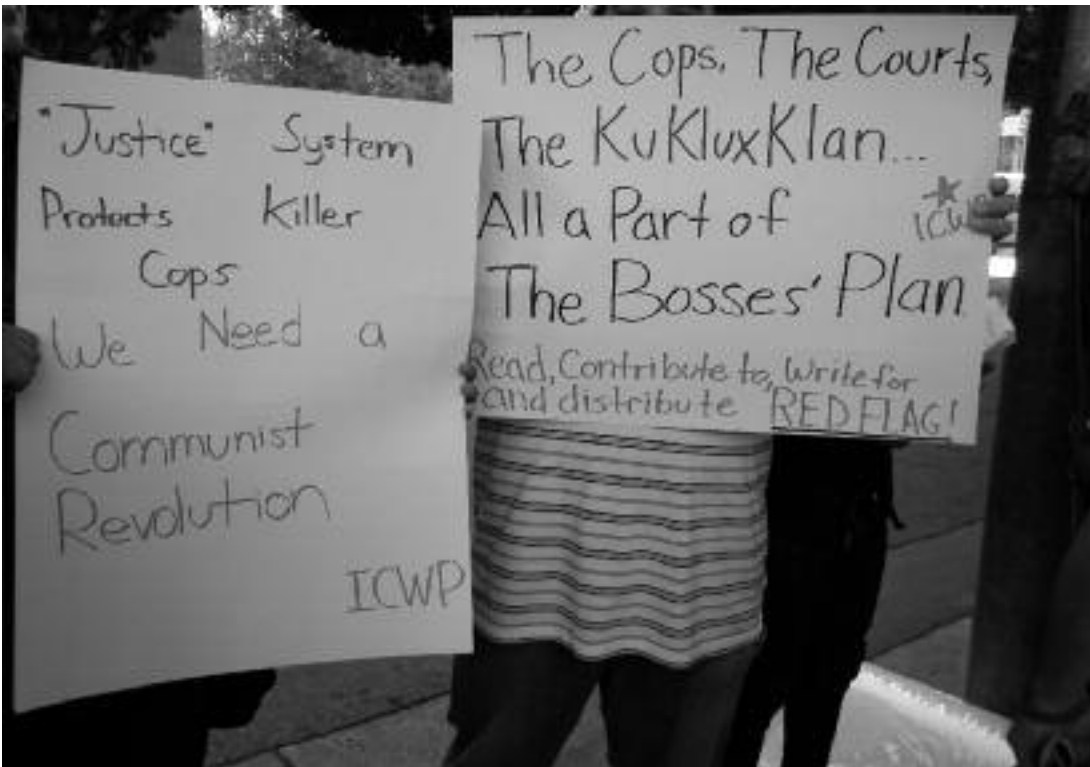


RED FLAG



NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



Los Angeles, CA--Oscar Grant Protest

Sentence in Oscar Grant Case Shows the Truth of Racist Capitalism:

DON'T BEG FOR JUSTICE, FIGHT FOR WORKERS' POWER!

When NFL star Michael Vick was convicted in 2007 of taking part in an illegal dog-fighting ring, he was ordered to spend 23 months in federal prison. Killer cop Johannes Mehserle was given 24 months, with double credit for time served, for murdering young black father Oscar Grant. A racist cop can shoot a black worker down like a dog—and serve less time than if he had organized a dog fight!

On Friday, November 5, The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), armed with *Red Flag*, joined an angry group of protestors outside Johannes Mehserle's sentencing. Mehserle shot a hand-cuffed Oscar Grant in the back on a train platform in Oakland on January 1, 2009.

Outside the courthouse we met two families who had been victims of racist killer cops: a latino mother of a young man shot in the back in October, and a black woman whose brother had been murdered by the sheriffs last year. These murders, because they were done in secret, did not provoke the angry response of the public murders of Oscar Grant, James Davis and Manuel Jamines. How many more black

and latino workers are victims of police murder, known only to their friends and family? (*Red Flag* has just learned that the racist and murderous L.A. County Sheriffs shot 21 year old Robert Thomas Jr. in the back on November 8. More details next issue.)

Organizers encouraged slogans like "No More Killer Cops" and "No Justice, No Peace, No Murdering Police." ICWP spoke out at key points in the event. We said that there are more black men in prison today than were slaves before the Civil War, and that cops of all "races" are the enforcers of a racist system that targets black and latino workers. We said that racist killer cops and the courts defend the bosses' interests by protecting their property and terrorizing workers. We spoke with many demonstrators about police terror and how, to end it, we must smash capitalism – the filthy, bloody system that depends on it.

Most of those we spoke with agreed with our ideas, but many protestors still thought it significant that Mehserle was tried and convicted of involuntary manslaughter. They maintained hope that the courts would give him the maximum sentence of fourteen years.

See OSCAR GRANT, page 13

LA MTA Workers Have No Stake in Transit Union Elections

DEFEAT REFORMISM, MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 8 – Elections are under way for the presidencies of the five locals of MTA drivers in the United Transportation Union (UTU) in Los Angeles. These presidents, who are also members of the UTU Board of Adjustment, will select its next General Chairman.

Many drivers hope that the new union leaders will negotiate a better contract than the present ones. Many drivers and mechanics also hope that new California Governor Jerry Brown – sold as "labor friendly" by their union officials — will give the MTA Board more money so it will negotiate a "good contract."

In contrast, ICWP communists have constantly warned MTA workers and the working class in general of the futility and the danger of the bosses' electoral circus and the dead-end reformist politics of trade unionism. Through conversations, our paper *Red Flag* and leaflets, we struggle daily with our co-workers to see that capitalism can't be reformed and must be destroyed with a communist revolution. Anything short of communism perpetuates our wage slavery and renders us helpless in the face of the bosses' unrelenting racist, fascist attacks.

Illusions die hard. We are, nevertheless, confident that with

persistent struggle and a heavy dose of reality MTA workers will be mobilized to fight for communism. For example, one regular reader recently brought a co-worker to one of our comrades, saying, "Here's a new recruit!"

Trade-Unionism Means a Capitalist Mentality

The main problem with unions is not that union officials are sellouts, although most of them are. It's that trade-unionism will inevitably always produce "leaders" with a capitalist ideology and will foist this ideology on the masses of workers.

It doesn't matter how honest and well-intentioned the union activist might be. If the goal isn't to destroy the capitalist enemy, you end up accepting their logic: "If you can't beat them, join them!"

Thus, union officials become the bosses' agents. They preach trade-union reformism as the only possible "solution" to our exploitation and other evils of capitalism. As a driver once commented, "The boss sucks our blood. The union can only try to limit the size of the syringe and the amount of blood he sucks!" There is only one way to stop this bloodletting: Eliminate the bloodsucker!

