THE SHIFT IN GLOBAL POLITICS AND THE NEED FOR A PHILOSOPHY OF REVOLUTION

In this special issue we are publishing our Draft Perspectives Thesis, part of our preparation for the National Gathering of the Masses which took place in April and the discussion of these Perspectives with us. We have done this every year since 1975, breaking new ground for the Marxist movement as we work to overcome the barriers between “inside” and “outside”, workers and intellectuals, theory and practice, philosophy and revolution.

Introduction
So perilous are our times, economically and politically, militarily and intra-imperialistically — in a state-capitalist age this means East as well as West — that the two truly global nuclear powers, U.S. and Russia, urge adoption of SALT, not just as a sort of holding action, and, as President Carter put it, not even as only a question of war and peace, but as nothing short of the survival of humanity. He ought to know, as he is striving for a possible nuclear holocaust.

At the same time, the great mass unrest is not in ordinary strikes and Black confrontations with racists in the U.S., by no means restricted to Decatur, Ala.; anti-nuclear demonstrations here and in Western Europe as well as Japan; or attacks on OPEC as it was; it has grown such fears into the world rulers and their theologues that — despite the tide of new Contra-BS in it that Thatcher’s victory is claimed — the world, as a whole, is well-pleased with the present.

It is right to insist on the deep and irreconcilable contradiction between the demand for peace and the ordering of the world for nuclear war. The monster MX missile — with a price tag of $80 billion when the economy is in recession and unemployment is increasing — so both the industrialized countries behave as if “U.S. restraint,” especially by the masses, of oil consumption would, if not solve all the problems of an economy plunging downward, surely ameliorate, to the extent that business can continue as usual. If only one man, on the other hand, reject all apologetics.

OIL FOR THE MILITARIZED ECONOMY

There is hardly a soul that believes a single word of what President Carter put it, not even as only a question of “peace and war,” but as nothing short of the survival of humanity. He ought to know, as he is striving for a possible nuclear holocaust.

Thus, James Reston devoted his Sunday New York Times column (5-27-79) to a speech by Foreign Minister from Lebanon, Charles Malik, who asks us to go beyond “the loss of gas” to “the philosophical meanings of the fuel crisis.”

We are asked to go deep into the West’s “origins,” and to do so “in all humility,” for where would we be “without Athens and Constanti-nople?” And where “without Antioch and Jerusalem,” without the 27 characters of the alphabet that were first perfected at Byblus on the coast of Lebanon? And since we are the heirs of this most “creative civilization,” what next? Well, suddenly, the “beyond” significance of the “loss of gas” for the individual has turned into “flow of oil” for the West (Japan included!), not, it is true, through the individual pump, but then one cannot directly mention Pax Americana and “nuclear holocaust” when one speaks of “philosophical meanings.” A more euphemistic form is that flow of oil is nothing short of “a life and death” question.

All the meanderings through history and geographic switching from the Near to the Middle East, and from the West in general, to the U.S. in particular, may have satisfied the Middle East professional politician and top American journalist, but the only thing it proves is that, though U.S. imperialism has the most nuclear weapons, even they recognize that unless one wins the minds of men, even such a war, dialectics teaches us, however, that philosophy is no playing around with words, it is either a philosophy of liberation, or it is nothing. Their “philosophical significances” are not worth anything. We are confronting reality, the real objective world where contradictions abound, class struggles are fought, and visions of utterly different human relations are sought for and, is no way to work out a philosophy of revolution, of liberation. Toward that end we must examine the present capitalist-imperialist world disorder.

A NEW GLOBAL RECESSION-IN-THE-MAKING—AND THE REVOLUTION IN IRAN

This last week in June is witnessing two different types of meetings with more than two different types of perspectives. One thing, however, characterizes both “summits”: the internationalized nations’ rulers meeting in Tokyo, like the OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva, will be totally removed from their own people. Just as President Carter acted as if he were unaware of the irreconcilable contradiction between claiming to represent peace and ordering the production of the monster MX missile — with a price tag of $80 billion when the economy is in recession and unemployment is increasing — so both the industrialized nations behave as if “U.S. restraint,” especially by the masses, of oil consumption would, if not solve all the problems.

The total economy plunging downward, surely ameliorates, to the extent that business can continue as usual. If only one man, on the other hand, reject all apologetics.

Unemployment is on the rise and, again, the average of the 27 percent in all industrial cities, needs no backing up with weakness in consumer spending to convince them we are in recession now. Presently no less than a 10 percent of Black youths are unemployed.

And even when the U.S. Census Bureau gloated about how many Blacks have gotten white collar jobs at white’s pay, it has had to admit that between 75-77 and 77-78, even more than 74-75, which was the deepest recession of all five post-World War II recessions. As for the business climate, which is supposed to have shown a rise the last month, the truth turns out to be that as the housing market gets large bank loans for was not investment in plant and equipment, which shows a healthy economy and creates jobs, but for financing inventory increases and debt service. And the continued recession is not just a sign of weakness in the capitalist-imperialist world economy, but is also a sign of the growing strength of the world proletariat.

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Nor is it characteristic only of the U.S. which is still the richest country in the world. There are no less than 7 million unemployed in Western Europe and Japan. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development has shown that, instead of the 5 percent growth predicted by the U.S. for 1979, there has been only a 3 percent growth; world growth is predicted as falling to 2.8 percent for the first half of 1980 when the “consensus” has been that a 4 percent rise in economic growth is necessary to prevent unemployment from rising further, and already there are signs of deeper recessions.

As for double digit inflation which is hitting the U.S., with the sole exception of West Germany, this is no stranger to Europe. Geoffrey H. Moore, director of the Center for International Business Cycle Research of Rutgers University,

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News and Letters Committee

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speaks euphemistically of “the beginning of the growth cycle slowdown” when, in fact, even the worst of the stagflation economy with rising inflation — is now out of use since what we are witnessing is not "just stagnation" but recession.

2) SALT I, SALT II, AND THE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT

Senator Jackson's idiosyncrasies notwithstanding, the SALT agreements for being "appeasement" and its purist essence have hardly stopped the nuclear arms race. First, not the least of the fact that SALT II is an outgrowth of SALT I, initiated during the Nixon spectacle when that arrogrant "proconsul" reached Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Billed Nixon's global vision in most concrete weaponry and, at one and the same time, opened the Heavenly Gate of Mao's China, and signed SALT I with Russia. By burning both ends of the nuclear candle at the same time, SALT I was finally signed in 1972.

Far from that stopping nuclear armaments growth, here are the facts: In 1972 the U.S. had 5,700 nuclear warheads ready to fire at Russia, and Russia had 2,500 ready to fire at the U.S. Though that was quite sufficient to kill us several times over, the U.S. had 9,500 and the Russians 5,000. That's all. Quite a little arms race. Since the only way the Pentagon was to have agreed to SALT I was to make sure that anything that was already on the nuclear board could not be stopped, nuclear development never stopped inventing more proficient killer capability, and the agreement was signed only when both sides agreed not even to face control of offensive weapons; the limitations were strictly applied to "defensive" (!) nuclear arms.

