

NORTH AMERICA NEWS

CANADA · QUEBEC · UNITED STATES

A QUOTATION FROM CHAIRMAN MAO

The saying, "A single spark can start a prairie fire", is an apt description of how the current situation will develop. We need only look at the strikes by the workers, the uprisings by the peasants, the mutinies of soldiers and the strikes of students which are developing in many places to see that it cannot be long before a "spark" kindles "a prairie fire".

June 10, 1972

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(NORTH AMERICA NEWS recently received a copy of Red Spark, publication of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Western New Jersey Area Branch of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist), Vol. 1, No. 1, dated June 1972. We reprint the publication in its entirety.)

54. INTRODUCING THE EASTERN PA. - WESTERN N.J. AREA BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST WORKERS MOVEMENT (MARXIST-LENINIST) The General Line and Call of the Pa.-N.J. Area ACWM (M-L)

The American working class and other oppressed people have always militantly rebelled against oppression.

The small clique making up the American ruling class has always parasitically and fascistically lived off the people and tried to keep them from rebelling.

Today, the U.S. monopoly capitalists and their lackeys are increasingly trying to extend their fascism both through direct repression and through bourgeois culture. They are desperate to stop the ever more rebellious and revolutionary working class and masses including national minorities and petty bourgeois such as students, professionals and civil servants. The fascists are vainly attempting to make eternal their system of wage slaves and lackeys in the U.S. and abroad.

The U.S. fascist-monopoly capitalists will not succeed. The working class and other oppressed people in America (and

abroad) will not let them. The people of the U.S. and abroad are standing up to declare:

IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL AGAINST REACTIONARIES!

WE REFUSE TO BE SLAVES AND LACKEYS FOR IMPERIALIST AND FASCIST EXPLOITATION AND PLUNDER!

The Pa.-N.J. Branch of ACWM (M-L) fully supports these sentiments. In addition we uphold these slogans of the national American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist):

USE MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT TO ASSIST AND GUIDE THE FORWARD DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY!

STUDY AND INVESTIGATE TO SERVE MASS STRUGGLES!

WITH REVOLUTION WE HAVE EVERYTHING; WITH THE BUILDING OF THE PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT WE HAVE EVERYTHING!

The local branch of ACWM (M-L), on this basis, seeks to unite with all progressives under the bright red banner of the American proletariat.

As Mao Tsetung says, one spark can start a prairie fire. The fire needed in the U.S. is anti-fascist proletarian revolution which will clear away exploitation and oppression. By upholding the militant history of the American masses and the revolutionary theory of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and using both as a guide to action, we can take up the genuine and high aspiration of the overwhelming mas-

ses of Americans and contribute to the overthrow of fascism and imperialism, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the building of a bright red communist future for the American and world's people. In this context, the Pa.-N.J. ACWM(M-L) calls upon all progressive people to:

LEARN FROM THE GREAT MILITANT HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS AND OTHER OPPRESSED PEOPLE!

INTEGRATE WITH THE ANTI-FASCIST REVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLE!

STUDY AND APPLY MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE TUNG THOUGHT TO THE CONCRETE PRACTICE OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES!

ORGANIZE TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

By reporting on the struggles of progressive people in carrying out these calls and by including write-ups that will be helpful to the campaign to BUILD THE PARTY and AROUSE THE MASSES, Red Spark will serve as an organ of this campaign in the Delaware Valley and Lehigh Valley areas.

The History of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist)

ACWM(M-L) celebrated the third anniversary of its founding in May. As the National Secretary of ACWM(M-L) pointed out to the second meeting of the National Committee in February, "The American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) is the only organization in the United States that has always upheld the principle that WITH REVOLUTION WE HAVE EVERYTHING; WITHOUT REVOLUTION WE HAVE NOTHING. The American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) is the only organization in the United States that has consistently upheld MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE TUNG THOUGHT and striven to apply it to the concrete conditions of the United States. The American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist) is the only organization in the United States that has consistently striven to apply the lessons on METHODS OF WORK of the Internationalists which are Mao Tsetung Thought applied to North American conditions.

ACWM (M-L) was founded in the Spring of 1969. It immediately gave rise to organs of working-class propaganda - The Workers' Advocate, American Student, and later Mass Line, a theoretical organ, and People's America Daily News.

