

Long Live the Newark Rebellion! Glorious Answer to Master Class

Class Solidarity At New High In Va. Shipyard Strike

An Eye-Witness Story of the Struggle

By F. RICHARDSON

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., July 16— The strike here at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company is over. But the issues have not really been settled. It is the beginning of a longer war.

This chapter, this short, violent strike was, at its high point, one of the most militant, knock-em-down-drag-em-out battles put up by American workers since the 30's and it has important lessons for the entire class.

It saw black and white workers force their company union to defy an injunction.

It saw these same united black and white workers battle scabs, cops, and state police.

It saw, on the second day of the strike (Tuesday, July 11), the Newport News Police Chief deliberately run down pickets with his car, badly injuring at least one.

It saw both the local and the national press hide the police chief's role in this intentional act — in spite of the fact that many workers saw Police Chief William F. Peach in the would-be killer car, either directing it or actually

Continued on Page 8

Armed Resistance Turning Point in Struggle

By SAM MARCY

They did not die in vain. Those who were brutally murdered, mercilessly beaten, shot at, wounded, and jailed will forever be remembered by the oppressed and exploited everywhere as symbols of glorious resistance to the unendurable oppression of a master class whose arrogance, cruelty, and indifference to human life has few parallels in history.

The embattled people of Newark have written a truly momentous chapter in the history of the liberation struggle. Their deeds are still reverberating throughout the four corners of the earth. It is no exaggeration to say that they have drawn the attention of practically

all mankind and demonstrated, by their example, the indomitable will and inflexible determination of the Black People to achieve their freedom at whatever cost.

The ruling class and its servitors, its pious priests, and pliant press, its gunmen and its executioners — all who helped, each in his own way, to subdue the rebellious people — will forever be pilloried by later generations of all mankind.

"Looters", "snipers", "thieves", "rioters on a rampage": these are the ancient epithets hurled at all the oppressed wherever and whenever they seek to unshackle themselves from slavery. Have not these very epithets been hurled at all revolutionary uprisings beginning with the great Peasant Uprisings of the 14th and 15th centuries, through the French Revolution and all the way down the line up to and including the latest revolutionary convulsions?

In its historic contest for class supremacy with older social formations, the bourgeoisie committed unbelievable crimes and inflicted the most wanton destruction in order to expropriate the land and property of entire social classes, peoples, and vast continents. Invariably the bourgeoisie used the most unmitigated terror; conquest by fire and sword.

By comparison, the so-called "lootings" in Newark, about which the bourgeois press raves so much, are merely individual expropriations incidental to the struggle. They are in reality pitifully small and born out of the depths of simple hunger and deprivation. Yet the bourgeois press squealed like a stuck pig as though these incidents were a death blow to its entire social system.

Newark signifies a crossing of the Rubicon. In a certain sense a turning point in the struggle has been reached. Both the oppressor and the oppressed have for a long time sensed its coming and have long anticipated it. Now it has descended with a suddenness and might that has literally shaken the racist structure to its very foundations. The Newark experience demonstrates that the volcanic character of explosions in the ghettos are of a general and abiding nature and can in no way be attributed to temporary, conjunctural, or accidental factors as the master class would have the world believe.

The Newark rebellion exceeds in social significance, if not in magnitude, the historic upheaval in Watts. Newark came after Watts, after Cleveland, Cincinnati, Buffalo and other cities. By the time the tidal wave of rebellion reached Newark the masses instinctively knew the outcome of the uneven struggle, and the measure of the rage of the enemy for vengeance.

The cruel and inhuman vengeance visited on the populace in the rebellious ghettos by the terrorist apparatus of the bourgeoisie could not but leave a marked imprint on the consciousness of the Black People of Newark.

Continued on Page 2

Black Newark Fought Back Against Dictatorship of Racist Ruling Class



When unarmed people hurl stones and bottles at a police station, breaking nearly every window in the place, and defy every cop they meet on the street, practically daring the cops to kill them, it should be crystal clear to everybody that those people are risking their lives for the same basic reasons as the heroes of 1776.

On the night of July 13 in Newark, N.J., the Black People took on their persecutors and made a revolutionary bid for freedom.

The immediate events which led up to the audacious assault on the police station, the most obvious, most provocative and deadly fortress of white

supremacy in the black district, were as follows:

On July 12, police arrested an Afro-American cab driver, John William Smith, allegedly for driving "too close behind a police car" (1) and hauled him to the station house, where they beat him up.

Other cab drivers spread the news about this among their ranks by means of their short wave radios.

When Smith was arraigned, with a number of cabbies and other friends present, the police accused him of resisting arrest — to justify his disheveled and beaten-up appearance. And he shouted into a microphone

mounted in front of him:

"There was absolutely no resistance! That is a cover story. They caved in my ribs, busted a hernia and put a hole in my head. They did the damage."

The audience left and spread the word around. Then, a black group picketed the station house with signs of mild protest, such as: "Operation We Care, Beat Drums Not Heads," etc.

It was after this that the masses themselves took a hand (coming partly from a housing project across the street) and pelted the station, yelled at the cops to come out and fight, then went away, smashed and burned

Continued on Page 4

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Armed Newark Rebellion Turning Point in Struggle

Continued from Page 1

There is deep and profound meaning to a battle where the combatants can gauge fairly well that its immediate outcome will be unfavorable, but nevertheless still dare to engage the enemy spontaneously, with audacity and determination. It is this element which imparts an entirely new character to the struggle.

While the immediate result may appear unfavorable in the sense that the people were overcome by sheer overwhelming brute force, the battle of Newark can in no way be regarded as a defeat. On the contrary, the very character of the "defeat" lays the basis for ultimate victory. For the true import of Newark lies in the fact that it galvanized as never before the Black masses in an enduring bond which will not succumb to the mere employment of naked violence alone.

The spontaneous character of the ghetto uprisings is both their strength and their weakness. No great modern social revolution has ever taken place without it being preceded by a spontaneous convulsion of the revolutionary masses and their direct intervention in the political arena, often in defiance of their own leaders and always in contravention of the acceptable norms of political behavior set by their oppressors.

Without the masses first taking matters into their own hands it is doubtful if any of the great revolutions of modern times would have been successful. The word revolution itself has practically and almost always been synonymous with direct and spontaneous interventions of the popular masses themselves. Only afterward have the leaders acted and, in the celebrated cases of successful revolutions, shown the path to victory. Naturally, as in the case of Newark and other ghetto uprisings, the masses acted only under continuous provocation and under conditions of insufferable oppression.

The master class has for a long time entertained the notion that it can cultivate and develop a whole stratum of officialdom in the Afro-American community which would act as its agent among the masses, hold them in tow, extinguish the fires of rebellion whenever they occur, and stabilize the conditions of exploitation and oppression. But the uprisings in the ghettos and the course they have taken have shown beyond doubt the utter hollowness of any such notions. For the masses followed their own inclinations and instincts and were deaf to any who came with special pleading for surrender.

The frequent failure of established leadership to give voice, direction, and organization to the hopes and aspirations of the popular masses in periods of social crisis has been world wide in character and has its origins in the great social power of capital over the laboring masses and in the conservatism of the old social order generally. It would be strange if this did not in some measure also apply to the Afro-American community.

In the crucible of prolonged rebellion, revolutionary leadership is sure to develop and measure up to the great historic opportunity for liberation.

The battle of Newark has at last brought to clear visibility the true nature of the Black Liberation struggle as having both a national and class character at the same time.

The authoritative organ of U.S. finance capital, the New York Times, on July 16th, makes the extraordinary admission that "the United States is torn by a confrontation between the two nations that inhabit it, the 11 percent the census calls Negroes and the great majority, those who many young Negroes call 'Whitey.'"

"Confrontation between the two nations that inhabit it!" This is a true sociological generalization which this organ of the ruling class is forced to make in order to bring its own conceptions in harmony with reality so as to be able to better cope with the rising tide of Black Liberation. Marxists and Leninists of course should have always known that there are two nations within the framework of one giant imperialist state.

What is of course missing in the Times' admission of the "two nations" is the class character of each of them. Given the imperialist character of the state and the social system which it represents, it has been obligatory to characterize the white nation as the oppressing one and the Black nation as the oppressed. This has often been befogged and clouded by an overgrowth of bourgeois ideology, which denies the independent character of the Afro-American movement and its right to determine its own independent destiny, free from the will of the oppressing nation and the master class which dominates both nations.