Supposedly, they would have turned to tackle limiting the defensive arms war, as the deadline, which was the original deadline for signing SALT II. Instead, the Vladivostok formula (or, if you wish to follow post-Mao China's retention of the MirV's, "assiducity" [as Haisenwei] was left in limbo. Despite Ford's retention of Kissinger as Secretary of State and their desire to sign, the Pentagon had gotten so intensely interested in a new weapons system that they opposed any negotiations with the Russians. As Ford was later to acknowledge, the specific weapon that so overwhelmingly attracted the Pentagon was the cruise missile, a computer-aimed, pilotless aircraft which can be targeted with devastating accuracy.

Whether you wish to believe that the President is the Pentagon, or the Pentagon is the politics of winning an election while gearing up for global confrontation, the point is that all these preparations for the holocaust, with or without pauses for "holding actions," likewise that all these preparations for the holocaust, with devastating accuracy.

3) SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

February 26, 1979

A single incident here will show how great is the passion for a serious philosophy that is anti- capitalist and not just anti-nuclear. It is the response of the audience to a statement by a Marxist who, after pointing out the fact that solar power is not the answer to nuclear madness, said: "If the capitalists developed solar power, they would find a way to kill us with it."
by Michael Connolly

from the resurgent Ku Klux Klan marches in Decatur, Alabama, through the election victory of ultrareformative Margaret Thatcher in Britain, to the heralded arrival in Washington, D.C. July 9 of Rhodesia’s Bishop Abel Muzorewa, a new and sharply retrogressive stage of white racism has appeared on the world scene. At the same time, the persistent Black revolt, from Africa through Europe to the U.S.A. — South and North — has become so interconnected that the new Black consciousness which arose with the Soweto rebellion can now truly be called a world phenomenon.

As Muzorewa arrives to convince imperialist America that Ian Smith’s fantastic while supremacism creation is suddenly, in truth, a Black majority government, he is sure also to meet a Second America — Black and white — which has been shaking up campuses and faroeries, inner city streets and City Hall plazas, throughout this Spring 1979. Nowhere has that revolt been more total than among the Black youth, who have demonstrated that they will not sit by and watch the resurgence of racism, whether in U.S.-African policy or in the revival of the KKK. (See Worker’s Journal, this page for more on the Decatur march.)

Black freedom fighters battle capitalism’s resurgent racism

by Charles Denby, Editor
Author of Indignant Heart: A Black Worker’s Journal

The recent confrontation between the Ku Klux Klan and the SCLC in Decatur, Ala., has resulted in some serious discussions among many Blacks and some whites, with both positive and negative points. The marches in Decatur are a beginning to try to push Blacks back to where they were before the Civil Rights Movement, when we will have to enforce the law.

But quite a few people I know are saying if the racist whites in the South and the KKK think that they are going to live in Decatur all their lives without trouble, as though those responsible are “outsiders” Blacks who do not live in Decatur. But this same press does not mention anything the racist elements are saying and doing against Blacks.

At the demonstration in Decatur June 9, Rev. Lowery, from SCLC told the crowd that “We cannot and must not permit the clock of racist injustice to be turned back to the time when Black folk had no rights.”

Thousands agreed with him, because they came to march.

Mayor Bill Dukes of Decatur tried to say that his city was an innocent victim caught between the KKK and the Black demonstrators. He had a maniac offense. Poor Tommy Lee Hines. They had a prayer before their rally. It was: “Lord, give us victory over the race mixers, Communists and liberals.”

One of the songs that surprised me about that section of northern Alabama was that it is supposed to have a long history of being more liberal than the rest. They even say that we fought on the side of the North in the Civil War. But they don’t tell you all about how Huntsville, right next to Decatur, was organized in 1826 with a maniac offense. Poor Tommy Lee Hines. They tried him right, he could not understand. They made him give a confession he couldn’t comprehend. They tried him in a court where there could be no Black folks on the jury. To hell with you, Decatur.

A few hours earlier, the KKK marched to the same steps. They had a prayer before their rally. It was: “Lord, give us victory over the race mixers, Communists and liberals.”

I must add that they are now faced with an unbelievable economic crisis. Fifty percent of the private sector (mostly foreign capital) is still closed. The government has up to now stopped the workers from taking over these companies. Bazargan has tried his own alternative — to calm the country. . . . He has guaranteed the right of private ownership and asks for “peace, order and obedience.” He asks the workers not to go on strike “for we are in a period of reconstruction, and not revolution.”

In the Political-Philosophic Letter on Iran in the Spring 1979, nowhere has that revolt been more total than among the Black youth, who have demonstrated that they will not sit by and watch the resurgence of racism, whether in U.S.-African policy or in the revival of the KKK. (See Worker’s Journal, this page for more on the Decatur march.)

AFRICA POLICY: Duplicity, Fantasy

No matter how the label “Black majority rule” be attached to a land where the three percent white population still controls — by constitutional fiat — the army, the police and the civil service? Where every colonial privilege continues unchecked — including separate and unequal schools and hospitals? And where the economy, whether run from Salisbury, London or New York, depends totally on slave-wage Black labor? Even the name “Rhodesia,” from the British imperialist founder, Sir Cecil Rhodes, had to be retained in the “new” entity — “Zimbabwe Rhodesia.”

No sooner had Muzorewa been inaugurated than new “search and destroy” attacks were launched by the white-dominated armed forces both against the Popular Front guerrillas in Zambia and Mozambique, and against “subversives” inside Salisbury’s Black townships. Over 200 were killed in the first two weeks alone, yet guerrilla activity increased. Hundreds of Zimbabwean youth were reported joining the opposition fighters.

It is precisely the instability of the military and political situation facing not only Rhodesia, but apartheid South Africa as well, that dictated the travel plans for Muzorewa’s first month in office. Hardy had the part...
Women protest abortion foes, demand to control our lives

This drive for wholeness, what Marx called the "quest for universality," is also present in New Delhi, India, among a group of the Black working woman Pat Carter, quoted in the Women's Liberation-News & Letters Committee leaflet we wrote for the rally. How long will a total change in society take? We've got to do something now.

What was clear to all, and clearer still the next day when the counter-revolutionary forces staged an even larger march, was that, in thought and activity and organization, this Cincinnati demonstration was only a beginning.

Women's Liberation-News & Letters participants

Over 1,500 women and men demanding reproductive freedom, march through Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, Ohio—"Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate," this was our rallying cry June 23 as we marched for reproductive freedom through downtown Cincinnati, 1,500 women and men from cities throughout the state's drive for power and control over people's lives.

Across the river, the anti-abortionists were holding their national convention. They have already succeeded in pushing through Congress the Hyde Amendment, barring federal Medicaid funding of abortions, and are now organizing to amend the Constitution to make both abortions and some forms of birth control illegal.

In answer to those who call the anti-abortion movement "right-to-life," Ellen Frankfurt, the first speaker at our rally, began with the reality of death—the death of Rosie Jimener, a Chicana, the first woman known to have died from an illegal abortion after the passage of the Hyde Amendment. She was 27 years old.

Margaret Willis, a Black woman, Chairperson of the Ohio Welfare Rights Organization, spoke about what life is like for women on welfare, the countless ways the system tries to dehumanize you and beat you down. She showed that the unavailability of Medicaid abortions, while the government continues to fund sterilizations of poor women, is but one manifestation of the state's drive for power and control over people's lives. We joined with her in standing to say, "I want to be a human being."

