

RESISTANCE



POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION M-L
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USSR - VIETNAM INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA DANGER OF WAR INCREASES

The Vietnamese invasion of Democratic Kampuchea and the installment of a counterrevolutionary USSR-Vietnam puppet regime in that country is a setback not only for the heroic Kampuchean people, but also for the workers and oppressed peoples and nations of the world. The Vietnamese renegades who, under orders from Moscow, carried out the invasion, will have to bear full responsibility in this matter. It is not just the Kampuchean communists and patriots, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and Comrade Pol Pot, who will make them pay for this crime, but the Vietnamese people as well. We have no doubts that the heroic and revolutionary Vietnamese masses will one day also rise up in arms to overthrow the revisionist clique that has sold out the freedom and independence of Vietnam to the Soviet social-imperialists.

In January of 1978, in a

message of solidarity with the struggle of the Ethiopian masses and the Ethiopian revolution we expressed our views on the already developing Vietnamese attacks against Democratic Kampuchea. We put forward that such attacks should come as no surprise since the Vietnamese were heavily under the influence of the Soviet social-imperialists and their brand of modern revisionism. Our great teacher Lenin has taught us that the struggle against imperialism is sham and a humbug if not accompanied with the struggle against opportunism. In the great polemic of the '60's, which resulted in the split in the international communist movement, the Vietnamese failed to draw lines of demarcation with modern revision-

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Demonstration in New York City sponsored by the Coalition in support of Democratic Kampuchea.

THE STRUGGLE TO RECTIFY CONTINUES

Slowly but surely the rectification campaign launched by LPR (M-L) is beginning to bear fruits. Although still in its early stages, the campaign is showing positive effects at all levels. Cadres and most of our contacts alike have enthusiastically responded to the call to make an all-out effort in bringing about a major change that will enable the organization to play a more significant and positive role in the revolutionary struggle in the United States.

These successes although very small indeed, should serve as a stimulus to continue the hard work. We must move forward in the great task of remoulding our way of thinking and style of work. Let's briefly examine the development of the rectification campaign in some areas up to now.

ON M-L UNITY

The need to have a more consistent and systematic approach towards seeking unity with other M-L organizations and individuals is one of the areas in which the campaign has focused.

In this respect some progress has recently been accomplished. The open response that we made on the National

Proposal for Building the Anti-Bakke movement by the Workers' Congress (M-L) (see *Resistance*, Vol. No.) represents an important breakthrough in our attitude, not only toward the comrades of the WC (M-L), but towards the communist movement as a whole. It shows in practice that we are attempting to break our small circle spirit. That instead of striving to develop "Our Own Thing" on every issue, we are actively seeking unity with other genuine M-L forces in order to move forward the revolutionary process.

At the same time, more attention has to be given to a top priority:

the development of a plan for party building that will attempt to lay-out a method by which genuine Marxist-Leninists can move forward our central task in this period. The presentation of that plan to the whole movement and the attempt to reach unity on it with other M-L forces in an open and aboveboard manner will definitely represent one of the major achievements of the campaign.

With all probability the most significant early success in relation to M-L unity has been the decision of the comrades of the Colorado Organization for Revolutionary

Struggle (CORES M-L-M) to also initiate a rectification campaign. Moreover, steps are being taken to link the two campaigns. In this way unity can be forged in the process of ridding our ranks of subjectivism, spontaneity, sectarianism, and all the evils that affect us all. The decision of CORES and LPR to use the framework of the rectification campaign to struggle for higher unity, and the incorporation of the close contacts of both organizations in the rectification and unity process, are definitely important steps toward stabilizing higher unity in a principled way between both organizations and the individual Marxist-Leninists involved. In fact, the contacts of both organizations have been making valuable contributions to the development of the campaign. In the different meetings held with them, around the rectification campaign, good criticisms of our line and practice, as well as self-criticisms and repudiation of their own errors, have been made by most of them. And what is more important, most of them see themselves as integral parts of this motion toward rectification.

These small steps are indications of a forward motion that we will struggle to maintain and improve.

RESISTANCE: TOWARD A REAL COLLECTIVE PROPAGANDIST, COLLECTIVE AGITATOR, AND COLLECTIVE ORGANIZER

After reaffirming our line that "propaganda is the chief form of activity" in this period ("party building period") and that *Resistance* should mainly be a propaganda organ, major changes in the form and content of the paper, its distribution system, its uses in every area of work, etc., has been determined. Amongst these changes is the expansion to a 12-page format as of May, 1979; the initiation of permanent feature columns on factory issues, national movements, readers' correspondence, and culture; more coverage of local struggles around the country, etc.

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BELLA'S FIRING: AN ATTACK ON WOMEN

Last month, President Jimmy Carter fired Bella Abzug from her position as co-chairwoman on the National Advisory Committee for Women (NACW).

Why was Bella fired?

It so happen that days before President Carter met with his own NACW, this committee issued a press release criticising the President's latest budget proposal. Specifically, the NACW expressed opposition to cuts in social services, like welfare, health and education. They pointed out that the budget will cause a lot of harm to poor people in general and to women in particular. They called President Carter "insensitive to women's needs". This kind of criticism was more than what President Carter was willing to accept from a committee appointed by himself and created with the only purpose of providing "women's support" for his anti-women policies.

Obviously, Carter only intended this committee to be a rubber stamp of his ideas and decisions, to give the impression that he is concerned with solving women's problems, and to further groom his image as a "liberal" president and a "friend of the people".

CARTER REPRESENTS THE SYSTEM

Carter is an excellent representative of the oppression of women which characterized the capitalist system. His idea of the women's committee is that its members should be subservient and passive should cooperate with him and not criticise him, and should only be concerned with "women issues" like putting women in government posts but to show any concern for social justice and equality is absolutely prohibited. If they slip a little from that role, they are gotten rid of immediately, all niceties aside.

This is no accident. President Carter represents capitalism and thus espouses the male chauvinism that is characteristic of this system. The Carter that fires Bella is none other but the Carter that opposes

Medicaid abortions, thus denying poor women the right to decide their lives and the right to quality health services. It is the same Carter that heads the government carrying out criminal programs of forced sterilization on women in Third World countries. It is the same Carter that is now proposing extensive budget cuts in key social services that affect women seriously. And it is the same Carter that represents the government whose Supreme Court upheld the Bakke decision and thus destroyed many affirmative action programs that could have benefitted women and oppressed nationalities. Such, and no other, can be the attitude and actions of the highest representative of capitalism.