Some workers conclude that communists would be better

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Obama's India Trip

SEEKING ALLIES FOR EVENTUAL US-CHINA CLASH

Obama's 10 day visit to four Southeastern Asian countries has been trumpeted in the bosses' media as having an agenda to create US jobs that is "... heavy on taking steps to open foreign markets to American goods..." (*NY Times*, 11/6/2010)

However, even if such a goal were successful, US imperialism's deepening economic woes cannot be solved with such palliatives – like the \$10 billion worth of deals signed with Indian companies that will supposedly help create some 50,000 US jobs.

Obama's plan to create jobs is to double US exports. This is a pipedream. No longer competitive, US bosses continue to lose world market share to their competitors, especially to China. In 2009, China captured 10% of the world market, up from 3% in 1999. The US share has declined from 31% in 2000 to 20% in 2009. China is even taking more market share in the US itself and accounts for almost half of the US total trade deficit, up from one third in 2008.

When competition is not an option, war becomes an imperative.

No matter what the bosses' media claims, one of Obama's goals on this trip is to strengthen US military alliances with Japan, South Korea and Indonesia. These countries all have territorial disputes with China, fear its expansionist policies and are modernizing and expanding their military. The US bosses want to use them in their confrontation with China.

But the main country Obama is courting is India. On this, the above-mentioned NYT article commented that "... Mr. Obama's diplomatic and business agenda was aimed at strengthening ties between the two nations at a time in which China is more aggressively pursuing power in the region."

As the US-China-Russia confrontation looms ever closer, the US rulers are intensifying their efforts to sign a strategic alliance with India. So far, it has been an elusive goal. "Despite significant advances in Indo-U.S. relations during George W. Bush's presidency and bipartisan agreement in Washington to support India's rise, Barack Obama's administration has found it hard to make big strategic advances... And the Pentagon is frustrated in its efforts to build a partnership with a New Delhi that resists cooperation on U.S. terms." (*Foreign Policy*, 11/4/10)

Indian defense analyst Kanti Basu spells it out, "Deep down the Indians who pay attention to the strategic community sense that the Chinese are rising and the Americans are fading...and it doesn't look like the Americans are going to fix their problems any time soon." ("Containment-Lite," Thomas L Friedman, *NY Times* 11/10/10)

In spite of Obama's promise to back India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and to remove export controls for sensitive technology, a sector of the Indian ruling class is hedging its bets. "If the big ticket arms and nuclear purchases the U.S. expects India to make do not materialize, much of the warmth in the relationship will evaporate." (*The Hindu*, 11/5/10)

Indeed, the deal might not materialize. On October 9, Delhi announced its intention to buy up to 300 fifth-generation fighter aircraft from Russia, its biggest arms supplier, in a contract worth up to \$US 30 billion. It would also buy 45 Russian transport planes worth \$645 million. "These are the two major projects for the next 10 years, which will be a shining example of Indian-Russian co-operation," said Indian

Defense Minister A. K. Antony. (*The Australian*, 11/9/10) Russia is also a favorite candidate to build India's 20 new nuclear reactors scheduled to be functional by 2020.

The Sun Won't Set Peacefully on the US Bosses' Empire

The world's economic and strategic "center of gravity" is shifting from the Euro-Atlantic area to the Asia-Pacific. This region contains 1/3 of the world's population, 25% of its landmass, and 40% of the world's oil and gas reserves. It has emerged as an increasingly critical manufacturing, trading and energy center.

This region's rise is accelerating the decline of US imperialism. But the US bosses won't bow out peacefully. They are preparing for the war they must fight. They, however, lack significant host-nation military bases in the area and are unlikely to acquire them. Nevertheless, they are determined to get them: "With the publication of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review and the impending release of the National Security Strategy and the new Unified Command Plan, the Indian Ocean region has risen to the forefront of US strategic planning." (*Asian Security*, Vol. 6, No. 3 Autumn 2010), pp. 214-37).

Capitalist competition makes wars – local, regional and world war – inevitable. No diplomatic maneuvers or charismatic photo-ops can change this. Only communist revolution can put an end to capitalism's insatiable competition for profits that demands our super-exploitation and our dying on the bosses' battlefields. Join ICWP to turn the bosses' wars into a class war for communism!

CHOLERA IN HAITI: DEADLIEST DISEASE IS CAPITALISM

Nov 10—Over 650 people have died in Haiti from cholera in the last few weeks, and 10,000 have the disease. That is only the official figure, but the total number of deaths is far greater. Thirty people die each day of the disease, which is endemic to areas with poor sanitation,

The cholera bacteria appears to have come into Haiti because UN occupation troops who serve as guard and police were infected with it. Broken, rotten pipes took sewage from their compound into the Artibonite river, which spread it to the whole lower river region and now to other areas. Imperialism sent these troops to Haiti to keep the bosses' "peace".

Cholera may be new to Haiti (there hasn't been an epidemic in over 100 years), but capitalist-imperialist oppression, with its racist poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, diseases, unemployment, and death 250,000 were killed in the earthquake of January 2010, when 3 million more were made homeless. Today, 1.3 million Haitians still live in refugee camps, without water treatment equipment, bottled water, latrines and sewage facilities, paved roads, or electricity. When Hurricane Tomas was expected to hit Haiti, the refugees were ordered to leave the camps, but they refused since they had nowhere to go. Luckily, the Hurricane didn't inundate the camps because there were no resources if it had.

As reported in the *Red Flag* (2/24), before the January earthquake, of Haiti's 9 million people, "4.1 million are in the workforce, but only 110,000 are officially employed." That means that 97% of Haitian

workers are unemployed.

As a result, three-quarters of Haiti's population lives in total poverty, surviving on the equivalent of less than \$2 per day. The most destitute, those living on less than \$1 per day, make up half of Haiti's population. These conditions make most Haitians vulnerable to diseases like cholera, which could be easily eradicated.

For example, putting chlorine in water makes it safe to drink, but even this is denied. In the US, a chlorine pill that would prevent cholera costs about 20 cents a day. The US imperialists can't spend 20 cents a day for a chlorine pill to save a Haitian workers' life, but they can spend a million dollars to kill an Iraqi to try to keep their oil empire. Haiti is a ticking time bomb for epidemics, such as cholera, and the bomb has already gone off. Furthermore, because the conditions of most Haitians are so dire, many more such "bombs" will explode until the capitalist system responsible for the racist poverty of most Haitians is eliminated.

