

RED FLAG



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

LA Transit Workers Must: Organize Political Strike Against Bosses' Labor Peace and Wage Slavery

"If we strike, it should be for a political reason – against the whole fascist, racist system of capitalism," declared a *Red Flag* reader who is an MTA worker in Los Angeles.

On August 25, MTA drivers will take a strike authorization vote. Toeing the bosses' line on "labor peace" (see editorial p. 2) the class-collaborationist UTU officials extended the old contract. They said, "The economy will get better, MTA will then have money and we will be able to negotiate a better contract." They parroted the MTA bosses' line that "we should be grateful to have a job and that a big victory would be to keep what we have."

"Labor peace" is the peace of the grave. The economy has worsened and the MTA bosses can't and won't allow us to keep what we have. Like sharks, they smell blood and they are coming in for the kill. They are bent on chewing every scrap of flesh off our bones, denying us the most basic improvements in benefits and working conditions while reducing the workforce and raising fares.

Bus drivers – many of whom are black workers -- are especially angry about the increasingly fascist working conditions. For example, they will effectively take a pay cut if MTA carries through its threat to stop paying for their travel time when shifts start or end far from their division.

Drivers are under constant surveillance by cameras that were supposedly to "protect drivers from riders" but have been used mainly to attack drivers. Many drivers have been fired in recent months because they were caught just once using a cell phone while driving. "We don't have half a minute, not even to use the bathroom. They have every second accounted for," said one outraged driver.

MTA mechanics, garment workers and students – like many other workers in the US and elsewhere, and those trying to enter the US – also face increased electronic surveillance. It's part of the rulers' intensification of fascism as the international working class faces an increasingly desperate and deadly capitalist system. We cannot be passive in the face of the massive racist and fascist attacks on our class worldwide.

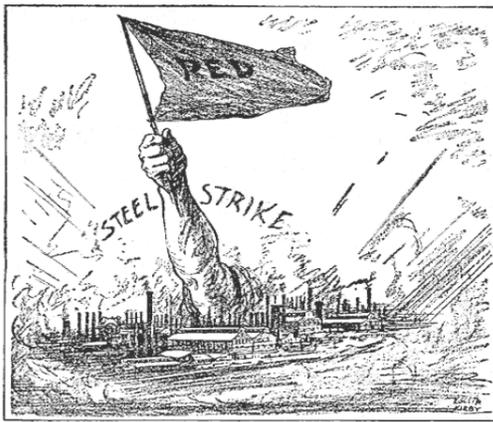
Capitalist Crisis Demands Communist Political Strikes, Not Trade-Unionism

Capitalism's crisis is destroying the lives of hundreds of millions of our brothers and sisters. The ravages of oil-profit wars lie naked for all to see. Wider imperialist wars and world war loom ever larger. At stake are our very lives and those of our families, friends and hundreds of millions worldwide. Our historic task is to build ICWP Action Committees and ICWP into a force that will bury this murderous capitalist system with communist revolution.

This is the opposite of the approach of UTU President Neil Silver. "If the drivers go on strike we will have to back them up," he told mechanics, "but I don't believe they will because that's crazy during this time." He wants workers to choose between passivity and a defensive trade-union struggle with little chance of success.

Passivity is not an option. We can't be frozen like scared rabbits waiting for the coyote to pounce. But neither should we have illusions that a "yes" vote would lead automatically to the kind of strike that we need.

See MTA, page 4



COMING OUT OF THE SMOKE.
—Kirby in the New York World.



PANAMA, July, 2010--Construction workers on strike

Marines Welcome Red Flag, Debate Communism

"We're building a movement to unite workers, soldiers and Marines to get rid of the system run by the rich who put us in harm's way for their profits and empire," said a *Red Flag* seller to a group of Marines. They took the paper.

Red Flag sellers distributed 158 copies of our paper to Marines and their families. Many, especially those who had already been deployed, showed a deep-seated anger and mistrust of the officers and the government. Four black Marines gladly took *Red Flag*. They are angry at the Marine brass and hated being in the Marines and the racism they encountered. They were very interested in the US rulers funding the Taliban.

They said that the government lies about their real reasons for sending troops to Afghanistan, Iraq and, in the future, to Iran. These Marines, who were nearing the end of their military service, said they would share *Red Flag* with others. "We talk about this stuff all the time," said one. They want to find out more about communism

"Being on the outside, you don't know the level of anger and resentment that many of us have. You would be surprised," said a three-year veteran Marine. He also said that Marines are open to revolution. Many youth who came to talk to the Marines for the first time saw that Marines and their families are open to communist ideas.

