

WORKERS WORLD

Vol. 4, No. 12

222

JUNE 22, 1962

10 CENTS



This Algerian woman is looking at a sign some nameless hero risked his life to scrawl on a building in Algiers about two years ago. It says, "Long Live the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic!" (GPRA) Next month that government will be recognized by friend and foe as the sovereign ruling body of Algeria.

Algeria Revolution Invincible; July Independence More Real Than De Gaulle Planned It To Be

Neither OAS 'Negotiations' nor de Gaulle's 'Brotherly Policy' Can Dictate Class Destiny of New Algeria

It was with scarcely concealed glee that the Rightist press reported the negotiations between the OAS terrorists and the Algerian revolutionaries last week. For although the U.S. State Department has sent the word out that U.S. imperialist policy "supports" the Algerians against the OAS, this development raises hopes in a more conserva-

tive line for the new Algerian government.

But the OAS proved not its power, but its desperation when it made its attempt to negotiate a deal.

When Dr. Chawki Mostefai, leading member of the FN, met with Jean-Jaques Susini, leading OAS assassin, this meant "recognizing" the OAS, said the capitalist press. But the shoe is really on the other foot.

It is the OAS which is supposed to be the last stronghold of the old-fashioned colonialism. It is the OAS which swore it would conduct a "scorched earth" policy. And it is the OAS which changed its policy and made an agreement with its "inferiors" when it swore it would never do so. Susini's act was a sign of weakness.

True, Mostefai promised to incorporate some Europeans in the new Algerian police force. But this is only a guarantee of the lives and to some extent, the property of the remaining Europeans. It is no danger to the lives or liberties of the Algerians. Were the OAS or the Europeans to take command of the police force, it would be otherwise, of course. But this is not remotely the case.

Now both Mostefai and Susini have been repudiated by opposition factions of their respective sides. Susini has been repudiated by the Right and Mostefai by the Left. These logical and even symmetrical events underline once again that this is a civil war not merely between two nationalities, not merely between a colony and its oppressor, but between two irreconcilable social classes.

To be sure, de Gaulle will still leave 80,000 imperialist troops in Algeria after July 1. And the oil wells and bigger businesses will still be in French hands. A further struggle will still be necessary. But the bright goal of freedom is at last in sight.

Algiers Battle Widens and Gets Broad Support

Arrests Mount as Hospital Strikers Fight On

The Beth El Hospital strike shows signs of becoming an all-out conflict between the largest New York financiers and the whole giant New York City labor movement.

Beth El itself is a relatively small (300 beds) operation of big business, masquerading as a "non-profit" institution. Its board of directors include some of the biggest names in the city—both businessmen and professionals as well as big-shot politicians.

The hospital is fighting in every way it possibly can—to avoid union recognition. The struggle is a grim one.

Within a week after the strike of non-professional workers (average wage \$47) began, the president of the union which organized them—Leon Davis of Local 1199 Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Workers Union—began serving a 30-day jail sentence for allegedly violating a court injunction against picketing. On Thursday, June 14, several hundred members and friends of 1199 picketed City Hall in protest against Davis' imprisonment.

At this writing, the workers have been trudging the picket lines for four weeks. They have no savings and their debts are monumental. Most of them

had to rely on welfare to supplement their meager paychecks. But they hold on.

Just 300 out of 3,000,000 similarly low-paid hospital workers throughout the country—they are fighting for human dignity more than money. Victims of the persecution that U.S. white su-

premacy visits upon oppressed nationalities, they are fighting against second class citizenship as well as for union recognition. They turn up for picketing at 6 A.M. and stick to their lines until well after 7 P.M. — for seven days a week.

(Continued on page 4)

N. Y. Labor Council Considers Action

NEW YORK June 15—The leader of 1 million trade unionists here implicitly threatened the voluntary hospitals of this city with the possibility of a general strike.

Harry Van Arsdale Jr., president of the New York Central Labor Council, told Mayor Wagner that the Council's executive board will move to pull the Council out of the Permanent Administrative Committee (PAC) that was set up in 1959 to keep "labor peace" in return for a back-door sort of union recognition by those hospitals who recognized the Committee.

(The Committee has three hospital representatives, three labor representatives, including Van Arsdale himself,

and six "public" representatives. Some hospitals accept the Committee's authority. Some do not. And some, like Beth-El, call in the Committee at the last minute before a strike in order to prevent a strike, but without giving union conditions. There is a no-strike agreement where the Committee's jurisdiction prevails.)

This "back-door" recognition has turned out to be no recognition at all in many cases. And the Central Labor Council is now being made a party to what is being used as an anti-union device by some of the hospitals.

The Central Labor Council will meet this Thursday, June 21, to act on its executive board's recommendation.

Its a Struggle Just to Get Fresh Fruit in Jail!