These organs followed the mass democratic principle of putting the main task clearly before the people - building the Party of the proletariat to lead the people in class war to overthrow the fascist rule of the monopoly capitalists. ACWM (M-L) developed intensive work on the ideological front against fascist and slave ideas. It carried out wide-scale dissemination of Mao Tse-tung Thought. It led the heroic Resistance Movement to defend Mao Tse-tung Thought against the attacks of the reactionaries. It moved from one area to many areas; from being a local organization to an organization with a national character. In all this we resolutely followed the principle LEARN WARFARE THROUGH WARFARE. We opposed all those who were against putting theory into practice and instead wanted their revolution served up to them cooked and on a platter and who sniped from the sidelines at our efforts. The growth of ACWM (M-L) into a national organization made building the centralized leadership the key question to the further advance of the organization. It was just at this point--last Spring--that disrupters made their most vicious attack on ACWM (M-L). Opposing the principle of "LEARNING WARFARE THROUGH WARFARE" and the principle of learning from our mistakes so as to strengthen the organization, they used our mistakes to negate all the achievements of our movement and to attack the correct political and organizational line of ACWM (M-L) with the intention of destroying our organization. They hoped that ACWM(M-L) would go away and Mao Tse-tung Thought would never be applied to the concrete conditions of the U.S. and that the fascists would not be overthrown. In this they had the support of the entire Holy Alliance of revisionists, neo-revisionists, trotskites and neo-trotskites and new leftists. The disrupters represented the Holy Alliance inside our organization. But ACWM (M-L), to their disappointment, has survived this period of disruption. With the assistance of our fraternal comrades, we united all the revolutionary comrades to "PERSIST IN DOING WHAT IS RIGHT AND CORRECT WHAT IS WRONG" and thoroughly defeated this plot.

"In the course of defeating the plot of the disrupters, we have entirely re-organized ACWM(M-L). We have built a

nucleus of centralized Party leadership. We have established conscious, disciplined, self-moving teams of communists in local areas. We have established the formal organization of ACWM (M-L) with a strength it has never had before, and we have learned that without the formal organization of the Party we will have nothing...The Holy Alliance, which has been saying that 'ACWM is wiped out' is having to eat their words and they will have to eat a lot more of them. The conditions for carrying through a national program are excellent. The sentiment, spirit and strength of this meeting are very good. In a short time there will be a great upsurge in our work all across the country."

We are proud to be part of ACWM (M-L).
HAIL THREE YEARS OF ACWM (M-L)!

Local ACWM (M-L) Activity

Locally, ACWM (M-L) work is only a few months old, but already activity has started in Philadelphia, Camden, and elsewhere in the area. An example of the mass democratic method of work being used to develop principled ideological struggle--the backbone of a non-bureaucratic Marxist-Leninist group, is the summation of class struggle that recently took place in a Camden Study Group (See the next page for a report). Another article contains a call to progressive people to join ACWM-sponsored Action With Analysis Study Groups; this reflects the program the local area branch of ACWM (M-L) will be following in the coming months: UNITE WITH ADVANCED PEOPLE; AROUSE THE MASSES AND SERVE MASS STRUGGLES; GET ORGANIZED TO CHANGE THE WORLD. The program of the Action With Analysis Study Groups includes ideological and political struggles in small discussion groups, in public discussion meetings led by the Study Groups, and through various forms of agitation in the community. This follows the call of the National Secretariat of ACWM (M-L) to local units and supporters to:

- (1) "concentrate on doing serious study and investigation of the actual laws, economic and otherwise, that govern the development of society so as to assist their forward motion and oppose subjectivism and liberalism and to destroy the employee mentality. We should oppose the fascist line that the world is unknowable with the scientific method of investigation of its laws, and we should oppose the social-fascist line that imperialism can be reformed by investigation of the laws that are leading to its inevitable complete defeat."
- (2) "organize actual political struggles to arouse the masses and insure that the unit will be built in the midst of mass struggles and that the study and investigation will be used to serve the mass struggles and not for intellectualism and self-cultivation."

55. CAMDEN GROUP REPUDIATES BOOK WORSHIP AND FORMS AN ACTION WITH ANALYSIS STUDY GROUP TO SOLVE DEFINITE PROBLEMS
Participants in an ACWM (M-L)

sponsored Study Group in Camden learned that for those who want to build a Party and fight an anti-fascist revolution there is no escape from struggle with concrete reality. They had rallied to a call to study the Communist Manifesto and relate it to their practice, but they found that their pious attitude toward the Marxist classic would not magically help them solve local problems. They are now taking steps to actually change the world.

