

# MAYDAY RALLIES REFLECT GROWING CON- CIOUSNESS OF The MASSES and The STRUGGLES WITHIN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

The various Mayday celebrations held this year were a clear reflection of the present state of the communist movement, and the size of the different rallies were a reflection of the growing consciousness of the masses in this time of crisis, and the years of the dissemination of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought done in this country. They were many in number, and the political lines put forth at these rallies show just how much the forces of the movement are dealing, or not dealing with the tasks of communists at this time.

Mayday, being the international workers' day, is a day when all revolutionary-minded people reaffirm their commitment to smash imperialism and social-imperialism. It is a day when not only do we rejoice in the victories of the international proletariat and its allies (i.e., Vietnam and Cambodia), but we speak to the tasks confronting us in fulfilling our duty as part of the international proletariat--and try to chart a course in the correct direction.

Let us see how the different demonstrations charted direction for the future.

## F.O.U. AND MARXIST-LENINIST COALITION

The May 1st rally at Federal Plaza, organized by Frente Obrero Unido and a coalition of Marxist-Leninist organizations, including the October League, Congress of African Peoples, El Comité, Movimiento Popular Dominicano, Worker's Viewpoint, I Wor Kuen, and ourselves, had a high level of revolutionary zeal. The people attending the rally were, for the most part, very receptive to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought, and its application to the concrete conditions. This could be seen in that there was overwhelming support and celebration of the victories of the Cambodian and Vietnamese people, victories which put the workers and peasants in control of their own destiny. Also, there was general unity that the problems of the system could not be solved by a few reforms or by peaceful means. This could be seen by the response of the audience to the cultural program of the CAP Anti-Imperialist Singers and the Socialistics from the PRRWO, as well as the speech by Imiri Baraka, representing the Marxist-Leninist coalition. The songs and speech drove home the need for armed struggle and the ideology of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung, to guide the struggle.

Baraka's speech dealt with the deepening crisis of U.S. imperialism against the backdrop of the international situation--stressing that for "the last fat domino" to fall, we should cast away all illusions about peaceful transition to socialism (as pushed by the "Communist Party" USA (R)) and prepare for armed struggle; and that we must build a United Front, linking all just struggles against our common enemy. The one main weakness in the speech was that the task of building the party, which is the central task of Marxist-Leninists in this country, was not mentioned. This, we feel, was an error, for to talk about tasks of Marxist-Leninists and not mention the task of building the party, belittles the importance of party building.

However, the response from the audience to the speeches and songs showed that the people were thirsty for the ideology of the proletariat and clear affirmation of the tasks of communists.

It is this reality which leads us to conclude that the aforementioned positive aspect was the secondary one. The principle trend existing throughout the whole rally was economism. Many of the FOU speakers, representatives from Black Economic Survival, Ad Hoc Committee Against the Budget Cuts, etc. were good in that they deepened everyone's understanding of the crisis of imperialism and stressed the need to unite and fight back. But there was no raising of consciousness that the only way we'll be able to fight back effectively is if we have a science with which to unravel and expose the contradictions of capitalism and really learn what it will take to put an end to it. The speeches never made a clean break from the confines of trade unionism, and thus failed to raise the political understanding of those who attended the rally. We do not put the blame for this on the rank and file members of FOU. FOU, as a workers' form of organization, is a necessary and viable form. We believe that this is a criticism to the Marxist-Leninist forces giving leadership to FOU, something to learn from in the future.

We must always strive to take the masses from a lower level of understanding to a higher level. This can only be done by scientific analysis of concrete conditions, and the only science that can do this is Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought. If we don't do this, then we belittle the role of the conscious element, which is an open invitation to start worshipping spontaneity and fall into opportunism. We feel that although the principal aspect of the rally was negative in that it was indicative of economism, we can continue to work

together in the spirit of unity-struggle-unity and make what was once secondary, primary in the future.

In particular, the coalition of Marxist-Leninists, ourselves included, must do self-criticism for not insuring the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist line on such an important event as Mayday.

## "COMMUNIST PARTY"USA

The "CP"USA (R)-henchmen of the bourgeoisie--showed their true colors for yet another time on Mayday. Under the metaphysical slogan of "Everything's coming up roses," they used the international workers' day to spew forth more of their dangerous lines in an attempt to confuse the people. Examining Gus Hall's speech will make this self-evident.

1) He said that, in celebrating Mayday, we should "condemn and convict" the dirty politicians-like Rockefeller, Ford, Scoop Jackson--who caused the war in Vietnam. This is a logical outgrowth of a line which deals with imperialism as a policy, and not the highest stage of capitalism. This only covers the true nature of imperialism and serves to protect the ruling class. Further on, he states that the American people should be "proud" of the law that was passed in Congress, preventing the renewed armed intervention in Southeast Asia by the U.S., because that was instrumental to the victory of the Indo-Chinese people. He also said that this made Rockefeller & Co. "sad and mad," and that we must make sure that we keep them "sad and mad and frustrated" forever.