Mae Wins Round With Ohio Sheriff

Mae Mallory, well-known Black Freedom Fighter and victim of a frame-up charge of "kidnapping" a white couple during a racist attack on Afro-Americans in North Carolina, still languishes in a Cleveland jail while she fights against extradition to the jimcrow courts of the South.

On Monday, June 18, a delegation from the Cleveland Monroe Defense Committee met with Sheriff Sweeny, with a list of complaints about the treatment that Mrs. Mae Mallory has been receiving during her four-month confinement in the county jail. The members felt they were somewhat successful.

Two Monroe Defense Committee officers, Mrs. Ruth Stone and Miss Audrey Proctor, charged Sheriff Joseph Sweeny, chief officer of the Cuyahoga County Jail, with deliberately allowing a clamp-down on Mrs. Mallory's jail privileges. Mrs. Mallory is fighting extradition to KKK-ridden North Carolina on a framed-up kidnapping charge.

The committee members accused the county officials of the following: 1) Refusing to deliver reference volumes on Afro-American history which Mae Mal-

lory requested; 2) forcing Mrs. Mallory to sleep on a cot when a bed is supposed to be provided for her; 3) refusing to deliver her mail on time; 4) refusing to see that proper medical care is given her; and 5) deliberately withholding perishable fruits brought to her until they are wilted and rotten. They demanded that the matter be looked into immediately and that the sheriff make proper adjustments.

Sheriff Sweeny assured them that the matter of harassment would be looked into, he also assured them the following: 1) all books and newspapers brought to Mrs. Mallory will be delivered on time; 2) the committee will be allowed to provide a private physician to examine Mrs. Mallory for treatment; 3) all mail for Mrs. Mallory will be delivered to her on time; and 4) all fruits will be given to Mrs. Mallory on Wednesday when they are brought to the jail.

Miss Proctor pointed out that the committee was received in a very undemocratic way. She said that an appointment was confirmed by her several days ago for five persons, but when a delegation of five showed up only two were permitted to see the Sheriff.

Will Ruanda-Urundi be Dismembered Like Congo?

African Freedom and UN Duplicity

By Eleanor Stephens

Exactly two years after the Congo became nominally independent of Belgium, the bordering country of Ruanda-Urundi looks hopefully and fearfully to its own "Independence Day."

It hopes that on July 1, Belgian troops will leave the country. Premier Andre Muhirwa of Urundi told the UN Trusteeship Committee last week that he vigorously opposed maintaining any foreign troops in Urundi. He declared that his country could maintain law and order "without outside help."

The tragic history of the betrayal of Congo's independence holds an unforgettable lesson for African independence fighters. It has taught the most thoughtful of them to recognize imperialism's new mask—the UN.

Andre Muhirwa, unlike Patrice Lumumba, is forewarned. Lumumba had illusions that the UN would protect the young Congolese state and drive out the Belgian army. He paid with his life for his tragic error, and his country was dismembered, disarmed and sold back to its imperialist oppressors.

It is apparent that the imperialist

powers intend to play the same miserable hoax again in exactly the same way. They point to tribal rivalries and the need for "law and order" as reasons for keeping Belgian troops in Ruanda-Urundi. The Belgians say it would take three months "for technical and political reasons" to withdraw its 900 men and their equipment.

But at the UN on June 14, the Soviet delegate attacked the Belgian delegate's subterfuge. He pointed out that the Belgian paratroopers could all be flown out in a day, and that their equipment could be left behind as lend-lease.

Belgium's intentions are obvious to all. The role of the UN itself, however, is purposely obscured by all the imperialist powers. The African leaders of Ruanda-Urundi must know from the bitter experience of the Congo that the UN is only a false front for the same colonialism it pretends to fight against.

The difficult task facing these African independence fighters is not only to oust the predatory Belgian troops, but also to expose and repudiate the imperialist-dominated UN as well.

WORKERS WORLD

Founded March, 1959

Editorial office:

46 W. 21st Street, New York, N.Y.

Telephone: AL 5-0352

Editor: Vincent Copeland

Manager: Dorothy Ballan

Vol. 4, No. 12 — June 22, 1962

Published Twice Monthly



Albania, Comecon And the Common Market

Once again the case of Albania has come to the fore for the attention of the world-wide working class.

The occasion for it was the convocation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, known as Comecon. Comecon came into existence in 1949 for the purpose of co-ordinating the commercial and industrial development of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany.

The purpose of the recent meeting of Comecon is not only to speed up the economic co-ordination of the socialist countries, but also to take defensive measures against imperialist encroachments directed against the socialist countries through the Common Market.

All the more, it seems to us, was it necessary to exhibit a maximum effort in welding the unity of the socialist countries, in the face of the growing imperialist threat on the economic front. Since the Soviet Union invited not only the socialist countries of Eastern Europe but also Outer Mongolia, China, North Vietnam and North Korea, it seems the rankest kind of discrimination to have left out Albania.