The UN and US, far from helping Haiti's population survive the disasters caused by capitalist-imperialist imposed poverty after the earthquake, sent troops to attack the workers, "keep order", and to guard the oil discovered in waters near Haiti to keep it from the US imperialists' rivals. Other countries, like Cuba, send in a few doctors to put band-aids over gaping wounds, but these cannot stem the disease and death. These band-aids shouldn't be mistaken for any real solution. In fact, the disease is expected to spread

much further as it reaches the refugee camps in Port-Au-Prince.

ICWP calls for the only effective program to end the misery of Haitian workers: spreading the fight for communism to Haitian and all workers the world over who are being attacked by the monster that is capitalism in crisis.

Only a communist system can mobilize workers to end poverty and disease by eliminating their source: racist capitalist exploitation. As the first edition of *Red Flag* said, "Capitalism—the most destructive force in human history—has hit Haiti with a vengeance."

The rising death toll of Haitian workers should lead us to spread *Red Flag* in Haiti and internationally to hasten the death of capitalism and the building of a communist society committed to workers' safety and power.



Oakland--Protest Against Verdict in Oscar Grant Case



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COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE BUILDS RED FLAG NETWORKS

EL SALVADOR—November 2010—For some time, we've been having political meetings with young and older workers. About 30 fellow workers come to them. They discuss a topic every two weeks about the true history of the class struggle and they report about the international situation and how this affects Salvadoran workers.

"We don't need political schools to serve on electoral bodies and to keep trying to make the system look better," stated a worker. Another added, "In these meetings we should be critical and self critical in our struggle for revolution." A comrade from ICWP finished, saying, "I am a worker with Marxist-Leninist ideas, and I think that the main idea of this political school is that dialectical materialism become the basis of our study and to understand that the only effective struggle is for communism."

A worker said, "I propose that the internationalist comrade be the coordinator of this collective." Another backed him up, "I propose that he give the international report because he has the most experience in this group, and I second that he should be the coordinator." The comrade from ICWP accepted the responsibility, first mentioning, "From this moment the proletariat is the basis of our daily struggle, and here we don't allow electoral speeches. We must bring revolutionary proposals about the basis of communism because here we refuse to teach or learn how to protect votes, which they teach in the Shafik school (fmln)." The agreement was unanimous.

For the next meeting, some were made respon-

sible to present specific topics and a commission of 5 workers was formed. Mechanisms were put in place to organize the meetings so that everyone participates. In the first meeting a comrade showed, as planned, a documentary from the time of the Mayas, which generated a discussion about how the bosses have historically humiliated and mistreated our class.

In this meeting a fellow worker invited us to see a play called "Marx has Returned." Yes, in a country as small as this, a worker took the responsibility of making a monologue of the life of Karl Marx. It was very good (we'll write a report about this play). Before going in to see the play, 3 workers were given a copy of *Red Flag*, and were told that it had been downloaded from the internet, that they should read it and say what they thought of it.

For the second meeting, we proposed that a young friend who had been to Cuba and Venezuela give a report about the international situation and the inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the USA. The meeting was a complete success. The friend gave his report based on an article in *Red Flag* (it was a big surprise and satisfying for the ICWP member), and the discussion went on for over 2 hours. After the meeting was over, 6 friends asked the comrade from ICWP for copies of the newspaper because it was excellent. "I'm going to give the paper to a friend," said one person. "We need to know more about communism," said another.

"Many of us come tired from our daily work, but in the meetings, we lose our fatigue," stated



a worker. "Look old man, can I write for the newspaper? I have something that I'd like to write," and the comrade from ICWP answered, "Of course, we're waiting for you. It's the newspaper of the working class."

In the last meeting the comrade leader from ICWP asked at the end of the meeting, "What do you think of a society without money?" and a debate started that didn't conclude, but even some who had argued with social democratic ideas at the end agreed that we could live without money. We hope to write an article about this discussion to explain everything that was said.

There's been great emotion that has raised the spirits of all the comrades in the country, as well as sharpening their boldness, and confidence in our working class which makes us carry forward the revolutionary communist plans of ICWP.

REVOLUTIONARY COMPROMISES WITH CAPITALISM: THE BIG MISTAKE

"I don't agree with your position," a friend who works at a big war industry factory told me after reading a rather long essay on the theme of "mobilizing the masses for communism." "It says it's not enough to agree and read *Red Flag*, you have to write and sell it. I don't want to because I don't trust capitalism and I'll end up being arrested."

He was right not to trust "democratic" illusions: we do live under the dictatorship of the bosses. So we continued with a discussion about what tactics to use now to build this movement.

He soon wanted to get back to the essay. "But, I don't understand why Mao and Co. wanted to go back [to socialism from the budding communism the movement had already built] after things settled down," he asked.

We soon got to the heart of the matter. We discussed the serious problems each revolution was forced to face. At a key junction the leadership opted to make compromises with capitalism with disastrous results.

I said we stood on the shoulders of giants and, at the same time could not repeat the mistakes of the past communist movement.

Mobilizing the masses for communism could have solved these very real problems (and indeed did solve them under war communism and the Chinese supply system). The essence of revisionist errors was the leadership's belief that such a communist mobilization was not yet possible.

"But how can you have a revolution with so many people in this country brainwashed?" he protested.

We talked about the changing times and my expe-

riences when soldiers, workers and students "came through."

"Yeah, it's true," he admitted. "I remember people around here (in his work area) I never thought would begin to question the system. Where is our bailout was on everybody's lips."

"I saw articles where people question capitalism directly in a European paper," he argued, to point out how the climate in other countries was better.

After a pause, he corrected himself, "Yeah, but the point is communism is the solution."

I had to leave so we agreed to continue our discussion: in particular, how we can mobilize to build *Red Flag*.

COMMUNIST RELATIONS BRING WORKERS TO LEADERSHIP

"A" is a very serious driver with a lot of commitment to the working class, very active in the union, and we've known him for many years. He's read and distributed *Red Flag*. We've had discussions in his house and we were thinking about what we could do to recruit him to the party.

Last Sunday, we had a meeting with him in which we asked him what it was that held him back from becoming a member of the Party. In addition to relating several doubts about how communism will be, he wanted to know if we're certain and if we know what we're talking about. He still has internal confusion about the difference between socialism and communism.

After a long and sharp political struggle, he said that what holds him back from joining the Party is being unsure about how to present revolutionary communist ideas to the workers.

We said that the process of learning revolutionary communist ideas requires study and practice. We

asked him if he would be willing to participate in a study group every two weeks

He answered us that he thought he was coming to a study group on this occasion, which was correct. However, we agreed that in two weeks we'll start a study group with 5 people in his house in a systematic manner, starting with the study of the society of primitive communism, emphasizing the relations and means of production and the ideology in each society, which are the main factors in the change from one society to another. He agrees with this plan.

