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"Cling to the masses, share their struggles. Learn from them. Unite with them. This is the first and foremost condition for carrying out the revolutionaries' historic mission. Only thus will we be able to prepare ourselves and the people for a prolonged effort."

Mario Roberto Santucho

10th Anniversary M.I.N.P.-El Comité Special Edition



M.I.N.P.-El Comité Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary

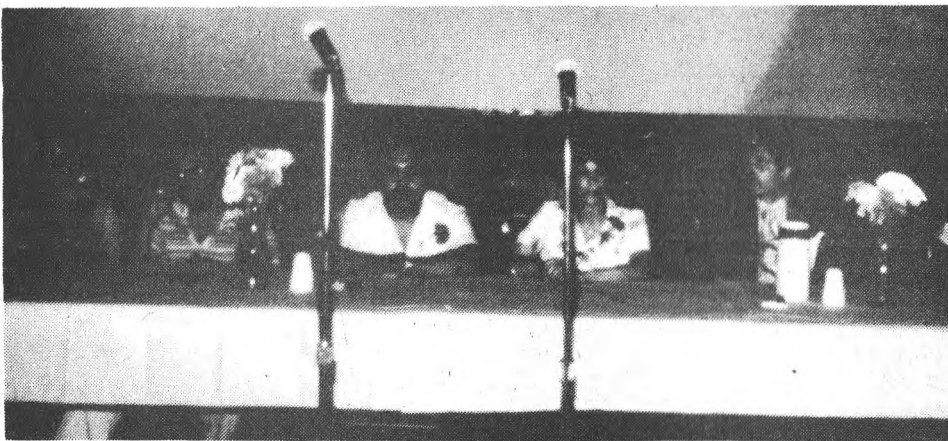
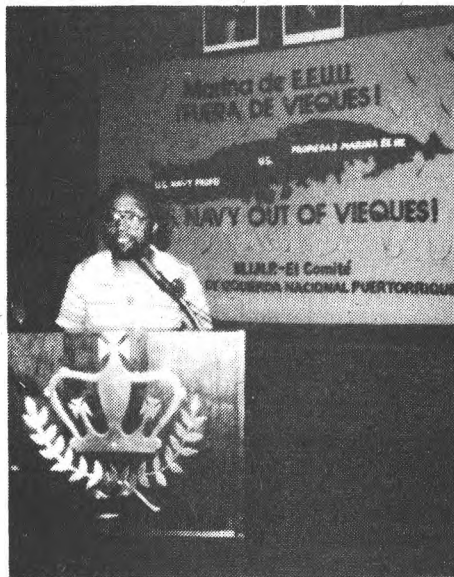
On July 19th we of the Movimiento de Izquierda Nacional Puertorriqueño (MINP-El Comité) celebrated our 10th anniversary. We chose to commemorate this event by holding a political-cultural activity where we would address some of the lessons of our process of consolidation as a revolutionary organization. We wanted to share these and our many experiences with the people we have worked with in mass organizations, our friends, families and comrades in the revolutionary struggle.

The understanding of our organization's history and process of development forms an essential part of our membership's ideological and political formation. Our experiences and the lessons we have learned represent our strength. We recognized therefore that we had a responsibility to share these lessons not only to celebrate our ten years of struggle but also as a contribution to the revolutionary movement in this country.

The audience at the activity included a delegation from Puerto Rico made up of representatives from progressive and revolutionary organizations and trade unions: Pensamiento Critico (the monthly magazine which has been a vital forum for ideological and political debate of the left forces in the island), the Trade Union Law Collective (Bufete Sindical), the Popular Socialist Movement (MSP), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (PSR) and the Independent Airport Workers' Union (UITA). Also in the delegation were several founding members of MINP, including our former First Secretary Federico Lora.

There were official representatives from the mass organizations and other organizations that MINP works with, among them: the Coalition in Defense of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Rights, the United Tenants Association, the U.S. branch of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and the Union Patriótica Puertorriqueña (UPP). Finally many organizations of the U.S. solidarity movement were represented at the activity: the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PRSC), the New Popular Panamanian Alternative (NAPP), Non-Intervention in Chile (NICH) and the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC).

The hall where the activity was held was decorated with many of our organizational banners. In the front, on a stage, hung bright large banners with slogans authored by Che Guevara and Mario Roberto Sanchucho, slain leader of Argentina's Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT). On the sides of the hall hung more banners depicting local, national and international struggles that we have been involved in during our



(Top) Victor Manuel Quintana, First Secretary of MINP analyzed the key lessons of our ten year history. (Bottom) "Forge the Cadre Among the Masses, The Present is Struggle the Future is Ours, MINP-El Comité First Assembly" were the main banners of the commemorative act.

ten year history.

The activity began with the presentation of a representative body of our Central Committee.

Next in the program was the reading of solidarity messages by MINP. July 19th, the day of our activity, was also the first anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution. A representative of MINP hailed this revolution, recognizing it as the second victory over imperialism in Latin America. The development of MINP was greatly influenced by many forces both domestically and internationally. Cuba and Vietnam—two pillars of the world revolution—weighed heavily in the transformation of El Comité, a community group, into MINP, a Marxist-Leninist organization. The contributions of both revolutions and their cur-

rent situations were outlined in brief messages of solidarity.