Indeed, the failure of China, North Vietnam and North Korea to attend the meeting may, we surmise, be due to the fact that the Khrushchev leadership did not also invite Albania.

Since the aim of the imperialist Common Market is an attempt to strangle economically those countries which it cannot dominate or bring within its sphere of Cold War politics, the danger of leaving Albania out of the Soviet bloc's economic and commercial co-ordinating organization is all too clear. It may be viewed as a deliberate attempt by the Khrushchev leadership to give Albania the choice of either falling in line ideologically, or facing possible economic strangulation by the imperialists.

What good this will do for the Soviet Union and the cause of socialism—or even for Khrushchev himself—is hard to see for anyone who is willing to view the situation objectively.

All the more praiseworthy are the efforts of the Chinese People's Republic in extending fraternal assistance to a beleaguered socialist country in her hour of peril.

JFK — Strikebreaker at Republic

In an especially cruel use of the already cruel enough Taft-Hartley Law, John F. Kennedy got out an injunction against the 9,000 workers at Republic Aviation's Farmingdale plant last week and made them go back to work without a contract after an 11-week strike.

The restraining order was signed by Federal Judge Walter Bruchhausen of Brooklyn at the request of Kennedy "to remove a peril to the national safety."

The special cruelty here is that the 9,000 workers are being callously deprived of their rights simply to prove that Kennedy is not "hostile to big business."

Kennedy is quite capable of breaking strikes just on general principles of course, but in this particular case, he has revealed a glaring inconsistency which the leaders of Lodge 1987 of the International Association of Machinists (the local at Farmingdale) will be sure to remind him of.

The principal product of the Republic plant is the F-105 jet fighter. This particular plane is being phased out and the production of it transferred to the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis. The transfer was announced last February, with the knowledge of Kennedy, by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.

The Republic Corporation is trying to get new contracts from the government and understands all too well that the F-105 is a dead duck at Farmingdale. In fact, Justin Ostro, head of Lodge 1987, has accused the company of forcing the strike in order "to shake down the government for new work."

(Thousands have already been laid off from this plant and thousands more are scheduled to get the axe soon.)

Now, either Republic was not doing

such a good job on the F-105 anyway, or else the F-105 was not so important to the "national safety" (which so worries Mr. Kennedy) as to prevent the contracts being phased out and transferred to another company. So why does the "national safety" require these workers to go back to work against their will in this "free" country?

The "national safety" this patriotic President is so concerned with is in reality the safety of the profit system against the needs and demands of those who really produce the profits.

It is also—and especially in this particular case—the narrow political safety of an opportunist politician captaining the capitalist ship of state. His critics among the ship's officers of big business want his complete subservience to their whims. Nothing less will satisfy them. And the present economic storm warnings convince them that they have Kennedy "where they want him."

Concealing his fright with wisecracks at his fellow-officers, but always ready to sacrifice his workingclass ballast—Kennedy simply told 9,000 workers to walk the plank.

Chicago—About 5,000 workers of U.S. Steel Corporation's South Works have been put on a 32-hour week—but not with 40 hours pay.

The steel industry is currently producing at around 55 per cent of its capacity. More layoffs and short work-weeks are inevitable.

But with their hundreds of millions in profits, the companies can easily afford to reduce the hours without reducing the pay, and thus provide work and a decent living for all steelworkers.

Second Thoughts on the Stock Market—Or

The Wisdom That Comes Too Late

The bird of wisdom (the owl) flies only after the sun has set.

Likewise, the wise experts of the stock market can tell us why stocks go down—after the crash.

The fundamental reason they give for the disastrous decline in prices is profound and illuminating. Not only that. It is well adapted to give balm to the fleeced and at the same time entice still more into a fleecing.

The reason stocks went down, you see, is that *they were too high*. And after this wisdom is duly digested, the middle class dupe decides that perhaps now the stocks are just a mite "too low" and this would be a good time to get a "bargain" with his savings—if he still has any left.

One of the wisest of the Wall Street owls and most respected of its sharpies just gave similar views to the Senate Finance Committee on June 13. This was Douglas Dillon, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury and former stock broker (the Treasury is in good hands!).

Mr. Dillon said that many stocks had been selling at prices 30 to 40 times their yearly earnings and this was "too high."

He said that many "investment advisers" believe that a stock selling at a price 15 times the companies' current earnings was "probably on a pretty sound basis."

"Stocks are just about reaching that area," he observed.

Mr. Dillon, like the owl, was not flying very high or hooting very loud with his comments while the stock market was soaring "too high" into the sunny skies of prosperity. And he did not then condescend to inform the sheep (who now, alas, are already sheared) that the low stock dividends of last year did not warrant the high stock prices of this year. But now that the twilight, if not indeed the gloom of night, is beginning to settle over the market, he has assured the country that things were bad when the sun was out, but now they're dandy—and anyway, if a stock is selling at a price no more than 15 times its dividend,

it's a good buy.