BELLA IS ALSO PART OF THE SYSTEM

While denouncing Carter's firing of Bella and exposing it for what it is, we want to make something clear. Our denouncing this case should not be construed in any way as support on our part for Bella. Essentially, Bella is no different than Carter. When the interests of the working class versus those of the capitalists are at stake, Bella stands very firmly with the capitalists - and with Carter and all the other politicians who, like her, represents their interests.

Bella has made alot of political capital as well as thousands of dollars for trading her soul as a champion of the democratic rights of poor and oppressed women. In fact, she's one of the most prominent bourgeois feminist leaders in this country. For her, a little dab her and a little dab there to cover for the excesses of capitalism and the naming of women to top government posts and as heads of corporations, etc., are the "solutions" to women's oppression.

That she is part of the "loyal opposition", was shown when she was fired from the job. According to her own account, she claimed she didn't know in advance about the press release, and pleaded to be kept at the job. Why was she being blamed for something she had nothing to do with?, she asked. So,

while opposing the capitalists' all out attacks on women, Bella will remain loyal to them in the end. But even her pledge of loyalty didn't bail her out.

OUR LESSON

It is clear that we are not sorry for Bella, but her firing shows exactly what is the capitalists' position towards women's oppression. At the same time that we denounce Bella's firing and expose Carter's concern for women as phoney, we must learn this lesson well. The capitalist state, with its government machinery, is a tool of the capitalists to keep the oppressed in line. It cannot provide any solution to the problems women face.

It is definitely not through committees attached to the government such as the NACW, led and staffed by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois representatives of the capitalists, that we can solve those problems. It is not by relying on the petty bourgeois leadership of the women's movement today, while Bella represents well, that we can solve these problems. Only when the millions of working and oppressed women join and actively participate in the struggle for the complete emancipation of women, only when the women's movement is led, not by the petty bourgeoisie, but by the working class, only when women are fighting side by side with their fellow men in the struggle to emancipate the whole class, can those problems begin to be solved.

This is so because the interests of the working and oppressed women are the interests of the working class, and the struggles for both are closely linked. The struggle for the emancipation of women is the struggle for the emancipation of the whole class, the struggle for socialism. There is no future in capitalism for women. The future is in socialism.



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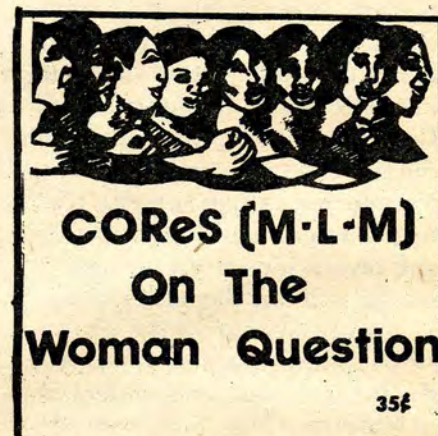
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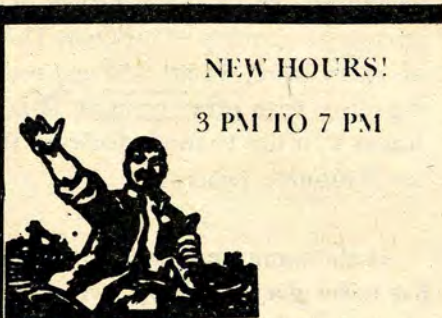
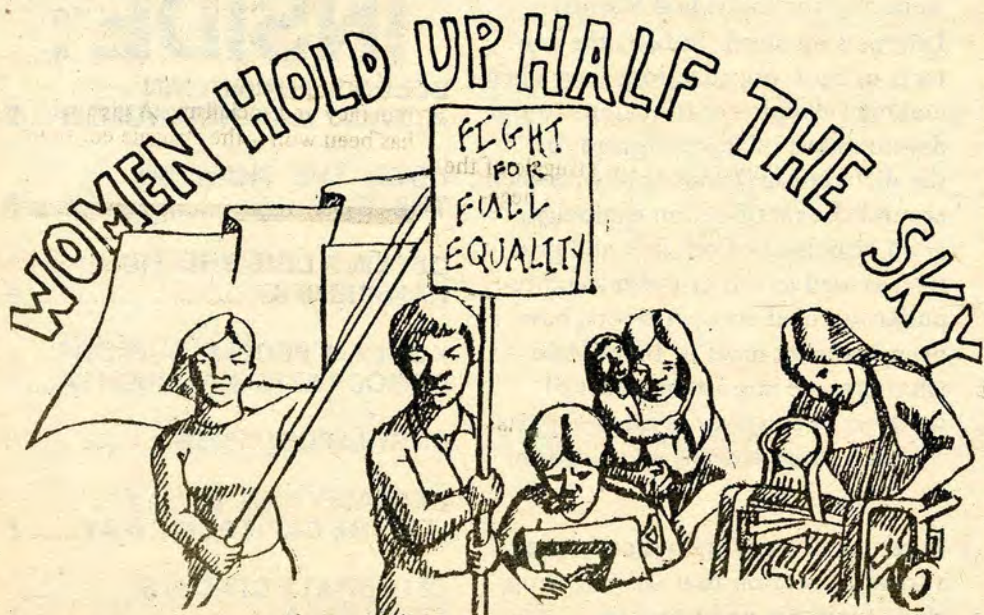
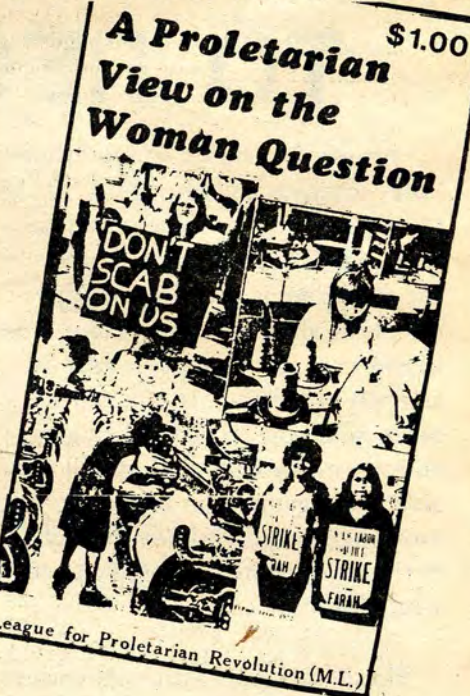
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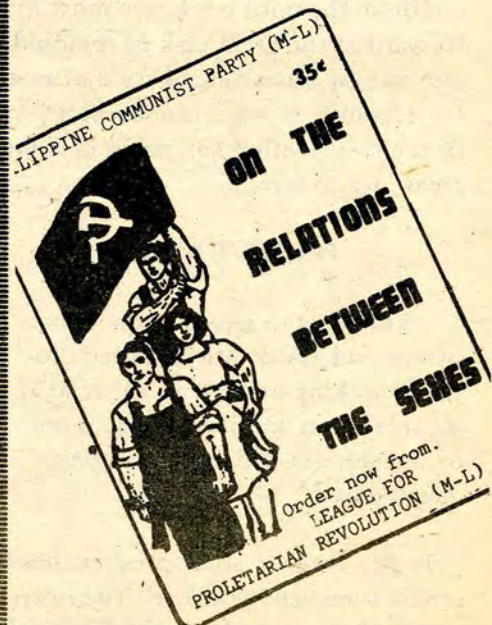
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IRAN: SHAH ON THE RUN

