

## **The Internationale**

*Anthem of the International  
Working Class*

Arise, ye prisoners of starvation!  
Arise, ye wretched of the earth,  
For justice thunders condemnation,  
A better world's in birth.  
No more tradition's chains shall bind us,  
Arise, ye slaves; no more in thrall!  
The earth shall rise on new foundations,  
We have been naught,  
we shall be all.

*Refrain:*

Tis the final conflict,  
Let each stand in his place.  
The international working class  
Shall be the human race.

We want no condescending saviours,  
To rule us from a judgment hall;  
We workers ask not for their favors;  
Let us consult for all.  
To make the thief disgorge his booty,  
To free the spirit from its cell,  
We must ourselves decide our duty,  
We must decide and do it well.

**Statement  
by the  
Central Committee  
of the  
Revolutionary  
Communist  
Party,  
USA**

**May Day, 1977**

Fellow workers, brothers and sisters:

Today we are celebrating as our class celebrates—in militant and determined action, rallying and marching in unison, showing to those who have not yet joined us that there is a way forward and declaring to those who block that way forward, the capitalists, that we will gather the strength of our class to go through and over them, for they will allow it no other way.

And we are not celebrating alone. While thousands in this country are once again raising the bright banner of May Day, in open defiance of the capitalists and all other keepers of the past, literally hundreds of millions, in all parts of the globe, march in the same spirit and proclaim a common future that we will bring about together—a world without exploiters and tormentors of the people, where all oppression has been ended.

Nearly 100 years ago the struggle of our class in this country for the eight hour day gave rise to this great international holiday of the working people. And to our class in this country today falls a great task—to strike at and finally pound to dust the chains of capitalist enslavement that bind not only the great majority in this country but many millions more throughout the world. History and the development of human society places this responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the working class here and throughout the world, and the working class will not and cannot fail to carry out this historic mission, for only in this way can the evils we face be eliminated and human society advance.

Today we face many difficulties. Our rulers, and those like them in every country, on the verge of their extinction, lash out like wounded beasts. At the same time they call on us to sacrifice still more for them, to wound ourselves so they have more blood to suck. Everywhere among our class there is anger—but there is also confusion, and the ranks of those who have recognized the real face of the enemy, and have come to know real friends, are yet few.

Still these ranks are bound to swell, because every attack finds many more with no choice but to fight back, to question “does it have to be this way?” and to seek the means to make a better way.

Ten million today are denied a job. That is ten million whose frustration can and will become a hammer striking at the capitalists who have torn the means to live out of their hands.

Tens of millions more still with a job are driven harder every day, forced to spend up their lives to enrich those who are

rich only because they do not work but hold the whip to make others work for them. That is tens of millions more whose anger will become a battering ram pounding at the fortress of these modern day tyrants.

The great majority of people in this country, the workers and all others oppressed, are forced to live amidst the decay and rot of this system—cities falling apart, desperadoes and police making the streets unsafe to walk, filth and corruption lurking everywhere, discrimination and injustice like a deep-cut wound, and the prospect of war looming on the horizon, a war in which millions would be murdered by rival gangsters in their contest to rob and plunder throughout the world. The great majority of people have no way out of this but to rise up, join ranks, turn their fear and outrage into the concentrated strength of millions, against which no force on earth can stand, and direct that strength against the source of every outrage, the capitalist rulers.

The road forward is the road of hard struggle, and only through struggle comes progress. Out of all the battles that rage wherever there are oppressors and oppressed will be forged step by step the unity and understanding to wage and win the decisive battle, to tear down the capitalist prison-house and then continue the struggle until mankind has been freed from all forms of slavery.

Increasingly at the head of the oppressed must and will march the organized ranks of the working class, raising its own banner and rallying millions into a mighty force. A great step toward this is being taken this year in the formation of a national workers organization on Labor Day weekend in Chicago. The Revolutionary Communist Party hails the development of this organization and will work, together with many other workers, to build it as a tremendous weapon of the working class in the fight against all oppression.

As thousands all over the country hold these May Day celebrations, joining together people out of many battles and demonstrating our common desire and determination to carry forward the cause of the working class, we are not only strengthening our movement today, drawing the battle lines and exposing the face of the enemy more clearly, we are also planting the seeds of a more powerful movement in the months and years ahead. There is much work to be done and a world to win.

*The future belongs to the working class—we must dare to make it!*