International Women's Day.



Philadelphia, July 4, 1976—Led by RCP, 3,000 march against U.S. Bicentennial under the slogan, "We've carried the rich for 200 years. Let's get them off our backs!"



Coal miners "Right to Strike" movement



African Liberation Day, Detroit, May 27, 1978

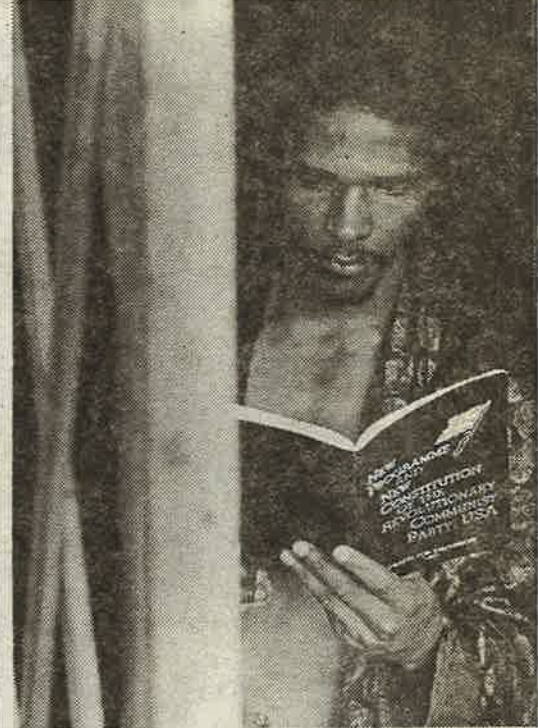
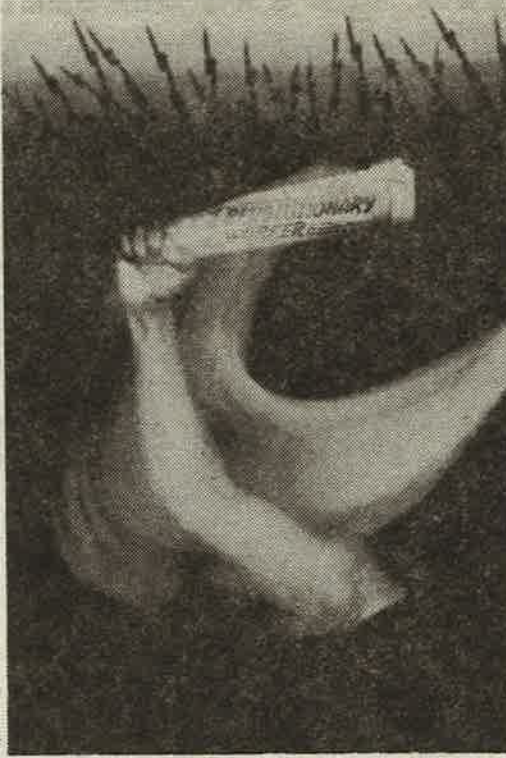
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Houston's Moody Park, Cinco de Mayo 1978 — two nights of rebellion protest police killing of a Chicano youth. Authorities charge Moody Park 3 with felony riot, including RCP supporter Travis Morales.



Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, founded in November 1977, leads off a Houston march to support the Moody Park 3 under the slogan "From Rebellion to Mass Armed Revolution."



1980, RCP's New Programme and Constitution

May 1, 1979 — First issue of weekly *Revolutionary Worker* appears in English and Spanish under headline: "Create Public Opinion... Seize Power."

After the death of Mao Tsetung in 1976, anti-Maoists led by Deng Xiaoping seize power in China and restore capitalism. This coup marks major turning point for communists internationally. Within the RCP, a major two-line struggle comes to a head. Chairman Bob Avakian leads victorious year-long struggle against a revisionist headquarters who want to abandon the revolutionary road.



September 1978 — Bob Avakian analyzes the coup in China and the revolutionary legacy of Mao Tsetung at major Mao Memorial events.



RCP Chairman Bob Avakian, 1979 speaking tour.

November 1979 — Facing a possible 241 years in jail, Chairman Bob Avakian conducts a national speaking tour. Tens of thousands become involved in a struggle to support Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants. Chairman Avakian is forced into exile. Three years later, the government finally drops all charges on Chairman Avakian.

January 1979, Washington D.C.—Ten years before the infamous Tiananmen Square massacre, RCP opposes Deng Xiaoping and exposes his anti-people nature when Deng arrives to cement an alliance with the U.S. imperialists. A fierce street melee between 500 Maoist demonstrators and 1,000 cops creates an international incident. 78 Maoists are arrested, including Chairman Bob Avakian. Charges on Chairman Avakian mushroom to 25 felonies.



Washington, D.C. January 1979



1980 — RCP builds support for Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao — c



1979—Iran people's uprising challenges U.S. imperialism during so-called "Hostage Crisis." RCP takes firm revolutionary patriotism and war threats. Still facing charges, Bob Avakian delivers major speech: "Iran: It's Not Our Embassy." (third from left) leads "Send the Shah Back" delegation to Iran.

