

MAY DAY--INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S HOLIDAY

On Sunday, May 1, the international working class will celebrate May Day, a day of revolutionary tradition recognized by workers around the world. This day signifies the determination of the working class to overthrow capitalism all over the world and end all exploitation of man by man. Much of the revolutionary tradition of May Day has been distorted by the bourgeoisie of this country. It is necessary that all workers understand the meaning of this great working class holiday, so that it once again can become a clarion call to all workers to intensify their struggle against capitalism and struggle for socialist revolution.

MAY DAY--BORN OUT OF STRUGGLE

May Day grew out of the bitter class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. In the 1880's, capitalist oppression of the working class was particularly vicious. The capitalists worked children in their factories for long hours, fired workers whenever they pleased and the workers had no recourse, outlawed trade unions, and forced workers into an average working day of 14-16 hours. However, resistance to these vicious attacks began to grow. The focus of the workers' struggles were for the 8-hour day and for the establishment of trade unions. This struggle resulted in the May Day General Strike of 1886 in the United States. 350,000 workers marched through the streets of Chicago and throughout the country for the 8-hour day and trade unions. Realizing that the fight for the 8-hour day and the trade unions, symbolized in the 1886 demonstration, represented the best qualities and finest interests of the international proletariat, workers around the world began to unfold the banners of May Day. Soon, millions of workers were marching on May Day, which became a hated and feared symbol to all capitalists.

Communists played a key role in helping to promote May Day and by linking the day-to-day struggles for the 8-hour day and trade unions with the struggle for socialism. Communists were also responsible for making May Day an international holiday signifying the necessary ^{unity} of the world proletariat in its struggle against international capital.

Because of the revolutionary tradition of May Day, it is not surprising that the bourgeoisie has attempted to distort its militant and revolutionary spirit. Most workers born in our generation know nothing about the rich history of the working class and its holidays. This is because all the bourgeoisie institutions (schools, media, etc.) have been working overtime to blot the revolutionary tradition of workers in this country out of history. Consequently, we were taught that May Day was the day that "April showers turn to May flowers." We were taught that this day was for singing and dancing around the May Pole to welcome in the spring. The bourgeoisie and its social props have also substituted for revolutionary May Day, a Labor Day in September, which they use to instill in the working class illusions about the capitalist system and bourgeoisie democracy. In fact, last Labor Day in Kansas City the trade union bureaucrats held a parade promoting the treacherous idea that what's good for the companies is good for labor.

We must return to the revolutionary tradition of May Day--a day when workers state in a loud and forceful voice, "Down with the capitalist system! Down with wage-slavery!"

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

On this May Day, 1977, we find the world in great disorder. Everywhere in the world, the working class and oppressed people are waging fierce struggles for revolution, freedom and independence. The nations of South America, Asia, and southern Africa are waging heroic struggles against oppression. The working classes in Europe are also broadening and deepening their struggle against capitalist exploitation. The socialist countries, the Peoples Republic of China and the Peoples Republic of Albania, are making great strides in building socialism and setting examples for working people the world over. We see that all over the world the irresistible trend--Countries Want Independence! Nations Want Liberation! and People Want Revolution!--is growing stronger by the day.

However the forces of reaction stand in the way of independence, liberation, and revolution. The imperialist system, which suppresses classes, peoples, and whole nations is still the people's biggest enemy. This is why we see the heroic struggles being waged by the world's peoples in Africa, the Mideast, South America, and southeast Asia. The U.S. working class must support all these struggles of the world's peoples against imperialism.

Though our international struggle is aimed at defeating all imperialism and all those countries that maintain colonies, we must aim our strongest blows at the biggest and most dangerous exploiters of the people of the world--the U.S. imperialists, and the social-imperialists of the Soviet Union. These two bloodsuckers are the biggest threat to world peace and their contention throughout the world will one day lead to a new world war. Their phony talk about detente and arms limitation are only smokescreens for their continuous military build-up and war preparations. The competition for world domination by these two superpowers, which is particularly acute in Southern Africa, the Mideast, and Europe, exposes their true aims.