A GREAT VICTORY !!

The Shah was forced to get out of Iran on January 16th! Cracking under the pressure of a solid year of mass demonstrations, strikes and armed clashes, the tyrant slipped out of the country on his private jet airliner. While the flight was billed as "just a vacation," for the tired monarch, it was clear that he was running for his life.

This was a great victory for the Iranian people, and millions of them took to the streets in an outburst of joy. Portraits of the Shah and his family, once displayed everywhere, now littered the streets like so many dead leaves. Huge statues of the Shah and his father were toppled and destroyed.

THE STRUGGLE IS FAR FROM OVER

While the Shah's departure is a big step forward, the Iranian people's struggle is still far from over. The present situation is extremely complex, and every victory brings new struggles and new tasks that must be carried out.

The broad coalition of forces that is making the revolution—workers, peasants, women, students, businessmen and Islamic clergy—must now fight to consolidate their victory over the Shah. They must sweep away the remnants of the Shah's imperialist-backed regime, and unite around a common program for an independent Iran, free from foreign domination.

The Ayatollah Khomeini, a progressive Islamic leader who has emerged as a popular and highly influential force in the Iranian revolution, has put forward a sketchy program that reflects the demands that the Iranian masses are raising. These include: "redistribution of wealth in favor of the oppressed; national control of the economy; a modern industrialization program emphasizing basic heavy industry instead of assembly of imported parts; mechanization of agriculture, rather than foreign agribusiness, to meet the needs of the peasantry; religious and all other basic human freedoms...; social rights for women; and a multi-party electoral system, ie, 'democracy'." (From a letter to the New York Times, January 18, 1979, by James D. Cockcroft, an American sociologist who conducted six days of interviews with Khomeini.) The anti-imperialist character of these demands is clear, and the masses themselves have spoken even more clearly of their refusal to be enslaved by either superpower, the U.S. or the USSR.

The realization of these demands, even partially, will not be an easy task. There are still many obstacles in the way. First of all there is the new "government" headed by Shapur Bakhtiar, a renegade former member of the National Front Political Party. While Bakhtiar obviously scores zero in terms of popular support, he still commands the allegiance of Iran's senior military officers, and is planning to use this as his power base. At the same time, he tries to pass himself off as a "follower" of Khomeini's policies in a cheap attempt to pacify the opposition. This duplicity has been fully exposed in recent weeks, when Bakhtiar put a ban on all demonstrations and sent troops to occupy the airport to block Khomeini's return to the country. It's easy to see that Bakhtiar is the Shah's man, and his task is to try to ride out the storm and then put the king back on his throne. However, the masses are wise to this trick; the old slogan of "Death to the Shah!" has now been joined by a new one: "Death to Bakhtiar!"; soon Bakhtiar will be on the run, too!

Then there is the Iranian army itself. The highest-paid officers remain loyal to the Shah and his lackey, Bakhtiar. They can be counted on to move troops against the people's opposition, and many analysts

believe that the generals would stage their own coup if Bakhtiar fell. However, the real power of these officers depends on the discipline and loyalty of their soldiers, and they have an increasingly severe problem in this area. Thousands of troops have deserted in recent months, rather than shoot their own people. Opposition forces have used this contradiction skillfully, winning over many dissident enlisted men to the ranks of the people.

Finally, there is the threat of the two superpowers. U.S. imperialism has finally given up on the Shah (at least temporarily) and is now pleading Bakhtiar's case. Jimmy Carter actually had the nerve to ask Khomeini to give the new government a chance to get on its feet! At the same time, the U.S. moved an aircraft carrier from the Philippines into the Persian Gulf. While allegedly being used to check possible Soviet intervention in Iran, this move suggests that our homegrown imperialists have not crossed off the possibility of intervening on their own behalf. For the time being, however, they seem to be banking

and Vietnamese revolutions should alert all Iranian liberation fighters to the danger of Soviet social-imperialism, which always tries to fill the vacuum left behind by the other superpower.