After the reading of these messages came what proved to be one of the highlights of the program: a slide show—MINP-El Comité, Ten Years of Struggle—outlining the key moments in the history of the organization.

The slide show traced the birth of the organization during the period of protest and opposition to the U.S. war in Vietnam and the period of intense social ferment over the subhuman living conditions of the minorities in this country. From a community group formed in 1970 to defend the interests of Hispanics, predominantly Puerto Ricans, in Manhattan's West Side, El Comité transformed into a Marxist-Leninist organization by 1975. Graphically the slide



(Foto Superior) Amigos y miembros de MINP-El Comité compusieron y cantaron una plena en honor a la lucha de los viequeses contra la marina de los EE.UU. (FOTO Inferior) Amigos y miembros del MINP comparten la alegría del acto.

show explained the process behind this significant change. Then it proceeded to analyze the three years from 1975 to 1978. In 1975 the organization celebrated its Formative Assembly, affirming its transformation into a Marxist-Leninist organization. In 1978 the First Assembly was held. The concluding slides showed MINP-El Comité emerging from its First Assembly fully committed to the building of a revolution in this country by uniting with the masses, learning from them and teaching them. The slogan for the post-assembly period expresses this concept succinctly: FORGE THE CADRE AMONG THE MASSES.

The slide show was followed by speeches from several of our founding members. The comrades who spoke are people who have joined the struggle for independence and

socialism in Puerto Rico. They shared with the audience their memories of the soft-ball team which was the forerunner of El Comité; of the days when all the members thought that the revolution would triumph in several months; of the resistance against studying and the subsequent recognition of the need for study in order to improve social practice; of the difficult and painful transformation of each individual; of the honesty which characterized the relationship among the members and with the masses. They also spoke of MINP's contributions both to their own individual political development and to the struggle of Puerto Rico. Federico Lora, former First Secretary of MINP, closed his speech by saying: "We are sure that you will meet up to the tasks of this period because we know

your experiences of the past ten years and because we know who and what makes up the present membership of this organization. We have a great deal of faith in you and your development . . ."

Following these statements Victor Manuel Quintana, First Secretary of MINP-El Comité, made a presentation analyzing the key lessons of our first ten years. He pointed to one of our key lessons: "Our experience has shown us the need to have a close relationship with the people and to be a part of their struggles, and learn from them. In fact it was their struggles that gave rise to MINP-El Comité . . . we have consistently tried to impress upon other Marxist-Leninists in this country the importance of rooting our movement among the working class and the oppressed—not as an end in itself—but rather as the only concrete basis upon which to build a revolutionary process in this country."

He traced the process which led us to take up the study of Marxism-Leninism: ". . . We became aware that we needed to struggle not only for the immediate issues of better housing, education and health services, but also for social changes that would touch the basic conflicts that created and perpetuated the injustices that we faced daily."

And he spoke of what we have come to regard as our greatest strength: ". . . a morality and determination rooted in a commitment to revolutionary change and serving people. Ours is a willingness to set aside personal convenience and aspirations. Ours is a unity of will to implement decisions arrived at through collective analysis, debate and struggle. Ours is a confidence based on the belief that the final victory will be the victory of the people, of the working class . . ." (The full text of the speech is reprinted on page 4).

The activity concluded with a cultural act and a dinner. The cultural act was unique in that it was prepared and presented solely by members and friends of MINP, a first for our organization. The group sang two songs. One a plena (folkloric song from Puerto Rico), spoke of the struggle of the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico to oust the U.S. Navy from their island. The other song—Belly of the Monster, a protest song from the early 70's—had its lyrics adapted to reflect the struggle we go through in order to become revolutionaries:

*"When you're living in a monster,
the monster becomes a part of you . . .
Struggle, keep on struggling
every day . . .
We've got to choose life, now!
In the struggle, don't try to run away
within us and without
we've got to fight the beast . . .
We share a vision,
Will you believe us when we speak
We've got to make revolutionaries
out of folks like you and me."*

Presentation of the First Secretary of MINP-El Comité

Comrades, Friends and Guests,

Anniversaries and birthdays are festive occasions: full of joy, comradeship and memories. Our celebration today shares these qualities; but *ours* is not the celebration of an individual's longevity and accomplishments. Rather, it is the recognition of a collective process—a process of an organization, of individuals who have committed themselves to contribute to the building of a genuinely just and democratic society for working people—men and women, who, in pursuit of that aim, strive to overcome political and personal weaknesses and struggle to become better human beings—better revolutionaries.

As you heard from some of our founding members and saw in the slide show, MINP-El Comité's history is a rich one. Along with commitment and dedication, political objectives and struggle have molded our process. It has been a history written by many authors: some of those authors are here with us today but sadly many are not. Of our founding members, most are no longer in MINP today. We have political agreements with some and political differences with others. But today we give grateful recognition to the contributions they *all* have made.

There have been many chapters in our history, but our purpose here is not to recount for you the experiences and lessons of each one.

Instead, we will highlight the most outstanding of these experiences. By so doing, we hope to give you a better understanding of our process, of where we are today and the basis on which we look toward a future of struggle and growth.