This is a concrete manifestation of the "peaceful transition to socialism" line. First, to state that the law passed in Congress was instrumental in the Indo-Chinese people's struggle not only negates the reality that the armed might of the Indo-Chinese people was the instrumental factor to the liberation of Vietnam and Cambodia. It also places the parliamentary road as an end-all for people struggling in the U.S. Any law that's passed in Congress which cuts off military spending in Indo-China is a result of the anger of the masses at imperialist war and aggression, but it represents a change in tactics by the bourgeoisie and does not mean we're closer to victory. The bourgeoisie cuts back on funds for Indo-China in order to channel the funds into other acts of imperialist aggression, like in the Middle East.

## MAY DAY

con't from pg. 2

Only the Party, leading the United Front, can signal the armed insurrection that will insure us victory.

The flimsiness of these laws are only proven further by the recent "Mayaguez incident"--in which the imperialists, in their usual slimy manner, engineered a plot to attack the Cambodian people in a show of force. When it comes to maintaining the imperialist system, those laws are worth less than the paper they're written on.

This idiocy about making Rocky & Co. "sad and mad forever" just tries to promote the idea that we can take power away from the rich by isolating the "right wing" of the bourgeoisie. It covers the fact that the only way that we'll take power is by expropriating the whole bourgeoisie and smashing their state apparatus--"right" and "left", big corporations and small capitalists. They must become oppressed if we are to end our oppression.

In addition to this treachery, Hall said that the present crisis put a "6-hour day with no cut in pay" on the agenda, and demanded that we make the federal government act, and that the main thing holding us back is racism.

1) "6-hour day with no cut in pay" is no solution to the present crisis. The capitalist would make up whatever profits he lost initially by intensifying the labor of the workers during that 6-hour day, as well as all the other complex checks and balances they use to maintain their rate of profit.

2) The federal government is only going to act in one way--the way that it must, as an instrument of the class rule of the bourgeoisie.

3) The main thing dividing the class is the bankrupt opportunism being propagated by people like the "CP"USA (R). As the American mouthpiece of the USSR social-imperialists, these forces and others like them are only interested in delaying the inevitable by pushing class peace with the bourgeoisie. It's clear from this speech, as it has been for some time, that we must smash these forces and keep them from spreading bourgeois ideology with a "Marxist" cover among the masses. They are the bourgeoisie within our midst, and must be dealt with accordingly. We must insure that the only roses that come up are the ones over their graves.

### PSP

The PSP rally was another indication of revisionism in practice. The rally had some good speakers--particularly speakers from ALSC and Welfare Workers for Justice--who raised the struggle of the Third World--South Africa, Puerto Rico and other colonies, and celebrated the victories of the Cambodian and Vietnamese people.

However, this event was dominated by the PSP line, which pushed the role of one party for the U.S. and Puerto Rico, a proven bankrupt line flowing from the old "divided nation" theory. They also pushed under the rug the struggle against opportunism, calling for "unity at all costs." This means unity at the cost of victory in the revolution, because if we don't struggle against lines like the "divided nation" theory and the other revisionist lines put out by the PSP, we'll never forge the real unity necessary to smash imperialism. PSP's "unity at all costs" is unity with imperialism.

### RU

The RU rally at Union Square gives us a good insight into what their plans are. The rally, in their words, consisted of "the working class of the NY-NJ area," supported by "a large group of students from the Revolutionary Student Brigade." They said that it was "something new and different, something historic."

This sounds very impressive, but once you cut through the thin veil, you find not something "new and different," but something old and tired.

Check the sponsoring organizations: El Combate, from the garment center, DC 65 Rank and File, Art Steel Workers Resistance Committee, Fighting Times, from the metal industry, On the Line, Outlaw, UWOC, VVAW/WSO, Final Warning, Lincoln Hospital Mayday Committee, Office Workers United, The Worker, Temperature's Rising. Most of these are paper organizations in the RU' old tradition. They are set up as vehicles to worship the spontaneous movement, because they keep the level of the workers and people they organize in a supposed "intermediate level"--somewhere in between scientific socialism and trade unionism. In reality, the formula which the RU has worked at for a long time winds up with nothing more than militant trade unionism. The advanced are not trained in the heat of struggle to mobilize other workers. Marxism-Leninism is spoken about in whispers, for fear of "alienating the workers." The conscious element is totally belittled and this makes a mockery out of the purpose of different forms of workers' organizations and committees. These forms of struggle should be implemented with the

final goals in mind; they should complement that goal, and not block its attainment. The RU uses these different organizations as a substitute for the basic unit of a communist organization--the factory nuclei.

In this period of party building, we must consolidate and train the workers, most especially the advanced, in revolutionary theory and practice, as we move towards the building of the party. Our work must be to raise the political consciousness of the masses, and not hamstring it.

The RU uses these forms of organization to push their line of hegemony. Because the people aren't trained, many times honest elements are temporarily duped because the RU steps in and leads these organizations down its prescribed plans. At present, this plan includes selling the RU program to these forms, and finally, proclaiming themselves for what they always thought they were--the party.