The same day we talked to three other workers who we had planned to invite and they also agreed, and we planned the place, the time and the day to make it a reality.

Then we continued the discussion about different current events. For example, he asked why is it that groups like the Tea Party are capable of organizing so many people in such little time and that we should look for the way to imitate them to do that also.



We answered that the difference is that these groups count on the support of the media and besides they win people with false illusions that by changing this or that policy, things will improve. However, very

See **COMMUNIST RELATIONS**, page 14

PLACE YOUR BET ON THE WORKING CLASS

The U.S. midterm elections have produced reams of commentary. If the bosses' media is to be believed, November 2nd was the single most important day in every worker's life.

Actually, looking for help from capitalist politicians no matter what their stripe is a fool's errand. Better to put your energy into building for communist revolution.

Liberal pundits whine that the Republicans would have been vanquished if only Obama and the Democrats were more like former president Roosevelt. We workers would then benefit from a modern "New Deal." The sad truth is that the New Deal was more like a dirty deal for the working class.

The General Textile Strike of 1934 is a case in point. In September of '34, 470,000 textile workers hit the bricks from Maine to Alabama in the largest general strike in U.S. history. "Flying squadrons," truckloads of young textile workers, sped through the back roads of the American South, spreading the strike to any mill that dared stay open.

A number of these rank-and-file leaders were veterans of the 1929 textile battles in Gastonia, North Carolina. The recently formed Communist Party had built the first integrated locals in the South, leading a regional strike.

Both the chief of police and strike leader Ella May Wiggins, the mother of five, were killed. Nothing was done about the assassination of Ella, but the cop's death (which occurred as his armed thugs broke into the union headquarters) unleashed a reign of racist terror, culminating in the trumped-up murder trial of 13 men and 3 women.

If anything, the bosses' violence intensified in the bigger 1934 strike. The bosses responded to the spreading strike with injunctions, cops, the National Guard and the murder of 14 strikers.

But none of this undid the strike. Ultimately, Roosevelt brokered the deal that beat the strikers.

Roosevelt asked the textile workers to call off the three week strike and that the manufacturers take back the strikers "without discrimination." The hated "stretch-out," the practice of forcing workers to run more and more looms as their brothers and sisters were laid off, was "to be studied." (To death!) The United Textile Workers (UTW) national executive council jumped on the deal despite hundreds of telegrams from locals demanding they reject it.

Of course, manufacturers throughout the South refused to give the strikers back their jobs. It's estimated that 100,000, mostly in the South, never worked in the mills again. Some workers described how the mills had been turned into armed camps with machine gun nests preventing strikers from even applying for their old positions.

The sellout by the anti-communist UTW was to be expected. They didn't want the strike in the first place. Workers had taken matters into their own hands forcing the misleaders to play catch-up.

The UTW officials preferred to hobnob with their friends in the New Deal administration. They believed, as did the Roosevelt gang, that "Scientific Management" of the crisis of overproduction would get the country out of the depression. The "stretch-out" was just part of the plan.

Unfortunately, many southern workers were led to

believe that they were fighting for the "real" new deal. Even the left-wingers relied on the opportunist strategy of saying the southern textile owners were thwarting the laws of the federal government.

In fact, the capitalist new dealers were out to save capitalism and were never on the workers' side. Opportunism might have got a few more out to the picket lines, but in the end, the international working class paid for that faith in capitalism.

Rejecting faith in capitalism and its politicians clears the way for the only working class solution to the bosses' crises: communist revolution. We'd do well to keep this in our minds as we build political strikes and fight-back against the bosses' attacks in this present crisis.



UTW Vice President McMahon tells textile bosses that he's the "law-abiding" union leader, not like the Bolshevik "riffraff."

Racist Deportations Soar: Liberals Lead the Way

LOS ANGELES – Democratic Sheriff Lee Baca and President Obama's "Homeland Security" Secretary Janet Napolitano have teamed up in a new effort to terrorize immigrant workers and increase fascist surveillance of all workers in the US. If you aren't yet convinced that we need communist revolution, please read on!

Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1995. It allows federal immigration authorities (now called ICE) to train and deputize local cops to detain suspected undocumented workers they encounter through their daily work.

In some areas – as in Arizona – this led to street cops stopping workers who "looked illegal" in a process of open racial profiling.

In Los Angeles, Police Special Order 40 prohibited this. However, 287g was enforced in the LA County jails under Sheriff Lee Baca. In-house ICE statistics reveal that in 2006, the LA County Sheriff's Office identified 2,590 immigrant workers for deportation. This was over 60% of the national total. "LA County was a pioneer in working with the federal officials on screening inmates," reported the LA Times (10/12/10).

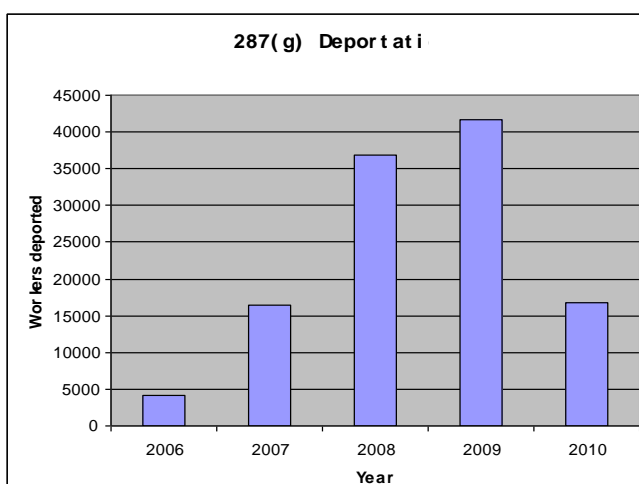
"I thought Baca was a good guy," remarked a minister who has been active for years in pro-immigrant movements. Baca is a liberal Democrat. He organized a "Clergy Council" that sponsors annual Martin Luther King Day events and the like. He visits churches, mosques, community centers and even peace groups. He has publicly defended the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). This is "community policing" to the max.

And this same Baca brags that his department "played a major role in the increase in deportations of undocumented immigrants from the United States." His deputies have unleashed a reign of terror in mainly-black and latin neighborhoods. This includes the murder of 17-year-old Travion, a black youth, in Lynwood on October 9th and the frequent brutalization of black youth in Altadena by a deputy nicknamed "Tiger

Woods."