The first meeting of the group was like a bad classroom with well-behaved students straining to pick out passages that shed light on this or that experience. Before the meeting, participants had dutifully repeated the formula that we must not be abstract or take an intellectualist approach to our study. But, in the summing up after the meeting, everyone agreed that although there was a strong sentiment to use the Manifesto to learn about how to carry on class struggle in America, something was wrong. However, continuing to act like docile students, participants decided that if everyone reread the first section closely summarized it, and developed their own line on it, the next meeting would be more productive.

At the second meeting, this mechanical solution was correctly opposed by the ACWM leadership, which pointed out that group study must be directly related to solving specific problems facing the group. We must come to theory with definite questions and the desire to change the world.

The line of detached understanding was quickly repudiated, but as quickly a new form of opposition to solving problems came forward. After everyone had agreed to work on a project to rally advanced people in the area being misled by the reactionary leadership of the so-called "peace" movement and the single-issue anti-Vietnam War movement, this opposition developed. The bourgeois habit of clinging to the old and putting "efficiency" in command led two "conservationists" to insist that we shouldn't waste our study of the Manifesto. Unwilling to make a clean break with wrong methods, they said we should find ways of using our reading on our new project. They proudly tore quotations out and "proved" they were marvelously relevant. They were supposedly analyzing for action, but in fact they were opposing real analysis and following the bourgeois line of cutting corners and making do with any convenient material. Like the bourgeoisie, they were anxious to produce product without caring how shoddy it might turn out to be. Objectively, this careless attitude toward rectification amounts to a contempt for the masses.

The proletarian spirit in the group vigorously opposed this disguised action without analysis line and demanded that we use our efforts to work out a correct method of carrying out our project by studying concrete conditions and going to theory with definite questions in mind.

After defeating a rightist line of detached study and an ultra-left line of

action without analysis—both lines in disguised forms—the Study Group recognized the need to continue their struggle about how to make theoretical study most useful to the development of the American anti-fascist revolution, whether that study takes the form of individual reading or group study. The Study Group has moved forward by learning from two negative examples:

(1) Bourgeois idealists who expect Marxist-Leninist theory to put them in motion and give answers when no concrete questions have been asked will only find themselves on a frustrating treadmill. And they cannot defeat detachment by saying that they are studying to solve problems while in practice they take an intellectualist approach.

(2) Bourgeois opportunists who go to Marxist-Leninist theory to rip-off selected passages which justify actions they have already decided to take must be sharply opposed as sham Marxists.

When the group began to do serious investigation for the local project, members began to have some ideas about how to go about using theoretical study. Briefly, this was to encourage individuals to read widely and to suggest passages that would help us analyse contradictions more thoroughly and develop more successful actions.

An example of this was the use of the Red Book to gain insight into our ideological and political campaign to develop the proletarian alternative to the phony "Left" which tries to transform people's genuine sentiment for substantive change into single-issue anti-Vietnam War rhetoric and into the so-called "peace" movement. A serious attitude toward quotations from Chairman Mao's Thoughts on War and Peace helped the group begin a dialectical analysis of "peace" marches instead of building a one-sided line. The useful grouping of quotes by topic in the Red Book is clearly designed to encourage the correct attitude toward study and to assist those who do not yet have a broad knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory.

Recognizing the danger of developing a line of using politics to oppose knowledge, the group agreed that everyone should be reading Marxist-Leninist theory all the time to answer general questions about the basis of motion, change, and development; about the role of consciousness in history, and the relation of the superstructure to the economic base. This general reading will enable the group to find specific theory to help solve problems which come up.

To continue development of the correct use of study by individuals and the group, and to thoroughly defeat the idealist line of book-worship, this Camden group reorganized itself as an ACWM(M-L) sponsored Action With Analysis Study Group. (See the next [item] for a description of the aims, basis of unity, and methods of procedure of Action With Analysis Study Groups a few of which have already begun to work and whose activities will be reported in due time.)

The spirit of this rectification, which took organizational form at the third meeting of the Study Group, was reflected in

the words of the local leader of the Camden Action With Analysis Study Group:

"Comrades and friends,

This is the second meeting of our ACWM Study Group since the repudiation of the idealist line within the group. We meet at a time when solid and militant revolutionary centers across the continent are leading a massive groundswell of the North American people, which is sure to develop in the not-too-distant future into an earthquake that will split open the guts of US imperialism. We meet in the spirit of militancy, optimism, and going all out to serve the people by carrying out the revolutionary line of the American Communist Workers Movement. We meet to keep moving on our long march of proletarian revolutionary struggle—a march which is now entering a new and higher dimension. This new development is the launching of a Study Group which will correctly handle the dialectical relation of action and analysis in order to unite the politically advanced in the area around a proletarian, bright red Communist Party.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us. Let us march forward vigorously, keeping in mind these slogans:

STUDY AND APPLY MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT IN A LIVING WAY. LIBERATE OUR MINDS OF ALL THE MASTER'S IDEAS IN ORDER TO EMANCIPATE OUR HANDS!

