

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of Palante, since the last publication of April 1973. During this period, we have summed up the history of Palante and have come to a much more clearer understanding as to the future. Along with this we summed up that it was a mistake to stop the publication, even though it was supposed to be for a period of only 2 or 3 months. We want to apologize to our readers and make a commitment to apply ourselves to get this paper to you consistently, with the best possible information and best form possible.

The coming issues will no longer be the official organ of P.R.R.W.O., but will be a paper put out by both Communists and non-Communists who are united around putting out this paper. A mass newspaper which will continue to contribute to further raising the consciousness among Puerto Ricans— who because we were forced to migrate from Puerto Rico, which is a direct colony of this country, we compose an oppressed national minority— and other working and oppressed people inside the United States, as Palante has done in the past.

Through articles, interviews and announcements on the different struggles of the masses of the people against our common enemy, U.S. imperialism— we will write articles on the struggle against national and racial discrimination of Black people, Chicano, Asians and Native Americans and Latins. On foreign aggression, raising the national liberation struggles of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. On police repression, exposing it to the people, informing on its development and its concrete effects on the very life and struggle of the masses. On the struggle against the oppression of women, specifically working class women who are forced to the dirtiest jobs, lowest salaries and constant harassment and abuse by foremen and bosses, are denied decent day care facilities, and forced sterilization. On the struggles and attacks on the working people by the government and companies through laws and policies, like Phase I, II, III and IV, the Equal Rights Amendment, the no-fault laws (Taft-Hartley), unemployment, layoffs and high food prices, etc. On the struggles of political prisoners and the struggles going on in the prisons.

Palante will focus primarily on the struggles of the Puerto Rican national minority inside New York City, raising the concrete struggles for democratic rights, which in short are:

the right to practice our language and to be respected— which does not conflict with us learning English, since we live inside the United States.

the right to a decent education for the young and elderly, which does not deny our true history and culture

the right to organize ourselves to resist our oppression

to create organizations and select representatives which truly represent the interests of working and poor people— who compose the majority of Puerto Ricans.

the right to assemble, hold rallies, demonstrations and meetings

freedom of speech, and the freedom of the press, like Palante, Unidad Latina, Claridad, etc.

to raise the national liberation struggle of Puerto Rico among Puerto Ricans and other working and oppressed poor people in the United States who have the same common enemy.

While raising the struggle, we are conscious that these are not struggles of a few individuals or a few organizations. But a real struggle of the people that gave rise to the organizations that exist. With this understanding, we feel that the key in being able to produce a good newspaper is that it be linked thoroughly and completely with the real live struggle of the masses. How well we do this will determine the future of Palante.

We ask for people who are either actively involved in any particular Communist or anti-imperialist or progressive organization or individual which doesn't belong to any organization, who sees the necessity for the continuing publication of this paper and wants to work with us to. With the understanding that the paper is something that moves the struggle forward, not something that creates more confusion among the people. People can help the paper to grow through many different ways: people can become members of the paper and work directly in the paper, other people can write articles for the newspaper, on their own experiences in the struggle, if you have a good song or poem or picture, which you think should be printed, or just a short paragraph on your opinion on something. Please get it to us. We encourage workers, students, and community people to get involved directly with producing Palante

This issue we confronted many difficulties, with getting the articles, typesetting, translations and putting it all together. We see that the main reason for this is because we have been out of practice for a while, we are a little rusty, also the small number of people who are doing the work are inexperienced, and the shortage of people. If you can help, write or come to our office at:

352 Willis Avenue
Bronx, N.Y.
Second Floor.

Please come by or mail us your suggestions, criticisms, articles and subscriptions.

P. R. Nat. Mino.

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The Argonaut, a weekly magazine in San Francisco, 1902:

"WE DO NOT WANT THE FILIPINOS. WE WANT THE PHILIPPINES.... The islands are enormously rich; they abound in dense forests of valuable hardwood timber; they contain mines of the precious metals; their fertile lands will produce immense crops of sugar cane, rice and tobacco...