"Cling to the masses, share their struggles, learn from them, unite with them."

These words of Mario Roberto Santucho reflect for us one of the most important lessons that we have learned in our 10 years of development—that in order to play its leading role, a revolutionary organization must be situated among the masses, in particular among the working class. It must do this in order to exert influence and raise their class-consciousness, educating them as to the need for a total transformation of society as the only way to end exploitation and oppression. If a revolutionary organization does not earn the respect and acceptance of the masses, then it will not be able to play this role. We have learned this crucial lesson through the experiences we have had. Our experience has shown us the need to have a close relationship with the people and to be a part of their struggles, and to learn from them. In fact, it was their strug-



"Our experience has shown us the need to have a close relationship with the people and be a part of their struggles, and learn from them."

gles that gave rise to MINP-El Comité.

The people's struggles of the 60's and early 70's for civil rights and against the Vietnam War spawned many grass roots organizations. El Comité was one of those organizations.

As you heard and saw in our slide presentation, in the summer of 1970, a group of 200 families took over various buildings slated for demolition in the West Side. The courageous action of these squatters to secure decent, affordable housing motivated a group of young people from the community to take over a storefront on 88th Street and Columbus Avenue. Their goal was to convert it into an office, and establish a place to discuss how to become active in the community's struggles. Their idea was to build an organization that would serve the community. They named this group El Comité.

During its early period, El Comité's activity was among the squatters and the surrounding community in the Upper West Side. Our objectives were to bring about social changes within this immediate area.

One of the first difficulties we encountered was one of communication: we were unable to communicate with other members of the community. We spoke in English to a community that predominantly spoke Spanish. When we did speak Spanish, we spoke it poorly. We began to see the different cultural levels and lifestyles which existed in our community as well. As we discussed these differences, we came to understand more concretely the process of integration in the U.S. of Puerto Ricans and other Latins and the particularities of each generation. These early experiences showed us the need to grasp our culture and learn

from our history. We came to understand that, if we were to be effective in organizing our community, we would have to further understand and grapple with this reality, as part of our work.

These experiences motivated us to struggle for a bilingual program for the schools in our community. Instruction on Puerto Rican history and culture were part of our demands. Along with hundreds of parents, we mobilized and organized militant demonstrations. These mobilizations were effective and District 3 became one of the first school districts in New York City to implement a district-wide bilingual program. Significantly, the victory included the right of parents to supervise the functioning of the program.

Our early community involvement was an invaluable school which introduced us to political influence. These struggles helped us to better understand how the city government worked and in whose interests it worked. We began to understand the inner workings of the Board of Education. We learned which bureaucrats were responsible for what, and where to exert pressure.

Our experiences also taught us the importance of making alliances with forces with whom we had differences but with whom we could agree on given actions and objectives. This was a particularly important lesson for us, one that over the years has guided us through difficult political situations where our inclination might otherwise be to throw up our hands in disgust and say we can not work with these people.

What became increasingly clear to us through those early political experiences was the commonality of interests and aspirations that working and oppressed

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people have—whether they are Puerto Rican, Dominican, Haitian, white or black. The gains won for bilingual education and low-income housing gave us concrete evidence of the capacity that working people have when they are united on a common goal and exert militant action.

Our early community work played an important role in moving us to become a different type of organization—one whose goals were broader than improving conditions in our immediate community. Although the community had won a few victories, we saw that people still continued to face problems of discrimination, poverty, unemployment, underemployment and other injustices. We began to see and experience the complicity between the government and economic interests in the city and our community in particular. This raised discussions within our organization about why these injustices existed and what actions we needed to take to overcome them.

At the same time, we were becoming involved in the movement to support Puerto Rico's independence. We began to see the complicity between the U.S. government and the economic interests in Puerto Rico and its relationship to the experiences of the Puerto Ricans in this country. We became aware that we needed to struggle not only for the immediate issues of better housing, education and health services, but also for social changes that would touch the basic conflicts that created and perpetuated the injustices we faced daily.

