

THE IDEOLOGICAL PREPARATION FOR THE AC-  
CEPTANCE OF FASCISM IS THE EVERYDAY  
ACTIVITY OF THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS

(NAMN, 4/22/72) The following are  
excerpts from a report published by the  
Rhode Island Student Movement, a unit of  
American Student Movement, in Rhode Is-  
land Student, Vol. III, No. 5:

The basic contradiction in American so-  
ciety is the contradiction between private  
ownership of the means of production and  
social labor. Bourgeois relations of  
production (reaching their highest de-  
velopment in imperialism) have created a  
large working class. Any further de-  
velopment of this historically irreconcil-  
able contradiction can mean only one thing--  
revolution, the establishment of the Dic-  
tatorship of the Proletariat, for the  
purpose of developing production for the  
needs of the producing class. When the  
bourgeoisie can allow no social develop-  
ment other than the development of di-  
visions among the people, it becomes  
fascist. . . .

The basic purposes for which the bourgeoisie uses its cultural despotism are: 1) to describe the people's ideals of freedom, justice and equality as if they belonged to the bourgeoisie; 2) to put forward its own actual ideas of self-interest, exploitation, and economic advantage as if they were the people's; 3) to oppose proletarian outlook, proletarian culture; 4) to obscure the role which class struggle play in changing the world.

The class basis of ideas and cultural forms can be traced to the outlook and interests which arise at the point of production in society. One's position in relation to production is the main force determining social outlook and attitudes. The social outlook rooted in the bourgeois side of production is primarily one of:

Harmony - harmony as long as exploitation is allowed to continue;  
Parasitism - living off the collective productive labor of the working class;  
Decay - the only outlook which an unproductive class can give rise to.

In opposition to this, the social outlook most firmly rooted in the working class side of production is the outlook of unity, progress and rebellion.

Thus to protect the bourgeoisie, the bourgeois culture must devote itself to obscuring three basic things: 1) the basis of change, motion and development, i.e. the contradictions inherent in all phenomena; 2) the role of consciousness in history--the bourgeoisie maintains that historical development is due to great men, innate racial characteristics, accidents, etc.; 3) the relationship of the cultural and ideological superstructure to the economic base in society.

Fascist culture has many political effects in the left and the so-called left politics in the U.S. Unprincipled harmony, the main trend in bourgeois politics, takes the form of all unity and no struggle. Political consciousness is raised through unity and struggle, the two are inseparably linked.

Bourgeois individualism in a political organization places great barriers between individuals, making any unity, principled unity, impossible. . . .

Fascist culture is a tool in the hands of the bourgeoisie. It is the ideological preparation for the acceptance of outright fascism.

To begin the task of opposing fascism it is necessary to look at the effects of fascist culture in our own lives and actually change ourselves in the process. This cannot be done through lengthy introspection or speculation about what a progressive intellectual is. end item.