(Quite a few individual stocks are still selling at 20 and 30 times their annual dividend. And many of these went down again on the very day Mr. Dillon made his very wise statement. Wall Street brokers said this new little crash was all Mr. Dillon's fault. He shouldn't have opened his mouth!)

It does not require the long and no doubt valuable experience of Mr. Dillon to see one glaring hole in his wisdom.

The price of a stock is only very generally determined by the dividend that a stock yields this year. The price of the stock is determined much more by what people think the dividend will be next year.

If the big investors and speculators feel that there will be an industrial recession next year, then stock prices will still go much lower this year than they are even now.

And the chorus boys of "Peoples Capitalism," including of course the peddlers of Mutual Funds, may yet become the wise owls of 1963 and decide—then—that stocks were still "a bit too high" in the second half of 1962!

Expensive Bargains!

From *The New York Times* of June 14:

The majority of stockbrokers agreed that some stocks had declined to levels where they were "real bargains."

However, one investor said he "just couldn't afford any more of these real bargains." He explained that he started buying I.B.M. when it fell to 480 (it was selling for 607 a few months ago—ed.) thinking it was a bargain and then bought more at 460, 410, 380 and 350. The stock closed yesterday at 322 and five-eighths, down 12 and a half points on the day.

(On the day the *Times* printed this sad story, I.B.M. went down still another 22 dollars a share.)

OAS Failure in Algeria May Speed Fascist Drive in France

For a considerable period, analysts of the French situation have been trying to decipher the relationship between the French General Staff and the OAS.

An authoritative article in *Newsweek* of June 16 divulged that the "settlers"—meaning thereby the large landowners—

"and the officers had differing objectives: the settlers backed the OAS to keep the Moslems from taking over, and the officers' real goal was to overthrow de Gaulle."

The above quote appears to be a correct analysis. The French officers corps is no less fascist-minded than is the OAS. The French officer corps knew all along that there would have to be an Algerian settlement based on independence.

Newsweek further continues:

"This basic divergence remained masked so long as there was a chance that the Evian peace accords could be sabotaged through terror. But when the Moslems did not crack, OAS unity began to crumble."

The unprecedented heroism of the Algerian masses has made the chances of a fascist OAS retaining control over Algeria a thing of the past.

But the overthrow of the de Gaulle regime remains an objective, not only of the French fascist military camarilla, but of the entire Right in French politics.

The big question is the role of the French labor movement and in particular that of the French CP which commands decisive influence among the French workers.

As was noted in this paper in an earlier issue, the decisive class struggles in French history have always been fought to a finish.

It was so in 1848 and in 1871. The savagery with which the OAS is attack-

ing the Algerian population is reminiscent of the crushing of the Paris Commune by Thier's counter-revolutionary troops which took the lives of 50,000 French workers—men, women and children.

The current crisis of French politics is merely a continuation of the struggle which the French working class opened up in 1936, against the same reactionary forces which are today seeking the establishment of a fascist dictatorship.

De Gaulle's tenure in office, when all is said and done, seems to be to pave the way for such a takeover.

Having reduced French bourgeois parliamentary institutions to practically zero, he virtually exercises dictatorial powers. The referendums which he initiates are so worded as to give him what amounts to a rubber stamp for his policy. These referendums are carbon copies of those initiated by Napoleon III—referendums which are meaningless so far as disclosing actual political trends, but only permit the people to say yes to the Chief of State.

The French working class political organizations and their allies, the trade unions, still remain intact. Their political rights are severely restricted by Gaullist reactionary police measures, but they are alive and strong. This is particularly true of the CP.

Thus, the decisive word in the French crisis is yet to be said.

Anti-Fascist Youth Committee
Asks you to

PICKET

The Ultra-Right Fred Schwarz
And bomb-happy Adm. Arleigh Burke

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

8th Ave. at 50th St. — 7 P.M. — June 28

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

A 6 mo. sub to **WORKERS WORLD** for only \$1.00—1 yr. for \$2.00.

Fill in coupon and mail to:

Workers World, 46 W. 21st St., N.Y. 10, N.Y.

NAME

STREET

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

Here's How They Tell the Unemployed Not to Worry: It's All 'Cyclical' — 'Structural' — and 'Submerged'!

By Dorothy Ballan

The meaningless distortions of facts and figures on employment and unemployment given out by government bureaus, is reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland. "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make a word mean so many different things."

Despite the fact that clearly—over a considerable period of time, unemployment has been rising—the U.S. Department of Labor issues figures, which are printed and reprinted from one end of the country to the other—showing that the rate of unemployment is falling.

If unemployment rises—how can the

rate possibly fall? Well, say the Humpty Dumpty of Kennedy's Department of Labor, it's because of the "seasonal factor."