NATIVE AMERICAN SPEAKS

By Shainape Shcapwe

After eight years of bitter struggle by Indians in Michigan, U.S. District Court Judge Noel Fox handed down a decision in May, reaffirming the Indians' claims of treaty rights made in 1836 and 1855. They gave the Bay Mills and Saugatuck, Marie tribes (now about 200 of Michigan's 4,000 Chippewas) unlimited fishing rights in the southern parts of Lakes Michigan and Huron.

Two days later, a State Appeals Court decided in direct opposition to the federal ruling, stating that Michigan indeed should control Native fishing rights. But it appeared that the federal decision will be binding.

The sportfishermen, or "conservationists" as they call themselves, are opposed to the federal ruling and predict further violence will erupt if the Native Americans win fishing rights.

Indians win fishing rights

In June, 1976, Black students of South Africa led a revolt to protest being made to learn in Afrikaans, the language of their oppressors. The students won the right to use their own language. I was reminded of my own childhood, and soon in Afrikaans, the language of their oppressors. The students won the right to use their own language. I was reminded of my own childhood, and soon after this victory in South Africa, Black students went to school in Afrikaans, the language of their oppressors. The students won the right to use their own language. I was reminded of my own childhood, and soon after this victory in South Africa, Black students went to school in Afrikaans, the language of their oppressors.

In recent years, Northern Michigan Indians' lives have been troubled by the people of the state and the government. Since the Vietnam War, the situation has been worse. LeBlanc told me, "the day of the court ruling was one of the happiest days of our lives." We can only hope that other court decisions concerning Native American fishing rights go as well as this one.

Have you read . . . WORKING WOMEN FOR FREEDOM

Price: $1 (plus 50¢ postage)

To You, Women

Ed note: We are very excited to have received from a foreign correspondent the following poem, written by someone in Russia, and would like to print excerpts; for the entire poem, in both English and Russian, write to Women's Liberation-News & Letters, 2353 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48211.

To Your Husband

Love, smile, be a real woman,
Stay home, keep your man well dressed,
Don't try to be a wife,
He's a reading a book—sweep the floor.
He's a sleeping a lot,
He's a watching soccer on TV—stand at the stove.
He's at the table—serve him.
He's a going to work,
Drop your children off at the day-care center.
Do your job immediately.

To Your Son

You're not a real man of men,
When they carry your husband home drunk
Tuck him carefully in bed
And sleep over on the couch nearby.

To Your Daughter

Next morning, bring him a shot of vodka.
If your husband stays out all night
Don't accuse him of anything serious.
For in our country there are more women than men
And no cause for scandal.

Black feminist exposes Hares' reformist anti-woman booklet

Two Black intellectuals, Nathan and Julia Hare, have recently written a pamphlet on Black Male/Female Relationships. With other new and provocative works such as Michele Wallace's Black Mashe and the Myth of the Superwoman (See review, May N & L), being touted by the white liberal press, we need to see whether this effort represents a genuine contribution towards Black Women's liberation.

Nathan Hare had at one time been an editor for the Black Scholar, which earlier this year printed his attack on the Women's Liberation Movement and the role of Black women in it. This latest effort is a continuation of that attack.

The twelve essays in the pamphlet have titles ranging from "Can Black Women Go It Alone?" to "We Both Black, We Both White." However, I would like to begin with the introduction. It claims to discuss strengthening Black and female/female relationships, but actually weakens them, by reducing women to support groups of Black men.

While the Hares do speak of racism and sexism, you'd think that these divisions appeared out of thin air. You never get a feeling that it is the horrible capitalist society that we live in which produces such an attitude. The analysis is to have mass employment, with never a word on what kind of labor we do perform in a capitalist society.

Although there is some mention of Black female-headed families, the pamphlet doesn't say anything about the lives of these women. Instead, the solution is for them to support the family structure, in order to establish Black "love groups." Such abstractions only cover up rather than confront the contradictions in the world.

The trouble here is the failure to understand that the struggle is in the activity and thought of women and men who are looking for a pathway out of this society. In the Women's Liberation-News & Letters, people are looking for themselves and for the history of women during the formation of the CIA, through WW II, to today: "It's like trying to reduce women's liberation to a struggle between women, as if women, who not only helped to turn the tide toward the recognition of the union of the Poor, the Depraved, the Unemployed, women and men, as Black and white."

An essay called "The State of the Race: The Black Woman in the 1960's" from Black Male/Female Relationships doesn't present this history; but only criticizes women's liberation as "a lot of trivia to get Blacks off the subject of the main issue and to reduce it to a form that is anti-Black and anti-white."

Black and white."

Women's Liberation-News & Letters offers any genuine contribution towards Black Women's liberation.

By Diana Lee

This is the view of the Women's Liberation Movement.

Throughout the pamphlet, the twelve essays are against women's liberation, and against the Black masses. Intellectuals who have these ideas of speaking for the masses, whether the Hares who leave out history, or those who try to rewrite it, have individual, material interests.

They are not concerned with the overthrow of this society, but are content with some changes. It is for women and men who want to uproot capitalism to find a workable solution with their own ideas and their activity to create a society of new human relations.

—Diana Lee

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Raya Dunnevaya, Chairwoman
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Second Class Postage Paid at Detroit, Michigan
Detroit, Mich.—There is a new experimental program now at Fleetwood called the QWL—Quality Work Life. Management and the union are hoping it will change life in the plant, a goal endorsed by G.M. and approved by the UAW in the 1973 contract. The program is being set up by management with instructors paid by G.M. These instructors are to teach “team work” between management and the union and the rank-and-file.

If this program works out like the one they have on the floors now—with management teaching how work is needed to be done, just tell your foremen—it is not my idea of a team.

With this new program they are trying to push job discrimination, unequal public facilities, and sexual harassment to the second place on the list of priorities. The reduction of women workers ends up third. Civil rights don’t exist for men or women, Black or white. Union officials only know what management tells them and the few who care aren’t heard. With two different political caucuses fighting each other, but neither one offering any solutions, it makes one wonder who is fighting for the people.

The layoffs are coming up, and they are saying they are going back to 1976 this time. Just when we need to really be together, they are trying to mean their kind of teamwork. If teamwork is kicking people out of a job for any reason management sees fit, they can keep it! We need some real unity of our own.

—Fleetwood worker, afternoon

Detroit, Mich.—I am a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee (F.E.P.C.) at Eldon Axle. We are “sounding the battle cry” for our work rights in our plant today, where we are having on many problems, including many complaints of sexual harassment and favoritism by foremen.

One good example is the charges against Jack Cooper, plant manager, seems to want to get even. These charges need to be known by all the union sisters and brothers. Help us bring Lynette back to work now, and help us also see that Jack Cooper is never a foreman at Eldon Axle again.

—Chrysler Eldon Gear & Axle F.E.P.C. member

GM-South Gate

South Gate, Cal.—Management has been coming down with its usual speed and no time for a slow-down, and speed-up. Workers in Body are particularly fed up with company neglect of safety and health conditions: Closed ceilings, leaking ceilings making puddles at job stations, construction trenches on the line inadequately covered causing feet and ankle injuries to workers, and lead soldier continuing to be ground in open air despite workers’ protests.