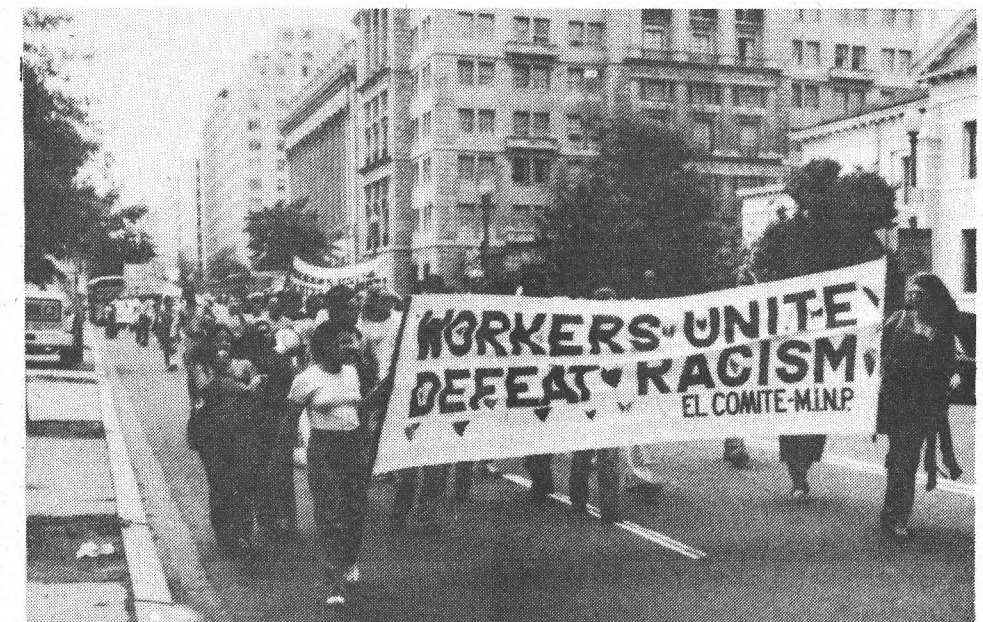
Our growing understanding and commitment to this work was influenced by the politics and social practice of some of the other minority grass roots organizations of the period, such as the *Black Panther Party* and the *Young Lords*—who then openly called for a society organized on socialist principles. Our exposure to and gradual embrace of socialist ideas and concepts, such as class struggle, were also inspired by the heroic struggles of the Cuban and Vietnamese peoples and their victories against U.S. imperialist domination.

Fundamentally, our early experiences imprinted on our organization a commitment to be involved in the people's struggle. This we have never lost. In fact, it has become deeply rooted in our collective consciousness. This is not to say that our mass work has always been effective; nor does it negate that we have gone through periods when our mass work has gone into decline—because indeed there have been such periods. But we consider it important that we have always viewed those periods of decline in our mass work as signs of weaknesses, not to be accepted passively, but to be struggled against and overcome. Significantly, we have consistently tried to impress upon other Marxist-Leninists in this country the importance of rooting our movement among the working class and the oppressed—not as an end in itself, but rather as the only concrete basis upon which to build a revolutionary process in this country.

The young people who formed El Comité were representative of the community they wished to serve. They were men and women, Puerto Rican and non-Puerto Rican, employed and unemployed. They were products of different experiences and had different skills; there were workers, housewives, students, ex-marines, ex-offenders. But they were all bound together by their determination—some more than others—to serve their community and to further El Comité's goals.

This determination was reflected in their willingness to come together on a voluntary basis. Because of their consolidating social and political awareness, they soon discussed and adopted principles of unity that reflected their objectives and that would strengthen their collective capacity to achieve the work before them. At the same

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time, they realized that certain patterns of conduct and activities would weaken their ability to function collectively and carry out their work effectively. Thus, they adopted rules which were aimed at dealing with this situation. The rules included a commitment not to use narcotics of any type and not to get drunk; not to lie or to treat one another or the community in a disrespectful manner. In total, there were "ten commandments." During its first year, these principles of El Comité were to determine who could or could not be a member as well as which members would remain in the organization and which would not.

Although we do not want to belittle the content of these rules—most of which continue to be upheld by our organization—we would say that what was most important about them was the process they reflected—a process concerned with achieving voluntary unity based on goals and principles that would further our organization's political objectives.

At the time the "rules" were adopted, the organization's political goal was limited to serving the community. This commitment has of course become much broader and at the same time, more concrete and defined. Today, we are committed to contributing to building a revolutionary process in the U.S. Since our beginnings as a community group, we have strived consistently to engage in principled struggle both internally and with others in order to better grasp reality and advance our political goals. This does not negate that there have been heated discussions and debates within our organization, discussions where emotions have run high and subjectivity has been rampant. Nevertheless, even in those moments—such as the period when we were discussing and debating the relationship

between our commitment to Puerto Rico's national liberation struggle and our role and tasks in the revolutionary process in this country—we never lost our ability to bring our discussions back to the issues and to be self-critical about any emotional or subjective outburst.

This character of our organization is one that helps explain the comradely relationships that exist among our membership—from leadership to base. In our organization there are genuine expressions of love and affection among our membership. For us a personal tragedy or unhappiness in the lives of any one of our comrades, family members or those with whom we struggle, is a tragedy which in some way touches us all. Just as importantly, we also share the pride and joy which emerges when any of us finds strength in a meaningful relationship, a hard-won academic or technical achievement, a new-born baby or any of the other happy occasions that are part of the human experience—and that thus are an integral part of political struggle and growth.

During its ten years, our organization has taken on many tasks and responsibilities. For the most part we have met these challenges and responsibilities to the best of our ability. Indeed, we have many things of which to be proud. Besides our contributions to the squatters and education struggles in the Upper West Side, there was our work in the education struggle of the Lower East Side. We are very proud of the role we played in organizing the first conference in

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this country to call for the freedom of the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners in 1972, and later in the formation of El Frente Unido to free all political prisoners. We also point with pride to our role in the construction workers' struggles at City College. More recently, there is work in the Coalition to Save Metropolitan Hospital and in the Coalition in Defense of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Rights. Throughout these and other struggles, we have remained firm in our concern to root our activity and invest our human and material capacities in those endeavors which would further the interests



of the working class. We have attempted to be as objective and realistic as possible in assessing those interests and needs and our own capacity to respond to them.