An example of this is shown by the content of Bob Avakian's speech. After starting off about how proud he was to be at the rally, he went into a piece on the role of the working class - "We're the ones that make everything go, make everything run, produce everything." He did not mention the historic role of the international proletariat in this time of revolutionary motion. The workers know they produce everything - they want to know why they have nothing to show for it, and how to fight to get it.

Avakian, speaking to this point, can only say, "when we put the ideas that we're uniting around...the demands that we're raising...our numbers and strength - that's what scares the hell out of them." What ideas and demands is the RU uniting people around - "Jobs or Income Now!", "Fight, Don't Starve!", "Throw the Bum Out!" - These are certainly not ideas and demands that are a reflection of Marxism-Leninism applied to concrete conditions. They are old, worn-out reformist ideas that do not expose capitalism.

He continued to make the brilliant remark, "If we make the country run...why can't we run the country?" After this

con't on pg. 9

## pamphlet on party building

SOON TO BE PUBLISHED by the PRRWO

WILL INCLUDE:

- 1) ANALYSIS OF COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE FIRST PERIOD OF PARTY BUILDING, SINCE THE BETRAYAL OF THE "CP"USA (R)
- 2) SOCIAL AND IDEOLOGICAL BASIS OF OPPORTUNISM
- 3) WHAT PERIOD ARE WE IN?
- 4) PRESENT SITUATION AND OUR TASKS

gem, he did not mention the role of the state as a tool of the ruling class, nor did he state how we can smash the state to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is the line of trade unionists, to negate the question of the seizure of state power by the proletariat.

He just told everybody what they already knew, which is an old trademark of the economists - "we've given them everything and we ain't got nothing more to give them but our fists - and more." "We want to get rid of them." This is a representative of a communist organization speaking on Mayday? Avakian vulgarized the role of revolution by saying that an indication of the bourgeoisie's recognition of the world-wide revolutionary trend was television commercials advertising "revolutionary products." ("It's always a revolutionary razor blade because they know the people want change and want revolution.")

Such simplistic treatment of the tasks facing us is continued. After rhetoric about the need for revolution, he starts to mention communism in an apologetic way, reducing it to, "Communism - it means in common." He never clearly stated the need to smash the bourgeois state and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the final abolition of classes.

Towards the end of his speech, Avakian lays out the need for the party, and states that "such a party is in the process of being built" - by the RU!

It's clear from this that the RU is still walking down the well-trodden path of opportunism. After prattling

off a speech that never once raised the ideology of the proletariat and its application to concrete conditions, never raised the ideology of the party, he said that the party is being built. Any party built by the RU will serve to continue to implement the right opportunist line that is the main danger in our movement.

#### RESISTENCIA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

This Mayday celebration marked an attempt to deal with the tasks facing the communists in this period. Resistencia raised the central task of party building in relation to the united front and armed struggle. They also raised the struggle against opportunism as a component part of making revolution, dealing specifically with the "CP", PSP and the RU.

However, there were definite indications that the struggle against opportunism is not a resolute one on the part of Resistencia. This was shown by the presence of PSR (Partido Socialista Revolucionario), a fraternal organization of the Communist League, with many of the similar Trotskyite positions, such as that imperialism is strong, and not in decadence, and that capitalism has not been restored in the Soviet Union. In fact, Resistencia recognizes the "Communist Labor Party" (CL) as a fraternal organization, although not the genuine multi-national communist party, which must be built. We feel this is a serious error on the part of Resistencia. The CLP, by their bankrupt, sham attempt at party building - the National Continuations Committee - proved themselves to be wreckers and splitters, and enemies of the international communist movement. To recognize these new breed of Trotskyites as fraternal organizations is nothing more than conciliation with opportunism.

#### CONCLUSION

To conclude, we feel that this Mayday shows us how far we have to go as communists. It showed us in yet another form that the main danger in the communist movement is right opportunism and economism, the submerging of Marxism-Leninism in the mass movement and the subsequent tailing behind that movement. It also shows the danger of not making a thorough break with left opportunism - the rendering of Marxism-Leninism into a lifeless dogma, divorced from reality and therefore unable to be a guide to action. It shows how, in opposition to both these twin evils, we must struggle for a correct, dialectical relationship between theory and practice - training the advanced in the heat of class struggle, to win over the intermediate and neutralize the backwards. Applying the science to the concrete conditions and forging a political line which will be the basis for the line of our future party, to lead us in our onslaught on the ruling class and its goons.

We feel that it was our duty to be ruthlessly scientific in our analysis of Mayday and not fall into bourgeois objectivity like the Guardian, who gives no mention of any lines put forth at Mayday rallies, and only mentions their size and the location. We do this analysis to learn from it, so that next Mayday, in a struggle against all falsehood, we can forge the principled unity necessary to lead a large, militant, communist-led celebration of the international proletariat.

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF  
THE WORLD UNITE!!