And what is this "seasonal factor"? In February of this year, the actual rate of unemployment rose to the rate of 8.1 percent. Without the benefit of finding a single job for any of the unemployed, the Department of Labor said the unemployment was down to 6.8 percent—due to the "seasonal factor." In other words, if your unemployment was due to bad weather in February, the Department of Labor counted it as though you were working, even though you didn't earn a dime. How's that for arriving at unemployment statistics! At the very moment when you need a job most—not only for food, but to buy warm clothing and get warm housing in bad weather—the U.S. Department of Labor adds insult to injury and counts you as employed because your unemployment is due to bad weather. Fantastic? That's how they do it.

With rising unemployment characterized by no less than Kennedy himself as the "challenge of the '60's"—this challenge is being met, not by finding more jobs, but by phony-ing up the figures on unemployment.

It now turns out, that there is not only "seasonal unemployment," there is also "cyclical unemployment," "frictional unemployment," and "structural unemployment." The only kind of unemployment that seems to disturb the government experts just a bit, is the

"structural unemployment." This, they say, refers to "stubborn and persistent unemployment resulting from the more massive changes" in the economy. The number of unemployed who have been unemployed for over six months total one and a half million, and make up one-third of the total unemployed. The largest single group among these are the Afro-Americans. Also this "hard-core" unemployment crosses all occupations and all areas.

However, even the challenge of "structural unemployment" is being met—not with an attempt to provide more jobs, but rather with still more phony-ing up of government figures.

Now there is a new category—known as the "submerged unemployed." Counting the fact that the average person doesn't pay too much attention to precise population figures, the official government figures appear to have just dropped at least one million from the figure for the total work force, i.e., people working or looking for work.

A lot of publicity has been given to the fact that unemployment has supposedly gone down a million from a very high level of five million last year to "only" four million this year.

But only in the very small print in the back pages can you find the fact that the population this year is 3 million larger than a year ago—which means that the total labor force of those looking for work is at least one million higher than last year. But according to the Labor Department figures, the

total labor force is smaller this year than last. And so, over a million people who are actually part of the labor force, have been removed from the unemployment statistics, and have been relegated to the category of "submerged unemployed."

Such are the methods of capitalist "objective" reporting of facts and figures by the supposedly "impartial government."

But whether the unemployment is "seasonal," "cyclical," "frictional," "structural," or "submerged"—it is just plain old unemployment—which means simply no job, and large scale hunger and suffering—and no shoes for the kids.

And all the time spent to manufacture Madison Avenue phrases and Alice in Wonderland figures will not change the rising mass anger of the workers who are subjected to poverty and misery—while living in a country of abundance and "plenty"—for the rich.



Starvation in Mexico

As of May 21 there were about 15,000 people in a "hunger caravan" passing Saltillo, Mexico. They were trekking across the desert to Mexico City. This is a journey of 430 miles and it is very doubtful whether all the people—some already starving—can possibly get to their destination alive.

The marchers are peasants who earned a very meager living by gathering *acacia*, a desert plant used in making a commercial fibre. They are going to Mexico City in the hope of gaining some kind of work or else some solution to their home problem.

The only company that processes the *acacia* has recently stopped buying it.

Nobody Starves in Cuba, Even Though U.S. Embargo Cuts off Many Supplies

By R. G. Lieder

Every day the U.S. press tells us over and over again that food shortages exist in Revolutionary Cuba and as a result, Cubans are "hungry." The impression is created that the shortages exist because of the revolution, and that in pre-revolutionary days every Cuban was well-fed (in point of fact, before the revolution, thirty per-cent of the population had never so much as *tasted* meat or milk).

The truth is that shortages do exist. As a result, rationing has been instituted in the cities. However, it should be clearly understood that the shortages exist only because of the total U.S. embargo on exports to Cuba. (Before the revolution, Cuba was dependent on the U.S. for sixty per-cent of her foodstuffs.) If it were not for this embargo, it would not be necessary to ration certain essential items.

But despite the embargo and the resultant food shortages, Cubans are not hungry. Jack Scott, a pro-capitalist and definitely not pro-Cuban newspaperman from Canada, was forced to admit this in a recent series of articles from Cuba. He writes in *The Vancouver Sun*:

"No Cuban is hungry, in fact. Most are eating better than they did in the years before Fidel Castro and his followers came out of the Sierra Maestra hills."

"The families I've visited in Havana make out adequately enough on this basis (the ration), supplementing the rationed items with unrationed and sometimes expensive vegetables and fruits as they are available."

It was of course the rural population that lived in such unbelievable poverty before the revolution. Scott visited the home of Antonio Estevez on a collective farm near Havana. He writes:

"Senora Estevez proudly opened the door of the 'frig' to show me six chickens, 20-odd eggs, a roast, and four quarts of milk which she said she'd purchased that morning on her family ration card."

"They may talk of shortages in Havana," she said, "but four years ago none of us here would be able to afford all this—or a refrigerator to put it in."