Today our organization is guided by the principles of Marxism-Leninism. Our path to Marxism has been a long and arduous one. Since our organization did not emerge from the campuses or from marginalized study groups of petty-bourgeois intellectuals, but rather from the grass roots struggles of a working class community, the academic skills of most of our members were limited. Reading, writing and math skills were low and only a minimal understanding of science and philosophy existed. Nevertheless, in response to the need to answer questions emerging from our social practice and to understand the world around us and the forces that were shaping it, we undertook the study of Marxism-Leninism.

We began the rigorous study of Marxism after our Formative Assembly in January 1975. Today we continue to place great stress on our theoretical development—particularly our ability to use the science to understand the content of concrete contradictions and their concrete solutions.

Our experience with Marxism has unmasked to us the myths spread by the bourgeoisie about Marxism as a worthless, utopian philosophy, or the posture of pseudo-revolutionary Marxists who make of Marxism incomprehensible rhetoric. Our experience has demonstrated to us the nature of Marxism as a science rooted in the experiences and struggles of workers and humanity, a science capable of being understood by them, and capable of guiding their struggles toward a society free

of exploitation and oppression.

Early in our process of politicization and study, we came across the slogan that “Women hold up half the sky.” Since our beginnings, women have participated in the formative process and struggles which led to the transformation of El Comit  into MINP. While initially women were a minority in our organization, we say proudly that today in MINP, women cadres hold up more than half our organization. The majority of our cadres are women. As you can see by looking at the table at which the Central Committee is seated, some of our most advanced and developed cadres—leaders—are women. Women play a key role in all aspects of our work and functioning. However, in the history of our organization, this has not always been the case.

Initially, some of the women who joined El Comit  did so because they wanted to be with their husbands and to struggle alongside their compa eros. Like all the members of the organization, they were assigned tasks. For women with families, this created added responsibilities. Not only did they have political tasks, but they also had to cook for their compa eros, clean house and look after their children.

As women in El Comit  began to study and take leadership in the organization, the women began to criticize the men for “male chauvinism” and to engage in acts of protest. For example, some of the married women refused to cook or wash dishes for their husbands; one compa era went as far as to break any dishes which her compa ero refused to wash. But although these actions graphically expressed the anger among the women in the organization, they served to antagonize rather than to educate most of

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the men. In addition, these actions, though militant, did not deal with the passive political role the majority of the women played in the organization. As a result, in that early period, the organization made no significant advances in its understanding of women's oppression. These advances were to come as the organization matured politically and the women began to exert themselves politically in all aspects of the organization's work. Clearly, our study of Marxist literature on the woman question helped us to put our experience into perspective, giving us the tools to combat bourgeois feminist and male chauvinist conceptions, and to understand more concretely and theoretically the roots of women's oppression. In the process, we have become steadfastly committed to the conception that the true liberation of women will take place through the working class struggle.

Our discussion of the woman question and women's role in the organization would be incomplete if we did not touch upon our experience with the organization's children. Children have always been a part of our process. Unfortunately, however, during our early period, we were, for the most part, insensitive to their needs. Our children were often taken from meeting to meeting, some that went on for hours. They were also often forced to suffer for long periods of time the absence of one or another of their parents. It has taken years for our

organization to come to terms with these issues. But today we can say that we are more conscious of our responsibility to respond to the particular needs of our children so that they may experience a rewarding childhood that will instill in them the values that will bring them to identify with our politics and goals. If we are among those struggling for a just society today, then we must create the conditions so that our children form part of the ranks of those who struggle for that goal in the future.

In our process of formation, we became active in the struggle for Puerto Rico's national and social liberation. We have already spoken about the factors and realities that brought us to identify with this struggle. At the same time, from our very beginnings, we also took interest in, and spoke of, the struggles in Latin America and other parts of the world. It was in part our identification with the struggles in Latin America which led us to call our first newspaper *Unidad Latina*. Later, it was our internalization and understanding of the principles of proletarian internationalism which enabled us to deepen our grasp of the international character of the struggles of working people. With this knowledge we were able to learn much from the liberation struggles being waged against U.S. imperialism. In particular, we came to understand the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico and other Latin American peoples within the context of the struggle between classes in capitalist societies.

Through our active support of the struggles in Latin America, Asia and Africa, we formed ties with compa eros and compa eras active in the solidarity organizations—as well as with those engaged in struggles within those countries.

Throughout our ten years, therefore, El Comit  and later El Comit -MINP, became known in New York City as an organization committed to taking up its proletarian internationalist tasks. This was so much the case that often times comrades and friends

confused El Comit  and then MINP as a solidarity and not a revolutionary organization. This view resulted from a lack of knowledge about the history and process of our organization, as well as from a lack of understanding of the internationalist responsibilities of a revolutionary organization. Nevertheless, this view was a testament to our active involvement in the solidarity movement.

We learned much from our Latin American comrades about strategy and tactics, about cadre formation, about revolutionary morality. We learned about the kind of sacrifices that must be made by those who are committed to the struggle of the working class and oppressed masses. And most of all, we became clearer about the importance of taking up as our own the struggles of the masses, learning from them, and winning their confidence through our social practice. This is why we thought the words of Mario Roberto Santucho were particularly appropriate to raise on this occasion of our 10th anniversary celebration.