At the local union meeting workers showed up in numbers larger than usual and voted to have meetings every day to discuss safety in the plant. The shift-meetings put more power back in the hands of the rank-and-file.

The first after-the-shift meeting brought a lively discussion over the upcoming contract and the anticipated strike. Despite the local bureaucrats’ efforts to bury the issue through miscounting, a motion was made and carried to send a letter to Doug Fraser demanding that a commission be appointed to meet with the rank-and-file.

We didn’t want anything from the Local 140 leaders until the last minute. Their bulletin No. 10 only said the meetings would be “unusual”, we’re mad! And their bulletin No. 11 expressed “their deepest regret”: why aren’t they fighting?

—Main building workers, indefinitely laid off

No health and safety in plants or nuclear power

by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

I recently went to an anti-nuclear power demonstration in Los Angeles where I met one woman who held her child in the air and said, “I want to save my child from being destroyed by nuclear wastes.” It made me think about what good will it do to save our children from nuclear destruction if we allow them to be killed in our factories for the sake of profits.

Despite the OSHA, one out of every 11 workers in the private economy had a job-related injury or illness in 1978. The newest statistics say that at least 80,000 deaths a year nationally and 8,000 a year in California are caused by occupational exposure to cancer-causing substances. But until very recently there were no criminal prosecutions for health violations, only for safety ones.

There have been changes at Chrysler to try to catch up with the government if it means profits. Of course, the U.S. government could also come through with a big tank or other armaments contract to pull Chrysler’s chestnuts out of the fire.

The plant manager, seems to want to get even.

—Main building workers, indefinitely laid off

Detroit, Mich.—Our local union officials at the Detroit Uniroyal rubber plant said on Monday, June 18 that they had reached a settlement of our strike, and we were called back to work on one day’s notice without ratifying the tentative contract. This has never happened before and no one knows how or why it’s happening now.

There won’t be a vote on the contract until after vacation, the end of July or beginning of August. The agreement was said so suddenly by many workers were out of town, and the company has been harassing and trying to fire the workers who didn’t return right way.

The night they “settled” it, Louis Poole, local vice-pres., got on TV and said, “I had an announcement that was in the contract, but that it was a “really good one” because he had “faith in my President” (URW Pres. Peter Bommarito).

We’re probably all supposed to have “faith” too, since we still don’t know what’s in it, and neither do most workers.

Conditions here are as bad as before — and even worse. There has been a lot of petty harassment of workers and taking away of privileges. In most depart­ments workers create their own “rest areas” where they can relax during breaks, and most of these were taken away during the strike. And there, the plant manager, seems to want to get even.

The company isn’t getting much production out of us, and most department’s it’s way down, some­times as low as 50%.

Most people here believe that we’ve been “taken,” and that this program created by the company officials as well. There’s going to be a lot of resistance now that we have to go back under these conditions.

CORRECTION: In the last month’s Uniroyal story, the line: “Sometimes tires fly off . . .” should have read “Sometimes tread flies off . . .”

Chrysler new hatchet man: Lee Iacoca

by John Allison

Chrysler auto workers are very concerned by the corporation’s working conditions at its Detroit plants. The recent news that people are being fired for phony reasons and with management made us stay and clean up their factory.

It wasn’t surprising that people took off lots of time from work right before the vacation. There are 8,000 workers in all the plants in Local 140 when Chrysler was going great guns. Now only 1,400. Main Building will be producing in August, with less than 2,000 workers to cover the work.

—Chrysler Uniroyal worker

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Chrysler auto workers are very concerned by the corporation’s working conditions at its Detroit plants. The recent news that people are being fired for phony reasons and with management made us stay and clean up their factory.

It wasn’t surprising that people took off lots of time from work right before the vacation. There are 8,000 workers in all the plants in Local 140 when Chrysler was going great guns. Now only 1,400. Main Building will be producing in August, with less than 2,000 workers to cover the work.

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ANTI-NUKE/ANTI-DRAFT/SOCIAL REVOLUTION

The recent brutal assaults of the police on Jacke Kuron and Henry Wujec, who were co-teachers on class on “Social Movements and Educational Environment” in the “flying university” received a lot of publicity in the Polish underground. The police having been present at one of such beatings taking pictures. The “free” press here in Poland has been not much interested in inquiries to it. Time responded that it was just a “scuffle” which resulted in “cuts and bruises”. The stories of the opposition movement in Poland have gained a new outlet in Chicago with creation of POMOT, a quarterly publication, mostly in Polish, in its third issue. The editors got the underground press from Poland and are devoted to the ideas of the opposition known here. For more information write: POMOT, P.O. Box 11281, Chicago, IL 60611. Subscription is $4 per year.

Erzulada Wielanka

BLIND APPEAL

Though rocked by the Davis decision which is determined in United States Supreme Court, Poland’s, and just once made it clear that a woman was elected makes it better for all of us. What is wrong with just changing gender? It is great that a woman was elected. You wanted new human relations and freedom. So do women.

Women’s Liberationist

IRAN

I was struck by the lead article on “Revolution and Counter-revolution in Iran” in the June issue where the unemployment was quoted. Iran will not rebel against anything to achieve everything we want.” In the GM plant where I work, what the workers are saying about the upcoming contract shows a close relationship between us and the Iranian workers. To change our working conditions, it has to come from us.

Grocer’s Helper

In Iran, religion was a factor in mobilizing against the Shah, and now is a factor in mobilizing against the Islamic middle class accepts the claim that religion can lead to a human society, but the unemployed workers come against religion in their everyday problems. While I was at one of their meetings, I heard workers insisting, “the issue is not whether you are Christian or Moslem: the issue is whether you are capitalist or working class.”

Iranian Worker

POLAND

I could not believe my ears when one of the national TV networks, reporting on the Pope’s visit to Auschwitz, never even mentioned the word Jew. While there is no doubt, the Pope mentioned that Jews were murdered at Auschwitz this no more covers up the capitulation of the Catholic hierarchy to the Nazis in WW II than it does the present anti-Semitic still raging in Poland today and not only among so-called Communist leaders. While there is no doubt that many Polish intellectuals were themselves anti-Jewish, hatred and discrimination of Polish Jews, anti-Semitism is still so bad that one Polish intellectual wrote a book that the group that the only Jewish problem today in Poland is still anti-Semitic.

Jewish Feminist

I was very much struck by the great difference in the writing between Part I and Part II of Indignant Heart: A Black Worker’s Journal. I think the perspective is the same old stuff. Even as small as NAL is, I don’t think the perspective is the same old stuff. It was a full Marxist-Humanist in Part II.

To me, Part II shows the importance of Defending the Rights of Minorities not only in the momentous developments in the objective movement of the past 25 years but also in association with an organization of workers and intellectuals like News and Letters Committee.

Marxist-Humanist

New York

Thatcher's Victory

The Thatcher gang intends to militarize Britain. They believe that violence can be tackled in that way. Arsenic expenditure to be increased. The troops are to be brought closer to State control. Taxation will not be reduced, but there will be a cut in direct taxation that will be of increasing a value added tax. The Commission on Prices has already been abolished. All you have written about the march towards authoritarianism is more than confirmed, but it will not be taken down.