More often than not, exponents of bourgeois liberal ideology have sought to make the Afro-American liberation movement an appendage to their politics and in the service of capitalism. They not only deny the independent character of the movement but hinder its development by trying to obliterate its national and class character. The scope and breadth of the present movement has made their theoretical pretensions ridiculous especially in the light of recent events.

However, clarifying the nature of the Afro-American liberation struggle does not give a prescription for white workers and progressives to preach any kind of separatism whatsoever but merely to redouble their efforts for solidarity with the Black People and against the virulence of racism, and for the right of self-determination for Black People; that is, the right to determine for themselves their own path to freedom and equality with others.

The urgent task for the white workers and progressives generally today is to demonstrate in words and deeds genuine working class solidarity with the Black People in the current unfolding struggle and to stick with them through all their trials and tribulations. This in turn will also help the white workers to free themselves from bondage to "their own" imperialist masters and revive the historical conditions for the common emancipation of both black and white from capitalist slavery.

Spring Mobilization Committee Gags Opponents of Mideast War

For the second time in a month, the Administrative Committee of the Spring Mobilization Committee gagged the opponents of U.S.-Israeli aggression by tabling a motion calling upon the SMC to "condemn the U.S.-sponsored Israeli invasion as an aggression against the Arab people."

The revisionist CP and the SWP representatives not only joined in the move to table the resolution, but these "radical" apologists for the liberal Committee leaders led the discussion to bury it.

The resolution, sponsored by Youth Against War & Fascism, was originally introduced at the last meeting of the Administrative Committee on June 17. At that meeting opponents of U.S. Mideast aggression had to fight against the violent opposition of SANE, Trade Unionists for Peace and other organizations, just to get the resolution on the agenda.

At that time, Sidney Peck, the chairman of the meeting, agreed to put the item on the agenda and promised that at the next meeting there would be a full discussion of the resolution.

The barbaric imperialist war against 100 million Arab people came and went without a moment's discussion by the so-called leaders of the anti-war movement.

Then, on July 8, the Administrative Committee met again and YAWF representatives introduced the Mideast resolution anticipating a full discussion as promised by Sidney Peck at the previous meeting (Peck chaired the July 8 meeting too).

The moment the resolution was presented, Linda Dannenberg, acting as a stooge for the liberal-"radical" coalition, was on her feet with a motion to table.

Harry Ring of the SWP then tried to perfect this crude motion to table by asking for permission to discuss the question, which was an "important" question — 10 minutes for each side! — before tabling it.

Abner Grunauer of SANE, supported by Abe Weisburd of Trade Unionists for Peace, combined the worst of Ring's and Dannenberg's proposals by calling for discussion -- but only by opponents of the resolution! Grunauer's amendment was passed.

So during the entire proceedings, YAWF representatives, Deirdre Griswold and Dave Axel, were permitted 7 1/2 minutes each to present the resolution and the rest of the time was taken up with parliamentary maneuvers calculated to stifle dissent and to keep the vital question of opposing a savage imperialist war from being brought up before the rank and file of the anti-war movement.

Among those who were refused permission to speak on the resolution was comrade Sam Marcy, who was delegated by the National Committee of Workers World to introduce a resolution supporting condemnation of U.S.-Israeli aggression. Comrade Marcy was refused the floor even though he was the first to object to the motion to table.

And so it went. The bourgeois liberals and their "radical" attorneys and apologists vied with each other to denounce the so-called "splitters" of the anti-war movement: those who wanted to create "divisiveness" by condemning both imperialist wars.

In so doing, the imperialist doves in the Committee and their lick-spittles on the left used the favorite tactic of organizations like ADA which didn't want to "split" from the Democratic party and supported Johnson, who doesn't want to "split" with his fellow democrat, Lester Maddox, who doesn't want to "split" with his Ku Klux Klan kindred, etc., etc., etc.

It was a shameful performance by the Spring Mobilization Committee which considers itself the principal organization in the anti-war movement. But most shameful of all was the behavior of the revisionist CP and SWP which ran interference for the right wing all the way.

Ad Hoc Committee Protests U.S.-Israeli Aggression



NEW YORK, July 14 — Israeli's Mission to the UN was picketed here today by a militant group of about 135 people protesting the U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Mideast.

Shouting and marching for nearly two hours, the spirited crowd chanted such slogans as: "Get Israeli Troops Out of Arab Lands; Get U.S. Sixth Fleet Out of Arab Waters; Stop U.S.-Israeli Aggression; Eshkol-Dayan work for Standard Oil!"

The demonstration was organized by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East. It was the first such action here (except for Arab nationalist protests) since Youth Against War and Fascism picketed the U.S. Mission on June 10.

In a brochure calling for today's

demonstration, the Ad Hoc Committee said:

"The war in the Middle East is not over! It may have only just begun... The Israeli state is in hock to the U.S. and could not make war without the go-ahead and sponsorship of its banker... This use of Israel (by the U.S.) was not an accidental stroke of good fortune for Wall Street... It was planned that way decades ago! ... By having Israel do its dirty work, imperialism has made Israel rather than itself the target of the hatred of millions of rising peoples in the Mideast and all over the world and has thereby created a death trap for the Jewish masses."

The Ad Hoc Committee may be contacted through Rita Freed, 1430 Amsterdam, New York, N.Y. Phone 212-926-2490.

The Chinese Revolution Comes to Hong Kong

By V. Copeland

The Chinese Revolution has come to Hong Kong.

That is the real meaning of the strikes, demonstrations and general strikes that have been shaking the island colony for the past two months and more.

Imperialist editors, China "experts"; and other flunkies of the ruling class have had a dozen theories about the upheaval. But they all avoid this central fact.

This is not only because they are trying to conceal it; it is also because they can't believe it.

The 125-year British rule is now reinforced by the U.S. 7th Fleet. And the oppressed population is now diluted by anti-Communist "refugees" from the mainland. This combines to reassure the parasitic rulers that their bonanza will last forever.

Charles Mohr, writing in the New York Times of May 15 in eloquent description of the fighting masses, and the clubbing and shooting by police in Hong Kong, also observed: "On the top floor of the (Hong Kong) Hilton Hotel, meanwhile, there was a rustle of taffeta as tall, beautiful models

paraded among the tables for the regular Monday fashion show."

What he meant was not that a doomed class was oblivious of its destiny, but rather that it didn't have anything to worry about! All he could see was secondary "maneuvers" by Peking.

In early May, when the strikes at

the Hong Kong Artificial Flower Works and the Green Island Cement Company broke out, the pundits said that Peking "ordered" the "disturbances" that followed.

This was "proven," they said, by the big demonstration in Shanghai a couple of days later when Red Guards invaded the home of a British diplomat with pro-Hong Kong slogans calling for liberation, etc. And when a much bigger demonstration was held in Peking later in the month where the British Prime Minister and John Bull were burned in effigy, the matter was crystal clear: Peking had turned on the faucet, and now it only remained for Peking to turn it off.

In late June and early July, the tune changed. The reactionaries then said the whole trouble was due to "hot-heads" inside Hong Kong and that the British ruling class in Hong Kong might weather the crisis—"always provided there is no direct intervention by Peking."

This meant, of course, that British troops and police could "handle" the situation as long as the masses were unarmed and the Chinese People's Liberation Army did not assist them.

A couple of weeks later, when Chinese border guards were compelled to shoot some Hong Kong troops who were beating up the workers, the tune was given a new accompaniment.

The Chinese Government had sent regular Red Army troops to the border to reinforce the guards, who were militiamen. And the Hong Kong rulers said this might be a good thing, because it showed that Peking itself would now be more in control of things and of course Peking didn't want to lose all the advantages it is supposed to have in letting the British rule Hong Kong!

Actually, the People's Government had sent Red Army detachments because the British had imported a battalion of Gurkha mercenaries to reinforce their troops, which now number 8,000 (in addition to 10,000 Hong Kong cops, who are ethnically Chinese).

British authorities in Hong Kong kept asserting through May that the working class did not support the struggles and only a few "pro-Peking agitators" were responsible. However, a seven-line Reuters dispatch revealed on May 26 that "All Chinese working for Britons (in Hong Kong) went on strike" that day.