CHARACTER OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION

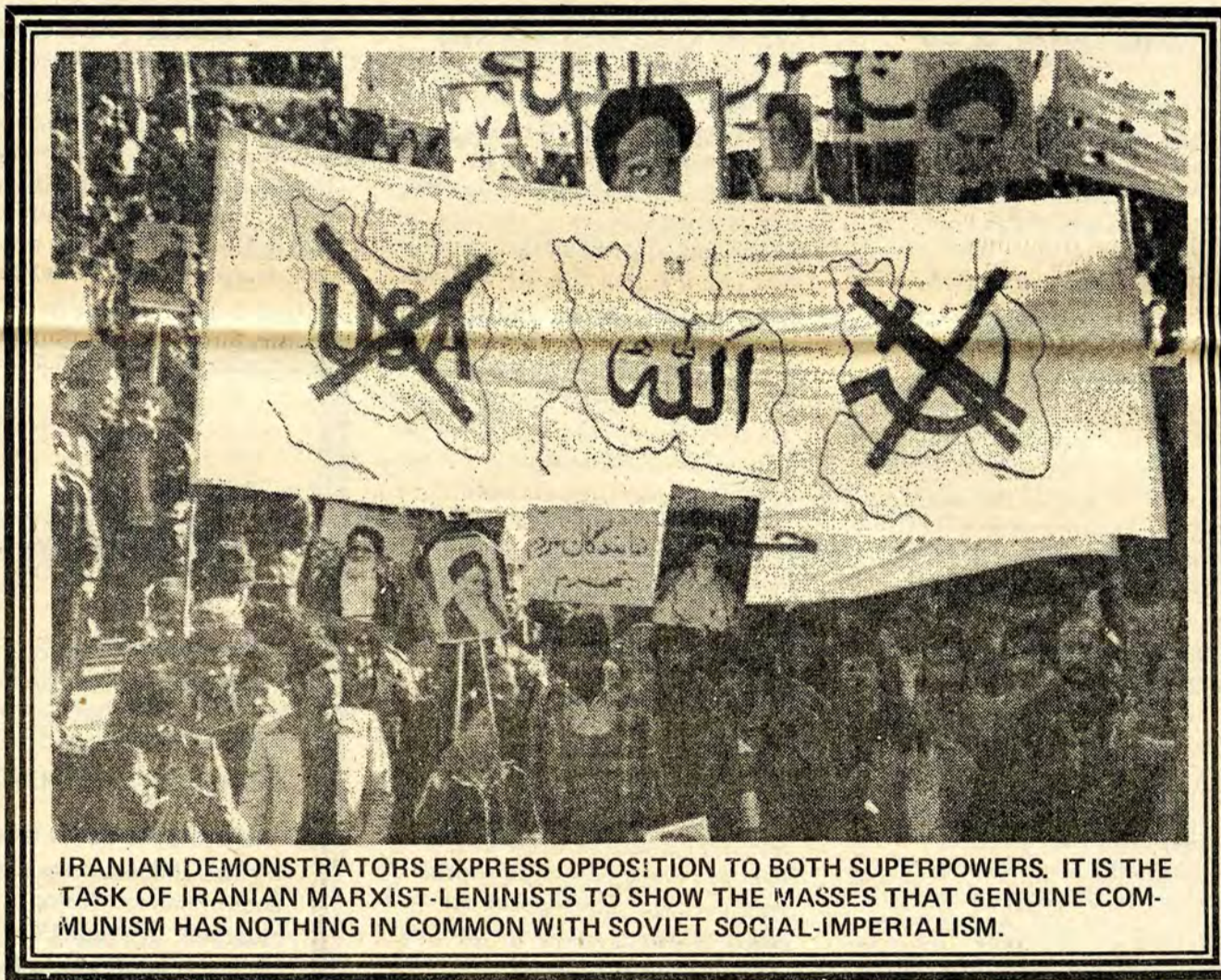
The Iranian people's fight against the Shah and against foreign domination is a revolutionary struggle that weakens imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism. A free, independent and non-aligned Iran will definitely jam up the superpowers' war preparations and strengthen the developing worldwide united front against superpower hegemonism.

At its present stage of development, the Iranian revolution is not yet a New Democratic Revolution, the new-type national democratic revolution which,

communism has nothing in common with Soviet social-imperialism, and to lead the country along the path of the New Democratic Revolution. Marxism-Leninism teaches us that only if revolution is led by the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party, can it successfully culminate in the building of socialism. Without this leadership it is not possible to remain independent for very long.

Like beasts of prey, the two superpowers will now be lurking over Iran, waiting until the precise moment in which they can step in and regain a foothold in the country. Iranian revolutionaries must not let down their guard.

We can expect that the broader conditions of democracy that may be established in the wake of the Shah's fascist dictatorship will provide fertile soil for the growth of the Marxist-Leninist forces in Iran. Having played a significant,



IRANIAN DEMONSTRATORS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO BOTH SUPERPOWERS. IT IS THE TASK OF IRANIAN MARXIST-LENINISTS TO SHOW THE MASSES THAT GENUINE COMMUNISM HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM.

on Bakhtiar to save their vast economic and military interests.

The Soviet Union, for its part, has been mouthing off ever since the mass upsurge began. Brezhnev has issued several warnings against U.S. intervention in Iran, saying that Soviet troops would "defend Iran's sovereignty" if U.S. marines landed there. Reports indicate that large numbers of Soviet troops have been put on alert along the 1500-mile Soviet-Iranian border, including a Persian-speaking infantry division. The Kremlin's Persian-language propaganda radio is being beamed into Iran at a stepped-up pace. In spite of Brezhnev's fine phrases, facts show that this more aggressive superpower, with its phony mask of "socialism", poses an ample threat to Iran's sovereignty. As usual, the new tsars' offer to "defend" a smaller state is their way of setting the stage for their own acts of aggression.

While continuing their heroic struggle against the internal enemies, the Iranian people must be on guard against the external enemies as well. U.S. imperialism will do what it can to betray the Iranian people's struggle. At the same time, the bitter experiences of the Cuban, Angolan

and Vietnamese revolutions should alert all Iranian liberation fighters to the danger of Soviet social-imperialism, which always tries to fill the vacuum left behind by the other superpower.

We definitely support the struggle of the Iranian masses against superpower hegemonism. The Iranian masses have unmistakably shown their utter disgust both for the U.S. imperialists and Soviet social-imperialism. Their leaders have condemned the Shah's sellout of the country to the imperialists, and have vowed to end the plunder of its resources and their political and economic domination. However, opposition to both superpowers has been made equivalent with opposition to both capitalism and communism, with the creation of an "Islamic Republic" as the solution. This is incorrect.

It is now the task of Iranian Marxist-Leninists to show the masses that genuine

though limited, role in the anti-Shah united front, the Iranian communists will undoubtedly draw rich lessons from the experiences of the people's struggle. These lessons, combined with the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism Mao Zedong Thought, will create the conditions for the working class to assume its leading role in the Iranian revolution for New Democracy and socialism. A great victory has been won -- the struggle continues!

LONG LIVE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE!

DEATH TO BAKHTIAR AND HIS PHONY GOVERNMENT!

SUPERPOWERS, HANDS OFF IRAN!