Another Marine thought that the invasion of Iraq was all about control of oil but questioned why the US was in Afghanistan. When we said it was the fight between the US, China and Russia for control of oil pipelines, he wanted to read more.

He said that communism sounded good but never worked. As we explained that it was socialism that failed because it kept too many features of capitalism, he took *Red Flag* and promised to read it.

Most people looked really surprised when we told them about Wikileaks and that the US was funding the Taliban. We said the fact that the Wikileaks are coming out now reveals a fight among the bosses in preparation to invade Iran. While all didn't agree on the spot, they'll think about what we said.

Some said that things were so screwed up in the US that the government should fix things here before

See MARINES, page 14

INSIDE:

Report From ICWP Central Committee
Page 2

Political Strike Against Capitalism
Page 2

Panama Massacre Shows Need for Communist Revolution
Page 3

Racist Arizona Law: Part of War and Fascism
Page 13

Mexico: Militant Teachers Must Fight Capitalism
Page 14

Dialectical Materialist Philosophy
Page 16

US, Chinese Bosses Prepare for WW III
Page 16

Report from the ICWP Central Committee, August 2010

Capitalist Crisis Demands Communist Revolution

The world-wide capitalist crisis of overproduction has become permanent. Food rots and houses are shuttered while millions starve and go homeless because the capitalists can't sell these goods for a profit.

It's a crisis that capitalism can only solve by destroying capital and the means of production, including workers, on a massive scale. This will require world war. Iran, Yemen, the South China Sea, Venezuela and many other "hot spots" could be flash-points for that war.

In the US, unemployment officially stands at 14.6 million. The real number is closer to 40 million, including those who have given up looking for work only part-time, undocumented workers, those in prison and those in school or the military because they couldn't find jobs.

The situation worsens as 150,000 - 200,000 new workers enter the US labor market monthly, while fewer than 100,000 new jobs are added. Bob Herbert wrote in the liberal-imperialist *New York Times*: "We're not heading toward the danger zone. We're there. The US will not remain a stable society if this great unemployment crisis is not addressed head-on—and soon...The blowback will be as destructive and intolerable as it is inevitable." ("The Horror Show," *NYT* 8/9/10)

The US bosses are deathly afraid that US workers will rebel and take the revolutionary path. Their solution is fascism, wider wars and eventually world war. Workers must understand that capitalism itself is destructive and intolerable. Our response must be to build the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY, putting communist revolution on the workers' agenda

Workers Welcome Communist Ideas

New, younger leaders of our Party report that *Red Flag* was received enthusiastically during our summer projects in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Los Angeles. Thousands of copies were taken by Boeing workers, transit workers, garment workers, and teachers. Soldiers, Marines, aerospace subcontractor workers and students took hundreds more.

Black workers in particular – women and men – are welcoming this paper. We must bring their militant leadership into our Party. Multi-racial working-class unity must smash racism and nationalism on the road to defeating the capitalist system that

breeds them.

Transit workers testified to the electric effect of these papers in their shops, where everyone was debating communist ideas. Hand-to-hand distribution is increasing. In some areas *Red Flag* is becoming the paper of record.

From Seattle to San Salvador we are stepping up the struggle to break capitalist "labor peace" whether imposed by union officials or fascist police. Aerospace bosses and union leaders are imposing ten-year no-strike contracts. Government workers see three-year contracts stretch into five years or more. Contracts are the legal form of wage-slavery.

We must answer the bosses' all-out assault on our class with political strikes that target racist capitalism itself and raise the red flag of communist revolution. (See below) But even such political strikes are not a revolution. We are building an insurrectionary Party to fight for communist state power.

Our young leaders have embraced the revolutionary strategy of concentration in the key areas of industry and the military. Each of us must support and contribute to this work.

We can't promise the working class diamonds and roses. Our generations will see war and more war. Military work is critical to preparing for revolutionary insurrection. It's the core of the communist standing army that will defend and extend the revolution.

We need much more discussion about what our standing army of a new type will look like and how to build it. Meanwhile the best way to learn to do military work is distributing *Red Flag* to soldiers, sailors and Marines as we have begun to do this summer.