True, a number of subsequent strike calls appear to have been less effective and Wen Wai Pao, a major Communist Party newspaper, acknowledged that "better organization" was needed. Together with other papers, it called for the establishment of "struggle committees" in every street and district of the 4-million strong city. This is a classically revolutionary method employed ever since the French Revolution of 1789, and it is a sure sign that the masses are moving and the leaders are not fooling.

A large number of individuals have been shot and killed and a still larger number wounded. But the workers have held their own. On the night of July 9, for example, when three workers were killed, a group set upon the cops and one constable was left dead with a slash from a cargo hook (the type used by longshoremen). Later in the evening, a crowd threw bottles of gasoline at the police. Such incidents have been fairly common lately.

The dollar-conscious imperialists are sure that nothing "serious" will happen, because, they say, People's China does not want to give up the much-needed \$700 million in foreign exchange that it earns from and through Hong Kong. But China, though hemmed in, sabotaged, blockaded and constantly attacked by imperialism, though in need of many things, is not the same as its critics, and is not the slave of the dollar like they are. China is a revolutionary country. And if it can help the masses of Hong Kong to liberate themselves, it will do so.

Some Facts About Hong Kong

It was "ceded" to the British in 1842, we are told. But the reason it was "ceded" was that the British had just fought a bloody war against China to force the Manchu Emperor to permit them to sell opium to the Chinese. Hong Kong became the main port for the British opium trade and remained so for over 60 years.

Hong Kong is now being used as a base for U.S. aggression against Vietnam, as People's China rightly complains. No less than 390 U.S. naval craft visited Hong

Kong last year. And in addition, about 4,500 U.S. servicemen go there from Vietnam each month for "rest and recreation."

There are about 140 U.S. companies doing business there and exploiting the unbelievably low-paid workers. The U.S. interest in Hong Kong, not yet as large as the British, economically, is growing and strategically decisive. Washington is undoubtedly behind every move that Britain makes in this oppressed and super-exploited colony.

"Go North and Die!" Is What GIs In Vietnam Now Say About War

Brass Is Losing War, While GIs Lose Their Lives; Latest Proof Is Devastation of Danang by NLF

"The marines have a new saying in their outposts near the demilitarized zone in Vietnam. It is, 'Go north and die.'"

So said a New York Times dispatch from Dongha on July 13, summing up the mood of the elite troops of the United States in this counter-revolutionary war.

Of course, this does not bother the big brass, or it would not, if the GIs would just continue to die—in sufficient numbers to gain the victory.

"All we need is a little shoot-em-up action and we'll be all right," said a major commenting on this state of affairs, who was quoted in the same report.

After several years of "shoot-em-up," however, the marines and drafted GIs, who have seen at least 12,000 of their buddies die, are less enthusiastic than the ruling class brass.

On June 28, the same reporter who told the above story, explained the mood of the new soldiers and old ones at Pleiku.

"Watching a group of new arrivals march to a briefing on Vietnam, Specialist Salvatore Grizola ... shook his head and murmured: 'Those poor, poor bastards.'"

The new men are frightened.

"A lot of us are just scared out of our minds," said Pvt. David Saunders, an 18-year old infantryman from Dayton, Ohio. "People are just walking around like in a daze."

Speaking of the replacements, the reporter said: "They wait on mess hall lines in silence, gaze at the lush mountains in silence and lie in their tents in silence."

The present U.S. soldiers are probably the best armed and outfitted in the world, but certainly the least politically equipped in the world to understand what is happening to them or fully to analyze their own feelings.

Nevertheless, the Vietnamese revolution has penetrated their consciousness in its own way. A people is in arms against them. They see this every day, every hour. And all the Army indoctrination in the world cannot obliterate this fact.

Anyone in the U.S. Army who might possibly have refused to recognize this reality was again made painfully aware of it on the night of July 14, when the National Liberation Front rained de-

vastating rockets on the U.S. airbase at Danang from positions less than seven miles away!

Danang, in the northern part of South Vietnam, has been fortified by the U.S. for two and a half years. It has a 1,600 acre air base, from which planes have taken off again and again to bomb the countryside, as tens of thousands of U.S. troops have conducted "search and destroy" missions in the neighborhood.

And yet the NLF fired 50 rockets into the base, some of them 120mms. and some 140's. The aim was "deadly accurate." Some \$80 million worth of planes and equipment were destroyed. Many fliers and marines were killed and wounded.



GIs at Pleiku waiting to go into battle.

It was the third raid on Danang in five months.

In a daring feint or companion action that Hollywood would make at least 20 movies about if Americans did it, the NLF on the same night raided a prison 20 miles south of Danang.

About 60 guerrillas charged the prison with satchel charges and released 1,200 NLF members and sympathizers, killing five policemen and a police superintendent.

Any GI in Vietnam who even heard about this exploit would know that he is fighting the whole Vietnamese people—except the cops.

And to top all the other blows to the sagging morale of the more or less unconsciously counter-revolutionary GIs, comes the bitter news that still more will have to die—to make up for the Viet puppets who refuse to do so.

It was officially admitted in Saigon on July 17 that "the burden of fighting the Vietcong and North Vietnamese has passed decisively to American troops."

With the South Vietnam puppet army numbering 650,000 and the U.S. forces within the country now 465,000, the U.S. has had constantly more casualties than its "ally" since May 1 of this year.

Since that time, the U.S. admits to 2,247 battle deaths, compared to 2,010 for Ky's troops.



For those wounded in action, the disproportion is even greater. It's 5,838 Americans since May 1, compared to 2,231 South Vietnamese!

In barracks and on the field, U.S. soldiers will make their own earthy conclusions about this. The GI hardly needs to understand about the Morgans, the Rockefellers and General Motors' attempt to take over the world, to know that he doesn't belong in Vietnam.

- Newark Rebellion

Continued From Page 1

a couple of white-owned stores.

Some of the most conservative leaders of the Black People of Newark then complained to the Mayor and to the news media. They scored the police brutality in Newark and demanded an end to it. They defended the cab driver and demanded disciplinary action against the police involved.

Mayor Addonizio replied by ordering an investigation into the charges against the police — an investigation to be carried out by the police themselves! He referred the arrest of the taxi-driver to the FBI for "study"!

The nervous Mayor well understood the real situation and well knew that he himself was one of the causes of it.

A few weeks earlier, he had inflamed the majority black population by giving a white political hack with a high school education a cushy Board of Education job and passing over a highly qualified Afro-American with a master's degree. Black Newark knew the facts on this. But the outrage was only one of hundreds of similar humiliations, and Addonizio thought he had gotten away with it.

It was shortly after the Mayor's do-nothing decision on the police brutality complaint that the uprising began in earnest. Police stations were attacked, squad cars were burned, youngsters taunted cops to give up their clubs and "fight like a man."

(It was a similar group of schoolboys, teen-agers that threw snowballs at redcoats in Boston Common, and were victims in the infamous "Boston

Massacre" often listed as a cause of the American Revolution.)

"The easiest way of many ways to get a brick thrown at you," said a shocked reporter, "was to drive through the riot area of Newark in a police car."



Racist philistines and liberal hypocrites began to talk about "anarchy" and explain how the black masses resented authority, while psychiatrists said Afro-Americans were "trying to commit suicide." This created the political climate for the entry of the Jersey National Guard, ordered in by Democratic Governor Hughes.

The enraged people burned down

dozens of stores whose owners had been looting their lives for years. They struck out at a few white individuals crossing their path, who might not have personally done them any harm, it is true. (An uprising is not a picnic.

And the American Revolution victimized a few of the wrong people, too.) But the universal enemy was the universal representative and club-happy servant of the white oppressor — the police. And for the first day or two, the police were very frightened — as they should have been.

The vengeful ruling class, while it talked on radio and TV about "deep social causes" and wrung its hands and

moaned "where did we go wrong?" called in mass reinforcements— 300 state troopers and 2,000 national guardsmen, with probably a million rounds of ammunition—and used them.

While every single Afro-American in the black majority population of Newark wanted the police removed from the ghetto, the Mayor and Governor doubled and tripled the police to show the people "who was boss" — and murdered over 25 men, women, teen-agers and little children, wounding more than a thousand.

Governor Hughes, in the same Democratic Party as the President who leads the U.S. invasion of Vietnam, immediately labled the situation as "criminal insurrection," caused by people who are "against America."

