

Translation of editorial note on Argentina in the
"News of the workers movement and the International" section of
the March 1971 Quatrième Internationale

First Actions of the Revolutionary People's Army

People's war continues to escalate, according to El Combatiente, the organ of the PRT [Partido Revolucionario de Trabajadores -- Revolutionary Workers Party, the Argentinian section of the Fourth International]. Notable among the actions carried out by the ERP [Ejercito Revolucionario del Pueblo -- People's Revolutionary Army] was the brief occupation of the FIAT factory near Cordoba where the armed commando group called all the workers together for a general assembly and discussion. The men in the factory warmly applauded the revolutionists.

According to a report by the Cuban press agency Prensa Latina, published in the Cuban magazine Bohemia, "The ERP was born September 18, 1970, with the assault of a commando team on police Precinct House No. 24 in the city of Rosario." According to the same source, the ERP has a six-point program:

1. Abrogation of all military and political pacts binding Argentina to the United States.
2. The establishment of a revolutionary people's government led by the workers and in which the popular masses would participate through mass organizations (committees).
3. Abrogation of the agreements with the International Monetary Fund and all organizations dominated by imperialism.
4. Expropriation without compensation, and nationalization of all imperialist concerns as well as those of Argentinian capitalists who support imperialism.
5. Nationalization of all banks and foreign trade. A deepgoing agrarian reform. A State monopoly of foreign trade.
6. Workers control of all nationalized enterprises.

Among the many ERP actions mentioned by Bohemia, besides attacks on police precinct houses and barracks aimed at getting arms and punishing the torturers, were expropriations of banks, seizures of milk and meat for distribution to the children in poor neighborhoods, occupying theaters to show revolutionary films, etc.

In its January 1971 issue, the Argentinian left Christian magazine Cristianismo y Revolucion published a report on the ERP in which one of the leaders of this organization was quoted as saying that the PRT constitutes the political-military leadership of the ERP, that the ERP is open to all activists and groups adhering to other political tendencies which accept its program, and that the PRT is part "of the Fourth International led by Ernest Mandel, Pierre Frank, and Alain Krivine."

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TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Preparations for the 1971 socialist summer schools should be initiated immediately if they are not already underway. The key motivation for the socialist summer schools is to set aside a time for intensive cadre education on the fundamental principles of revolutionary socialism.

This year, planning for the summer schools should be carried out in correlation with preparations for the party convention and the upcoming presidential election campaign. To this end there are two topics which are recommended for inclusion in all summer schools:

1.) A study of the basic dynamics of the current radicalization and what this means in terms of the prospects for the American revolution and problems of party building in the 1970's. This would include a study of the political resolution and political reports passed at the last convention and the following National Committee plenum, and the main speeches elaborating on these themes at the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference held in Oberlin last summer. This study should include the Transitional Program (The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International), A Transitional Program for Black Liberation, and The Worldwide Radicalization of Youth and the Tasks of the Fourth International (all available from Pathfinder Press). The points made in these documents form the basis for our fundamental strategy in the 1970's, and a study of them will be an indispensable aid in preparation for the coming convention. The former documents are immediately available in Internal Information Bulletin # 5 in 1970 and in back copies of the ISR. A book containing this material is also being published by Pathfinder Press, under the title: Towards an American Socialist Revolution: A Strategy for the 1970's. This book will be available before June 1.

2.) A study of revolutionary socialist electoral policy. A sample syllabus for a course on this topic is in preparation by the National Education Department and will be available soon. A new Education for Socialists Bulletin is also available, entitled, "Aspects of Socialist Election Policy." This, along with various Pathfinder publications, means that there is ample material available for a course on this topic. The 1972 election campaign, which will be launched following the convention, will be a major area of party and YSA campaigning for the coming year, so a study of this topic is also quite important.

Most socialist summer schools take up 3-5 different topics. In addition to the above recommendations, the classes held at Oberlin

last year offer a useful guide for further selections of topics. They are:

1. Marxism and the Women's Liberation Struggle
2. Structure and Organizational Principles of the Party
3. The History of the SWP
4. Anatomy of Stalinism
5. Foundations of Scientific Socialism
6. Marxism and the Struggle for National Liberation
7. The Revolutionary Party in the Antiwar Movement
8. Dynamics of the Labor Movement and Party Tasks
9. Marxism vs. Ultraleftism, Anarchism and Terrorism

The National Education Department will be able to help with speakers, tapes, and the selection of materials for study. Although speakers will be available from New York, the number available is of necessity limited. There may be exceptions, but branches cannot absolutely count on obtaining more than one or two speakers each from New York. Therefore, branches are encouraged to draw upon educators from other branches as well. Please make early arrangements for outside speakers.

The summer schools should be closely tied in with regional work. Every effort must be made to encourage YSA members who are in areas where there is no party branch to come into the main branch centers for the summer, where there are maximum facilities for education.

There are two basic points to keep in mind about the nature of summer schools:

1.) The main purpose of the summer schools is the basic education of our own cadre. The summer schools are not contact classes, although contacts can be invited. Nor are the summer schools aimed only at the education of new members. Their purpose is to aid the continuing education of all members, and the course of study should be adopted with that end in mind. Responsibility for cadre education is as much a part of branch political activity as are Militant sales, election campaigns, antiwar work, forums, finances, etc. Participation in the summer schools should be considered a political assignment for all members of the party and YSA.

2.) Planning for the summer schools should be well-thought-out to maintain a balance in political activity during the summer. Opportunities for intervention in the mass movement cannot be expected to diminish during the summer, and this year there will be a convention in addition to the other party activities. While these tasks are essential, we should make sure that cadre education is also a

priority item in a balanced plan of party and YSA activity. In practice, we have often found that the added summer reinforcements to the party branches and YSA locals in the regional centers, and the added enthusiasm that results from an attractive educational program enables us to maintain political activity in other arenas, while launching an intensive educational program.

Further communications will be forthcoming from the National Education Department.

Comradely,

Gus Horowitz
National Education Director