DANGER OF WAR INCREASES

Continued from page 1

ism. The Vietnamese communists then conciliated with Khrushchev's revisionist clique. And today, after many years of slipping and sliding, the Vietnamese have degenerated to the point of committing despicable crimes against Democratic Kampuchea, against socialism and against all oppressed people. Stalin's dictum rings truer than ever, conciliation with opportunism inevitably, and independently of your will, leads to degeneration and bankruptcy.

"This was bound to happen by the very logic of things: whoever insists on a conciliatory attitude towards opportunists is bound to sink to opportunism himself." (History of the CPSU-B, pg. 45)

In the long run, it is always people, and not arms, that is the decisive force in any war. And the people are with the Kampuchean communists and patriots who are once again engaged in a people's war to defeat the foreign aggressor. One day, not too far off, the Vietnamese renegades and their Soviet masters will have to run-out of Kampuchea, just like the U.S. had to do before; and once again we will see a free and independent Democratic Kampuchea in the road to socialism.

USSR INCREASES WAR DANGER

Although it was the Vietnamese renegades who carried out most of the fight, it was the Soviet social-imperialist superpower who really orchestrated this criminal invasion. As a matter of fact, there were Russian pilots and East Germans operating tanks as well as Soviet advisers inside Kampuchea. In its struggle for world hegemony the Soviet Union is definitely the more aggressive of the two superpowers and the one that represents the greatest danger to world peace. It is this superpower that is on the offensive while U.S. imperialism is on the defensive. This is a stubborn fact which cannot be denied. No matter how many falsehoods the apologists for Soviet social-imperialism may invent. The Soviet Union is on the move and the danger of World War III is getting closer and closer. We can reach no other conclusion if we look squarely at the latest developments.

It's important to have a good understanding of why the Soviet Union is the more aggressive superpower and poses the greater threat of war. Because it is

economically weaker than the U.S., the Soviet Union must rely more on force and threats of force to accomplish its imperialist ambitions. With their highly concentrated centralized economy and a social-fascist dictatorship over the people of the USSR, the Soviet social-imperialists have been able to very easily set up a war economy with a level of arms production that is unprecedented in world history. To top it off, the Soviet Union uses a "socialist" cover to sneak into the national liberation movements where it carries out all kinds of sabotage and subversion.

Presently, the Soviet Union has been stepping up its war preparations to an incredible degree, and throughout the world it is stepping up its attempts to broaden its sphere of influence. The take-over of Angola staged by the Soviet-armed Cuban mercenaries, and the more recent interventions in Ethiopia, the backing of the Ethiopian fascist Junta's attacks against Eritrea and Ogaden, the pro-Soviet coup staged in Afghanistan and South Yemen, the attempts to further dismember Pakistan, the deployment of troops along the border with Iran, the expansion of their Pacific fleet, and now the naked invasion of Kampuchea staged for them by their Vietnamese hatchetmen, all attest to the same fact. Their strategic aim is to encircle Western Europe, the focus of their contention with the U.S., seizing sources of strategic materials and controlling the sea routes that link it to the U.S. Africa and Asia. Without a doubt, the Soviet Union's aggressive acts are bringing closer and closer the outbreak of a new war. By achieving these important victories in seeking world hegemony the USSR is gathering strategic military strength in order to control even broader regions of the world. For example, the invasion of Kampuchea presents a big threat to its neighbors in that Southeast Asian region, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, as well as to the People's Republic of China. Further, the fact that they have increased their ability to sneak into national liberation movements and have been able to deviate the path of heroic revolutions such as those of Vietnam and Cuba that enjoy world wide prestige and support shows just how dangerous their "socialist" cover is. This is so to such an extent that these revolutions have been defeated, not by the intervention of U.S. imperialism, but by revisionism, and in the case of Democratic Kampuchea, by the sheer force of the revisionist's arms.

There is no doubt that the Soviet Union-Vietnamese take-over of Democratic Kampuchea has tremendously increased the danger of war. The hegemonistic aims of the Soviet social imperialists will not stop short of the present control over Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. They are looking forward to expand even more, and not in that region alone. Both Vietnam and the USSR have made tremendous troop mobilizations along their frontier with the People's Republic of China. It is thus imperative that we close ranks, study more conscientiously the present international situation (which is quite different from that of yesterday's) and adjust our tactics in order to be able to stop the polar bear that is more voracious and aggressive than ever. It is

our responsibility to study this question and put forward our views in our daily work, in forums and other events, and in the pages of this newspaper so comrades can correctly guide their work in support of national liberation struggles and socialist revolution and against the superpower's war preparations.

SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM COMPLETELY EXPOSED

The criminal invasion of Kampuchea has shown more clearly than ever the true colors of the Soviet renegades. Far from helping them achieve their imperialist aims, in the long run, it can only serve as their gravedigger.

The fact that capitalism has been restored in that once-homeland of the first socialist revolution cannot be denied any longer. Capitalists have two forms of rule which they alternate according to circumstances: deception and repression. In the past, although the repressive character of the Soviet Union was no secret (take for instance their invasion of Czechoslovakia), the main aspect of their tactics was deception. With their "socialist" cover they were able to infiltrate and actually control many national liberation movements in the world. More recently they took to alternating deception and repression quite consistently. Angola is an example in which they used the phoney cover of "international solidarity" to justify their armed intervention there by way of their Cuban mercenaries. Their criminal aggression in Ethiopia is another example. But in Kampuchea there is hardly any deception. The Soviet social-imperialists apparently have thrown

caution to the winds. The sham puppet rigged up only a month before the takeover, with "leaders" no one can remember or ever knew about, can hardly fool anybody. What's left now of their "socialist" cover is nothing but a tattered cloth, stained with the blood of communists and revolutionary patriots.

By using the sheer force of arms in taking over Democratic Kampuchea the USSR has shown to the world exactly what it is: an imperialist superpower set on dominating the whole world.

LINES OF DEMARCATION MUST BE DRAWN!

The position taken on the situation in Kampuchea is a good indicator of who it is that stands for revolution and who for counterrevolution in the world. There is no doubt that the toppling of the Pol Pot regime in Democratic Kampuchea is a naked act of imperialist aggression. Anyone who denies this is simply covering for Soviet social imperialism. Either you strongly condemn these acts for what they are and actively support the struggle of the Kampuchean people against the USSR-Vietnamese domination or you join the counterrevolutionary ranks of those who either actively, or by remaining silent, support this crime and clearly collaborate with Soviet social-imperialism. There is no other position. With Democratic Kampuchea, or with the aggressors.