May 1st, 1980 — Across the country, May Day is celebrated with fierce battles and bold internationalism. In the following years, there are repeated clashes and revolutionary manifestos on International Worker's Day.



Detroit, May 1st, 1980



RCP member **Damián García** and two other revolutionaries raise the red flag over the Alamo. On April 22, while organizing for May 1, **Damián** is murdered by a police agent in a Los Angeles housing project.

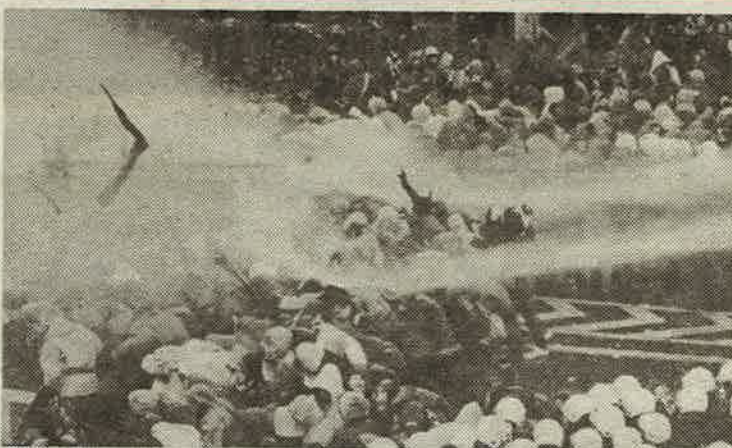


1980—Miami Rebellion. RCP says "It's Right to Rebel!"

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In May 1980, the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) initiates People's War. Four years later, PCP is among participating organizations to form the RIM.



Hot Autumn, 1983 — RCP organizes "World Without Imperialism Contingent" which travels to West Germany to join the sharp battles against the installation of U.S. first strike missiles in Europe.

March 12, 1984 — Formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is announced. RCP is among participating organizations.

1980s: The RCP boldly steps up revolutionary preparations and leads sharp opposition to escalating preparations for world war.



The 1981 Mass Proletarian War Crimes Tribunal, called by the RCP, unites broad forces in the countrywide hearings that exposed the oppressions and aggressions of the U.S. system. RCP national spokesperson and Vietnam-era war resister, **Carl Dix** (second from left), testifies at New York hearing.



Comrades of Mao on trial in China.



Symbol of the RIM

"The words of the Communist Manifesto ring out all the more clearly today: 'The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.'"

Declaration of the RIM

"Resurgent America" carries out aggression in Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama. Important resistance movements oppose these imperialist moves. RW reporter **Jack Gardener** travels to Panama after U.S. invasion in 1989.



San Francisco, 1984 — Demonstration opposes U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

They stand in the face of frenzied correspondent **C. Clark Kissinger**

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RCP supporter Joey Johnson busted for burning the flag at the 1984 Dallas Republican Convention, wins historic Supreme Court case in 1989. Congressional flag amendment fails.



April 29, 1985 — RCP and RCYB help initiate No Business As Usual Day: "They won't listen to reason. They won't be bound by votes. The governments must be stopped from launching World War III no matter what it takes!"

As war preparations escalate against the Soviet Union, the U.S. ruling class builds up rabid right-wing forces—to impose conservative, law and order, religious, white supremacist, English-only, anti-woman measures on the people. The RCP works with others to fight this reactionary push—including by helping to build organizations like Refuse and Resist! and La Resistencia.



May 13, 1985 — Philadelphia police bomb the house of MOVE, a radical Black organization. Eleven people are killed and a whole community burns. People in the streets angrily chant, "Murderers! Murderers!"

RCP organizes the "Draw the Line" statement to oppose this criminal assault by the system.



RCP joins an angry new generation in bold street marches and shutdowns of subways and bridges to protest racial murders of Yusef Hawkins and Cedric Sandiford in New York.

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The RCP trains people to reject patriotic war appeals from the imperialists. In the proletarian community of Richmond, California, a poll of 3,600 residents conducted by the San Francisco branch of the RCP asks: "If you knew that they (the nuclear powers) were about to push the button (start a nuclear war) within a few weeks, would you be willing to take up arms against the system and your own government to prevent this? The results: 62% answer yes.



RIM symbol on Berlin Wall.



Berkeley students clash with police in anti-apartheid protest, 1985.

The collapse to the Soviet system involves the transformation of state capitalism to a more privatized Western-style capitalism. Armed with this understanding, Maoists around the world counter the bourgeois claim that "socialism has failed" and "communism is dead." RCP upholds communist vision of a liberated human society. Chairman Avakian writes his book *Phony Communism Is Dead... Long Live Real Communism*. Around the world the RIM slogan is: "Mao More Than Ever."



Biko Lives! Fest, South Bronx, New York, 1986 — RCP helps organize proletarian festival to honor Steve Biko and support struggle against apartheid in South Africa. RW features eyewitness accounts of mass upsurges in South Africa by correspondent Michael Slate.



Spring 1989 — Hundreds of thousands of youth and workers in Tiananmen Square challenge the capitalist roaders ruling China.

To Be Continued: Part 2, Next Week