Correspondent

Glasgow

Ms. Magazine had a one-page article by Susan Sontag on how great it was that Thatcher won. She said she didn’t agree with Thatcher but just thought that a woman was elected makes it better for all of us. What idiocy! Doesn’t the history of Africa tell us that it is impossible to change the color of the rulers won’t change anything? The same is even more true with just changing gender. It was great that Fanon was wanted more than a change of color, he wanted new human relations and freedom. So do women.

Women’s Liberationist

Chicago

ANTISOCIAL REVOLUTION

York City are full of chemicals, not only from the fields but those used to manufacture pesticides like DDT and Dieldrin, other fungicides and preservatives. Apples need a year to ripen and get their color and flavor, not just picking them red. They taste bad, become and have little or no nutritional value. My boss says, “Who needs nutrition?”

Mexican tomatoes that look and taste like garden vine-ripened tomatoes rarely make it to New York markets but every day in early Spring I open boxes of green apples and green grapes from Chile. The grapes have a pad that reads, “To inhibit growth of gray mold on stored table grapes... with patents in use in the U.S., Spain, Argentina, Chile, and the Republic of South Africa.”

Be said?

Los Angeles

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Marxist-Humanist New York
Black freedom fighters battle degenerate capitalist's resurgent racism

(Continued from Page 3)

troopers returned from Mozambique than Muzorewa quietly showed up in Pretoria June 15-17 to confer with South Africa's Prime Minister Botha on "mutual defence.

The sickening truth for us as American revolutionaries, and thus the responsibility for international solidarity that we face, is that white racism in Britain's newly-elected Thatcher and the U.S.A.'s upcoming-election-conscious Jimmy Carter their closest ally. Thatcher's assault on the KKK left no room for manoeuvre. Friday was clear from the beginning, as her Observer Delegation to the April elections endorsed not only the voting, but the "pro-" orderliness of the "Village" race Rioters. She issued a copy of U.S. imperialism's ill-fated "Strategic Hamlets" in America.

THATCHER'S RACISM AND BLACK REVOLT

For Thatcher, such attitudes are inseparable from the domestic policies she has set out to impose on Britain, beginning the United States in the Black population. Nightly arrests of Black youth on "sus" charges (suspected of loitering with intent to commit a crime) are now common in major cities. Neo-fascist gangs go out, for an evening of "Paki-bashing." Social programs for the poor have been slashed. And Thatcher has promised a Parliamentary vote this summer on the re-institution of capital punishment.

At the same time, new forces are emerging within Britain to challenge such retrogression, Pakistanis and Indians, West Indians and Chinese, have united for the first time in defense against assaults. And labor, part of which did vote for Thatcher's demagogic appeals which has begun to fight back against the massive sales tax increases she imposed. Polls show that if the election were repeated today, the Tories would lose.

It may be that, for his part, Ford Carter has been deterred thus far open support for Rhodesia by his concern over the Black vote in 1980, or by the theft of a Nippon television studio. However, he has stated that he considers the sanctions temporary, adding, as he announced their continuation last month, that he hopes "progress can be made on these issues before the elections." But he has not gone as far as to consider the resignation of the cabinet ministers who preceded him. It is for such purposes that a sizeable array of apologists have been lined up ready to explain each policy option. None has been more notorious than Bayard Rustin, using to the fullest his title as President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and his past civil rights activism, to mislead the public and the Working World TV to slander the liberationists, asserting: "It is ironic that the very people who claim to be the especially unscientific or undemocratic or uncalled for are also the very people that would abolish elections entirely and depend on violence." Against such degeneracy exhibited by some of the "established leadership" stands the magnificent courage and seriousness of the multi-dimensional Black youth revolt today. Whether you look at the campus occupations nationwide against apartheid and the destruction of Black Studies programs; the 1,200 who stormed a City Council hearing in Cincinnati to protest police terror; or the anti-Klan marches in Mississippi and Arkansas, as well as the Black Spring demonstration in New York 1979 includes a whole new generation determined to change this society and change it totally.

Listen to the thoughts of a young Black revolution ary who participated in the largest of the new demonstration marches in the South: "We's Black people. I looked around as the march for justice and freedom was forming. It was for Tommy Lee Hines, a young Black kid who had been railroaded for allegedly raping a white woman. Besides those of us who came from outside Decatur, there were some of Decatur's Black community. They said, "Hi, man. We're from Decatur, too. We.gonna fight."

Close to 2,500 marched, beginning at a community church, with the slogan, "Black people from Decatur join us. We felt very emotional as we sang freedom songs and chants, both of the earlier civil rights movement and those of today, like, "Hell no, we won't go. KKK has got to go!". I'm from Alabama, not far from Decatur, and it felt great to be returning and participating in a mass activity.

I rode to Birmingham with some Southern youth, as I wanted to get the feeling about the freedom movement in Alabama today. One family on the bus to Decatur was only children. They had lost their father a few weeks earlier to gunfire from the Birmingham police, and their mother had just left the family when promising the killing. And yet here were these youth going to Decatur to struggle with body and soul.

The people who came to march felt that something was going to happen today. They wanted to show the South and you see and face racism as an individual. But now in Decatur you have the opportunity to be able to deal with it, like you do not know how to deal with them.

It isn't that the march went fully like it should have. Some of the leadership wanted to use it for revising the C.T.R. program, but the youth were very determined. They were like a labor union expressing their ideals. They didn't want a cop to march with them. They saw the KKK being reviled and they wanted to take it on right now, stop it here.

There was this spirit of people who wanted to go beyond what the leadership was saying. There is, I believe, a way for the youth in the traditional Black Spring to be understood with class oppression. And it is this which the people, especially the young people in the march, wanted to take on.

BLACK REVOLUTION

by John Alan

The crisis of European capitalism has been revealed in the economic and social crisis that confronts white workers. With the victory of the Tory Party and Margaret Thatcher, Britain can now add another feature to this crisis — racism.

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Listen to the thoughts of a young Black revolution
Mental incarceration for dissident: it happens here

The great super-powers, the U.S. and Russia, each flood the world with the propaganda that Western democracy or Russian communism is the only meaningful alternative. Whether, in fact, they are opposites is a question of course, that is both the same.

A Russian dissident, Lyudmila Pylushev, Grigoriev, Solemnity, et al., have been exposing the Russian government's use of mental institutions as a means of punishing its political opponents and psychologically coercing them. In 1977 finally found the strength to override Russian opposition and condemn (this inhuman practice. While the U.S. has tried to make this appear as a Russian-only barbarity, newly emerging revelations indicate that here too, the American and Russian state-capitalist systems are more alike than unlike.

One recent and dramatic book focusing on this particular area is William Arnold's Shadowland. It deals with a group of intellectuals who for years have been internationally beautiful, and politically radical actress of the late Thirties, Frances Farmer, who catapulted to movie fame within a year to plumb the depths of cracking and rapings. According to Arnold, the beating up of the Cold War and the development of the McCarthy era wrecked its havoc on her. The C.I.A. had begun its program of psychological warfare experience, and psychological, and encouraged by it, was a new method of surgically pacifying intractable and incurable mental patients. It is important to note here that the evidence, while largely circumstantial, is very impressive.

