

STATEMENT ON THE SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY

BY

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Contrary to what they, the police, and the press are saying, the SLA is not a revolutionary group. In effect, if not in intent, they are anti-working class, anti-revolutionary, anti-communist. If the SLA did not exist the police would have to invent them. Objectively, they are playing the role of provocateurs.

At this time of capitalist crisis, the working class cries out for political organization -- in its own interest and not that of big business (the ruling class). But the SLA has chosen terrorism. Their actions confuse the working class. Just publishing their explanations won't clear that up.

Why must we take a stand on the SLA? The main task of Communists in this period is to form a new, revolutionary communist party. This party is necessary to lead the working class to the seizure of power and the establishment of socialism. The main enemy is the bourgeoisie, the ruling class who for hundred of years exploited the working people not only of North America, but of the entire world. However, to carry out the socialist revolution, it is necessary to drive out of the working class all anti-revolutionary elements. The SLA represents just such an anti-revolutionary tendency.

Lenin

The international communist movement has always condemned anarchism. V.I. Lenin, leader of the Russian Bolsheviks, pointed out that although the members of such groups as the SLA are passionately indignant at the crimes of the ruling class, they are unable to link up the revolutionary struggle with the labor movement. For people who don't believe that the working class can become revolutionary, Lenin says, it is very hard to "find some outlet for their indignation and revolutionary energy other than terror."

Lenin goes on to say that, even though they don't mean it to be, their terrorism is a kind of elitism -- "Let the workers carry on their economic struggle against the employers and the government," the terrorists say, while they carry on the political struggle themselves. This "handful of terrorists engaged in single combat with the government" doesn't rouse the working class to action, Lenin says. Instead it merely makes a shortlived sensation. Indirectly it leads the working class to "apathy and passive waiting for the next bout".

Meanwhile, the working class is roused to a "high pitch of excitement" by the ruling class offensive against it, says Lenin, writing at a time a lot like our own. "All these drops and streamlets of popular resentment ... must be combined into a single, gigantic torrent," he says. The call to terrorist activity is merely a way of avoiding that task.

OUR TASK AT THIS TIME

What, then, must true communists do at this time. First, they must organize a now truly revolutionary Communist Party -- a disciplined organization of the working class that is dedicated to smashing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie (minority rule by big business) and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat (majority rule by the working class).

Second, they must encourage organize, and lead masses of working people in the day-to-day struggle against the fascist, anti-working class offensive of the bourgeoisie -- against their shortages and cutbacks, their rising prices and frozen wages, their imperialist campaigns in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, their creation of repressive police apparatus at home.

As the working class approaches seizure of power, it comes under the most relentless attack from the ruling class. Under these conditions it will be forced to take up arms. Naturally, communists and the working class would prefer a peaceful road, but history shows that this is not possible. Chile is a good example.

SLA TERRORISM:

SLA terrorism cannot help accomplish the seizure of power by the working class, but can only set it back. How come?

The SLA's terrorism does not provide the working class with the theory or organization it needs to defend itself or to seize power. Because SLA terror is directed against single individuals, it cannot provide lasting and substantial victories. Instead, the results of SLA actions are short-lived. Forster is replaced by someone just as willing to carry out the same repressive policies. One day food is to be distributed but the next day working people are back to nothing.

SLA terrorism enables the ruling class to carry on a slander campaign against real, socialist, revolutionaries. With the SLA around, the bourgeois press equates revolution with terrorism against individual members of the ruling class, instead of the overthrow of the ruling class by the working class. By their terrorism, in fact, the SLA is saying that it is not the masses who make history, but a few individuals. They are saying that it is not the working class who makes revolution, but a terrorist elite. All this confuses the working class.

SLA terrorism allows the ruling class to cover their own criminal actions and gives them a 'reason' to increase their offensive against the working class. SLA utopian scheme of food distribution divides the working class, making a distinction between the employed and the unemployed.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF FASCISM

All this contributes to the consolidation of fascism in this country. It enables the government to tighten its repressive apparatus and conduct open terrorism against the working class. The FBI has said it may assign as many as a thousand agents to ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Bay Area as a result of the kidnapping. Clearly, these are not simply to get at the SLA. When have so many agents been assigned to crack a crime against the working class. The massacre of blacks in Orangeburg, S.C? The massacre of students at Kent State?

We believe that the U.S. is on the way to becoming a military police state like Nazi Germany. Since the ghetto rebellion and student uprisings of the '60s, a national police apparatus has been set up through the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Congress voted it a \$3 billion budget this year. Military men like Major General Alexander Haig have taken an increasingly important place in the cabinet, and the Defense Department has passed almost wholly out of civilian control. Laws are already on the books that allow the President to assume dictatorial powers in an "emergency". All that is lacking is a "Red Scare" set up by provocateurs, like the Reichstag fire.

Because of this, the role the SLA are playing is objectively that of provocateurs. They provide an easy set-up for police-state repression. President Nixon, Attorney General Saxbe, the Hearst family themselves are ruling class terrorists. They spread lies and fear among the working class. From Cuba in 1898 to Chile today, the Hearst papers have been the mouthpiece for ruling class oppression. Big business and the U.S. government commit terroristic acts on working ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ class people. not only in this country but throughout the world.

But fascism in the U.S. is not inevitable. Revolution, not fascism is the main trend in the world today. But oh way to make sure of that is not through isolated acts of terror like those of the SLA, but by building a strong, disciplined party of the working class -- a new, revolutionary ~~party~~ Communist Party. And the first task of that party will be to expose anarchists like the SLA and labor misleaders like Meany and present Communist Party of the USA.

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