"Secure Communities" Means Increased Fascism

Deportations increased during the first year of the Obama Administration (see chart). But openly fascist Maricopa County (AZ) Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the racist Arizona laws last summer have discredited racial profiling. Early figures from the first half of 2010 (shown on chart) suggest that 287(g) has outlived its



usefulness to the ruling class.

This table only shows deportations due to 287(g). Total numbers of workers deported are much higher.

Now ICE is promoting its new "Secure Communities" program. This is the LA model on a nationwide scale. FBI and ICE databases are linked with local records so that when anyone is booked into a county jail for any reason whatsoever, his or her fingerprints are automatically checked out. That takes care of complaints about racial profiling: now EVERYONE is subjected to fascist investigation even before being brought before a judge. This is a good example of how racism against one group of workers paves the way for attacks on all workers!

If there is any record of prior contact with ICE, an "ICE detainer" is issued. That includes legal immigrants! When they are released from jail, ICE can take them into custody.

At least 660 cities participate in "Secure Communities." Several cities – including Arlington, Virginia

and San Francisco, California – tried to "opt out" of the program. In September, ICE stated that was possible. However, the city would still have to notify ICE of suspected undocumented captives. But Napolitano announced in October that the Obama administration will allow no "opt-out" of the program.

When Bush was president, many immigrant-rights and civil-liberties activists thought the solution was to elect Obama. Now they can't figure out what to do next. "Build a grass-roots movement" – but for what?

"Secure Communities is like the old Fugitive-Slave Act," one remarked. That 1850 federal law required everyone, even in the "free" North, to help slave-catchers capture any black person they claimed was a runaway slave. Radical abolitionists used it to expose the federal government as a tool of the slaveocracy and to organize direct action.

It took the Civil War to end legal chattel slavery. But capitalist wage-slavery surged into the racist system we live in today. Our response to "Secure Communities" and every other fascist development of Obama's government must be to mobilize workers – immigrants and citizens of all "races" and "nationalities" – to fight for communism. Let's smash the wage system and borders that keep us enslaved and divided.

Poster Against Slavery, 1851



WIKILEAKS: US WAR CRIMES DEMAND COMMUNIST RESPONSE

The Wikileaks website released 400,000 US military documents on October 22, providing damning evidence about the US military's crimes and lies in Iraq from 2004-2010. Now the US rulers and their media mouthpieces are shamelessly trying to spin these documents to push for war with Iran.

Although the Pentagon repeatedly claimed that they did not keep a "body count," they actually kept detailed records. The documents list 109,032 deaths in Iraq: 66,081 'civilians,' 23,984 'enemy,' 15,196 Iraqi government forces, and 3,771 coalition forces. Over 60% are listed as civilian deaths, but these figures are only about one-tenth of those found in a scientific survey, which estimated 655,000 Iraqi war dead up to October 2006.

The documents detail the insultingly small amounts – and frequently nothing at all! — that the US government paid to families of civilians killed by US forces. Many of these murders – children, men and women — occurred at US checkpoints.

The documents quote incident reports proving US troops' complicity in torture. They often turned over captives to Iraqi forces who did the dirty work, killing or torturing them with beatings, rubber hoses, electrical currents, and worse.

Some reports describe "torture rooms" in police stations and army installations. Orders were that US forces would not intervene or investigate. For example, see Order (FRAGO) 242, first mentioned May 16, 2005: "Provided the initial report confirms US forces were not involved in the detainee abuse, no further investigation will be conducted unless directed by HHQ."

The leaks also document US government lies. For example, when General David Petraeus took over as the US commander in Iraq in 2007, he announced a new strategy of "protecting the population" from insurgents. He criticized air strikes because they "provide insurgents with a major propaganda victory." But the US dropped 1447 bombs in 2007, six times the number dropped in 2006.

Most of this information was already known or suspected, but insider documents make US war crimes

undeniable. These crimes will only increase as imperialist rivalry becomes more intense and imperialist war spreads and grows.

Drumbeat for US-Iran War Grows Louder

The US bosses are using Wikileaks' expose to ratchet up their ready-to-invade-Iran campaign. The reports reveal "evidence regarding Iranian interference in Iraq," according to the Guardian. (Guardian.co.uk, 10/28/10) For example, the Iranian rulers supplied new forms of suicide vests for al-Qaida, which has killed thousands of Iraqi civilians.

Red Flag has explained that the US rulers are preparing for an all-out attack on Iran since Iran has come out the winner in Iraq.

CNN reported on Nov. 6 that influential Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham told the Halifax International Security Forum that Iran's nuclear program probably couldn't be destroyed by a conventional limited air strike.

"Instead of a surgical strike on their nuclear infrastructure, I think we're to the point now that you have to really neuter the regime's ability to wage war against us and our allies."

Graham acknowledged that Iran would respond to a US attack on its navy and air force with counterattacks on US ground forces in Afghanistan and US targets in other parts of the world. That must be considered, he said, "against the idea of a nuclear-armed Iran and what that means to the future of the world.... And every day that goes by and we're indifferent, and less decisive, then that's a day lost."

Is there a contradiction between Graham's calls for prompt military action and the Obama administration's efforts to restart negotiations? No. Negotiations are being used as a smokescreen to make the public in the US and around the world think the US is doing everything possible to avoid war.

It's a frantic diplomatic effort to round up increasingly unwilling allies for an inevitably deadly military confrontation that could dwarf the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. And if China

or Russia were to intervene on Iran's behalf, a US-Iran war could escalate quickly into World War III.

Rely on world's workers, not any capitalist, to smash imperialism with communist revolution

Many are outraged by the Wikileaks revelations. "Obviously the Obama administration isn't going to do anything about this," said an anti-war activist. "We should take this to the World Court in The Hague!" He and others want US officials prosecuted for war crimes, as the Nazis were in the Nuremberg Trials.

It's possible that some imperialist rivals of the US would take advantage of this opportunity to embarrass the US. But they won't give the war criminals what they deserve. And no international organization of capitalists – like the World Court – will put imperialism itself on trial.

Imperialism throughout its history has meant torture and mass murder: Belgium in the Congo, Spain and the US in the Philippines, France in Algeria, China by proxy in Darfur, are just a few examples. Instead of appealing to any of the world's brutal bosses – whether in Europe, China, Russia or elsewhere—we should look to the international working class.

The fight against imperialist butchery and brutality must be part of the class struggle to smash capitalism itself with communist revolution in every corner of the world.



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OSCAR GRANT, from page 1

We answered that manslaughter is not the *murder* he should have been charged with and that he would get a very minimal sentence at most.

A scuffle broke out between a small group of black protestors and an undercover cop who purposefully bumped into them. As many cops descended on the scene to arrest the young protestors, most of the demonstrators looked around in stunned confusion. ICWP stepped in to lead the crowd in chanting, "The Cops, The Courts, The Ku Klux Klan, All are Part of the Bosses Plan."