The U.S. has long been regarded as a reactionary imperialist power, and has long ago won the bitter hatred of the world's working people--from Puerto Rico to Chile, from southern Africa to Vietnam. However, at the same time, we must vigorously expose the newer imperialist power--the Soviet Union. Having once been a socialist country and a model for the world's proletariat in the days of Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet Union is now a fascist police state internally, and a vicious exploiter internationally. We say that the Soviet Union is social-imperialist--socialist in words, imperialist in deeds. Though the revisionists now hold power in Russia and have since the death of Stalin, ~~their~~ days are numbered. The Soviet proletariat will once again seize state power and begin again the tasks of socialist construction started by Lenin and Stalin.

We should point out that even some imperialist countries, such as those of Europe, suffer from super-power bullying by the U.S. and USSR. However in no way should we support the capitalists of these countries against the super-powers. This is primarily a fall-out among thieves and neither side deserves the support of the world proletariat. The task of the proletariat in those countries is to overthrow their own bourgeoisie and begin the work of socialist construction.

THE TASKS OF THE U.S. WORKING CLASS

Today the U.S. bourgeoisie finds itself in its greatest crisis since the Depression. Unemployment is at its highest level in 40 years, taxes are being elevated annually, inflation has almost doubled prices in the last ten years and is still getting worse, the utilities rate has already become too steep for many to pay, welfare and other social services are being drastically cut, and the public school system in the cities is rapidly deteriorating. The bourgeoisie, in order to maintain its level of profits, must recoup its losses by intensifying the attack on working people.

The working class, however, is heroically resisting these attacks and fighting back against all economic and political repression. The number and intensity of strikes is growing daily. And most importantly, many workers are beginning to look to the correct leadership of communists to lead their struggles. Communists teach workers that capitalism cannot be reformed. Inflation, unemployment, crime, social decay, and moral decay are all products of the capitalist system. They can only become worse as capitalism declines. The capitalists can never curb inflation and unemployment permanently. All those who tell us that capitalism can be improved simply by strikes for higher wages, voting certain people to public office, non-violent protests, etc. are misleading the people. We must use many tactics in the course of our struggle, but our struggle must be for socialism. Only the forcible overthrow of the bourgeoisie in the United States, and the establishment of a proletarian dictatorship, will end all the misery brought on us by the capitalists drive for profits.

BUILD THE VANGUARD MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Every army that goes into battle must have its general staff, its leadership. The working class is no different. It needs leadership that can chart the correct course in its struggle against capitalism. The working class is at present without this leadership. The Communist Party USA, which led many of the heroic struggles for reforms in the 20's and 30's, has totally degenerated into a mouthpiece of the bourgeoisie. They now push the lie that socialism can be voted into office. There are other organizations who also claim to be the leaders of the working class. Many are present in this area--such as the Socialist Workers Party, the Progressive Labor Party, and the Sojourner Truth Organization. What all these pseudo-Marxists have in common is the treachery and confusion they bring to the working class--all in the name of Marxism. These organizations do not represent the interests of the proletariat, but those of the petty-bourgeoisie, a class which fears the proletariat more than it fears the bourgeoisie. It is the duty of genuine Marxist-Leninists to drive these scabs out of the working class movement and replace them with genuine communist leadership.

The new communist party, which organizations such as KCRWC, advanced workers, and other advanced elements across the country are building will be based on the revolutionary and scientific theories of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, and Albanian party leader Enver Hoxha. We will struggle to unite the working class movement with the movement of oppressed national minorities, women, students, and all who will struggle for socialist revolution. We will lead the U.S. working class to its greatest victory yet--the establish of the Peoples Socialist Republic of the United States!

CELEBRATE MAY DAY--INTERNATIONAL WORKERS HOLIDAY!!

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!!

BUILD THE VANGUARD PARTY OF THE U.S. WORKING CLASS!!

FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!!