A Party and a Paper of a New Type

Red Flag is becoming a communist centralist paper of a new type. Along with Party commentary on the main issues of the day, we need more articles and letters that reflect efforts to put communist revolution on the agenda in the midst of the class struggle. Questions and disagreements that arise must be reflected in the paper.

ICWP must become a mass Party that will lead everywhere. Unlike the bourgeoisie, we have no need to conceal the nature of power behind a supposedly separate "non-class" government. The millions who will join our Party must be prepared for ideological

struggle around communist ideas. *Red Flag* must show how this is done and how communism will work.

The present crisis is "calling the question." World war opens the door to revolutionary communism. Most so-called "communist parties" have collapsed under the weight of this reality. They sank into a cesspool of reformism and nationalism.

We, in contrast, are answering the call for a Party of a new type, with a paper of a new type, and work of a new type concentrated in industry and the military.

Comrades, friends, readers: It's time to take our Party, our paper, our political work and the worth of our own lives more seriously. We need to concentrate with a laser-like focus on building the circulation of *Red Flag*, building Party fractions, and building class struggle under the banners of communist revolution.

We put communism back on the agenda when we recruit, recruit, recruit to our Party. Let's get to it!

Imperialist capitalism tears apart the lives of our sister and brother workers in every corner of the world.

- Over a billion women, men and children go to bed hungry every night. Some 1.1 billion have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
- Nine million African workers and their children are war refugees.
- Four out of five Haitians are unemployed and 1.6 million are homeless.
- Hundreds of thousands of Pakistani workers were swept into destitution by the recent typhoon floods
- In the US, thousands of black babies, children and youth die each year from the direct and indirect effects of racism..

Many workers do care – for example, over half of all US households donated to Haitian earthquake relief. But charity and reform can't scratch the surface of the problem. The main way to show you care is to build the international struggle for revolutionary communism. Read, write, support and distribute *Red Flag*!

EDITORIAL

On The Road To Communism:

Political Strikes Against Capitalism's Labor Peace

This paper has run various articles exposing the bosses' call for labor peace. The unions have shamefully, but not unexpectedly, been among the biggest promoters of this class treachery. It's time the world's workers issued their own call for political strikes against capitalism's labor peace.

Labor peace takes a variety of forms. At the aerospace giant Boeing, the company, union, bosses' media and state and federal politicians have all put forward their own version of a 10-year no-strike deal. In non-union aerospace subcontractors, bosses brag about rich 10-year contracts, while warning that any class struggle to mitigate employees' poverty-level wages will put jobs in jeopardy.

At MTA in Los Angeles and schools in Seattle, contracts have been extended year after year. Union misleaders have justified their passivity by promising that next year things will be better. In El Salvador, the fmIn union leaders are telling workers to wait and not strike because workers have to give the fmIn's President Funes time to improve things—while the bosses are planning to

impose a 12-hour work day in place of 8 hours. In Panama, the government has abandoned any pretext: outlawing strikes altogether. (See BOCAS DEL TORO, p. 3)

Capitalism's economic crisis has become a more or less permanent fixture in the lives of billions the world over. The crisis has taken its inevitable course: morphing into political and military carnage.

The U.S. bosses are already firing up their propaganda machine to pave the way for the next energy resource war in Iran. This one has the potential to suck in more of the big imperialist powers, like Russia and China, making the unthinkable all the more probable. World War III looms.

See EDITORIAL, page 3



Join the
International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP)
www.icwpredflag.org — (310) 487-7674
 E-mail: icwp@anonymousspeech.com
 Write to: P.M.B. 362
 3175 S. Hoover St. Los Angeles, CA 90007

Bocas del Toro Massacre Shows:

Need for Revolution, Not Talks

PANAMA, Bocas del Toro, Aug. 16 –Workers killed, hundreds wounded by shotgun pellets, hundreds more jailed and persecuted by the capitalist state represented by President Ricardo Martinelli: these are the results of last month's actions against the fascist Law 30, known as "Labor Flexibility."

Thousands of workers, students, teachers, and farmworkers, including people from indigenous villages, have demonstrated against this law, which opens the door to more racist exploitation and gives more power to the bosses to fire and rewrite to their advantage the contracts of striking workers, and legalizes scabs (strikebreakers). The bosses and government claim that this law will attract more foreign investment and Panamanian bosses will be able to increase their profits and compete in a capitalist world that's more "dog-eat-dog" each day.