LONG LIVE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA!

VIETNAM AND USSR AGGRESSORS OUT OF KAMPUCHEA!

DEFEND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Once again the people of Kampuchea have stood firm in the face of a new aggressor: the USSR-backed Vietnamese, and a handful of Khmer traitors. They have once again followed the leadership of the Communist Party of Kampuchea led by Pol Pot and the Kampuchean People's Army, in the struggle against this new aggressor.

Despite the initial takeover of all major cities and part of the country side, the territory already regained demonstrates their courage and determination. Kampot has been retaken; Highway No. 4 has been breached; Kimpong Som port has been immobilized; Southeast Kampuchea is no longer in the hands of the Vietnamese troops, and they are closing in on Phnom Penh.

Such news is heartening for the friends and supporters of peace and the Kampuchean people. Throughout this period in their history, many activities giving support to the Kampuchean people

activities giving support to the Kampuchean people have taken place. Here in New York there was a militant rally in front of the UN at the time when the Security Council was taking up the question so eloquently raised by Sihaunuk; then a march to the Soviet embassy where pickets continued to raise slogans "SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA", "CONDEMN THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION", "IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TROOPS", and "CONDEMN THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INVASION".

We who wholeheartedly support Kampuchea's struggle for national liberation, against foreign domination, have seen the need to establish an on-going working coalition to continue such support. From this will emerge a lasting friendship between the peoples of the United States and Kampuchea. We are equally confident that the masses of the U.S. multi-national proletariat, the masses of oppressed nationalities and the masses of women will identify with this struggle against Soviet social-imperialism and Vietnamese aggression, and become an active reserve of the Kampuchean masses in their fight against foreign domination.



The Kampuchean army, under the leadership of the Kampuchean Communist Party is fiercely resisting the aggressors.



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- Update on the resistance led by the Pol Pot government
- International support for Democratic Kampuchea

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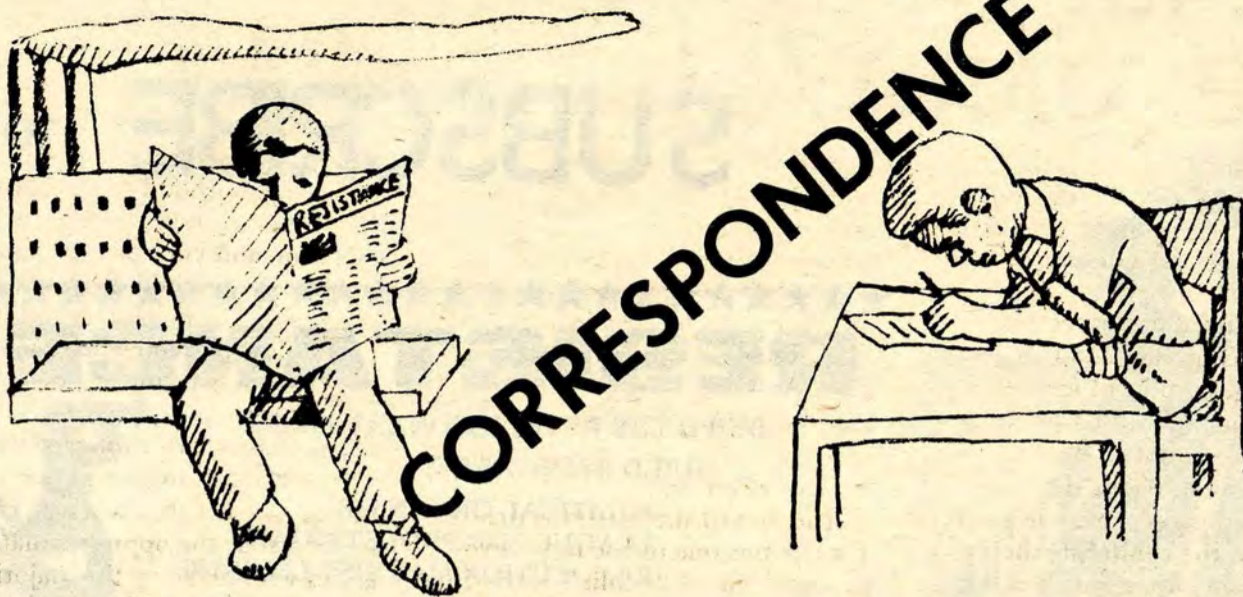
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Sponsored by: COALITION in SUPPORT of DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA



One of the ways in which comrades can help build RESISTANCE is by writing us expressing their criticisms of our line, reporting about struggles they are involved in, expressing their views on the burning questions facing us. This column will complement the COMMUNIST FORUM in an attempt to air out views other than our own and contribute in the struggle for the correct line.

Send all letters and contributions to:

RESISTANCE
Box 513, Triboro Sta.
New York, N.Y. 10035

Comrades:

I read your most recent column CORRESPONDENCE and think that this is a good thing you have started because it gives people a chance to share their experiences at the shop and in other areas of work and at the same time receive some leadership from your organization in carrying out this work.

I would like to share with you some of my experiences in the shop I work in. This shop employs basically women with a few men who work as floor boys. It's multinational in composition with the majority of women being hispanic. There's a large group of Greek women, most of whom don't speak English. We do two kinds of jobs which are piece work and by the house. Our main problem right now is the divisiveness that is being created by the piece work jobs.

The way it works in this shop

is that the piece workers are given a specific hourly rate. Anything made beyond the required rate is paid as a bonus, although no more than 5 hours of additional work is paid. Some of the women are able to produce their required rate and usually 4 more hours worth of piece work. This has allowed the company to raise the required rates very high with the result that most women are not able to make the required rate. Some have been laid off or are constantly threatened with lay off because of this.

To aggravate the situation further, some of the women work through the 10 minute break and the one-half hour lunch period. Although legally this is not supposed to happen according to the contract, the foremen make believe that they don't see anything. Various people, among them the shop

steward and myself, have spoken to some of the women that do this and they stop for a day or so, but once again they begin doing the same thing. The rest of the women are very upset and angry. Since unfortunately it is the older Greek women (not all of them) that are doing it, this has given rise to a prejudice against Greek people in general, and there is a lot of hostility against these women in particular.