Revolution Bursts Out Still Once Again—in Puerto Cabello, This Time

Venezuelans Storm the Heavens

By Pedro Sanchez

Alliance for Counter-Revolution

Are Venezuelan soldiers receiving counter-revolutionary training by the United States in Panama?

The following quotation from the conservative *El Nacional* of Caracas (April 25) indicates that they are doing just that:

"Deputy Anibal Lairet spoke in the name of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, and formulated several questions for the Minister of Defense, among them: 'In virtue of what official agreements do the Venezuelan Armed Forces receive anti-guerrilla training in Panama?'"

The Defense Minister said that he "was not authorized by the Executive Cabinet to answer that question."

of the country each year. He was fighting against starvation and homelessness, governmental indifference and ruling class arrogance. He was fighting against U.S. imperialism and for the independence and socialist development of Venezuela.

The Leadership

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (a strongly pro-Castro group) and the Communist Party are the organizations which seem to be mostly in the leadership of the continual eruptions in Venezuela. The Venezuelan CP is reputed to have sided with the Chinese CP on the question of the revolutionary road to power regardless of considerations of "peaceful co-existence." Both the CP and the MLR seem determined to take the power and oust the Yankee stooge government.

The sporadic character of the revolts (there have been a dozen smaller outbreaks beside the battles of Carúpano and Puerto Cabello) would seem to indicate that the two parties are not in firm leadership of the masses or else that they are using incorrect tactics.

But this is not necessarily the case at all. They are confronted with a huge military machine. And they are in the

Once again the heroic revolutionaries of Venezuela have tried to storm the heavens and oust the absentee Yankee dictatorship from their land. And once again the corrupted Venezuelan puppets of Wall Street have successfully turned back the brave onslaught and with greatly superior fire-power (supplied mostly by the United States arms factories) have wrought terrible vengeance on the bold revolutionaries.

At Puerto Cabello early this month, just exactly four weeks after the big uprising at Carúpano, hundreds of people lost their lives in the attempt to overthrow the once-liberal, but now hated reactionary, Romulo Betancourt.

Audacious Tactics

As in Carúpano, the revolt started in the marine corps. And as in Carúpano, the marines passed out arms to the workers and peasants. They seized the broadcasting station and sent out a call for a general uprising. They dispatched 700 marines to occupy the city near their camp. They released 66 anti-regime civilian guerrillas whom Betancourt had imprisoned on their base.

They stood up against light artillery, mortars, jeep-mounted recoilless rifles, 20 tanks and 3,000 regular army troops. A number of them who used a hospital for a fortress did not give up until the tanks had blasted the hospital at point blank range and nearly destroyed it. Students and young workers took over the local high school and only yielded after scores of them were dead and wounded in a room-to-room struggle.

(The officers of the regular army, not content with killing the real people, also tore down the picture of Fidel Castro from one of the classrooms, took it out in the square and riddled it with machine gun bullets.)

According to *Time* Magazine, when the fighting was over, a youth of 16 stepped from his sniper's post and handed his automatic rifle to the soldiers.

"Do what you want to me," he said with proud defiance. "I've already killed seven men."

The boy was fighting against the system that condemns six million Venezuelans to a wretched life while about six U.S. corporations—led by Gulf Oil and Creole Petroleum, alias Standard Oil—take half a billion dollars in profit out

process of gathering arms as well as creating a revolutionary tradition. They are now almost completely outlawed by the "liberal" Betancourt. And the U.S. monopolists are several times stronger in Venezuela than they were in Cuba when Castro was fighting Batista. Moreover, the imperialists are now on the alert and utilizing measures against the Venezuelan revolutionaries that they never did against the Castro forces.

The U.S. Intervenes

For example, on June 13, Washington announced that U.S. Army "mobile training teams" of anti-guerrilla specialists are assisting U.S. military missions in Latin America.

Their equipment includes radio-equipped jeeps, helicopters and light field weapons. These teams are being trained at the Special Forces Headquarters at Fort Bragg, N. C. and at the U.S. jungle warfare school at Fort Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone.

The U.S. export of counter-revolution is thus by no means confined to sending troops to Southeast Asia. Its dollar imperialism, its "military aid" to Latin America, is more consistent, longer established, equally ruthless and—with the exception of Cuba—so far, much more effective than in the East.

The Southeast Asian revolutions get some aid from China or the Soviet Union against the tanks, jets, helicopters and artillery of the U.S. But the Latin Americans face the war machine of the U.S. without any corresponding military aid from the socialist camp.

The audacious Venezuelans, therefore, especially deserve the love and respect of the anti-imperialist portion of mankind. They also deserve—and must, in the long run, inevitably get the aid of other revolutionary forces beside their own.

Their almost legendary ancestor, Simón Bolívar, twice crossed the snow-capped Andes with an army smaller and more ragged than Washington's at Valley Forge, and was able to defeat the crack troops of Spain. So the modern revolution—more thoroughly representative of Venezuela's population than Bolívar's and more deeply rooted in a world-wide transformation of society—will conquer both the Latin puppet army and the Yankee puppet master as well.