This Law 30 is similar to the "Labor Peace" promoted by trade union leaders in the US and the "no confrontation" policy of the FMLN in El Salvador. These lieutenants of capitalism are defending the investments and profits of their masters, the US imperialists. We are in a period of war and fascism. The ruling class globally is tightening its grip around the necks of the working class so that we work harder for less. The imperialists are preparing for a third world war and they're going to squeeze the last drop of blood from the world's workers to defeat their competitors.

To pacify the discontent of the working class, who have continued with street demonstrations and protests throughout the country, the government has set up a Commission of Investigation into the Bocas del Toro massacre, but we already know that the reports of these commissions end up in the trash



bin.

Leaders of trade-unions and community organizations treacherously "fight"—but within the limits of the system. They call for "negotiations" and a "democratic state" with these murderers and exploiters, to repeal Law 30. But it's already very well known that those "negotiations" and "democratic processes" are only a mask to keep the capitalist system alive. Trade-union reformism only delivers the workers into the arms of the same hangmen who oppress us.

We Need Communist Internationalism, Not Humanitarianism

On August 13, an international "Respect for Life" caravan arrived in Bocas del Toro. It included activists from Germany, Catalonia (Spain), Argentina, Italy and Mexico.

But under capitalism there's no such thing as respect,

only repression, exploitation, and death. This caravan left from Chiapas, Mexico, passing through Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica on the way to Bocas del Toro. But this kind of caravan doesn't help the working class to see that the problem isn't just the present government but capitalism itself. These "humanitarians" don't talk about destroying capitalism but of reforming it. That's why we need communist internationalism led by the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), that through our paper *Red Flag* exposes the reformists and brings revolutionary communist ideas to the working class so that they can take real liberation into their own hands.

We workers don't need negotiations with the bosses. What we need is to put an end to them and their capitalist system with communist revolution. Millions of Panamanian workers should see that a communist world is possible and that our struggle should be directed toward this goal. Workers in the mines, in construction, in the factories and fields are the ones who produce everything of value. The bosses and their government steal it from us. Why do we need these murderous thieves?

The best way to avenge the deaths and repression of these workers and millions more around the world is to fight to build a new communist society, based on production to satisfy the needs of the international working class. Then there will be no more exploitation or bosses' laws, and we'll put the murderous bosses six feet under.

See also *PANAMA*, page 13.

EDITORIAL, from page 2

While the bosses have never been thrilled about strikes, the system's crisis makes the capitalists even more rabid opponents of working-class fight-back. US Defense Secretary Gates has publicly admitted that the ability of the bosses to invade Iran will be determined, in part, by the cost of military weapons. His cost-cutting campaign is not "an attack on profits" but on "labor" (*Bloomberg News Service*, 7/15).

Eighty-one million of the world's young workers age 18-24 can't get jobs. Black and latin youth bear the brunt of this racist attack along with workers in areas ravaged by imperialist war.

The "jobs program" of US industrial unions fits nicely into the bosses' plans. The industrial unions' answer to this massive unemployment is to offer labor peace to promote domestic re-industrialization in the interests of national (i.e., US bosses') security. Their idea of political action is to spend time and union money electing Democratic Party politicians.

Labor misleaders tried a similar strategy in the 1930s. It paved the way for the bosses' fascism and WWII (see box).

Pave The Way For Communist Revolution

The bosses are very conscious of the difference between political and economic strikes. In 1973, the CIA helped organize a truckers' political strike in Chile, paving the way for pro-US dictator Pinochet's coup d'état. Similarly, the US-sponsored Polish Solidarity labor movement overthrew the Soviet backed government in 1989, installing a pro-US regime.

Recently a rash of economic strikes hit China. The US bosses hope these work actions turn into political strikes for "independent" unions US imperialism can manipulate. More successfully, the Chi-

nese ruling class has directed the workers' justifiable anger at foreign companies, thereby building Chinese nationalism and patriotism.

Workers can't seize power with political strikes alone. That requires an insurrection. Only the revolutionary communist ICWP can lead such an insurrection.

Nonetheless, political strikes against capitalism's labor peace can bring communist politics to the forefront in a mass way. As winning reforms becomes increasingly problematic, political strikes offer a way forward for our members, base and the working class as a whole. It can sharpen the contradiction between the bosses' plans for war and fascism and our need for communist revolution.