Because of her political views, because of her unyielding rebelliousness, because of her public status, Ms. Farmer became a prime guinea pig for the new method: the insertion of a needle under her eyelid to sew her down. This is a method of surgery. Such a radical operation was performed against the explicit opposition of Mrs. Farmer's family.

The book reads like a detective novel as he unpeels deeper layers of official crime and culpability. However, however, to adequately pursue one avenue for a full understanding of Ms. Farmer's experience: the Communist connection.

As Ms. Farmer wrote in her autobiography: "One of them"

Discussion article: Italy and the Communist Party

We received the following letter from a correspondent in Italy, written just before the elections in June Ed.

Milan, Italy — The low depths of political opportunism and corruption that the Italian Communist Party (CP) has reached in its attempts to take part in or absolutely control the Italian government seems almost beyond belief even for those that have always criticized the line of the CP.

The Italian government, having "fallen" again, will hold national elections in June, at the same time in which the CP itself has reached an even lower point than ever in its history. The CP is on the defense. In the last years, the various social movements broke up the youth, the farmers, the workers, and even people who have their hostility toward the CP, while the workers in the factories have been making more "autonomous" or wildcat strikes. The CP has finally realized that it is important to try to win the struggle and capitalism that it is to defend the interests of the working class.

REBEF: economic interests or social interests, the right to have equal social benefits, the right of all human beings to their ideas, to think as they please, in the community, is becoming increasingly more important to many Italians, and the CP has shown that it wants to control the CP. The Italian CP is so afraid of these mass movements that they are trying to "attack" the ideas of those who support the working class struggles and the social struggles for freedom.

A group of intellectuals who for years have criticized the reformism of the CP, its policies and tactics, has been falsely accused and arrested as leaders, as a sort of "brain trust," of the various clandestine terrorist movements, and in the rest of Europe. Two recent such attacks were on the head of the CP, Aldo Moro. It has been decided that all who protest against the CP have no right for equality in this society of inequality.

The Christian Democratic Party and other parties are also benefiting from this attack on ideas and ideologies. It gives them a means to explain their total inability to discover those who are behind the terrorists in Italy and in the world. And really it is a question to be asked. Who is behind this international terrorist movement? Obviously some of them are sincere persons, but it has become too obvious that these sincere persons are being used by groups that have international economic and political interests that will in no way resolve the problems of the people of any state, of any nation.

The party leaves its footprint on the earth

This we all know: The Party is infinitely good. More, it is wise, honest, and can do all. It is the heart, overflowing with love for the working people. It is the brain of the nation. It will supply you a wife to the best of its ability, to fight against slander. But above all, it will give you a goal in life: Work! Work! Don't ask for what or with whom. It will tell you how much you can do, and then it will tell you what is to be done. If it breaks something, it will only do it — will repair it.

IT KNOWS how to reward people. In the pockets of the party member's suit are stuck permits for a car and an apartment. If you work well, you can cut the cloth to your measure.

It also knows how to punish. But why punish? Who is the one to punish? Before there was the class enemy, the Communist, and it was afraid of him, sniping from around the corner. Now there are no conflicts, there is also no parliamentary blather. Without unification and unification, experts, according to the plan — ever forward!

But in general, the people are good. They seem to be a very impressive. But the most important thing is the plan, to be on time with the plan, and it is just fantastically to ahead of the plan. But the plan can be ahead of the plan, and when you are behind the plan, you can be punished according to the previous (Shah's) laws. Why previous laws? Moro, Minister of Interior, has answered: "As long as the new laws have not been ratified, the old laws are still in effect."

At the schools they have eliminated Anthropology and literature. "The Pole Can Do. Do what? That is another question.

Counter-revolution in Iran

(Continued from Page 3) who refused to fire on the Kurds. Later they outlawed the revolutionary soldiers' councils and all other forms of revolutionary organization. Days ago, the chairman of the National Defense announced that "No one in the army has the right to participate in any political activity in or out of the army. And if you do so you will be punished according to the previous (Shah's) laws." Why previous laws? Moro, Minister of Interior, has answered: "As long as the new laws have not been ratified, the old laws are still in effect."

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The government has also sided against those peasants who have tried to take over the land, entering the fighting on behalf of the landlords. In a village close to the city of Arak, the peasants were compelled to arm themselves before the Gendarmerie (rural police force). It was a bloody fight in which five gendarmes, including the local chief, were killed, as well as many peasants. The rest of the peasants were either arrested or compelled to leave their village and run away. This kind of thing is going on everywhere in the rural areas. The peasants won't compromise their lives.

In the factories, Khomeini still has much popular support, but signs of resistance against the capitalists are all over. Continuous strikes happen all the time. In some cases the workers have taken over the factory, and confronted the "committee."

The 104 workers of Arneh & Arneh Tesv Company, which produces construction supplies, went out on strike. They took the capitalists' representative to the court, and the court ordered the workers to return to work. The following satire was translated for NEWS & LETTERS by Urszula Wislanka. (Ed. Note: This was originally published in NEWS & LETTERS, an underground Polish dissident workers' paper. It is their logo we have also reproduced.)
Military crises and revolts
by Peter Wernuth

The recent upsurge in the anti-draft movement, from the 500 demonstrating June 1 at Stanford University to the protest in Detroit on June 21, has reached a critical turning point in light of new expressions of revolt within the military. The anti-draft movement has emerged from the war in Vietnam. Troops are unwilling to leave U.S. imperialism's latest war preparations go unchallenged.

The appearance of a new GI publication, Enlisted Times, scored to air the grievances and dissatisfaction of U.S. soldiers who are trapped within the military. This malaise has so reached a fever pitch that hawks and liberals alike in Congress and the Pentagon are pursuing new ways to reign in the draft, in order to obtain a "trustworthy" military striking force.

Recent issues of Enlisted Times detail complaints of war, overwork and rigorous training; queries of poor pay. The magazine is funded greatly by contributions from service personnel. GIs protest against the draft and the role of minorities in the armed forces. Enlisted Times is not to be confused with the GI Bulletin, which until its recent arrest was not published by the military. GIs have been on a higher level of revolt, fighting draft boards, making their presence felt in public demonstrations of the Anti-Draft Nationalist Movement (ADNM).

ENLISTED TIMES... Off Limits to your CO. For more information write ENLISTED TIMES, 2180 Bryant Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94710.

Should war come, youth obviously will be most affected. With the emergence of new revolt, young people as well as adults are calling for a national campaign to organize the anti-draft movement and to demand a draft law which challenges the entirety of war preparations.
Nicaraguan revolt toppling regime of dictator Somoza

By Peter Mallory and Ron Brekmeyer

What is crucial to such thinking is that change not come through full blown social revolution with its logic from below. Rather, just as the U.S. Marines handed Nica to the Somozas 46 years ago, so now is what crucial—whether that is through out­

right intervention with a "peacekeeping force" or a transitional government approved by the O.A.S.—

is that a solution be anointed, if not imposed, from above.