In combatting this type of divisive feelings, I have pointed out to the example of many other Greek women who have united with the rest of us in the shop who try to keep the rates down by not producing as much, and who have also tried to help by serving as interpreters in our conversations trying to convince the older Greek women not to work through the break and lunch periods. I have also pointed out that these

women think that the company is doing them a favor by giving them a job, which in part explains their behavior, and that it's the company that is really to blame and who is benefitting from all this. This, however, has not been as effective as I'd like it to have been, and the division among the workers is growing.

In general, this is the situation at the shop as of today. I would very much appreciate hearing your views on this situation and getting any suggestions as to how to struggle for the unity of our class in this particular shop. Again I would like to express that the new column, and all the other improvements in the paper are very good undertakings on your part and I wish you success.

With comradely greetings,
(A Worker Correspondent).

Our Response

Comrade:

The problems you are facing are also the problems of thousands of other workers throughout the country, created by the ruling class to divide the working class. The struggle against factory bosses, against bankers, landlords, government officials, etc., cannot be successful unless we are united. So the capitalists do everything to undermine our unity.

Your approach, of trying to convince workers and of struggling for unity against the anti-Greek feelings, is a good one. These are contradictions among the people that must be resolved through education and persuasion, not through force, hostility or divisiveness.

Workers are often forced by economic hardships to try to earn a few more dollars in whatever way possible. Sometimes this is done at the expense of other workers. It is up to us to elevate the consciousness of our fellow workers, to build the unity and solidarity of our class.

CAPITALISTS' DIVISIVE TACTICS

Piece work is often used by the capitalists as a way to impose speed-ups in such a way that the workers themselves, rather than the company, get blamed for the speed-up. The bait used is a bonus for the extra piece work done. But soon e-

nough, the rates are raised and workers are back where they started from.

Though temporarily, those workers who produce more will be earning a bit of extra money, in the long run this backfires because as the rates are raised they'll be stuck with the same wages while being forced to produce much more for the capitalist bosses. This obviously affects all workers adversely, and the only real winner is the capitalist.

THE CAPITALIST CRISIS

You say that as a result of the extra work by some women the company has been able to raise the rates and "some have been laid off or are constantly threatened with lay off because of this". The capitalists are able to use lay offs as a tool to keep workers in line because of the great reserve army of unemployed that is always available to them. Other workers should not be blamed for these lay offs, but rather, capitalism itself which puts workers at the mercy of the ups and downs of the economy.

The capitalist crisis today makes this situation even worse. The capitalists want to place the burden of the crisis on our backs, and thus the speed-ups, lay offs, etc., This is what should be brought out to the workers in explaining the situation.

DEFEAT BACKWARD IDEAS

The notion that the company is doing them a big favor by giving them a job is a backward idea shared by many workers. We as

communists and advanced elements of the class must not only fight against the wage slavery of capitalism, but against the slavery of the mind as well. The fact that we owe nothing to the company, but that on the contrary, capitalists, who get rich off the sweat of our labor, owe us -- this must be explained over and over again.

Further, we must show, with our example, and drawing from the experience of the working class as a whole, that only through militant struggle can we begin to improve our working conditions. That the interests of capitalists and workers are completely at odds and therefore, that capitalists cannot, of their own free will, improve such conditions. And we have to show, with our example, that only by fighting together can we win victories in our struggle.

FIGHT NATIONAL CHAUVINISM

It is obvious that the older women in the shop hold backward ideas. Their not knowing English, and the resulting lack of communication reinforces the backwardness, as they cannot share experiences and become exposed to the more advanced ideas of their fellow workers. Thus, your task here is twofold.

It is key for you to win over those Greek women with whom you can communicate, and who serve as interpreters or liaison with the older women. It is especially important to win over and rely on the more advanced in order to be able to win over the others.

At the same time, you have to fight against the chauvinist attitudes against Greek people. Explain how this divides the class and show how its a tactic used by the capitalists to weaken us. In fact point to the oppressed nationalities at the shop who themselves are victims of discrimination and prejudices by the capitalists. This should help you drive the point home. And most importantly, show through your actions that you are a staunch defender of the unity and equality of all peoples in our multinational class.

EXPOSE BRIBERY OF THE CLASS

One last point. We have said that contradictions within the working class are not antagonistic. However, some cannot be considered contradictions among the people. Such is for example the contradiction with scabs, who betray the working class. This is inexcusable and not to be tolerated, even if done out of economic hardship. Under certain conditions, pace setters can also be considered bribed sectors of the class. If they start receiving special benefits and privileges from the capitalists in exchange for selling us out then they become part of the labor aristocracy who, like trade union bureaucrats, have placed themselves on the side of our class enemy. In such cases they have to be exposed and cannot be treated as contradictions among the people. Of course, you would still have to wage the fight against national chauvinism.

We hope that this has helped to clarify not only some of your tasks, but those of other comrades as well. We urge you to continue using this column to openly raise questions, share experiences, etc.

Make a fortress out of every factory

LPR (ML)

DISEASE AND DECAY: IT'S THE CAPITALIST'S WAY

DISEASE

Two workers dead and seventeen cases confirmed. We all remember the recent outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in New York City, Garment District this past summer. The capitalists and the state tried very hard to show us their "concern" for our safety and health. The public's concern was placated by a number of official investigating teams that were sent to investigate the elusive virus and put an end to it, before more people were exposed and infected. After a while no new cases were reported even though the scientists had supposedly found nothing.

But as we were to see once again, the capitalists' only concern were for themselves, and the states' primary function to protect the interests of the ruling class. How does this case show this to be true? Simple. It was recently announced that back in early December, a team of state scientists had isolated a source of the Legionnaires Disease in a water sample taken from the water at Macy's department store in the heart of New York City. Why wasn't this information made public until mid-January — over a month after the discovery? The answer, as put forward by the investigators, was as appalling as it was clear. The fact of the matter was that they were pressured by Macy's not to disclose the information in early December. Macy's was afraid that a disclosure, two weeks before Christmas, would severely hurt their Christmas sales. But, what about the prospect of the people

shopping and working in the area coming down with the disease? Well, for the capitalists, that seemed to be a minor risk compared to their lost of profits.