But unfortunately, they are infested by Filipinos. There are many millions of them there and it is to be feared that their extinction will be slow. Still, every man who believes in developing the islands must admit that it cannot be done successfully while the Filipinos are there. They are indolent. They raise only enough food to live on; they don't care to make money; and they occupy land which might be utilized to much better advantage by Americans. Therefore

the more of them killed, the better."

By the end of the 19th century, the U.S. was becoming one of the most powerful countries in the world. Its industrial and military power were unmatched, faster than any other nation. Inside the U.S., huge monopolies had developed to the point where they dominated all the major industries and controlled the government. Having eliminated the smaller competitors and "cornered the market" inside the U.S. these monopoly capitalists began to look for new places to invest their money at a guaranteed high profit, new places to steal natural resources, and new countries where an unlimited supply of cheap labor was available. Because they controlled the government, they were able to use the army and navy to insure their interests overseas. Because they controlled the press and the schools, they were able to spread racist ideas to justify their murder and exploitation of people of color.

In terms of Puerto Rico, the U.S. imperialists (monopoly capitalists) wanted it as a market for investment and a place to unload their goods. It was also an area of military importance. From Puerto Rico, they thought they would be able to control the entire Caribbean. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge made it very clear in 1898 when he said "with its population and advantageous position, the island of Puerto Rico, the easternmost and most beautiful of the Antilles, had constantly been on the minds of the Army and Navy from the very moment the war had begun; and this war was to constitute the last step in an inexorable movement begun by the United States a century ago to expel Spain from the Antilles."

But when the Americans invaded at Guanica in 1898, they tried to fool the people and pretended they were coming as friends. The commanding general of the invading forces, Nelson Miles, said, "We have not come to make war upon the people of a country that for centuries has been oppressed, but on the contrary, to bring you protection, not only to yourselves but to your property, and to bestow upon you the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of our government. This is not a war of devastation, but one to give all within the control of its military and naval forces the advantages and blessings of enlightened civilization."

Next article: Under U.S. Domination

mozambique

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god of mercy and to absolve themselves by denial. But no amount of denial can obliterate the evidence of their bloody crimes. It was reported that a Spanish priest, Father Vicente Berenguer, who has worked in the San Pedro Mission not far from Wiriya since 1967, revealed that the Bishop of Tete had protested to the Portuguese colonial authorities after hearing about the massacre and that an inquiry delegation flew over Wiriya in a helicopter and spotted corpses on the ground. This gave the lie to the official spokesman of Lisbon.

It is known to all that the Portuguese authorities have all along followed a colonialist and racist policy in Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Mozambique. It may be recalled that commander Kaulza de Arriaga, explaining the Portuguese policy, has said: "Portuguese strategy in Africa should be aimed at achieving an equilibrium between the black and white population...on the one hand, the growth of the white population, on the other, the limitation of the black population." It is "to limit the black population" that the Portuguese colonial authorities resort to genocidal massacre. As pointed out by the Mozambique Liberation Front in a statement, the Wiriya massacre was the embodiment of Portugal's fascist genocidal policy.

Three years ago, the Commander-in-Chief of the colonialist Portuguese forces, Kaulza de Arriaga, said

that he will end the Mozambique war in one year. Not too long ago, it was announced that he will "soon leave his post" and get out of Mozambique.

The Mozambique patriotic forces have not been annihilated. In fact, today the patriotic forces control large areas of territory, areas that are mineral rich and strategically located. The defeat in the hands of the patriotic forces have forced the Portuguese authorities to step up their genocidal massacres. But the Mozambique people are not intimidated. Xavier Sulila, representative of the Mozambique Liberation Front in Lusaka, said on July 12: "The enemy resorts to savage massacre to make the Mozambique people give up their armed struggle against Portuguese colonial domination. This is a sheer pipe dream. Our people are determined to fight to final victory."

The atrocities by the Portuguese colonial authorities have infuriated the people of Mozambique and the whole of Africa, strengthening their determination to completely eliminate colonialism and racism from the African continent by redoubled efforts. A Zambia Daily Mail commentary pointed out rightly on July 12 that the Portuguese colonialists' atrocities could only "inspire the African continent to unite against the enemy and to ensure that those now carrying out the liberation struggle are given weapons with which to liquidate the enemy and get him out of Africa once and for all."