"You mean labor subjugation," said one Machinist when we started talking about the demand for labor peace. Racist attacks against immigrant laborers in the non-union subcontractors and the long history of anti-black racism in the Southeast created a vast pool of low-wage labor. The bosses are using this racist reservoir of cheap labor to attack all workers. Our class-based anti-racism can take aim at the bosses' racist pay differentials, which make it easier for the bosses to subjugate labor. Political strikes against the bosses' labor peace must include class-based anti-racist politics.

Building for such strikes can occur within unions, on the shop floor and "in-the-streets." Our campaign will take many forms, beginning small in limited areas of work. Every action, big and small, has the potential of spreading the revolutionary communist answer to the bosses' carnage.

From the contract battles at MTA in Los Angeles and Seattle schools to the massive demonstrations against the no-strike law in Panama, political strikes against capitalism's labor peace fit the bill. Other opportunities to put communist politics up front are just over the horizon. Let's get on with it!

Then and Now:

Labor Peace, Unions and Fascism

Southern territory general vice president of the International Association of Machinists Bob Martinez (editorial, *Wichita Eagle*, 8/8/10):

"The Machinists union's No. 1 goal is keeping [aerospace] jobs in Wichita. We proved that working with [formerly Boeing] Spirit AeroSystems, forging a groundbreaking 10-year [no strike] agreement... The Machinists stand ready to partner with companies [like this] to make them more competitive and productive... It will take the union, the companies and the government to stand together to weather the current downturn and come out stronger."

R. Palme Dutt, *Fascism and Social Revolution* in March, 1933 after Hitler was appointed Supreme Leader:

"Leipart, the leader of German trade unionism, used the same line of argument to prove that trade unions could be accepted by Fascism as subservient instruments of the Fascist dictatorship:

"The trade unions are fully prepared, even beyond the field of wages and working conditions, to enter in permanent co-operation (i.e. partner) with the employers' organizations... A State (i.e. government) supervision over such collaboration could...be conducive towards raising its value and rendering its execution more easy."

Criticism of Red Flag : AFL-CIA = Labor Imperialism

“Honduran Garment Workers” (*Red Flag* v. I #13) presented a helpful critique of trade-union reformism and US imperialist intervention in Honduras, but it missed an important point:

The group “United Students Against Sweatshops” – which led protests against Nike’s Honduran subcontractors – is a project of the AFL-CIO. This campaign fits squarely into the US imperialists’ stated plan to use “workers’ rights” to head off any sort of labor radicalism. That would include both revolutionary communism and any movement to support US competitors (China, Europe, Brazil, Russia) or their clients (like Chavez, Evo Morales, or Zelaya).

From the days of Samuel Gompers, the AFL worked so closely with the US government that it earned the title of “labor imperialism.” It worked against the Mexican revolution, supported US imperialism in World War I, and then led the way in opposing the Bolshevik revolution and the new Soviet Union.

After the Second World War, the AFL worked with the anti-communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to help overthrow the Guatemalan government in 1954. After the Cuban revolution, the combined AFL-CIO created the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) in 1962. AIFLD helped prepare for

the military coups in Brazil (1964) and Chile (1973).

The AFL-CIO helped establish the so-called “National Endowment for Democracy” (1983) in response to the exposure of CIA covert activities. The AFL-CIO Free Trade Union Institute joined the international arms of the Democratic and Republican Parties and the US Chamber of Commerce in this State Department-funded project to do openly what the CIA had done covertly.

John Sweeney, elected AFL-CIO president in 1995, dismantled some of the organization’s cold-war foreign policy bodies but failed to admit to what they had done. He has continued “labor imperialism” in new forms.

AFL-CIO leaders – including Sweeney and Executive Secretary Linda Chávez Thompson – have actively participated in the US State Department’s Advisory Committee on Labor and Diplomacy (ACLAD), established in 1999. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told ACLAD the next year, “we can’t have a successful U.S. foreign policy without effective labor diplomacy.” She added that “becoming a part of the US Government may not have been something you intended in this way, but I do believe it has been a very important partnership.”

The second ACLAD report (late 2001)

stated openly that its focus had become “promoting US national security” and that “workers’ rights” were only a means to this end. For example, the AFL-CIO – through its government-funded “Solidarity Center”-- worked with the pro-US Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV) to destabilize the anti-US Chavez administration in 2002.