Over the years, we've deepened our understanding that solidarity work cannot be done in isolation from the reality and struggles taking place in this country. We have learned that the struggles at home are also part of a worldwide struggle against U.S. imperialism. This further clarified to us that the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for national and social liberation was important not only for Puerto Ricans in the U.S. but for the entire working class. And that, furthermore, support for this struggle was the responsibility of all Marxist-Leninists and progressives.

We also learned that when one lives in the center of the worldwide imperialist system—the United States—solidarity work is difficult and often frustrating. At the same time, we grasped the importance of doing that work, precisely because the U.S. is the main enemy of the world's peoples.

Recently, we have lessened our involvement in some areas of our solidarity efforts.



Statement in Solidarity with Vietnam



May 7, 1975: Celebration of South Vietnam's liberation.

Five years ago the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam achieved liberation from U.S. imperialism after fighting a prolonged and brutal war in which the U.S. bombed and devastated much of that country taking many lives in the process. In these past five years the courageous and determined Vietnamese people, under the leadership of their vanguard workers party, have made incredible strides in the rebuilding of a Vietnam, yes, ten times more beautiful, because they have embarked on a steady path of socialist construction—toward a society free of exploitation and imperialist oppressors. But U.S. attacks against Vietnam have not stopped.

Today the U.S., with the complicity of China, is undertaking a ferocious campaign to discredit the revolutionary process in Vietnam. It is doing so through a barrage of distortion of truths and even malicious lies about the reality in Vietnam. It has tried to use the fact that some people have left Vietnam—those who are unwilling to contribute with all their energies to build a truly just society—to demonstrate that the Vietnamese government—the people's government—does not function in the interests of the Vietnamese and Southeast Asian people. We don't accept these lies. In spite of U.S. attacks, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam moves forward with great strength; its people have maintained a vigor to continue to build their new society and give solidarity to struggling peoples of the world. Vietnam was an example to us in their 30-year war for liberation.

It continues to be an example to us, along with other countries fighting to develop a socialist society in the midst of a world dominated by imperialism. They have demonstrated an unrelenting commitment, not only to the revolutionary process in Vietnam, but also to the peoples of Southeast Asia and throughout the world who struggle to rid themselves of centuries of imperialist domination and misery. On this celebration of our tenth anniversary, we of MINP-EI Comité reaffirm our support and solidarity with the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We pledge our continued support to Vietnam in the struggle against U.S. imperialism's aggression in South East Asia and throughout the world.

LONG LIVE THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM!!

This has caused some concerns among comrades and friends, particularly those involved in these areas. To these comrades we say that we will continue to give support to the extent that we are able. During the period of U.S. aggression in Vietnam, the Vietnamese comrades would be asked many times by U.S. activists how they could better support the Vietnamese struggle. The comrades answered by saying that the best way to support the people of Vietnam was to intensify your own work and struggles at home.

In this light, while we continue to meet our commitments to the solidarity movement, we also understand that it is to the extent that we deepen our roots among the working class—particularly the Puerto Rican national minority—and massify MINP, that the impact of our solidarity work will multiply.

In our presentation today, we have spoken about experiences, lessons, strengths and weaknesses which have characterized our ten-year process. We have spoken about the common effort to build, to struggle, to overcome our shortcomings and to gain strength from our collective process.

Through the periods of ebb in our work among the people, through the periods of many contradictions and questions which needed resolution; through moments when each of us individually, and the organization as a whole, was immersed in activities and study which seemed to call for perhaps twice our numbers; throughout periods of uncertainty when our limitations seemed to cloud and overshadow our strengths—throughout all of these times our organization has not only persevered but has also moved forward.

This underscores what we see as one of our greatest strengths, and perhaps it is the most important: a morality and determination rooted in a commitment to revolutionary change and to serving the people. Ours is a willingness to set aside personal convenience and aspirations. Ours is a unity of will to implement decisions arrived at through collective analysis, debate and struggle. Ours is a confidence based on the belief that the final victory will be the victory of the people, of the working class.

This is the content of what we consider revolutionary morality.

Comrades and friends, it has been over a year and a half since our organization held its First Assembly. This period has been rich with new experiences, problems and contradictions. Our cadre and leadership have faced these challenges directly, conscious that our solutions must respond to the needs of the masses and our organization. We, the cadre and leadership of MINP, are committed to wage the struggle to resolve the contradictions that have and will continue to emerge from our social practice.

In the words of Che: "The present is struggle. The future is ours."

Statement in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan Revolution



Nicaragua: Alphabetization Campaign 1980.

Today, July 19, 1980, we of MINP-EI Comité join with the Nicaraguan people to joyfully celebrate the first anniversary of their heroic defeat of the Somoza dictatorship. This victory marked a great watershed in the popular, anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggles of Latin America—the first unconditional seizure of state power and true national independence in Latin America since the Cuban Revolution.

