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Official Organ Of Rhode Island Student Movement, Unit of American Student Movement
Under the Leadership of the American Communist Workers Movement (Marxist-Leninist)

Patriotic Filipino Speaks at Fourth National Liberation Series Meeting

The 4th NATIONAL LIBERATION SERIES meeting was recently held at Brown University. The national liberation struggle in the Philippines was discussed.

A patriotic Filipino resident in the United States spoke at great length on the history of the Philippine revolution—an anti-imperialist revolution which has been developing since Spain first colonized the Philippines in the 16th century, and which has gained in intensity since US imperialism seized control of the Philippines as one of the spoils of the Spanish American War.

As an introduction to the speaker, a representative of Rhode Island Student Movement made a few brief remarks on the relevance of the Philippine revolution to the struggle of the American people against US monopoly capitalism.

In pointing out the particular lessons revolutionary students can learn from the revolutionary experience of the Philippines it was stressed that "active investigation of the Philippine struggle puts an end to many of the ideas promoted in our education. It puts an end to the idea that masses of people are incapable of uniting, that a ruling class such as the Marcos puppet clique

suddenly becomes "sensible" and reforms itself when the dustbin of history beckons it forward, and that the world's people—including the American people—don't have a common enemy in US imperialism.

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NEWS ITEM:

US IMPERIALISM BOMBS FRENCH EMBASSY

(RIS) On Wednesday, October 11, in the continuation of its wanton bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, US imperialism bombed and destroyed the headquarters of the French Diplomatic Mission in Hanoi. The Algerian and Indian Embassies were also damaged.

In the words of Chairman Mao:
"MAKE TROUBLE, FAIL, MAKE
TROUBLE AGAIN, FAIL AGAIN...
TILL THEIR DOOM; THAT IS THE
LOGIC OF THE IMPERIALISTS AND
ALL REACTIONARIES THE WORLD
OVER IN DEALING WITH THE PEOPLES
CAUSE, AND THEY WILL NEVER
GO AGAINST THIS LOGIC."

• Such is the logic of US imperialism, completely isolated from the people of the world vainly trying to pit itself against the iron will of the people of VietNam. No amount of bombs can stop this struggle!

DEATH TO US IMPERIALISM!
VICTORY TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE!

In short, the concrete experience of the Filipino people puts an end to all kinds of ideas which are geared toward keeping us from taking up the struggle and future of the American working class as our own.

During the 60's in this country, it was the youth and students who were most active in their opposition to imperialism, particularly to US aggression in South East Asia, it was also the youth and students who fought most valiantly against the attacks of the fascist state machine.

It is not insignificant that when the youth and students began to rise in the 60's, we were faced with a cultural onslaught beckoning us to Haight-Ashbury, "Back to the earth", to transcendental meditation, to drop out in one way or another--even to the "hip Marxism" of the New Left. This cultural onslaught continues today, and it is all geared to keep us from joining in the struggle of the working class against the monopoly capitalist class, and working to build the party of the proletariat on the basis of Mao Tse-tung Thought--the highest development of proletarian ideology.

These roadblocks must be overcome and smashed in the schools and universities. It is through doing this, and through popularizing the political program of the proletariat: **TO SEIZE STATE POWER FROM THE MONOPOLY CAPITALIST CLASS AND ESTABLISH THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT--** that we become true representatives of the working class in the schools and universities.

Just before introducing the Filipino patriot, the speaker stressed that the Filipino people are oppressed and exploited by the same US monopoly capitalist class. It is this class which exploits the land, labor, and resources of our two peoples. The best way to express our solidarity with the Filipino people is to begin the work of overthrowing the US monopoly capitalists in this country and put an end to the rule of US imperialism forever.

The following is a summary of the Philippine Revolution from the presentation.

The Philippines have been controlled by different forms of foreign exploitation since the 16th century. It was at this time (1565) that, under orders of the King of Spain, the Philippines were turned into a Spanish colony. As a stepping stone to trade with China, the Philippines were used to further Spain's mercantile trade. During the 300 years of Spanish rule, three main weapons were used to conquer and colonize the Filipino people. The first was the Spanish military forces; the second was Christianity--the "great civilization of Spanish colonialism"; and the third was to create a native ruling class, trained with Christianity, in order to facilitate better control of the native population. The Catholic Church became one of the Philippines largest feudal landlords during the period of Spanish colonialism.

In the 1890's a revolutionary movement began developing in the Philippines led by the petty-bourgeoisie--the small landowners and small businessmen wanting freer trade. The main force of the revolution was the small Philippine working class, the proletariat of Manila, most of whom were dockers or printers.