Faced with the prospects of losing millions in sales and being stuck with a huge surplus of inventory expressly bought for the Christmas season, the capitalists had no choice. Announcement of the discovery would keep people away in the thousands. For the capitalists their profits are more important than the health and safety of the countless number of people who do their Christmas shopping at Macy's and in the surrounding area, to say nothing of their employees. The investigators carried out their jobs as servants of the capitalist state. They simply followed the order not to "leak" information affecting the health and safety of millions of people until after Christmas. And so, in the quest for profit, we once again see the capitalists' complete disdain for the masses and the state carrying out its role of protecting the interests of the ruling class, at the expense of the public.

AND DECAY

Another attack on the health and safety of the working class in New York City comes to us in the form of our mass rapid transit system. Aside from the loss of hearing we are subjected to when we ride or the cancer causing asbestos from the brakes that we are breathing into our lungs, we have recently been told that there is more, much

more. The Transit Authority (TA) was recently charged with covering up and not reporting accidents and suicides in the subway system. The TA's usual stonewalling response was that they had just filed the reports late. But this is just another lie by the TA to cover up the state of decay the system is really in and the dangers that all who ride the system are exposed to.

The fact of the matter is that the TA remains one of the most arrogant and vile of "public" authorities. The real reason that the TA doesn't report accidents and fires and disruptions in service and so on, is that these problems will affect federal monies that come to the TA. The fact of the matter is that the TA has to continually cover up problems within the system, problems that have an effect on your safety and health, because even the minimal Federal government standards the transit system does not, and often cannot meet. Disclosures of accidents, etc. would objectively force the TA at least to admit to these 'additional', life threatening conditions and most importantly for them, it would place them in the situation of either having to spend money to fix the system or lose federal money for not meeting the standards. Again, the choice is clear for the capitalists: Continue "business as usual" all at the public's expense.

IT'S THE CAPITALIST WAY

One more thing. The next time

you have a medical emergency in your neighborhood and it takes you an hour to get to an emergency room, and your parent, your friend or your child dies because the hospital in the neighborhood was closed down... remember what Mayor Koch was trying to do.

The drastic cuts proposed by Koch are part of a systematic attack on health care for the working class, in particular the oppressed nationalities who make up the majority of patients and workers in the municipal hospitals that are to be closed down. According to Koch: "We are closing the municipal hospitals so that we can improve the quality (sic!) of health care services we give to the people of this city."

This cynicism is nothing new for Mayor Koch or any other public official for that matter. It is, in fact, the capitalist way. And there is no other way for the capitalists but to place profits above the lives of the poor. That is the only way in which their system can work.

But we, the working and oppressed people, do have a choice. And that choice is socialism, where the health and wellbeing of the people come first.

No balancing of the budget on the backs of the working class!

We want free, and quality health care now!

A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT VICTORY

For the great majority of working women, breastfeeding their infants is almost unthinkable, let alone doing so at the job, where there is no child care provided, and where breaks are usually no more than 5-10 minutes.

Yet, firefighter Linda Eaton decided to nurse her son at her fire station in Iowa City, Iowa. Although this was done during her personal time, she was ordered to stop. She refused and was subsequently suspended from the force. At court, however, the judge ruled in her favor, allowing her to continue nursing her 4 month old son, twice a day, and as long as it didn't interfere with the "training, study, procedure, or her ability to respond to emergency fire calls."

Breastfeeding is one of the democratic rights of both women and children. The lower court decision to allow firefighter Eaton to nurse her baby at the job is an important victory. The battle is of course not over since the decision is a temporary one pending investigation, and it is also bound to be appealed by the fire department bosses. Nevertheless, it is a breakthrough for women in capitalist U.S.A.

Some time ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled denying women the right

to paid maternity leave. Lack of maternity leave forces women to either not have children, lose their jobs, or to work throughout pregnancy and go back to the job right after giving birth. This is a blatant attack against women's rights which denies them access to a stable job, and interferes with her role in childbearing. The struggle for paid maternity leave, for free childcare facilities at the job, and for the right to nurse the children, are all part of the struggle against the oppression of women. And this in turn is part and parcel of the struggle against capitalism itself, the root cause of women's oppression today.

By comparison, women under socialism, in the Peoples' Republic of China enjoy the right to paid maternity leave. Besides, in China women have child care facilities at the job, and nursing mothers are permitted to nurse their infants twice a day during working hours, whether in the fields, at the office or at the factory.

This is no accident. In a socialist society the emancipation of women is not just a catchword or empty phrase. Its an achievable reality.

Rectification Campaign

Continued from page 1

In terms of distribution, drives to increase circulation are being planned. A special role in this respect will be given to the development of "Friends of Resistance" in different areas of the country. Finally, to facilitate the study of the newspaper and its used with contacts, guidelines are being developed and will be made accessible to cadres, contacts, and other *Resistance* distributors with every issue of the newspaper.

STUDY

In this area we are still at the stage of developing a new study plan. Nonetheless, the guidelines that have been agreed upon, which must be reflected in the new plan, are in fact a major change in our approach to study. Those guidelines call for a

greater emphasis in the study of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought as a guide to all our work; to focus on the study of the concrete conditions of the United States; for taking into consideration the uneven theoretical development that exists both amongst our cadres and contacts which therefore requires that we develop study guides and study circles at different theoretical levels; to emphasize again on individual study as the principal form of M-L study for our cadres and close contacts; and finally, to develop study guides and study circles on Political Economy, which is the area of greatest theoretical weakness in the organization.

As we said earlier, this is just a brief review of the development of the campaign up to the present. Every one of the three areas touched upon here, as well as other questions such as mass work, cadre training, democratic centralism, methods of leadership, sectarianism, etc., are now under discussion. In future issues of this paper as well as other publications we will be putting forward our views on such questions. Today we are just letting our readers know of the basic direction in which we are moving. We welcome criticism, comments, questions, suggestions, etc., from our readers on any of the questions the rectification campaign has raised, or you think should be raised. The pages of *Resistance* are open for principled struggle in this respect.

CORRECTION

In our last issue we printed a letter by CORES (MLM), as well as part of a Children's Workbook on the National Question. Although in their letter CORES clearly says that "One comrade in this area took the initiative to develop a booklet on the national question..." , we incorrectly attributed the booklet to CORES itself. We apologize for the confusion created!

HOW TO USE THIS INDEX: Entries are listed according to subjects covered in Volume 9 (1978) of Resistance. The first number following an entry is the issue number; the second number refers to the page. For Example: '6:3' means issue number 6, page 3 (in volume 9, of course). Wherever appropriate, we have given cross-references so that you may get the most benefit out of this index.

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