It was an insurrection, all right. But it was against the criminals who have been clubbing, shooting and exploiting the Black People. It was "against America" all right, if by "America" we are to understand that Hughes means the gang of racist reactionaries and moderates who keep the masses in subjection and misery.

As for being "criminal," that's what George the Third said about the ragged men at Valley Forge.

And those who chained the black prisoners to each other in Newark last week for the "crime" of being in the streets that they and their ancestors built, those are the real criminals. Governor Hughes, Mayor Addonizio, their political cronies and their millionaire masters, they are the criminals. And the chains they use against the people, like the chains of 1776 and 1861, will surely be broken in the near future.

The death-defying spirit shown by so many thousands in Newark, New Jersey is a guarantee of that.

Robert F. Williams Denounces Frame-Up of RAM

Below is the text of a statement by Rob Williams denouncing the police frame-up of 16 Afro-Americans from the Revolutionary Action Movement on charges of conspiracy to assassinate moderate civil rights leaders.

Mr. Williams issued his statement from Peking where he is now living in exile, having been driven out of the country by the FBI and their KKK allies. The militant black leader had to flee in 1961 after he successfully organized Afro-Americans in Monroe, North Carolina to arm for self-defense against racist violence.

In the past Rob Williams has repeatedly been linked by the police and the racist press in this country to various "plots", such as the "Statue of Liberty Case", concocted to frame-up the Black People. Below is his answer.

PEKING, CHINA, July 3, 1967 — The Afro-American is no stranger to racist lies, slander and frame-ups. Police frame-ups are a vicious form of legal lynching designed to crucify militant black leaders and to intimidate the brutally oppressed masses. It is a major tenet of the American way of life to condemn and vilify the helpless victims of racial transgression rather than brutal racist transgressors.

The Revolutionary Action Movement has long urged black Americans to arm for self-defense and to unite for survival. This fact is the basis of the power structure's boundless hatred for R.A.M. and other militant blacks. In racist America a black citizen who stresses the inalienable right of self-defense for the brutally oppressed is labeled an extremist while black men pressganged by white supremacy imperialism to savagely slaughter defenseless colored women and children in Vietnam are decorated and called patriots. The most recent frame-up should come as no surprise to long-suffering Afro-Americans. Since I was framed in 1961 in Monroe,

North Carolina, by local Klansmen and their F.B.I. cohorts because I armed and urged Afro-Americans to defend their homes, women and children, I am prepared to expect anything from the head-hunting bigots of the savage jungle of U.S. racism.

If I were an advocate of assassination, what would be the logic of a "murder conspiracy" against Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young while the chief villains of the 1961 Monroe frame-up and those responsible for my present exile continue to harass and persecute Afro-



Robert F. Williams

Americans in a racist community where the racist culprits live in peace and security with no thought of retaliation on my part? What an illogical conspirators' conspiracy that would exempt these white racist tyrants while threatening to wreak horrible vengeance on mere meek and servile collaborationists, who are no more than third rate Judases. There is no need for black people in America to assassinate other blacks who have already been emasculated and dehumanized by barbaric American white supremacy society. As in the cases of Harry T. Moore, Medgar Evers and Wharlest Jackson before them it is not black guerrillas that Mr. Wilkins

and Mr. Young should be worried about but white gorillas prowling the social jungles of racist America.

The power structure is desperately trying to stem the tide of black revolt by using innocent scapegoats for examples of intimidation. They have grossly miscalculated the situation. Such vicious frame-ups only serve to kindle the smoldering unrest already nearing the explosion point throughout the width and breadth of tyrannical America.

It is not my policy nor RAM's to kill condescending Uncle Toms. We are not an organization advocating pointless assassinations. We are dedicated freedom fighters stressing armed self-defense. Our objective is to make America a just and decent place to live. We are irreconcilable enemies of oppression and racial tyranny and we

offer no apologies for this.

As long as Edgar Hoover has been playing police Saint his sinister mind is capable of plotting anything. He is much better at contriving imaginary plots than he is at foiling real conspiracies of assassinations. If he were half as efficient as he pretends, Malcolm X and John Kennedy would be alive.

The so-called "murder plot" is a farce. A hoax perpetrated to cover a campaign of terror now being unleashed against black Americans. It is a cruel scheme to divide our people. Sensible Afro-Americans know that Wilkins and Young are not worthy of such attention. Our people will continue to exert themselves in a sacred effort of meeting violence with violence in our endless struggle for survival and liberation.

Statement by Max Stanford

The following is a statement by Max Stanford of RAM.

On Wednesday, June 21st, 1967, sixteen people were arrested. They were accused of having plotted the assassination of Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young, "moderate Negro leaders," and of belonging to RAM—the Revolutionary Action Movement. It is my belief that this was a deliberate frame-up attempt to crush RAM, and to set the atmosphere for the assassination of any or all African-American leaders. I also believe that certain forces, who are enemies to our enslaved African-captive nation, are using the New York police department as a front to create sensational alleged plots to divide and confuse us and to lay a trap for our destruction.

It should be noted that the alleged assassination plot came from the same police department that the so-called alleged Statue of Liberty Bomb plot came from, and also the same police force that did nothing to protect the late Malcolm X; and there is speculation

from "reliable sources" that they may have even been a part of the force that assassinated him.

I feel it is very important that we meet to discuss this matter and the subject of our people's survival before our common enemy begins to assassinate our leaders, saying that we assassinated one another. The present time calls for us to — Unite before we perish.

I, therefore call on Roy Wilkins, the N.A.A.C.P.-National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Whitney Young-the Urban League, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Nation of Islam, Martin Luther King-the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Floyd McKissick-the Congress of Racial Equality, Rap Brown-the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Robert F. Williams-the Revolutionary Action Movement, Stokely Carmichael, and other African-American leaders and organizations, to a Black Unity Conference to discuss the formation of a National African-American United Liberation Front.

South African Police Tactics The Newark Version

"They're trying to take over — to elect a Negro mayor" muttered a racist Newark official to a racist Daily News reporter during a City Hall pow-wow on Friday night. And what he might have added, if he had completed his thought, was "and we aren't going to let them!"

The Afro-American people of Newark — "they" to the racist scum at the City Hall — constitute 53 per cent of the city population, according to "official" statistics, and 60 per cent according to black organizations. So, if there were even formal democracy for Afro-Americans in the city of Newark, there would and should be a black mayor and a majority black city administration.

But 60 per cent of the population didn't have enough political power to stop the racist city government from planning the destruction of 50 acres of the black community in the Central Ward. Twenty thousand Afro-American families are scheduled for eviction to make way for a College of Dentistry!

And although 76 per cent of Newark's school children are Afro-American, the black majority could not even get the racists at City Hall to appoint an Afro-American to head the Board of Education. (Of the 9-man board, 3 are black. Mayor Addonizio recently turned down Wilbur Parker, an Afro-American with a masters degree, in favor of some white political buddy with a high school education.)