When nervous organizers began to address the crowd again, they stressed that a white man started the scuffle with a black man and compared it to a white cop killing Oscar Grant, a black man. Young ICWP comrades shouted over these organizers, advancing our communist line. We fought to convince people that, although the assailants were white and the victims were black, both assailants were attacking workers in the name of capitalism; and that cops of all "races" do the bosses' dirty work. Racism is the

cutting edge of the bosses' attacks on all workers, justifying their brutality and dividing their opposition. Blaming "white people" argues against the only way to end racism, a revolutionary communist movement that unites the entire working class.

Many people were shocked when the sentence was announced: two years minus double credit for time served, which means he'll serve about 7 months— even though we had been arguing all day that this is the way it would turn out.

"Justice" covers up the reality of class rule. The courts are not neutral, and we can never expect them or any other agency of the capitalist state to be "fair." The bosses' racist killer cops will continue to terrorize and kill workers until we topple the system that depends on them to exploit us for our labor and replace it with a system under which the workers lead society and produce directly for the needs of

our class.

We don't beg for justice, we fight for workers' power! Join us! Read, contribute to, and distribute **Red Flag** – the newspaper that belongs to the international working class. Let's work together to build for communist revolution.



HARRY POTTER: WAR, FASCISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM

“Our world has faced no greater threat than we face today,” intones the trailer to “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part I,” opening November 19th.

J.K. Rowling has made no secret of the fact that the Harry Potter story has a political message. “My model of the world after Voldemort’s return was, directly, the government of Neville Chamberlain in Great Britain during the Second World War, when he tried to minimize the menace of the Nazi regime for political convenience,” she told the Spanish magazine *XL* Semanal (2/3/08). Fans cheer Harry and his crew as they battle Voldemort’s openly racist followers.

But the Harry Potter movies change the message. Now the supposedly greatest threat to the world is not the Nazis but the Soviet Union! Here’s the scoop, from Brian Sibley’s new book *Harry Potter Film Wizardry*:

“When we get to see the Ministry for the first time,’ says producer David Barron, ‘there are various political elements that suggest the world of Big Brother.’ For example, a huge, magical portrait banner of Cornelius Fudge hanging in the atrium depicts the Minister in the style of 1930s posters from the former Soviet Union.”

“Under the Death Eaters’ control, an alternative centerpiece replaces the Fountain of Magical Brethren in the Ministry’s atrium. Concept artist Adam Brockbank took his inspiration from Russian monuments of the Soviet era depicting workers striving for a better world. ‘The new sculpture,’ says Stuart Craig, ‘shows superior, glorified wizarding figures supported on the hunched backs of oppressed Muggles writhing in

pain.’”

This makes no sense at all, except in the twisted logic of anti-communism. It’s the Big Lie taught in practically every history classroom in the US and pushed by liberals all over the planet: that fascism and communism are no different.

In the real World War II – not the Harry Potter knockoff – it was the Soviet Union (and not the deteriorated British empire or the rising US empire) that defeated Nazi Germany.

Fascism is the political form of capitalism in acute crisis. The capitalist bosses show the iron hand that hides at other times inside a velvet glove. Capitalism itself is the dictatorship of the bosses over the working class. Communism will turn this upside down with the armed force of workers internationally. We will smash capitalist exploitation and all that it brings with it, including racism. Tragically, Soviet leaders built socialism (a form of state capitalism) instead of communism.

Harry Potter is brought to you by Time Warner, the world’s largest media conglomerate. It’s no surprise that the capitalist media would push an anti-communist message. But what about Rowling? She is a liberal feminist who donated £1 million to the Labour Party in September 2008. Rowling had an unusual degree of control over the adaptation of her books. It seems that she, too, buys into the Big Lie.

Where are the workers in this so-called “Labour” Party supporter’s famous books? Apparently the elves. But, except for Dobby, the house-elves are depicted as happy slaves with no desire to be free.

Hermione’s “Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare” is ridiculed in the books. It’s totally omitted from the films. We never see factory workers (or factory elves) at all.

Rowling has said that Hermione later works for the Ministry of Magic. There she helps to improve the lives of house-elves and to repeal racist “pureblood” laws. This lame Labour reformism underlines Rowling’s fundamentally conservative and pro-capitalist political message.

Now the US and British ruling classes are pumping us up to fight the next “greatest threat” – be it Iran or China. Is Rowling’s replay of World War II really setting us up for World War III?

If you’re going to see “Deathly Hallows,” keep this question in mind. Write a letter to **Red Flag** with your impressions.



MTA, from page 1

union leaders, since they want to destroy capitalism. They think we would fight for and deliver what workers need. This is another lethal illusion that has proven disastrous not only for the working class but for the international communist movement itself.

In the 1930’s the Communist Party USA led millions of workers in fierce class battles that organized the great CIO industrial unions. In the process they lost sight of the goal of revolution. Instead of destroying capitalism, they ended up reforming it. Ironically, they were soon expelled from the unions and became another electoral party that has now almost completely disappeared. You can find their members in the bosses’ Democratic Party. There they – and the union movement they built – are helping the US bosses institute fascism, carry out their vicious racist attacks, and win workers to patriotically support and fight for US imperialism’s current oil wars and eventual World War III.

Our Party has learned from this history. Our goal

Communist Relations,

from page 3

soon, the people who follow them will see that this is a lie.

The difference with us is that we try to recruit workers so that they learn the philosophy of dialectics, political economy, and the history of the class struggle which are basics for the understanding of how the different societies function, especially how communism will function. But the most important thing isn’t only to understand it, but also to change it.

We gave an example, since we’ve been working with him for 6 or 8 years his advance has been progressive through very sharp ideological struggles and the practical participation in the sale of *Red Flag*.

To end the discussion after enjoying some good food, I asked if he had read an article that I wrote about the need to raise money from our co-workers. He told me that he hadn’t had the opportunity, so I said in a few words that what had moved me was the

is not to become union officials or to prevent the further destruction of the union movement. Our goal is to make revolutionary ideas primary within workers’ struggles and build the communist movement. This combination of practice and communist theory will convince the working class that capitalism can’t be reformed. It can and must be destroyed with communist revolution. To advance on this road, we must smash reformism and trade union ideology

Workers Must Defeat Racism and Reformism Within Their Ranks

MTA union officials and “wannabe” officials are using these elections to further divide workers, the majority of whom are black and latino. They push black drivers to support black candidates, and latino drivers to support latino candidates. We should not fall for this vicious trick!