The Three Lessons of Laos

By Sam Marcy

Only time can tell whether the settlement in Laos has any but momentary significance. At any rate, it is too early for a definitive assessment.

But already it has in it some very instructive lessons in the history of our times. The key issue in dispute over the settlement of the coalition government has been the question of control over the Ministries of Army and Police.

This shows that both sides in the struggle understand the fundamental teaching of Lenin's *State and Revolution*—each from his own class point of view.

If it was otherwise, they would have been arguing about the apportionment of seats in the new parliament—or about the administrative machinery for setting up a new election, and not about who will control the army and police.

The control of these two arms of the state apparatus, according to *State and Revolution*, will decide who controls the state, and also, ultimately, the class character of the state.

If it should turn out that the Pathet Lao liberation army, which has the overwhelming support of the Laotian people, will not only retain full sway over its own military and police forces, but also obtain indirect control over the merged forces of the Ministries of Defense and Police then it can be confidently said that Laos will be completely liberated, not only from imperialism, but from the Boun Oum-Nosavan feudal-military clique of U.S. paid hirelings.

But as matters stand now, the agreement is somewhat vague and cloudy. It provides that the Ministry of Defense and Interior shall go to the neutralists—i.e., Prince Souvanna Phouma's appointees.

Where Phouma will stand tomorrow is conjectured. But it is not left up to Souvanna Phouma alone, so far as anyone can tell from a mere reading of the dispatches, because the agreement further provides that each of the three factions may veto any important action taken by the other two. Decisions must be unanimous.

Thus Prince Souphanouvong, the representative of the Pathet Lao liberation army, holds a veto power as to how the

armies and police of both sides will be integrated into a unified, national force.

The manner in which this issue is disposed of is crucial. It will decide whether Laos will really be liberated or whether the present agreement was merely a lull in the struggle.

In this connection, it is instructive to remember that when the late General Marshall undertook his now famous peace mission to "reconcile" the Chinese Red Army with the Chiang Kai-shek forces, Washington hoped that he would achieve the kind of integration into a unified national force, which would subordinate the Red Army under the overall command of Chiang Kai-shek!

The refusal of the Chinese Communist leaders to submit to Washington's dictate constituted a turning point in the direction of what proved to be the second greatest revolution in history.

* * *

Another instructive lesson lies in the role of small nations in today's world. The fact that the Laos agreement will require the signatures of no less than 14 other nations is in itself a commentary on the role of small states.

Not the smallest or even the greatest powers enjoy complete independence. We are living in an epoch of struggle between two diametrically opposed world social systems. Until this struggle is

finally and ultimately resolved in favor of socialism, there cannot be any real, full independence for any of the nations. The nature of the struggle requires mutual dependence and interdependence within each camp.

The ferocious pressure of world imperialism, the monstrous growth of its military might, its insatiable appetite for the spoils of super-exploitation, constrict the efforts of the socialist countries and the emerging Asian and African nations.

The development of the imperialist Common Market as a new weapon to obstruct the economic growth of all anti-imperialist countries, makes it all the more difficult for small and weak nations to develop and utilize all channels of the world market. Thus the support of the USSR, China and North Vietnam is vital in the defense of the Laotian liberation struggle.

* * *

The third lesson is also in the nature of a warning. The Laos Agreement, if it should become a viable fact of history, should under no circumstances become a new source of illusions regarding the war-like character of imperialism. This, perhaps, is the most important lesson.

Premier Khrushchev stated on the occasion of the Laotian Agreement:

"The results achieved in the settlement of the Laotian problem strengthen the conviction that success in solving other international problems which now divide states and create tension in the world, can be achieved in the same way."

It is noteworthy that *The New York Times* interpreted Kennedy's remarks on Laos as "more restrained."

It is necessary to view Khrushchev's remarks in the nature of a diplomatic note rather than as a guide to the world labor and liberation movement.

To make a thesis for peaceful co-existence out of the Laotian settlement is to fly in the face of the most obvious reality. Even the most reactionary section of the U.S. imperialist press has had to openly admit that it was the heavy defeat—really a complete rout—inflicted by the heroic Pathet Lao liberation army upon Boun Oum's mercenary army and his U.S. supporters, which proved decisive in forcing the U.S. to finally push through the agreement.

To lose sight of this fact is to confuse the working class theoretically and disarm it politically.



This picture shows some of the Laotian troops under the command of Kong Le, second from right, he is the young captain who made the almost legendary coup against a U.S. premier and set Souvanna Phouma in the premiership in December, 1960.

Nigerian CP Leader Outlines Perspective for a Socialist Africa

By Abraham James

We have said on several occasions that Nigeria, the showplace of British imperialism's new "freedom" for the colonies, may yet prove to be the most explosive of African countries. The following report from our Nigerian correspondent provides further proof of this.