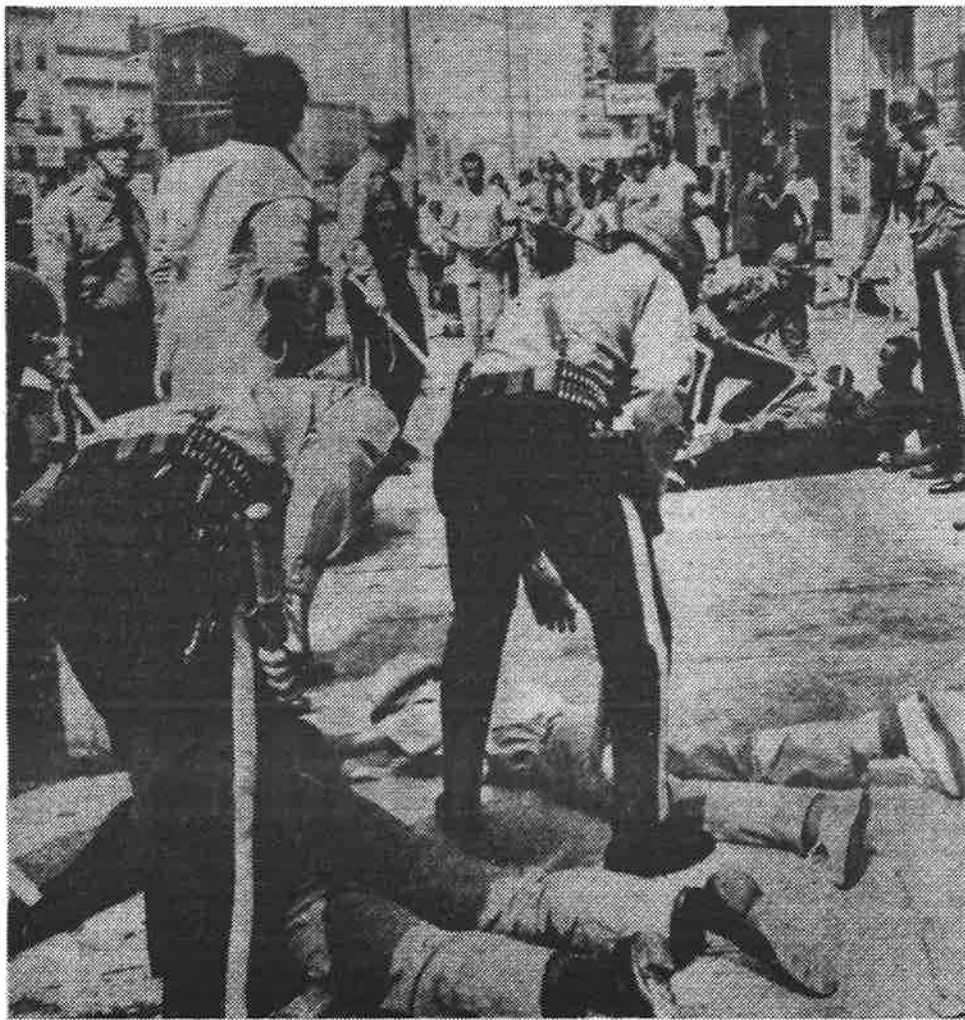
But 60 per cent of the population is entitled to almost 100 per cent of Newark's unemployment! Twenty thousand black youth between the ages of 16 and 25 are unemployed. This alone comprises 20 per cent of the entire black population and an astronomical proportion of the Afro-American working class of Newark.

In other words, as far as the racist rulers of Newark are concerned, the black majority can't have their own mayor, they can't have their own school board, they can't have their homes, but they are entitled to all the unemployment and police brutality in town!

When the Black people of Newark

try to reverse this inhuman situation within the framework of capitalist "law and order" racist officialdom declares "they are trying to take over."

And when the masses rebel on the streets against slavery, white racist Mayor Hugh Addonizio sends the white racist police to drown the people in blood to make sure they don't "take over." And when the police can't subdue the people, white racist Governor Hughes sends the white racist National Guard to massacre the people to make sure they don't "take over."



Who Are the Dead?

"With regard to looters: You have shotguns and revolvers. Use them. That's what they're there for."

These words came over the police radio in Newark at 10:58 p.m., Friday, July 14.

The cops had already been using their shotguns and revolvers, wounding and killing a number of Black People. But for a short time (apparently awaiting reinforcements) they stood by as the masses walked in and out of the gutted stores. Then they went to work.

Whom did they kill?

A sixteen-year-old boy, shot in the

back, for one. Mrs. Rosa Abraham, mother of six, shot down a block from her home, for another. "We don't know if somebody saw the shooting," said Eleanor, her oldest. "But she nearly made it home before she fell down."

Mrs. Eloise Spellman, mother of 11, died after having been shot as she sat on a sofa in the family's five-room apartment at 322 Hunterdon Street.

"We were just wrestling around, waiting for mama to fix something to eat," said Sharon Spellman, second oldest of the children.

The kids picked up 12 spent bullets from the floor and showed reporters the bullet-shattered windows and walls. "What do we do now?" they asked.

Michael Pugh, 12 years old, was shot in the side early on July 17 while emptying a pail of garbage. He died a couple of hours later in Newark City Hospital.

Pamela Courtney, a nurse at the Hospital, told reporters on July 15:

"One girl 3 years old is here. She was shot in the eye. She can't understand why her father isn't here and she just keeps crying." The father of the 3-year-old was probably one of the 1,200 shot or the 2,000 imprisoned.

Edmund Moss, 10, was shot when he "slid through" a police barrier. He died in the hospital elevator. When he arrived on the operating table, the doctor and nurse observed that "a hole the size of a man's fist had been punched into the boy's skull by a bullet."

"The police just went on shooting," a neighbor wept, as the parents stood clinging to each other in numb disbelief. "Poor baby, he's just an innocent."

The hospital itself was under "guard," and, alleging that snipers were aiming at the wounded Black victims and the doctors, state troopers were challenging and provoking everybody.

"Whenever a car moved too slowly," said the New York Post on July 15, "the troopers would raise their weapons to their shoulders and take aim — sometimes at what turned out to be a patient pulling up for treatment."

Still arresting rebellious Black youth and chaining them together in groups of four, the racist authorities showed no sign of eliminating even the immediate cause of the slaughter: the 1,400 city police assigned to "riot" duty, the 300 state police and 2,000 national guardsmen.

Leaving them in the heart of the black neighborhoods, and spewing out the most racist and witch-hunting accusations against the oppressed but heroically resisting masses, New Jersey Governor Hughes laid it all to "criminal elements," to "Anti-American outsiders," and apparently to the influence of liquor, since he ordered bars and taverns and liquor stores to continue closed.

Who are the dead? Of 26 killed up until July 17, there were 24 Afro-Americans and two white cops.

until the situation was absolutely unbearable.

"We support our black brothers and sisters who are showing such courage in the face of outright military occupation. Their blood is on the hands of the callous authorities who are deaf to their pleas, dumb when asked for help, and blind to their plight."

As a further show of solidarity, a YAWF spokesman announced a memorial rally for the murdered Black people of Newark, to be held on Saturday, July 22, at 17 St. and Union Square in New York City at 2:00 p.m.

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Youth Tell Racist Ruling Class...

"Free Our Black Brothers"

Over 50 people picketed outside Newark City Hall Sunday, July 16, to show their solidarity with the embattled Black people of Newark and to denounce the criminal aggression of the racist New Jersey authorities against oppressed Afro-Americans.

The pickets were organized by the New York branch of Youth Against War & Fascism. A leaflet handed out by the group said, "This is not a 'race riot.' This is a massacre of an oppressed people — like the shooting in Sharpeville...."

The youth group marched along Broad Street to City Hall and set up a militant line, distributing signs reading "Free our black brothers," "No Vietnam war against Black people," and "Withdraw the troops now!" The pickets also chanted these slogans throughout the demonstration. Spectators viewed the demonstration and several bystanders joined the line.

After about 20 minutes of picketing, and just as television cameras were about to film the protest, a cop shouted, "OK, that's it." A score of helmeted cops immediately began forcing the demonstrators away from City Hall, pushing and jabbing with nightsticks and rifle butts.

The picket line then turned into a march as the group proceeded eight blocks to the railroad station, chanting, "Free our black brothers!" as they went. A police car followed the demonstrators with rifles pointing out the windows and attempted to drown out the chant with a siren.

The leaflet distributed by YAWF revealed that:

"Newark returned several million dollars in Federal aid to education because it didn't have a program to use the money! Thousands of people were evicted from their homes, which were supposed to be torn down for the building of new housing, only to find out that the land was going to be turned over for a new dental and medical college. The city and state authorities have let the ghetto fester and starve



As Struggle For Independence Mounts...

Washington Staging Puerto Rican Plebiscite To Bolster Up U.S. Colonial Domination

By PETER STORCH

A "plebiscite" is about to be forced down the Puerto Rican people's throats by the U.S. through its colonial regime in Puerto Rico. "Statehood", "Independence," and "Commonwealth" (the present colonial status) are on the ballot, as this electoral farce is held under the occupation of more than 25,000 U.S. troops, of more than 1,000 FBI and CIA agents, and of almost 10,000 colonial police. More than 1/8 of Puerto Rico has already been seized by the Pentagon for U.S. military bases, and five of these are atomic bases.

U.S. corporations and the U.S. Federal Government have complete control over all communications and press media in Puerto Rico, and are assured of a vote in favor of the colony. Nevertheless Washington declared that it would not be bound by the results of the "plebiscite," thus emphasizing its intention to maintain U.S. domination over Puerto Rico.