Who can forget the remarkable episodes of struggle and the high cost of victory paid by the glorious Sandinista fighters and all of the Nicaraguan masses in their quest for freedom? Who can forget the popular rebellions after the assassination of Chamorro, the Monimbo uprising, the September insurrection and vicious repression which followed it, the seizure of Estelí, and the savage bombing of the cities by the Somoza National Guard? Who can forget inspiring emergence and re-emergence of popular struggle behind barricades in the barrios of the cities—people fighting with stick, rock, machete or gun in hand, to defend every centimeter of their neighborhoods?

We must give testimony to the foundation stones of the Sandinista victory—the preparation and consolidation of a political-military vanguard, the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional; the development of highly organized mass fronts among students, urban dweller, workers, peasants and agricultural laborers; the development of a mature and flexible policy of alliances within the country and internationally, capable of reaching the broadest possible anti-dictatorial unity; the maintenance of a strong rearguard; and the forging, in the final stages, of a regular army to carry through the final victory. It was the combination of rural and urban struggle, of strikes, guerrilla and regular military operations and popular insurrection that was the key to success.

But none of this would have been possible without the extraordinary will to struggle, determination and sacrifice of the Nicaraguan people.

Today, we must do more than celebrate this enormous victory. We must understand the particular stage the Nicaraguan Revolution is in today and build concrete support for its needs.

The Nicaraguan Revolution faces three formidable tasks in this period—national reconstruction and the development of an economy free from imperialist domination and able to meet the needs of the people. Second, fulfilling a program guaranteeing the basic human needs of the population in health, education, housing. And finally, the construction of a new, revolutionary and popular democracy, based on the complete eradication of the Somocist state and armed forces and the creation of a revolutionary and popular state and army.

We have a role to play in this process. We must raise the call of "Aid and Loans to Nicaragua!" in the face of reactionary opposition within the U.S. to this just demand. We must support the Literacy Campaign and health programs in Nicaragua. And finally, we must build an understanding in our communities and workplaces of the need to "Oppose U.S. Intervention in Central America!"

For Nicaragua is but the first glorious chapter in the powerful and explosive history which is being written by the peoples of Central America in this decade. In the fields and cities of El Salvador and Guatemala, we hear the same cries for justice and freedom, and we see the same heroism of the masses in action—willing to give their lives to achieve final victory.

We of MINP-EI Comité send our firmest and most militant greetings of solidarity to the Nicaraguan people, and through them to all of the peoples of Central and Latin America. We state again our commitment to stand by and defend their revolutionary process.

**QUE VIVA CESAR AUGUSTO SANDINO!
QUE VIVA EL FSLN!
QUE VIVA EL PUEBLO DE NICARAGUA!**

Statement in Solidarity with Cuba



"The militancy, commitment to class struggle and level of political consciousness of the Cuban people was nowhere demonstrated as on May 17th, when over 5 million Cubans mobilized in support of their country, their government and the socialist revolution."

On this day, the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of MINP-EI Comité, we take the opportunity to extend our profound and militant solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

The last ten years have served to demonstrate the correctness of the Cuban revolutionary path. In Latin America, after many years of mixed victories as well as important and painful setbacks, the upsurge of the mass struggles against imperialist and local bourgeoisie are being led in many countries by vanguard political/military organizations.

The great triumph of the Nicaraguan people over the Somoza dictatorship last year is a remarkable testimony to the validity of the Cuban path, applied to concrete conditions. It represented the coming to fruition of the struggles led in the past by such great leaders as Cesar Augusto Sandino and Julio Antonio Mella, marking the definitive anti-imperialist character of popular struggles on the American continent.

On July 26, Cuba will commemorate the 27th anniversary of the beginning of their final stage in the war of national liberation—the attack on the Moncada Barracks, led by Fidel Castro.

Now, with over twenty years of revolutionary experience in the building of socialism, the Cuban people have had to overcome military attacks, economic blockade, attempts at political and cultural isolation, and an uninterrupted hidden war of counter-intelligence operations and psychological and propaganda offensives—all carried out by our common enemy: U.S. imperialism.

At the same time, they have had to confront the problems of economic underdevelopment, a product of past U.S. domination, which still remain a major battle facing the Cuban people today.

During this time, the Cubans have consolidated their political vanguard, developed a new chapter in the world experience of constructing socialist democracy, demonstrated a deep spirit and practice of critical thinking within the reality of a developing socialist country, and deeply engrained in the minds and hearts of their people an extraordinary grasp of the principles of proletarian internationalism.

The militancy, commitment to class struggle and level of political consciousness of the Cuban people was nowhere demonstrated so clearly as on May 17th, when over 5 million Cubans mobilized in support of their country, their government and the socialist revolution, and where they raised the demands of End the Blockade! No more U.S. spy flights! and U.S.A. Out of Guantanamo!

This massive, disciplined and powerful march was a message to U.S. imperialist circles, especially the most adventurous and reactionary, about the high level of organizational and technical preparedness of the Cuban people. But most of all, it was a message about the deep political convictions and disposition of struggle of the Cuban masses.

This commitment to the building of socialism becomes even more important during a period of increased militarization and war-mongering by U.S. imperialism.

We, the leadership and membership of MINP-EI Comité, stand by the Cuban people in defense of their socialist revolution, and we affirm our commitment to build support for Cuba in this country as well as support for the struggles of the peoples of "nuestra America", with whose destiny we are closely tied.