Big prizes are at stake in these elections, but not for us. The UTU Board chairman gets over \$300,000/year and each local president gets over \$120,000. Plus, they enjoy stress-free jobs and other perks! But no matter who wins the election, capital-

ism in crisis can only offer us cutbacks, racist terror, and massive death and destruction. Even if any candidates are honest – which is questionable – the illusions they promote of a better future under capitalism are deadly to our class.

We should keep our eyes on our prize: a communist society with no bosses and no racist profit system. Our communist leaders get no special privileges, now or in the future. We are constantly training more workers to serve our class in many ways.

To build this communist movement we need unity of men and women, of latino, black, white, filipino, Arab, Asian, and all other workers. We need to defeat the bosses’ nationalist ideas and ways. Communism will destroy the material basis of racism, which is capitalism itself.

More MTA workers are reading, distributing and supporting *Red Flag* and ICWP, as are many other workers and students in half a dozen countries. Every reader and every Party member must help guarantee that, slowly but surely, the international working class is mobilized for communist revolution.

letter from a comrade from Mexico, and the sacrifices she made to be able to make copies of Red Flag. I told him that in spite of my doubts, I had asked several readers of the paper if they would like to help monthly with a contribution for its printing. The answer was very positive and this pushed me to ask him also if he’d like to help. He asked us to give him an idea of how much is the budget of our newspaper, and how much we thought he should contribute. We asked him if \$50 a month was appropriate and he said that it seemed good and that he would also help collect money from his base. He said that many times they have asked him where we got the money to support the paper, and that he was convinced that it was important and necessary to ask workers for money for ICWP and its activities.

It was a Sunday of quality since this worker represents a very big political po-

tential. It’s up to us to assure the political development of this worker.

1934 Textile Strike



Dear Red Flag,

I am currently a freshman in college and with any chance I have, I bring up political points in class. If I can, I bring up our political line. The year is just getting started and so far I have written an essay about capitalist education and I have explained to a class of 30 students what wage slavery is. Reading the letter from our young comrade in Mexico made me realize that what I was already doing for the party was not enough. I am currently seeking for more ways to be a better communist. Apart from having sales at two different campuses, I know I can do more to help. I will be in school to push our political line.

-Red Student

The rays of sunlight are only just beginning to appear on the horizon

It's about 6 am. Everything is quiet, everything so normal. The rays of sunlight are only just beginning to appear on the horizon, as they start the daily activities.

Like robots pre-programmed to follow the lifestyle that the system gives us and, tired, we go to work.

I hear a shout saying "Enough!" of living in a place where there aren't many opportunities, where getting some food and being able to survive is a hard battle that we have to confront every day.

Mexico is not a free, just, democratic country. The police, who in theory are supposed to protect us, commit daily serious violations of human right in different parts of Mexico. There are the television sets that promote democracy and their leaders of opinion who aren't anything but media machines.

Here prisoners in chains perpetuate the social fighters who don't allow themselves to be smashed. The print and electronic media don't bat an eye to slander these exemplary and generous citizens: indigenous people, farm workers, students, guerrilla fighters with a cause, all poor people, who defend their native land and thereby defend our nation.

For the bosses they are the enemy, and they answer with brutal repression, persecution, imprisonment, rapes and disappearances. Killing them are: the ruling PRD leaders, the ex-leaders from the PAN party, and those from the PRI from Oaxaca like Ulises Ruiz, and from the state of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto. Our Mexican people don't deserve these rotten elites, don't deserve the rulers nor the criminals who have power and have the country by the throat.

They are afraid and they'll continue to be.

Exactly with these chains that they've put on us, exactly with these chains we'll have to kill the oppression.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE, we have the power...because some lazy sleepyheads in their seats decide what's best for the people, they don't feel hunger, they don't feel the cold, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO SEE YOUR PEOPLE LEAVING FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE FAMILY WITHOUT KNOWING IF THEY'LL COME BACK.....we need LIBERTY AND WE NEED IT NOW!!!

To be happy we don't need money nor help from the government. We lack education and organization. We're not rebels, we're revolutionaries.

—Young reader from Mexico

Red Flag comments:

We welcome you as a reader and appreciate your comments, especially your anger against the capitalist system. We need you and millions more angry young readers to join our party and fight for communism. Mexico is not the only country that isn't "free, just or democratic."

Every country around the world is a rotten bosses' dictatorship, and workers around the world need and deserve a communist system. You are right in pointing out that the workers who suffer the chains and oppression of capitalism are the ones who will make that revolution. To make that revolution, we must reject the bosses' nationalism.

The working class has no nation, and must unite internationally. We don't put our confidence in nationalist and guerrilla movements that have fought for "national liberation" or for "socialism." We organize workers, soldiers and students of the world to fight for our common interest: communism.

We hope that as the rays of the communist sun appear on your horizon, you will be convinced of our ideas and become another nail in the bosses' coffin.

Cynical Bosses Spin Chile Mine Rescue

At a recent meeting of *Red Flag* readers and distributors I mentioned, "Why is it that the US government is so interested in the Chilean min-

ers who were trapped because of an explosion?" Then I started thinking about Haiti and what the reasons had been for the US helping. They had discovered the existence of oil in the country and they wanted to get control of it. I asked the meeting, "Is it not a bit strange that the United States is so interested in the Chilean

miners that they even provide a capsule built by NASA?"

After reading the article "Chilean miners: The miracle is a nightmare" in the following edition of *Red Flag*, I found out that my predictions were true and that the United States wanted to get something out of this near-tragedy. I came to find out that Chile is the number-one copper producer and that its production had doubled in the past year. Also, the article mentions that China has become the number one trading partner of Chile, that "its exchange with China has increased by 17% in the last year, 2.5 times more [that is, 250%] this year." Meanwhile the exchange between Chile and the US has decreased by 24%. US imperialism is becoming less powerful and Chinese imperialism is getting stronger, increasing its number of partners and its power. This is why the US wanted to help Chile in its time of need and in this way regain confidence with them.

This shows how capitalism exists not only in this country but all over the world and the bosses try to take control and take advantage of the different situations. It also shows how they use hardworking workers as puppets to make their wallets and their companies bigger. These workers should not accept this, nor should we. This is why communism is the road to escape from capitalism, so that we all may be treated equally. Our voices will be heard!
—High school student

**In Praise of Learning**

By Bertholt Brecht

Learn the elementary things!
For those whose time has come
it is never too late!

Learn the ABC. It won't be enough,
but learn it! Don't be dismayed by
it!

Begin! You must know everything.
You must take over the leadership.