More recently, Daya Gamage of the *Asian Tribune* explained in detail how the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center works with the US State Department to promote US imperialist interests in Asia and elsewhere.

Gamage quotes USAID bureaucrat Susan Reichle, who said in March 2010 that USAID gives Solidarity Center over \$7 million annually for programs in Honduras and elsewhere. Goals include support for “free and independent labor unions,” “democratic political culture,” and “competitive and well-regulated market systems.”

No wonder that the main US labor confederation is often called the AFL-CIA! It is still an important arm of US imperialist foreign policy

and an enemy of the international working class.

Kim Scipes, “Labor Imperialism Redux?: The AFL-CIO’s Foreign Policy Since 1995,” *Monthly Review*, 2005, <http://monthlyreview.org/0505scipes.htm>

Daya Gamage, “US State Department-funded AFL-CIO’s ‘Solidarity Center’ enters Sri Lanka Destabilization process,” 8/15/2010, www.asiantribune.com



“Women workers take up your rifles”
Bolshevik poster, 1917

ICWP Action Committees Organize for Communist Strikes

MTA, from page 1

We need a communist political strike against the capitalist system itself. Such a strike must:

- Raise revolutionary slogans like “Smash Racism, Sexism, Imperialist Wars and Borders with Communist Revolution – Smash the Bosses’ Labor Peace and Wage Slavery!” Under capitalism we are wage slaves. We must not negotiate the terms of our enslavement as the unions do, but prepare to destroy our slave masters and their capitalist-imperialist system.
- Strive to stop the buses and trains from running. This would pit us against the bosses’ state – their courts, politicians, media, cops and union officials. We would learn to fight not just one boss, but the whole capitalist class. It would point to the need for armed insurrection and train us for it.
- Build multi-racial working-class unity among soldiers, students and workers to support the strike, especially garment workers and students who depend on the buses. Organize demonstrations at the bosses’ seats of power to highlight the need for the working class to take state power and govern society in the interest of the world’s workers.

Organizing for a strike like this will deepen the political understanding of many workers, moving some closer and into the Party. Whether the numbers are large or small, this will be a victory.

Communism Will Win

Many MTA workers are ready to strike. We applaud their fighting spirit, but we must warn them that confining the fight to the trade-unionist demand of a “good contract” is a dangerous illusion.

We must organize them to fight around communist ideas.

Many MTA workers are open to these ideas. This summer, workers have come out of the divisions to ask *Red Flag* sellers, “Where’s my paper?” Drivers have put *Red Flag* in their windshield for all to see. Close to a thousand papers have circulated around half a dozen divisions over the last month. “These people are for real,” said a transit worker, “they want to change the system!”

“Everyone is trying to drink the workers’ blood – insurance, homes, food, and clothes have all gone up,” said a worker, “even the barber charges me more.” The situation is desperate for many workers but some believe that standing still would be better than fighting. Some MTA workers are reluctant to strike. “The last strike, we lost \$5,000 and what did we get?” But if there had been no strike they would have lost more!

Winning for the working class is getting more of our class to read, distribute and write for *Red Flag*. It’s organizing ICWP Action Committees in MTA and elsewhere and recruiting more workers to the Party. This will better prepare us and our class for the inevitable future class battles and eventually for revolutionary war. You can’t put a price tag on that!

As workers embrace and act on communist ideas, the sexist, racist, fascist and war-bent capitalist-imperialist system will be doomed. These workers will learn to lead, to fight, and to build a new communist society based on the principle “from each according to commitment, to each according to need.”

Join and build ICWP Action committees to organize for communist political strikes!

Quantity into Quality: The Development of a Police State

“Often what we have to do with the march of technology is realize that the difference in quantity and speed [of electronic surveillance] can actually amount to significantly more invasive practices,” said Paul Ohm, a University of Colorado law professor and former federal computer-crimes prosecutor. “It’s like you keep turning the volume knob and it becomes something different, not the same thing just a little louder.”

--quoted in *The New York Times*, 8/14/10

See “Dialectical Materialism,” p. 16.

MTA Mechanics Debate Class Solidarity

MTA mechanics’ shop stewards have been encouraging a rumor that MTA drivers will strike just to get rid of the cameras. “If it’s just for the cameras,” said a mechanic who reads *Red Flag*, “I don’t have to honor the strike and I won’t.” An ICWP comrade explained to her that honoring a strike is not just an economic question – it’s political. Mechanics and drivers have a history of supporting each others’ strikes. This time, drivers are bargaining first. The attacks on them will happen to mechanics, too.