The revolution of 1896 culminated in the formation of the Philippine Republic. During the period of Spanish colonialism the Philippines were transformed into a feudal colony. The land was the source of wealth and farming was the main means of production.

Because the newly-formed Republic was under the leadership of the liberal bourgeoisie and influenced in many ways by the French Revolution of 1789 it did not have a firm base and was beset with many difficulties from the start.

The Spanish-American War broke out in 1898 and the government of the Philippine Republic, duped into believing that the US would "help" the Filipino people in the struggle against Spain, allowed US influence to become stronger and stronger in the Philippines.

The turn of the century was a period of expansionist fever in the US ruling class. With the defeat of Spain in the Spanish-American War the Philippines were "sold" to the US for \$20million in 1899 under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris. The figure of \$20million breaks down to a little less than \$1 per Filipino.

Continuing its struggle for national independence, the Filipino-American War broke out in 1899 during which time 600,000 Filipinos and 70,000 American troops were killed. The US developed and first tested many of the methods later used in VietNam during this war. One of the most vicious of these methods was the depopulation of villages and the re-concentration of the population in "pacified areas"--the germ of the "Strategic Hamlet" program used by the US imperialists in south Vietnam.

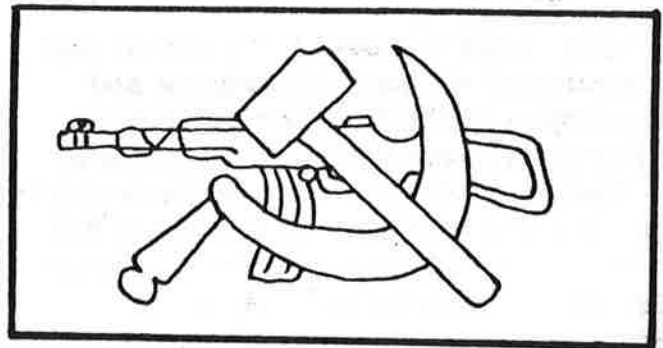
The Philippines were under direct US imperialist control from 1899-1945, during which time the US imperialists realized their goal of turning the Philippines into a naval base and plundering its natural resources and cheap labor. Later, the Philippines also became a dumping ground for US manufactured goods.

In the 1920's and 30's there were several popular uprisings but none were successful because of the lack of a revolutionary party of the proletariat to provide the leadership. The Communist Party of the Philippines was formed in 1930 based mainly in the industrial proletariat. The Socialist Party was formed in 1935 with its main base among the peasants. In 1938 the two parties merged, forming the Anti-Japanese People's Army which was responsible for liberating most of the country from Japanese occupation in WWII.

The United States gave the Philippines nominal independence on July 4, 1946. The Philippines thus became a neo-colony of US imperialism in that there was no longer direct rule by a US military governor. This was where the independence stopped, however. Many so-called provisions were placed in the Philippine constitution which gave US imperialists

complete freedom to exploit the land, labor, and resources which were the property of the Filipino people.

During the postwar period penetration of US imperialism into the Philippines was intensified. At this point in 1972, 800 US industries in the Philippines have a total capital investment of \$3billion. There are also 25 military bases, the largest of which is Clarke Air Base--a major take-off point for US B-52 bombers on the way to bomb Indo-China.



Imperialism must attempt to control people in ways other than economic and military. Since direct rule, US imperialism has set about exporting all the trappings of its decadent culture, including its educational system, to the Philippines. The Philippine educational system was modeled directly after the US and English was made the national language. These are just a few of the examples of the manner in which US imperialism has tried to remove everything Filipino from the Filipino people. In the same way that fascist culture is intended to dull our minds in this country, so was the intention of the films, music, literature, and television sent to the Philippines.

It was during the postwar period that the US puppet government in the Philippines increased its fascistization directed against the democratic and progressive forces. Taking advantage of the weakness and opportunism in the Communist Party, the Philippine ruling clique began a most vicious attack upon the Filipino people's right to politically organize. Most notable of these attacks was the "anti-subversion" law passed in 1952 stating that all communists would be

punished by death.

The opportunist and sell-out nature of the CP became very clear when the Party still clung to its line of the "parliamentary road to socialism" in the face of this outright fascism.

At this time the Party resumed its campaign in the countryside to mobilize the peasants into an anti-imperialist People's Army. This work achieved no long term success because the same opportunism which had characterized the work in the cities existed in the work in the countryside.