While Wall Street is using the plebiscite to further entrench itself in Puerto Rico, and at the same time, to isolate all opposition to U.S. colonial rule, the real reason for the plebiscite is that support for the colonial regime is crumbling. In 1962, as U.S. investments took on much greater proportions, moderate demands for more autonomy from the U.S. were sounded in the colonial legislature. Expropriation

of land by U.S. corporations for the extraction of rich mineral deposits was met with opposition, even from sections of the colonial party, the PPD (Popular Democratic Party). Petrochemical and other light industries were also on the drawing boards of the giant U.S. monopolies.

It was then that the plebiscite was first discussed between Washington and its puppets in San Juan. But Wall Street would not yield a single inch towards autonomous demands that might interfere with the blueprints of U.S. corporations. Therefore, Washington set up a "Status Commission" to "study" Puerto Rico's status in relation to the U.S. This sham of a commission was made up of 7 North Americans and 6 Puerto Ricans! Its only purpose was to stifle and confuse the opposition to the colonial regime by raising false hopes and putting off the issue.

Finally, after 3 years of "study," and just after Humphrey's trip to Puerto Rico last year, the colonial government announced that a plebiscite would be held on July 23, 1967. Not one concession was granted for more autonomy. But the announcement, instead of uniting various political groups behind the colonial regime, resulted in splits within the right-wing Statehood party as well as in the PPD itself. Meanwhile, the genuine pro-independence forces joined in a broad united front to organize a mass boycott of the

plebiscite. This forced the PPD to finance and run a paper organization representing "independence" on the ballot.

The official name in Spanish of the Commonwealth status translates into English as "Free Associated State." Besides the military fortress which Puerto Rico is for the U.S., how "Free" is the "Associated State?"

The U.S. Federal Government actually controls and regulates by law Puerto Rican mail, customs, communications, immigration and emigration, the Puerto Rican judicial system, currency, banks, foreign trade, education, radio, television, sea and air transportation, agricultural quotas, labor laws, secret polices (FBI and CIA), and perhaps the most infamous, the draft of Puerto Ricans into the U.S. Army.

Also, U.S. corporations reap tremendous profits from low wages (1/3 that of North American workers) paid to Puerto Rican workers, as well as from the tax-exempt status the U.S. billionaires enjoy on the island. Over 80% of the Puerto Rican economy is now in U.S. hands, and since the Puerto Rican people cannot control their foreign trade, they are forced to buy American goods at prices much above those of other nations around the world. Puerto Rico is an economic haven for U.S. imperialism, and "plebiscites" or "referendums" will never

drive U.S. exploitation out of Puerto Rico.

Plebiscite or no plebiscite, Puerto Ricans will not soon forget the bloody U.S. invasion (April 1965) of an island just 25 miles from Puerto Rico, where their heroic Dominican brothers had risen up for their independence from U.S. imperialism. Dominicans were also treated with ballots under American bullets so they could "re-elect" Trujillo's successor, Balaguer.

The Puerto Rican people know that the U.S. never held a plebiscite in 1898 on whether the U.S. should have invaded Puerto Rico, after colonial Spain had granted the island more autonomy than it has now. And, Puerto Ricans know as well that the U.S. would never let a plebiscite decide whether the U.S. should pull out of Puerto Rico. But a real plebiscite has already taken place, that is, over one million Puerto Ricans, or 30% of the Puerto Rican population, have already fled the country. Even the poverty and oppression of North American ghettos is preferable to life in the "Free Associated State!"

The oppressed Puerto Rican people, as all colonial peoples, never have and never will accept plebiscites in their homeland where colonial slavery "wins" over national freedom because the whole farce has been staged and organized by the imperialists themselves.



Thousands gather at Sixto Escobar Stadium in San Juan to denounce plebiscite.

60,000 Protest Plebiscite Denounce Imperialist Fraud

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, July 16 — Over 60,000 Puerto Ricans overflowed the Sixto Escobar Stadium today in a mammoth rally against the upcoming "plebiscite" to be held by the colonial regime on behalf of the U.S. masters, one week from today. This mass outpouring was perhaps the largest demonstration against Yankee colonial rule since the late 40's on this island whose population is approximately 2,500,000. It was a crushing blow to Washington and its puppets in San Juan who had hoped to deceive the Puerto Rican people into accepting the colonial status of Puerto Rico through a "plebiscite" farce.

The tens of thousands came from all over the island as well as from San Juan by buses, trucks, cars, bicycles, and of course, by foot. Marching to the stadium, they waved their Puerto Rican flags (the colonial government demands by law that the American flag be alongside of the Puerto Rican flag at all times — but not a single American flag was raised).

Thousands upon thousands shouted at

the top of their lungs, "Viva Puerto Rico Libre!" (Long Live Free Puerto Rico!), "Abajo la colonia!" (Down with the Colony!), and "Yankee Go Home!"

The rally was organized by the Pro-Independence Anti-Plebiscite Concentration, a united front of the independentist organizations. Despite the denial of advertising time and space by the U.S.-controlled television and other media to the Concentration committee, masses of Puerto Ricans joined the independence groups to denounce the Commonwealth (the colonial regime) as well as the pro-Statehood groups.

Also, as the anti-plebiscite feeling has been spreading throughout Puerto Rico, FBI agents have been harassing many militants in the independence movement. However, J. Edgar Hoover's goons have only turned more Puerto Ricans against the Yankee occupation of the island.

(FBI offices were picketed on July 4th in New York by the New York branch of the Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (MPI), where 100 demonstrators denounced the FBI as the colonial Gestapo for the U.S. in Puerto Rico.)

The militant anti-imperialist spirit of the masses at the rally greeted the speakers who addressed the crowds with thunderous applause for every denunciation of the U.S. colonial regime. Such remarks, as those spoken by Juan Mari Bras, Secretary-General of MPI, evoked a five-minute standing ovation, after he said,

"These are the men and women who say today to the world that Puerto Rico will soon live as a free nation....

"...The mass concentration represents the greatest demonstration of the Puerto Rican nationality in a powerful gesture that says no to the colonial plebiscite, that Puerto Rico is tired of having its youth serve in all of the aggressive wars of the United States, tired of colonialism, and of the domination of foreign capital."

Anti-War GI Solidarity

The following is a letter sent to GI's Dennis Mora, David Samas, and James Johnson, known by many as The Fort Hood Three, who are each serving 3-year sentences in federal prison for refusing to fight in the U.S. war in Vietnam. The letter was written by

four soldiers from Fort Sill, Okla., who themselves have been persecuted by the U.S. Army for being against the Vietnam war. * * *

Letter to Fort Hood 3

We wish to extend to you our wholehearted support in your courageous

stand against the U.S. colonial war in Vietnam. Your stand, which is the ultimate in defiance of U.S. aggression, has been an inspiration to us. Because of the opposition to the war shown by you and other brave individuals, we at Fort Sill have been able to stimulate much anti-war sentiment and show that there is an alternative to our participation in the dirty war.

Yours in the struggle,

Pvt. Raymond T. O'Brien
US 54810834
Pvt. Richard G. Perrin
RA 11748246
Pvt. Andrew D. Stapp
US 52666589
SP/4 Richard Wheaton
RA 16829142

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Revolutionaries To Meet In Havana — Wall Street Growing Jittery

U.S. Pressing New Anti-Cuba Campaign As Latin American Revolution Rises

By FRED GOLDSTEIN

Two months ago Washington convened a conference of its puppets and collaborators at Punta del Este to plot the intensified exploitation of Latin America by U.S. big business. At that meeting of the so-called Latin American common market, the juntas, the oligarchies and the demagogues came to sell the Latin American masses to U.S. imperialism. (see Workers World, April 28)

Two weeks from now the true representatives of the Latin American people — those who want to make a

revolution against Yankee imperialism — will meet in Havana from July 28 to August 5 at the conference of the Latin American Solidarity Organization to give their answer to Washington and its Latin American puppets.

Representatives of the liberation struggle from all over Latin America will meet at the invitation of the revolutionary government of Premier Fidel Castro to discuss theory, program and tactics in the fight to free their lands from the rule of the U.S. monopolies. Just as the counter-revolution met at Punta del Este, the revolution will speak from Havana. The only difference will be that the oppressed masses will be listening this time.