Learn, man in the asylum!
Learn, man in the prison!
Learn, woman in the kitchen!
Learn, sixty year olds!
You must take over the leadership.

Seek out the school, you who are

homeless!

Acquire knowledge, you who
shiver!

You who are hungry, reach for the
book: it is a weapon.
You must take over the leadership.

Don't be frightened to ask, com-
rade!

Don't be talked into anything.

Check for yourself

What you do not know yourself
you don't know.

Scrutinize the bill,
it is you who must pay it.

Put your finger on each item,
ask: How did this get here?

You must take over the leadership.

QUESTIONS FOR RED FLAG STUDY/ACTION GROUP

1. In this issue of *Red Flag* and the last one, workers have committed to giving money to support *Red Flag*. How can you, in your political organizing, use the example of workers giving money for their paper? Can the struggle for money help you deepen the political struggle with your friends?

2. Do you think, as the article on page 2 about Obama's trip to India says, that WWII is looming closer? If so, what does that imply for what you do every day?

Lessons of Canton, 1927:

ARMED INSURRECTION DEMANDS MASS APPROACH

Attempting to overthrow an imperialist government with communist revolution takes a politically conscious party that leads the working class through an effective and well thought out plan. The International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) is fighting to build such a movement. This serie constructively analyzes past insurrections to help the Party learn and develop. How can we put into practice the lessons learned from the past?

In 1927, only ten years after the Russian Revolution, revolutionary spirit abounded in Canton, China. The Shanghai insurrections had taken place a year before. There multiple errors were committed, especially an opportunist decision by the Communist Party to ally itself with one wing of the bosses' Kuomintang.

In Canton, the Communist Party decided correctly to lead the masses into an insurrection without allying itself with a group representing some bosses. ICWP believes that only the Party (made up of workers, students, and soldiers) can lead the working class to achieve its goal of communist revolution. However, the Canton Communist Party did not have a mass enough approach in its organizing. There was no organizing among the peasants. This elitist approach is a fatal error. Communists need confidence in the entire working class to conduct an insurrection. A mass approach is crucial.

This also requires internationalism. The Canton insurrection lacked organizing outside of Canton, so the imperialists surrounding Canton were prepared to put



down the insurrection. In order for a communist revolution to succeed, we need to organize an international movement that rejects national borders.

The Communist Party in Canton led modest agitation in the military, and sailors in Canton struck at the outset of the insurrection. But more systematic agitation and politicization of soldiers was needed. Even with the help of some soldiers, workers were unable to maintain power. They lacked arms training: they seized weapons, but didn't know how to use them. Workers didn't have compulsory military service in Canton.

Today the US working class has considerable training because hundreds of thousands of men and women have been to war in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Multiple generations of workers were trained in handling weapons. But most importantly, more and more of these men and women have experienced the false pretenses which US imperialists use to try to win us to fight in their wars. They come home with a clearer picture of the lies the US government tries to push. They are open to communist ideas and action when they are presented, as we have seen when we visit military bases and towns.

The current US army is in appearance voluntary but in essence compulsory. It's the sons and daughters of working class families who join the military, especially when capitalism can't provide jobs. Since unemployment is double for black youth and also higher for latin youth, this is a racist economic draft. These conditions present an opportunity for advancing our work in the military.

Ultimately, failure at Canton can be summed up by the weakness of the Communist Party's line. There was not enough confidence in the working class, and especially the peasants (rural workers), to conduct a revolution in a mass way which would have led the working class to successfully destroy capitalism.

This political weakness can also be seen in the slogans during the insurrection. Their reformist slogans included: "Full democratic freedom of the press," "Improvement of the material and juridical condition of the peasants," "Unemployment allowances to equal



U.S. GI's refuse to follow bosses' orders in Vietnam

full pay." These demands may have been popular among the workers, but communists should avoid putting forward reformist demands that lead workers to believe that any system but communism can be made to meet the needs of the working class. The incorrect line of the international communist movement at the time was to fight for "democratic reforms" and only later for socialism (which we now know was a form of capitalism) rather than directly for communism.

Better slogans were "Expropriation of the big bourgeoisie" and "Creation of revolutionary soldiers' committees." But even these didn't address the need to destroy the bosses' state, abolish private property, and build clubs in the bosses' military. Now we better understand the need for a mass Party among soldiers and workers to fight for power to build communism.

The ICWP takes all positive lessons from the past and learns from the weaknesses. History demonstrates how workers can take arms against the imperialists and capitalists. They must and will be motivated by the goal of communism. We invite the international working class to join ICWP and learn from our comrades in history in order to successfully organize for communist revolution today.

Next article will focus on the Shanghai Insurrections.

"EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT CAPITALISM DOESN'T WORK"

This is a great time to be alive!

With the organization of a new party, the International Communist Workers' Party, we have the opportunity as well as the responsibility to discuss every aspect of communist theory and practice. We are learning the lessons of the past, as well as doing our best to dig deep to understand what were the basic revisionist errors that we will not repeat.

Discussions in which new and veteran comrades, teachers, youth, workers, and soldiers analyze the theory and practice of mobilizing workers for communism reminds us of the poem by Brecht, where he tells workers, "You must take over the leadership. Examine everything! How did it get there? What you don't know for yourself, you don't know!"

We invite other comrades who have been taking part in these exhilarating discussions to share their thoughts. Here we only want to give an example of one discussion.

In a meeting last month we debated whether it was more correct to say, "As capitalism's worldwide crisis deepens and imperialism drives relentlessly to wider

and more deadly energy wars, hundreds of millions of workers are questioning capitalism" OR "hundreds of millions of workers are questioning aspects of capitalism." The discussion was intense, heated and respectful. What was more accurate? What was subjectively optimistic? What was pessimism that would lead to missing an opportunity?

The following weekend, two of us who had been on opposing sides of the debate were in front of a restaurant outside a military base, explaining to enlisted personnel why we are communists.

When we said that capitalism is a system that uses workers and soldiers as instruments of the bosses' profits, and that it can never meet the needs of the working class, one of the soldiers we were talking to exclaimed, loudly, "You're against capitalism!?"

Before we could answer, a young woman who was working at the restaurant interrupted us. "You're for capitalism?" she asked the soldier. "Haven't you seen 'Capitalism, a Love Story? Everybody knows capitalism doesn't work.'"

And then to us, "Give me that paper." The movie

"Capitalism, a Love Story" ends up urging people to vote for the Democrats; but the young woman who asked for *Red Flag* represents one of many who are questioning capitalism.

Hundreds of millions? Who can say, but we were glad that we had not only had the discussion, but that we were also engaged in practice that fought for the line and investigated what workers are thinking at the same time.

—Young and veteran comrades.