**U.S. OUT OF GUANTANAMO
END U.S. BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA
LONG LIVE THE CUBAN REVOLUTION**

Messages to M.I.N.P. (El Comité) on its 10th Anniversary

Message from the MIR



On behalf of the Chilean MIR's Foreign Delegation, we wish to congratulate you on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary. We understand this celebration not as a ritual or formality, but rather as acknowledgement of an achievement. There are too few revolutionary organizations in the United States that can boast survival over the span of the 1970's, and fewer still that can trace their roots from locally based community activists to a cadre organization exercising the creative application of Marxist-Leninist analysis to the particularities of class struggle in the United States.

We recognize in the leadership and cadre of MINP-EI Comité an important and serious ally in the long and complex struggle to build a revolutionary socialist alternative in this country. Your concern with authentic base level work, cadre formation, ideological struggle and non-rhetorical internationalism are all too rare qualities. As the revolutionary struggle in the Southern Hemisphere takes up more difficult and decisive challenges, it is assuring to know that your organization continues to patiently build and broaden its forces in the U.S. The victories in the Americas will be ours to share.

**LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM
GLORY TO THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA
GLORY TO THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR
HISTORIC TRIUMPH**

Message from the PSR-ML



Comrades:

Today on the celebration of the tenth anniversary of MINP-EI Comité's founding, our organization extends its most sincere and fraternal greetings. This, in recognition of the difficult and extraordinary revolutionary effort unfolded by your organization on behalf of the well-being, progress and advancement of the struggle of the working class and all oppressed sectors against the yoke of reaction, imperialism and capital.

Your organization is able to joyously celebrate the accomplishment of a decade of revolutionary work because you have been able to develop a growing and serious activity based on clear principles and a close organic relationship to the working masses and oppressed sectors in general.

We greatly appreciate being able to share this joyous celebration with you which represents the fruits of ten years of difficult work. Celebrate with joy and happiness this tenth anniversary as this moment reflects a period of experiences, of development, of learning and growth that has been crowned with success. A triumph for your organization is a triumph for the revolutionary movement.

Our organizations have much in common. Your experiences can be closely compared with ours. Activities of this sort contribute to solidly forge those relationships which allow for the sharing of ideas and experiences that is so necessary among revolutionary organizations in Puerto Rico and the United States.

Our relations are still young yet deep in perspective because they are based on political and ideological agreements and mutual organizational respect. These relations have shown us without a doubt your organization's revolutionary character and serious commitment against imperialism, colonialism, and the exploitation of man by man.

Forward comrades in your revolutionary drive, knowing that the "Present is Struggle and the Future is Ours!"

Forward under your slogan of "Forge the Cadre Among the Masses!"

Long live the Unity between Revolutionaries in Puerto Rico and the United States!

Fraternally,
National Leadership
Revolutionary Socialist Party



Message from the MSP

We would like to express our warmest greetings and congratulations to the *compañeros* and *compañeras* of the Puerto Rican National Left Movement on this its tenth anniversary. The history of MINP-EI Comité, from its formation in 1970 as a Latin community organization, to its development as a Marxist-Leninist formation is one rich in experience and learning. They have been ten years of intense work and study, of sacrifice and perseverance, of consistency and revolutionary firmness.

In this process we have seen how MINP has grown and matured, how its ranks have increased and how its influence has spread among the masses. All of which for us is not only reason for happiness but also admiration and respect.

Compañeros and *compañeras* of MINP, you have attempted and succeeded greatly in raising the level of consciousness and organization of the North American working class in the monumental task of advancing the socialist revolution in this country. A long road still lies ahead but we know that you will play an outstanding role in this historic undertaking. And it matters not how difficult or monumental this may be, your commitment with the working class and socialism in the United States is and will be unshakable.

We also know that you will continue playing a fundamental role in developing effective solidarity between the working class and North American people and our struggle for independence and socialism.

Compañeros, accept our most fraternal congratulations and continue forward, confident that "the present is struggle but the future belongs to the working class."

"¡A LUCHAR POR EL SOCIALISMO, GUERRA Y MUERTE AL IMPERIALISMO!"

**Fraternally,
Popular Socialist Movement (MSP)**

Message from BNYAC

To Our Comrades and Friends:

The Black New York Action Committee sends its greetings and congratulations to you on the 10th Anniversary of the founding of M.I.N.P. (EI Comité). We have the highest respect for your work and struggle in the community. And we are certain that the masses with whom you have worked feel the same way.

In 1980 oppressed people of all nationalities are suffering and feeling the weight of social and political repression and racism. The Hispanic and Afro-American people often live side by side in the same devastated communities, fight side by side in the work place and suffer the same vicious murders at the hands of killer cops. We bear the heaviest burdens when the U.S. ruling class is in economic crisis. It is in times like these that the people see the need for organizations like M.I.N.P. (EI Comité).

For any organization to survive for 10 years within the citadel of world imperialism and maintain a revolutionary outlook and practice is a major victory. It demonstrates to the masses and to your comrades in the struggle a high level of commitment and courage and it provides an example that we can all look to. We salute you and look forward to working with you more in the future.

**In Solidarity,
The Coordinating Committee
Black New York Action Committee**