DOWN WITH BOURGEOIS INDIVIDUALISM AND 'INDIVIDUAL SALVATION!'

MAKE SELF THE TARGET OF REVOLUTION. MAKE THE MASSES THE TARGET OF REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA!"

56. THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA-WESTERN NEW JERSEY AREA BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST WORKERS MOVEMENT (MARXIST-LENINIST) INVITES ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE TO JOIN AN ACWM(M-L) SPONSORED ACTION WITH ANALYSIS STUDY GROUP.

Action With Analysis is definitely what the anti-fascist forces need today. Action without comprehensive analysis has led to various single-issue campaigns such as anti-Vietnam War, ecology, women's liberation, wage increases, and other such reformist demands; these single issue campaigns are not based on analysis of the main contradiction facing most Americans (that is, monopoly capitalism) nor on a practical program for achieving an anti-fascist revolution. Action without thorough and correct analysis has also led to various terrorist activities that have not organized anyone nor increased consciousness of the main cause of oppression in the US.

Preparing for and fighting a protracted struggle leading to anti-fascist revolution necessitates careful and intensive ideological work and building a Marxist-Leninist Party and mass organizations. Action With Analysis Study Groups are a step in this direction.

Action With Analysis Study Groups will help people organize for struggle at their place of work or in the community using mass democratic methods. The Study Groups themselves will lead certain ideological and political struggles. Action will be based on analysis of history and principal contradiction in specific work places or

aspects of community life as well as in the larger aspects of the economic, political, and cultural situation in the US.

We invite anyone who would like to do some practical study and work to defeat fascism in the US to join an Action With Analysis Study Group. The specific problems that each group will take up for analysis and action will depend on the main material situation and practical problems with fascism of the membership of each group. Most groups will be composed of people with somewhat similar material conditions. Study and action will probably focus on one or more of the following areas:

1. Combatting cultural fascism
2. Comprehensive analysis of and dealing with the main contradiction
 - (a) on the job (working class, professional, cultural and educational; nurses-social workers-civil servants, etc.; non-monopoly capitalist)
 - (b) at school
 - (c) of women
 - (d) of national minorities and immigrants
 - (e) of unemployed
 - (f) of organizations of the Holy Alliance of the Left

Study materials will include relevant readings from Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, especially the Constantly Read Articles and Philosophical Essays of Mao Tsetung. Study and planning methods will be mass democratic.

Membership criteria: Opposition to rising cultural and political fascism in the US and a willingness to do some practical study and work to prepare groundwork for an anti-fascist revolution.

Nature of practical study and work:

1. Readings as agreed to by the Study Group.
2. Helping to develop internal and external discussions on the nature of fascism, its growing role in the US, and how to defeat it.
3. All differences within the Group are openly and in a forthright manner brought up, struggled over, and not compromised. This is the mass democratic method.

To sum up, general aims are to prepare material conditions for the growth of a Marxist-Leninist Party and an anti-fascist revolution by:

1. Opposing the growth of fascism in the culture, on the job, and in other aspects of US life.
2. Creating an atmosphere in the community of serious discussion of serious issues, and a general atmosphere of confidence and optimism about the victory of revolution and a new era without US monopoly capitalism, in which the people will have their destiny in their own hands.
3. Engaging in concentrated action with analysis we as to defeat our fascist enemies and their fascist ideology and unites with progressive people.

COMBAT FASCISM SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH ACTION WITH ANALYSIS!

GET ORGANIZED FOR PROTRACTED IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE!

JOIN A PA.-N.J. ACWN(M-L) SPONSORED ACTION WITH ANALYSIS STUDY GROUP!

To contact a local Action With Analysis Study Group, write: Pa.-N.J. ACWN-ML/P.O. Box 1376/Camden, New Jersey 08105.

57. A SELECTION FROM MAO TSETUNG'S "REFORM OUR STUDY" (1941), Part III

. . . I should like to contrast two opposite attitudes.

First, there is the subjectivist attitude.