Somoza had created such a total political and economic monopoly of power in Nicaragua that what unites all, including conservative business­

men, in the expectation of a Russian or Chinese empire and the breakup of the National Guard, eliminat­

ing officers directly responsible for the killing. A coalition including the Sandinistas, who themselves

represent many points of view from those who call

themselves Marxists to nationalists, was announced

on June 18 with the appointment of a five-person

junta that promises to bring democracy to Nica­

guas. That coalition also includes an opposition business group that while it was hoping a U.S. "mediation" effort would succeed against

both Somoza and the mass insulation. Some Latin American governments already recognized the

junta, as the official Nicaraguan government.

The freeing of Nicaragua from the incubus of Somoza's long­a­waited triumph. It will be a new beginning for a people who have created the present turning point and who have been working out their own solutions in their persistent mass mobilizations and insurrections for

the last year and a half.

The Pope's tour

The Pope has concluded the tour of his home­

land Poland. The reception he received was far more emotional than against Stalin. Poland's capi­
talism and its tyranny, than it was for religion as a viable alternative to the miserable economic con­ditions of the be­hemmed people.

It ill behooves the head of one of the world's most totalitarian organizations, the Catholic church, to speak up in veiled terms for reform and democ­

cy in the old country, as he reportedly also did within his own organization. Just as the regime in Poland today is but a mirror reflection of the des­

potism of state capitalism in the Soviet Union, where workers have no voice in running their own economy, the rule of the Pope and the College of Cardinals is one in which the masses are denied no opportu­

nity for self expression or democracy.

The Pope's visit to Auschwitz was a mockery for Jews who were buried in its gas chambers. Could it have been that he was doing penance for one of his predecessors, Pope Pius XII, who showed no regret when he called Jews in camps were being gassed.

Brekmeyer

Jacek Kikon, and Karol Modzelewski, former

leaders of the Catholic Church's Solidarity movement in Catholic Solidarity movement,

the Vatican's papal statesman in the Church's diocese in eastern Europe, said that the Pope's visit was "a gesture of repentance and reconciliation.

Nicaraguan interpreter, which millions saw here on TV, reflects the depraved actions of Somoza's
defenders. To pretend at this date that Pius XII, the Pope's tour was nothing short of "the security

of the United States" which, it added, "is not nec­

essary, but can be affected by the ways in which such movements come to power."

It was then that Carter was sending Vance to propose the military intervention by the O.A.S.—

and could not get a single country to vote with him.

The Pope has said that the church today pursues its campaign against abortion through the "right to life" movement. When did they ever mount such a campaign against fascism?

In Italy, Munifici and others without the Catholic prelates who participated in his pomp and ceremo­
nies, urging the faithful to support the gov­

ernment of the fascists. To pretend at this date that capitalism could have existed without the sup­

port of the Catholic hierarchy, and the blessing of Pius XII, is sheer hypocrisy.

In Poland a very fine resistance movement has grown up following the successful strikes of the shipyard workers in June 1977, which almost top­

pled the Communist regime. The movement con­
tinues with Jacek Kuron representing the Social Self­Defense Committee (K.O.R.) which met to­
gether with Charter 77 representatives from Czechoslovakia at the border as recently as September of 1979.

Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski, former members of the Communist Party in Poland, while in the United States, "Liberating the Party" in 1966, which characterized the Polish state as a state capitalist society and called upon the

working class to overthrow the ruling class, the Communist government, the capitalist exploitation

of the workers by the state.

Trumplasts have toppled the walls of Jeri­

cho, but only a workers' revolution will bring eco­

nomic and political freedom to Poland.

(See p. 8 for an article from ROBERT NICK, under­

ground Polish dissident workers' paper.)

China

Now that the euphoria of playing their American card has worn off, China is ready to admit some of the bare facts of life in China today.

Deputy Chairman Li Xiannian has admitted to a party congress in the spring that the country faces an economic crisis, widespread hunger and unemploy­

ment of 20 million people. While no one is prepared to describe the country under Chiang Kai­

chek before the revolution, Li admits that 10 per­
cent of the one billion population does not have enough to eat. He adds, "The Chinese are sus­

gest that the older workers retire and give jobs to the younger people.

The assumption plans have created a deficit of $6 billion this year, paying for machinery which is not yet in use, producing neither income nor jobs.

Jacques d'Hondt captures revolutionary link between Hegel and Marx


De Hegel a Marx by Jacques d'Hondt, the head of the French Hegel Institute, comprises an exciting col­

lection of essays from the 1960s and 1970s. What makes them a book, a whole, is the unifying thread which binds together the various writings on Hegel, marked by similarities and differences, between Hegel and Marx; it is the revolutionary nature of the Hegelian dialectic which Marx extends.

Far from this being a mere rhetorical conclusion, it was arrived at after deep digging into Hegel, Pres­

ident d'Hondt, after quoting from Hegel's History of Philosophy (pp. 198–199), argues that in the case of the pure idealism, Hegel's object of interest was a totality: "For each epoch, the totality of the social and cultural struc­

ture is conditioned by the state of its base, that is, by the state of the forces of production. For Marx, it is conditioned by the stage of development of the productive forces." (p.113)

One of the most interesting essays, "Hegel and the Socialists," asserts close connections between Hegelian thought and the first French utopian socialists, and early 19th century revolutionaries. D'Hondt begins by noting that Hegel was "around 1850", in the aftermath of the 1848 revolutions here and there, people who were called "Hegelians" were shot by the authorities. One early French socialist, Pierre Leroux, who invented the word "socialism," was an avid student of Hegel's thought in the 1830s and 1839.

In 1842–Leroux asked: "Today, what has become of the royal and aristocratic Hegelian philosophy? It has become revolutionary." In 1843 the young Marx explains in the 'Theses on Feuerbach' that he was captivated instead by a genuinely reactionary Prussian philosopher (something Hegel never was). "Schelling's sophistry. "As Feuerbach is a man of substance out of which the contrary, was widely viewed as "one of the in­

tellectual instigators of 1848" which leads him to con­
clude "heretoforth another spectre will haunt Europe--a Marx.

This probing of Hegel by a revolutionary intellectual is a far cry from the administrative mentality toward the masses of the so-called modern philosophy so current on the French scene—i.e., the height reactionist Communists like Althusser who dares pride himself for his "anti-humanism" and his demand to drive Hegel "back into the night." D'Hondt tears into what he calls a "barbarous" attitude.

Thus, in the book's final essay, "The Crisis of Hu­

manism in Contemporary Marxism," he doesn't let Althusser forget that fascism was the philosophy which prized itself on anti-humanism. D'Hondt correctly con­
cludes that "to return to Marx is but a "kind of paranoia" and in­
corrigibly wrong when one claims to be describing Mar­
Sanandinista guerrilla

Yeath the world over are sparking and leading revolutionary movements.

**America, Central**

San Salvador, El Salvador

What do we know of you?