In 1968, after a thorough criticism and repudiation of the past experience and political line of the Communist Party, the Party was reformed on the basis of Mao Tsetung Thought. This was a crucial step, as Chairman Mao had initiated and led the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China--a mass upsurge on an unprecedented scale aimed at exposing and repudiating revisionism, i. e., Marxism in words, but betrayal of the proletarian dictatorship in deeds. This had been the practice of the Moscow oriented clique within the Communist Party of the Philippines. People's China emerged from the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution as the bastion of world anti-imperialist revolution, with Chairman Mao as the leader of this revolution.

Taking up the slogan of ARMED STRUGGLE, the Communist Party of the Philippines began applying the science of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought to the concrete conditions of the Philippines. This meant rebuilding the party of the proletariat, establishing revolutionary rural base areas, and building the United Front against US imperialism. The Communist Party saw the necessity of encircling the city from the countryside and formed, in 1969, the New People's Army to mobilize the peasants comprising 70% of the population.

The CP and NPA have achieved tremendous victories in the few short years since their formation. This demonstrates the correctness of the slogan of armed

struggle. 800 puppet troops have been killed, as well as 41 American advisers. Recent reports say that the New People's Army has a standing army of 10,000 troops, peasant support numbering 100,000, and a widespread People's Militia. Liberated base areas have been established in northern Luzon (the main island of the Philippines), as well as in other areas. The Communist Party is growing stronger as more and more of the Filipino people come under its leadership. There is widespread support among the students for the Party and the universities have become fertile ground for the dissemination of revolutionary ideas.

This is the situation that faces U. S. puppet Marcos. The recent declaration of Martial Law is his feverish and futile attempt to stop the growing tide of revolution in the Philippines. Chairman Mao teaches that: "Whenever there is oppression there is resistance". Marcos cannot stop the resistance because his puppet clique of U. S. imperialism is the fundamental cause of the oppression of the Filipino people.

At the close of the formal presentation the meeting was opened up to general discussion. A question was raised about the so-called religious problem in the Philippines - what the US press has been calling the "Moslem-Christian" conflict. It was pointed out by the speaker that, as is the case with all ruling classes, secondary contradictions are fanned by the ruling class. An example of this is the so-called "religious conflict" in Ireland. The imperialists promote the idea that two religious persuasions are fighting each other, when, in the real world, all sections of the people have a common and main enemy in US imperialism. They do this to obscure the main contradiction, delay their own downfall & sap the fighting ability of the people. It was pointed out that this conflict did not even exist before the imperialists began promoting it; for hundreds

of years the Christians and Moslems have lived in peace.

At this point in discussion a local trotskyst in the audience began to pursue the usual path of raising several detached questions completely apart from the question the meeting was called for. His main position was that the Philippine revolution was some sort of temporary curiosity that should be scrapped because it did not suit his understanding of something Trotsky wrote in 1905. The speaker replied that if one wishes to proceed from theories it's very easy to dream up all sorts of policies or plans, however, if people are to make revolution, it is necessary to proceed from the objective world and apply Marxism-Leninism, the science of proletarian revolution, as guidelines developed through practice.

The struggle to preserve the revolutionary form of the meeting became more intense as a few other trotskyste-types attempted to turn the discussion into a forum for racist slanders, remarks which had nothing to do with the Philippine struggle or our

own struggle here, and, in short, to raise all the objections the bourgeoisie has to being overthrown by the proletariat. This was opposed by the masses present at the meeting. What was made clear through this struggle was that if the masses don't exercise dictatorship over those who represent the bourgeoisie in the ranks of the people, we can accomplish nothing.

Throughout the meeting there was a great feeling of solidarity with the Filipino people in their struggle against US imperialism. This is the spirit of the American people, it is the spirit which will lead us to rise up and overthrow US monopoly capital and establish the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in the heartland of US imperialism.

LONG LIVE THE PHILIPPINE
REVOLUTION!

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE
WORLD'S WORKING AND OPPRESSED
PEOPLE!

"Red Flag Canal" Shown in R.I.

Nearly 200 Rhode Islanders enthusiastically viewed the revolutionary Chinese epic film "Red Flag Canal" last week at four RI campuses. The film portrayed the heroic struggle of the masses of Chinese people who transformed mountains, rivers, and deserts in this mammoth irrigation and hydroelectric project. The spectacular achievements of Chinese socialist construction under the guidance of Mao Tsetung Thought are an inspiration to us all.

REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE

Including:
works by Mao Tsetung, Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin,
Literature and Ideology, Mass Line In Culture,
Rhode Island Student, and other revolutionary journals

Mondays: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm,
First Floor, Student Union, RIC

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