It is an extreme blow to Washington that a meeting to strengthen the anti-imperialist forces of the hemisphere can take place 90 miles from its shores. But the billionaires are especially jittery because the conference is taking place at a moment of revolutionary upsurge in Latin America.

"United States officials," wrote the New York Times on July 13, "say they are most concerned that the Havana meeting might result in the

development of coordinated action on the part of the most extreme Communists to start guerrilla movements in the countries where they do not now exist."

"There also might be an agreement" frets the chief organ of the U.S. monopolies, that all 'revolutionary groups' greatly increase moral and material support for guerrilla bands already established in countries such as Bolivia, Venezuela and Columbia."

Washington is indeed "concerned." In fact the Johnson Administration has already begun to organize a hemisphere-wide campaign to counter the Havana conference. The gist of the strategy is to slander the revolution by attributing the heroic guerrilla struggles against imperialist exploitation to an arch-conspiracy hatched in Havana.

To this end Dean Rusk has already called for an OAS conference of foreign ministers, timed to follow the Havana conference, to investigate "Cuban subversion in the hemisphere." The pretext for the conference is the capture of 3 Cubans by the Leoni regime on their way to render assistance to the liberation movement of Venezuela. With hypocritical gravity a 3-man panel, headed by Johnson's delegate to Latin America, Sol Linowitz interrogated the surviving Cuban soldier (one had been killed at the time of capture and the other was murdered in prison).

After the "interrogation" Linowitz (the former head of the Xerox corporation) "reported" back to Rusk (the former chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation) and the State Department decided to stage a propaganda conference at the end of August.

The imperialists overlooked, however, two important facts which will not

be lost on the Latin American masses. First of all the guerrilla struggle has been going on for years in Venezuela and has continued to grow despite the harshest repressions by the government in Caracas working under the guidance of U.S. military.

Secondly, there is no "investigation" needed to determine Cuba's role of aid and assistance to the Venezuelan revolution. It was stated plainly and unequivocally by the Cuban Communist Party in an official proclamation made public to the entire world, on May 18.

"Imperialism never needs excuses to commit its crimes" declared Cuba "Nor does the Cuban revolution need to ask its permission or forgiveness to fulfill its duty of solidarity with all the revolutionaries of the world, among them the Venezuelan revolutionaries, because the justification of the acts of revolutionaries is the system of imperialism itself.

"We are lending and will continue to lend aid to all those who fight against imperialism in whatever part of the world."

So Washington wants to "investigate" what the whole world already knows (that Cuba will give aid to the revolution) in order to conceal the real instigator of all revolutionary struggles — imperialist oppression.

But in its hysteria against the government of Fidel Castro, Washington is not satisfied to only blame Cuba for the Venezuelan guerrillas.

The capitalist press in this country is carefully trying to create an atmosphere of international scandal about the possible presence of Che Guevara in Bolivia. This campaign to lay the Bolivian revolution at the doorstep of Cuba coincides with the complete failure of U.S. puppet Gen. Barrientos to stem the tide of revolutionary struggle on three fronts. Certainly, if Che

Guevara is in Bolivia, as a revolutionary hero of the Latin American masses, he has far more right to be there, or in any other country, than the hated U.S. Military Mission in La Paz. (or in Buenos Aires or Caracas or Panama etc.)

To bolster their propaganda campaign against Cuba, the ruling class put into action the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (headed by that reputable upholder of the integrity of the republic, Sen. Dodd) and the House Latin American Affairs Subcommittee (headed by racist Representative Selden of Alabama). The two committees have attributed global revolutionary omnipotence to Cuba holding Havana responsible for all of Latin America and parts of Africa.

Of course, in the deepest sense the inspiration of the Cuban revolution is indeed responsible in large measure for all the struggles in Latin America and this is what drives the U.S. imperialists mad with frustration.

However, just as all the guns and military "advisers" which Washington pours into Latin America cannot stop the revolution, no amount of aid from Cuba could start the revolution were it not for the deepest needs and desires of the masses to throw off the yoke of imperialism and for the revolutionary example of Cuba itself.

After 8 years of U.S. sabotage — from open invasion, to economic blockade, to nuclear threats — a tiny island of 7 million people will convene a conference in defiance of Washington whose aim is to help organize the overthrow of Yankee imperialism. U.S. puppets rise and fall but revolutionary Cuba persists and grows stronger.

This fact alone is living testimony for 200 million oppressed people of the vitality and viability of socialist Cuba and a demonstration by comparison of the total bankruptcy of all Washington's puppet regimes in the hemisphere.

Barrientos Regime Reeling ; Miners, Peasants, Students Revolt

U.S. Puppet Junta in Bolivia Losing Struggle on 3 Fronts

By ELLEN PIERCE

Whether or not Che Guevara is in Bolivia — a question that has created quite a stir among "counterinsurgency experts" — there are revolutionary struggles going on in that country which the U.S. and its shaky local puppets are desperately trying to stamp out.

Increased coverage in the capitalist press of guerrilla warfare in Bolivia and revelations of U.S. aid to the government are part of preparations for open intervention by U.S. forces should the regime of Rene Barrientos Ortuno (an Air Force general like Premier Ky in South Vietnam) collapse.

Early this year, dictator Rene Barrientos Ortuno "announced that the air force was using napalm in attacks on guerrillas," but predicted that the rebels would "be crushed without resort to aid from the United States or any other country." (New York Times, March 28)

However revolutionary developments in tin-rich Bolivia have forced Washington to make a liar out of their puppet Barrientos. In preparing the U.S. population for the possibility of open intervention against the revolution, the ruling class has had to admit that it already has secretly intervened militarily to bolster up the La Paz junta.

James Reston, a nationally syndi-

cated, high prestige bourgeois columnist, matter-of-factly mentioned on July 12 that "It is reported that the U.S. is also engaged in anti-guerrilla activities in Bolivia."

In an article called "Guerrillas South of the Border," Tom Wicker wrote in the New York Times on July 6, "The seriousness of guerrilla activity in Latin America is not overlooked in Washington, Barrientos' forces have been hard hit by Cuban-trained cadres, and the United States is already providing Bolivia some training assistance and a few helicopters."

"The Bolivian army has about 600 troops in the battle zone, most of them trained under the United States military assistance agreement," reported the New York Times on June 19. The past month's flurry of such revelations indicates the concern of the ruling class over the situation in Bolivia and its need to prepare a climate for counter-revolution on a large scale.

On June 29, Siete Diaz (an Argentine weekly published by Editorial Abril, which is associated with Time-Life) carried an eye-witness account of a clash between government troops and guerrillas. Their correspondent in Bolivia wrote:

"There were 240 of us (government troops), armed with six mortars, Browning machine guns, M-1's and Israeli submachine guns. Our men

were the first 'rangers,' graduates of the 'green beret' school in Santa Cruz, which has U.S. instructors, veterans of the Viet Nam war, who teach the Bolivians."

The reporter then described a guerrilla ambush in which two soldiers were killed and four others wounded. After the fighting, "I rode back to Camiri by jeep...two corpses and I were in the back seat. At my feet, two wounded men were sobbing. Dense jungle growth came up to our road on both sides, and somewhere in its midst moved the dread guerrillas. In Camiri and La Paz I saw several signs chalked on the walls reading, 'Miners, students and teachers on strike!' I felt as if I were sitting on a bomb."

Early in July, Bolivia requested the U.S.-backed Argentine military dictatorship to send troops into Bolivia to help fight the guerrillas, a very unusual request for a Latin American government to make in view of the border wars and boundary disputes that have gone on for years. But the Bolivian military asked its puppet counterparts in Argentina to forget their quarrels in view of the common danger of the revolutionary situation. Both governments denied that such a request was made, of course, but Argentina is now planning to seal off the Bolivian border with 10,000 troops to prevent

infiltration of guerrillas into Argentine territory.

As in every such struggle, the ruling class tries to blame the unrest of the masses not on the oppression of its rule but on "outside agitators."

Circumstantial evidence is piling up that Major Ernesto Che Guevara, the guerrilla warfare theorist, is alive, probably somewhere on the South American continent.

"Most of the evidence is being collected by Latin American military intelligence services with the help of United States and British experts." (New York Times, July 9) (our emphasis - ed)

It is not only guerrillas in the countryside that pose a threat to Bolivian oligarchs and their American backers. Students have taken to the streets in opposition to the regime and the tin miners (Bolivia is the third largest producer of tin) have fought pitched battles time after time with the army in pressing for economic and political demands. Just this month the army occupied the country's most important mining centers — but not without resistance from the dynamite-armed workers.