With this attitude, a person does not make a systematic and thorough study of the environment, but works by sheer subjective enthusiasm and has a blurred picture of the face of China today. With this attitude, he chops up history, knows only ancient Greece but not China and is in a fog about the China of yesterday and the day before yesterday. With this attitude, a person studies Marxist-Leninist theory in the abstract and without any aim. He goes to Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin not to seek the stand, viewpoint and method with which to solve the theoretical and tactical problems of the Chinese revolution but to study theory purely for theory's sake. He does not the arrow at the target but shoots at random. Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin have taught us that we should proceed from objective realities and that we should derive laws from them to serve as our guide to action. For this purpose, we should, as Marx has said, appropriate the material in detail and subject it to scientific analysis and synthesis. Many of our people do not act in this way but do the opposite. A good number of them are doing research work but have no interest in studying either the China of today or the China of yesterday and confine their interest to the study of empty "theories" divorced from reality. Many others are doing practical work, but they too pay no attention to the study of objective conditions, often rely on sheer enthusiasm and substitute their personal feelings for policy. Both kinds of people, relying on the subjective, ignore the existence of realities. When making speeches, they indulge in a long string of headings, A,B,C,D,1,2,3,4, and when writing articles, they turn out a lot of verbiage. They have no intention of seeking truth from facts, but only desire to curry favour by claptrap. They are flashy without substance, brittle without solidity. They are always right, they are the Number One authority under Heaven, "Imperial envoys" who rush everywhere. Such is the style of work of some comrades in our ranks. To govern one's own conduct by this style is to harm oneself, to teach it to others is to harm others, and to use it to direct the revolution is to harm the revolution. To sum up, this subjectivist method which is contrary to science and Marxism-Leninism is a formidable enemy of the Communist Party, the working class, the people and the nation; it is a manifestation of impurity in Party spirit. A formidable enemy stands before us and we must overthrow him. Only when subjectivism is overthrown can the truth of Marxism-Leninism prevail, can Party spirit be strengthened, can the revolution be victorious. We must assert that the absence of a scientific attitude, that is, the absence of the Marxist-Leninist approach of uniting theory and practice, means that Party spirit is either absent or deficient.

p.6, NAMN, 6/10

There is a couplet which portrays this type of person. It runs:

The reed growing on the wall—top heavy, thin stemmed and shallow of root;

The bamboo shoot in the hills—sharp-tongued, thick skinned and hollow inside.

Is this not an apt description of those who do not have a scientific attitude, who can only recite words and phrases from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and who enjoy a reputation unwarranted by any real learning? If anyone really wishes to cure himself of his malady, I advise him to commit this couplet to memory or to show still more courage and paste it on the wall of his room. Marxism-Leninism is a science, and science means honest, solid knowledge; there is no room for playing tricks. Let us, then, be honest.

Secondly, there is the Marxist-Leninist attitude.

With this attitude, a person applies the theory and method of Marxism-Leninism to the systematic and thorough investigation and study of the environment. He does not work by enthusiasm alone but, as Stalin says, combines revolutionary sweep with practicalness. . . . With this attitude, one studies the theory of Marxism-Leninism with a purpose, that is, to integrate Marxist-Leninist theory with the actual movement of the Chinese revolution and to seek from this theory the stand, viewpoint and method with which to solve the theoretical and tactical problems of the Chinese revolution. Such an attitude is one of shooting the arrow at the target.... end item

(Vol. 1, No. 1 of Red Spark concludes here.)

58. U.S. REGISTERS HUGE TRADE DEFICIT IN APRIL.

Peking, May 27 (Hsinhua) — The US trade balance last month registered the second worst monthly deficit in history, according to a Washington report.

For January through April the deficit was 2,200 million dollars. This exceeded last year's total deficit of 2,040 million, which was already the highest annual trade deficit on record.

An AP dispatch predicted, "Unless there is a turnaround in the trade figures in the latter part of the year, it appears that this year will be the worst on record." Reuter pointed out that "five months after the December devaluation of the dollar to make US goods more competitive abroad, the balance of trade is getting worse and not better."

Edward Allen, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, has conceded that the US will run a record trade deficit this year. In a speech in Dallas, Texas, on May 24, he said, "Setting our international accounts to right is going to be a long, tough battle."

Edward Allen emphasized the need for the United States to negotiate with its trading partners on lowering tariff and trade barriers. In particular he pointed to the need for steps to prevent discrimination against American exports by the Western European Common Market. This means that the United States is again seeking to bring pressure to bear upon its Western allies so that they will share its crisis.

Continuing trade deficits are a sure sign of the steady decline in economic strength of US imperialism. All efforts on the part of the US to get itself out of dire straits by shifting economic troubles onto its allies serve only to intensify the scramble for markets among the major capitalist countries. end item

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