May 8, 1979

the roar of gunfire, metal meets stone

the pulverization of steps, metal meets flesh,

the quivering of dying bodies

the terrorized scramble for life

for life in America, Central

four and more centuries of life, occupied

of Spain, England, the United States, without

of the Somosa, and so many others, within

life of the banana, of the sugar cane, of the coffee bean

of United Fruit and the Marines

May 11, 1979

fifteen thousand march for the slain twenty-one

bodies are taken from rough pine and put in velvet

and polished wood

the stone steps of the cathedral still carry their blood

three thousand women march separately

the shouts are of "Down with Repression," and of "We Want Freedom"

there is a becoming of another life in America, Central

—Eugene Walker

below, as is clear from the many revolts that we have witnessed this year. The greatest and most outright revolution was, of course, Iran. To think that the overthrow of the shah in Iran means smooth sailing for U.S. imperialism is to cover up all the other myriad crises. It is true that the contradictions within Iran are deep, now that Khomeini is going all out to institutionalize counter-revolution with his unconstitutional, un­ voted for, un-discussed Constitution. Nothing can, however, possibly take away from the totality, the spontaneity, the new forces of revolution that had unfolded in the overthrow of the shah. Let's probe more deeply.

**II. Revolution/Counter-revolution**

Not only has the Iranian revolution by no means ended. Of course, the revolts in the world are by no means restricted to Iran, or, for that matter, to the Middle East. Latin America is seething with revolt. Look at Nicaragua where what began as a general strike is by now a dual government. Just a year ago, when the Sandinistans began the revolt, the counter-revolution was so thorough and mightily armed that it put the revolt down. It was hard to think that they could possibly return. In fact, however, they are not just back in force, but so totally protected by the masses, even as Somosa's bombers destroy front, than the paramount question of nationalism; that they are challenging Somosa legally as well by the occupation of the second largest city.

Nor have the revolts been stopped in Africa. One of the most amazing acts — and the white terrorists couldn't do it — was the Tanzanians, along with Ugandan exiles, overthrowing Amis. Again, even Lybian gold, Lybian oil and the Lybian army couldn't save that murderous dictator. What we are witnessing here is: "Islam: Unforeseen and Unpredictable." What is the most serious breakdown from the straight-jacket of narrow nationalism, though its ruler vented his murders, not against imperialism and not against any "foreign" nation, but against his own people? Yet, again, while there is no doubt whatever that Africans are happy with this daring gesture of Nyerere, the fact that Western imperialism, and the U.S. especially, is wise enough makes the whole situation very ambivalent.

At the same time, again, there is no doubt whatever that the genuine freedom movements are being attacked from all sides, and not only by U. S. and England, but by the ancien regime. Of course, the question is: what is the way in which to bring the revolution to its conclusion, in order to bring the revolutionary forces together? The question is: how to ensure that the next wave of the revolution is not crushed, but grows, and that the revolution is not crushed? The question is: how to ensure that the next wave of the revolution is not crushed, but grows, and that the revolution is not crushed?

And all these are, according to that global politician-academic, Kissinger, "regional" crises. The myriad political crises besetting the world are indeed very nearly "secondary" to the real meaning of the world and to the worldwide economic crisis-in-the-making. And these Big Powers become, in turn, subordinate to the fight between the two nuclear superpowers, U.S. and Russia, aiming at single world control In this determining confrontation, if civilization survives to tell the tale, even the 900-million­ strong Chinese power, christened by Nixon as "frontline of the struggle against imperialism." And all these are, according to that global politician-academic, Kissinger, "regional" crises. The myriad political crises besetting the world are indeed very nearly "secondary" to the real meaning of the world and to the worldwide economic crisis-in-the-making. And these Big Powers become, in turn, subordinate to the fight between the two nuclear superpowers, U.S. and Russia, aiming at single world control In this determining confrontation, if civilization survives to tell the tale, even the 900-million­strong Chinese power, christened by Nixon as "frontline of the struggle against imperialism."
NEWS & LETTERS July, 1979

News and Letters Committees

(Continued from Page 11)

III. ORGANIZATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

Let's take one more look at the Iranian revolution as it relates to our organization—not only as a matter of solidarity with it, and showing it the second America which fights its own capitalistic-imperialist rulers, but as tackling the contradiction within Iran which is still capitalistic, with the counter-revolution calling itself "revolution" while using SAVAK agents to ferret out the genuine revolutionaries! There surely is no lack of organization in Iran. Indeed, what is tragic is that it's all the old organizations: the church, the army, the capitalist class, the single party "blessed by God," have all their spontaneous action, with Left elitists designating their organizations intact; whereas the revolutionaries that laid the ground for Khomeini to come to power and the masses of workers who made the actual revolution—from paralyzing industry to challenging the army—with their spontaneous organizations (i.e. committees, shahs, their Soviets), are the very ones who have no organization now. It is this because they don't know an organization is needed. But so separate was philosophy of revolution from the revolution itself that what followed was a still newer division between the organized form of expression and the spontaneous action, with Left elitists designating themselves as "vanguard," the "Party to lead," and considering the spontaneously-arisen form of organization as backward.

In a word, it isn't News and Letters Committees that is the question, but the form of a revolutionary Marxist organization as well as the relationship of the spontaneous new organizations that arise from below, as well as the continuous working out of new directions of theory to practice.

In our case, we must remember that as great as was the breakthrough in the concept of the Absolute Idea, because we had discovered in it the movement from practice; and as great as the fact that the discovery preceded the movement from practice that emerged on June 17, 1953 in the East German uprising against Russian totalitarianism, our birth as an independent Marxist Tendency first occurred in the early 1940s. It was in that period when we, at one and the same time, worked out the state capitalist analysis of the Russian economy and, as its opposite the capitalist dimension for the American revolution. In the process of working out an economic analysis of the age, we discovered Marx's Humanist Essays. The first one of which is the working out the economic-political-philosophy of the historical crises as a whole. The second is the working out the economic-political-philosophy of Marx-Humanist, and though we functioned as collectivity, we did not use organizational language nor make any pretense to being a party.

It is high time, beginning from the very statement of Who Are We and What We Stand For, News and Letters Committee of the Organization/News & Letters report. Here we will limit ourselves to pointing to the organizational direction flowing from the Perspectives.

First and foremost, of course, is the recognition of the necessity of an immediate new beginning, with its myriad crises, its economic-political-military shifting of global alliances as against the mass struggles for freedom, while the Left is in so much disarray theologically as the forces they combat—that impels a deadline, the deadline of 1980, for finishing the book Rosa Luxembourg, Today's Women's Liberation Movement and the contradictions—tackling the contradictions within Iran which is still capitalistic, with the counter-revolution calling itself "revolution" while using SAVAK agents to ferret out the genuine revolutionaries! There surely is no lack of organization in Iran. Indeed, what is tragic is that it's all the old organizations: the church, the army, the capitalist class, the single party "blessed by God," have all their spontaneous action, with Left elitists designating their organizations intact; whereas the revolutionaries that laid the ground for Khomeini to come to power and the masses of workers who made the actual revolution—from paralyzing industry to challenging the army—with their spontaneous organizations (i.e. committees, shahs, their Soviets), are the very ones who have no organization now. It is this because they don't know an organization is needed. But so separate was philosophy of revolution from the revolution itself that what followed was a still newer division between the organized form of expression and the spontaneous action, with Left elitists designating themselves as "vanguard," the "Party to lead," and considering the spontaneously-arisen form of organization as backward.

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