In the past, backward peasant militias had been used against the miners when the army alone with not enough. Now the peasants are at war with the government. The junta has lost its main counter-force which it has used to crush the workers in the past. With the development of worker-peasant solidarity, the only trump card remaining for the Barrientos regime and its masters in Washington may be the open protection of U.S. forces. And that is why the ruling class has chosen to reveal its hand in Bolivia at this time.

"The white and colored attacked us together like they were brothers," complained a racist cop.

-Class Solidarity in Newport News, Virginia

Continued From Page 1

behind the wheel as it plowed through the pickets.

It saw threats against anyone publicizing this fact and it saw the press reports turn the incident into a police car "brushing" close by a picket. (July 13, New York Times)

It saw infuriated strikers, their comrades lying on the ground as a result of this brutal attack, retaliate against the police with rocks and anything they could get their hands on and mop the ground with them.

It saw both local and national papers call this retaliation for the police car attack a "riot."

It saw a shaken and apparently horrified racist white policeman unknowingly hand these black and white southern workers a bouquet for class solidarity when he said: "The white and colored attacked us together like they were brothers."

But what was the strike all about anyway?

What would YOU Do?

We were talking to workers in front of the union hall. We asked, "What are your main grievances?"

A thirty year old white worker leaning against a car studied us as he spoke to us, alternately appealing for justice and then turning understandably suspicious of a reporter. He answered this writer in a grim voice:

"Suppose the foreman tells you, you got to work overtime and you tell him your wife is sick and he tells you 'The hell with your wife, I said that you work.'"

He stared at us and challenged: "What would you do?"

Right now union officials are meeting with company officials and federal mediators downtown in the Newport News' plush Warwick Hotel. Inside there is buzzing activity. Outside state police cars are pulled up one behind the other, silent now, red lights on their roofs turned off. Across the street from the hotel, looking down on the Newport News waterfront is a huge arch like the one in New York's Washington Square — it is dedicated to World War I.

It reminds you that war means business to Newport News. And from the waterfront nearby you can see the mammoth shape of a huge ship that is being built. It is the biggest thing you've ever seen — extending out into the James River far beyond the biggest piers — the "super-carrier," the John F. Kennedy.

It is one of the ships whose construction is being held up (though some scabs are working on it) by the strike here in the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company shipyard which local sources say is the biggest shipbuilding yard in the world.

How the Strike Began

The strike began in stages. It started in the transportation department where men run the huge cranes that tower on the skyline of Newport News. The announced grievances concerned a job freeze and lack of incentive pay for some workers while others got it. But, in general the pay, which though low for unionized workers (beginning pay \$2.14; a beginning machinist said he started at \$2.35) was not the issue.

After company refusals to even talk over the pay differential matters the workers began on July 1 what was called "protest picketing" by off duty men.

Perhaps the anger of the men can be seen partly in the attitude of the company toward these grievances. It simply refused to talk. On July 1st,

militant workers, especially the black workers who form a large part of the transportation department, began picketing in their off duty time in protest.

A few days later, three crane operators (two of them were black) H.A. Deese, Joseph Little, and Purcell Evans came to the end of a long day. They had been working continual 12 hour shifts, often 7 days a week.

They were ordered to work overtime. They refused. They were told to report for discipline. They were suspended — two days off without pay.

The Wildcat

The men in transportation began a wildcat strike. That was July 5. It picked up steam.

The Peninsula Shipbuilders' Association (PSA), a so-called "independent union", was organized by the Company in 1939 to head off real unionization.



Black and white workers "educating" scabs.



(Left) Strikers give Patrolman Arthur H. Sorrell his lumps on Monday. (Right) On Wednesday night when state police reinforcements used dogs.



While the PSA is a company union, its leaders feared the angry strikers.

The wildcat grew. The pressure grew. And the PSA not only feared to attack the wildcatting, they were forced to call a meeting to vote on a strike even though their weak-kneed, company-dictated contract ruling out strikes which had been made in 1965 was supposed to last three years.

The company got the courts to issue an injunction barring a strike. Strike meeting plans went ahead anyway propelled by an angry rank and file. A mass meeting was held in the local high school stadium. There are about 15,000 men in the PSA out of the 21,000 Newport News workers in all. Nearly 7,000 voted.

Against the company, against the phony contract, against the injunction, against all the no-strike propaganda, in spite of the company union they voted: STRIKE! — 4 to 1.

Monday saw thousands lining Wash-

ington Ave. where the shipyard is located. The strikers jeered and attacked scabs. Police stopped them and protected the scabs but most workers stayed out.

Tuesday night an estimated 3,000 strikers were picketing or gathered near the gate of the yard at 37th and Washington.

Cops Plow Through Pickets

When Police Chief William F. Peach drove up and saw the pickets, united black and white marching together, it is not difficult to imagine the feelings of this head of the all-white cop crew, the hired man of the shipyard owners.

Workers say he drove directly out of 37th Street, crossed Washington Ave. and purposely plowed through the line of marching men, not even giving them time to jump aside. At least one man was run over and early reports

Yet in spite of this force, a large number of strikers were back on Wednesday night and hit this new occupying force with rocks, firecrackers, bottles. The state cops attacked. They turned their K-9 dogs loose on any citizens in the way. The dogs, unleashed, attacked viciously.

Two police were also reported accidentally chewed up somewhat in the process.

Already downtown a management negotiating team, headed by Company President Donald Holden had arrogantly cut all talks off for the day.

While the rank and file workers grumbled ("All we know is what we read in the papers and I don't believe none of it anyway.") the PSA leadership, the bosses of the Newport News Shipyard, and two federal mediators got together again; all were fearful of the power of the strikers.

The Agreement

An agreement was reached Friday night between the PSA and the company. It was read over TV on Saturday night.

The first part of it was a solid victory: the Company agreed to give the three men who were suspended their pay for the suspension time and agreed to wipe their records clean of the charges.

This righted the issue which had touched off the strike. It also showed the shiver of fear that the Company felt run up its guts in the face of the workers' anger and strength — a fear that would make Company bosses more careful for a while at least.

But the rest of the agreement was something else. It did not guarantee the right of workers in general to refuse to work overtime, and it promised only an "objective study" of job ratings and incentive pay injustices. It lectured workers on their "acts of violence" but it did not lecture Chief of Police Peach for his.

Avoiding a mass meeting where question, opposition, and rank and file anger might take over, the PSA set up a cut and dried vote in eight polling places.

Workers could ask no questions; they would have no alternative; they would have to vote "yes."

Workers Still Ready to Fight

The items on the grievances were, as one worker said, "... just a lot of, we'll think about it." As another said sadly after he voted for it because there was nothing else to do: "The same old stuff."

But the fight was still there. The workers were grumbling, not beaten; going along with it, but not happy.

A husky Afro-American worker said, "They better get rid of some of their big wheels. They make the men mad."

Said another, "We should have got something."

A white worker said as he gave us a lift in his pick-up truck, "I'm going along with it but I don't like some of what's in it. They better do right or there's a lot of men going to be leaving."

"All together, maybe?" we said. "Yeah," he said and he didn't smile.

Militant black workers sparked this strike. But this man and other white southern workers shocked the racist rulers of Newport News when they joined with their militant black brothers. We talked with a number of these white workers. Though they've all been brought up in a prejudiced atmosphere and although some of its poison undoubtedly remains, not one of these southern white workers used a racist term or began a "just-between-us-whites" talk. And their valiant action speaks for itself.

There is something big for the future of American workers in this.

(quickly censored) were that several pickets appeared to be seriously injured.

The Battle

The mass of workers struck back. They charged into every cop in sight. They grabbed one police car and turned it over — with the cop inside. (He escaped with a broken arm.) Then they burned it. They cornered cops against the shipyard fence and battered them with rocks and anything at hand. Cops tried to hide in restaurants and shops across the street; workers went after them, breaking windows in the process. Temporarily they took over the area. Nine cops were listed as casualties.

The state police of Virginia were hurriedly called in to retake control for the ruling class. They came with three foot riot sticks, thick plastic face shields attached to their gestapo helmets, and savage police dogs.