We do not, however, possess any information as to the size and influence of the Nigerian CP or what its record is. Mr. Mekowula (quoted below) obviously understands the situation and his broad program is obviously correct. But whether he and his party are preparing for the revolutionary war they will have to conduct in order to effectuate this program, we do not know.—ed.

* * *

NIGERIA

In a full-page article captioned, "Communism—Our Only Hope in Nigeria," Mr. Nwankwo Mekowula, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nigeria, declared in the *Nigerian Daily Times* that the only way left for Nigeria to end for all time the oppression of the ruling clique "is to bury capitalist democracy and install people's democracy."

He continued: "The only way to ensure social progress is through the non-capitalist development; the only way to abolish imperialism is by perfectly uprooting capitalism for a transition to socialism. This means building up truly national industries to conquer hunger and poverty, to give education to the masses and eliminate unemployment totally."

Mr. Mekowula was a guest writer in the newspaper on a new series—"We of Tomorrow." He added that all patriotic

Nigerians must have their consciences shaken to their very foundations to see that "our hard-won independence has become a mere nominal one for puppet rulers; the honor and freedom of our country being sold at dollar prices; the colonial pattern of existence remains unaltered."

The General Secretary declared that under the capitalism which we Nigerians live at present, exploitation of man by man is the rule rather than the exception; oppression of the working class and peasantry by the national bourgeoisie is the order.

To buttress his points, Mr. Nwankwo Mekowula said:

"We find undemocratic rule, we find the national sovereignty made exclusively for the bourgeois class and feudal chiefs, we stare at mass illiteracy, poverty and hunger; and with our eyes wide open, we find imperialism and neo-colonialism firmly entrenched in our country."

He warned against self-deception and said Nigerians must face the many problems they have with open minds.

Concluding, he said:

"The Nigerian Communist Party Program of socialist construction is concretely realizable. The militant and revolutionary program is a well-digested plan for practical application. It is a comprehensive scientific schedule.

We . . . do not expect the rulers of today to see any good in our mission, because tomorrow does not belong to them. There is a do-or-die battle to make the most out of the wicked and unjust legacy left by the capitalist from across the Atlantic."

Hospital Strikers Fight On

(Continued from page 1)

The union has provided a well-organized strike kitchen with three meals a day and sympathizers have collected large amounts of canned goods and other foods for the strikers. (One group set up tables outside of three Harlem supermarkets, where Afro-Americans and Puerto Ricans donated with great generosity to help their brothers and sisters in the strike.)

Indignation and idealistic sympathy for the strikers has run so high among the New York youth that scores of teenage boys and girls, together with some in their twenties, have joined the picket line in defiance of the injunction for long hours, day after day. On week-ends, the number of these friendly forces swells to around a hundred.

Pickets have been arrested on many occasions. And the arrests have often included some of the youth who have aided the strikers.

On June 2, five young men were arrested for allegedly charging a station wagon full of scabs. On June 5, 34 boys and girls were arrested for "sitting in" in the hospital for several hours to protest its iron-handed treatment of the under-paid workers. On June 12, another 20 youths did the same and got the same treatment.

On the occasion of the second sit-in, the hospital authorities were prepared in advance and called police immediately. Sturdily singing their defiance, the assembled youth held their ground and had to be dragged out by the cops.

In the patrol wagons, the girls painted makeshift signs with their lipstick and hung them outside the wire mesh so passersby could see the words: "Support the Beth El Strike!"

As the Black Marias stopped for signals, young people on the curb shook

hands through the bars. And the youth inside, tremendously heartened, continued to chant their support for the embattled workers.

Scores of youth have been in jail for the first time in this strike and have seen the uneven justice meted out by the capitalist state at first hand as well as feeling it on their own backs. After one of the sit-ins, the arraigning magistrate called them all "un-Americans" and implied they were "outside agitators" while he openly sympathized with the sweatshop-hospital.

One of the lawyers for the sit-inners is Mark Lane, the State Assemblyman who became famous in the atomic shelter scandal he exposed last winter. He has also walked the picket line in front of Beth El and served on a special committee of citizens to try to influence the hospital trustees.

On Sunday, June 17, about 30 of the youth picketed the "Famous Restaurant" on Eastern Parkway, which happens to be owned by one of the hospital trustees. Many customers refused to cross the picket line. Those who did were roundly booed. Over 400 people gathered to watch, most of them siding with the pickets.

All these bold sympathy-strike actions have electrified the labor movement and spotlighted the already publicized strike, recalling the dramatic days of the great 1959 hospital strike.

The New York Post, *The Amsterdam News* and *El Diario* have run editorials sympathetic to the strikers.

But more important, the labor movement itself is showing signs of giving broad support. If these signs are followed by real substance, the strike, though it be in reality not against a small hospital, but against big business itself, will surely be won.