“First of all,” the comrade told his friend, “the drivers will have some opposition to you coming inside. Then it would be a shame for you for the rest of your life to scab.” They argued for awhile. Finally she said, “now that you explained it to me, I see it differently.”

“That’s why we should upgrade the political aspects of the strike, against the whole system,” the comrade commented later. “It’s not just cameras we’re against – it’s fascist capitalism.”

Red Flag Exposes Comprehensive Immigration Reform in Arizona

On the day that the racist Arizona SB1070 law was to go into effect, the Los Angeles Central Labor Council organized eleven buses to go to Arizona. They used opposition to law, which the day before had been stopped by the courts, to push for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR).

In the middle of the Summer Project, ICWP found out about this in the eleventh hour and quickly organized a group of seven members (youth and older). Armed with *Red Flag* and leaflets denouncing both the Arizona law and Obama's CIR, we arrived at the meeting place. There were union leaders, rank and file workers and a lot of college students.

Workers and students had gathered at 4 am to board the buses and listen to speeches by the union leaders praising Obama's CIR. ICWP members rushed to distribute our literature and talked to people, denouncing CIR and the DREAM Act. We discussed its true nature: to prepare a significant section of the immigrant working class for slave labor in the arms industry and to win a significant number of its youth to the military. We stressed the need to destroy the system with communist revolution.

One worker, when asked about the DREAM Act by an ICWP member, said that she was all for it, but after a brief discussion, she was shocked and said, "Wow! I have never thought about it that way."

Many people were very receptive to the idea of communist revolution to destroy this fascist system

that super-oppresses immigrant and black workers. Many approached ICWP to ask for *Red Flag*, commenting that they recognized the paper from this year's May Day march. *Red Flag* has established itself!

On the way to Arizona, a comrade stood up in the bus and spoke about the necessity of fighting the Arizona law and the even more dangerous CIR whose aim is win immigrants to defend US imperialism and prepare to invade Iran to finally dominate the region including Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, that supplies sixty percent of the world's oil supply. At the final stop of the bus a woman said, "Great speech."

When we got to Arizona we said to many of the people there, "We are from ICWP. We believe that we have to rebuild the international communist movement because the old movement fought for socialism and in essence socialism is state capitalism."

"We need to destroy capitalism that breeds such laws as the one here in Arizona and Obama's more dangerous plan. We need to unite the international working class across borders under communist leadership."

"In the past movements each country had its own communist party. We believe in one single International Communist Workers' Party."

After speaking to a worker, a member was asked by the same worker later that day, "What did you say

about socialism and state capitalism?" The comrade then explained again that socialism's essence is state capitalism. The worker thanked him and said, "I have never heard that but it makes a lot of sense and I am going to take it with me and think about it."

Hundreds of leaflets and over 225 copies of *Red Flag* were distributed in the parking lot, on the buses and during the rally in Arizona. No doubt the liberal union leaders are pushing the fascist bosses' agenda of CIR which is directly connected with the preparations for World War III. ICWP together with *Red Flag* was there not only to counteract this ideological onslaught but also bringing the need of a different way of thinking, a different way of doing and different way of living. In response, rank and file workers and students welcomed communism!

One World
One Class
One Party
ICWP

Panama: A Key Area of US-China Global Rivalry

(See *BOCAS DEL TORO*, page 3)

In addition to passing fascist laws against the workers and shooting them down in the streets, the Panamanian President Martinelli kicked Cuban doctors out of Panama and cut ties with Hugo Chavez that had been established by the previous President. This is part of the main battle between the US and Chinese imperialist camps fighting for control, not only of the world's labor and resources, but also of strategic shipping routes for oil and gas.

Neither side in this imperialist battle represents the interests of workers anywhere. All these bosses and their capitalist system of competition and war for maximum profit are the mortal enemies of workers worldwide.

China has invested heavily in the \$5.25 billion project to expand the Panama Canal. The aim of the project is to double the canal's capacity in terms of both the size and the number of vessels going through the canal.

The widened canal, as both an import and export

route, "will become a prime conduit for Chinese-driven global trade. One effect will be to make transport costs of finished goods from China to the East Coast of the US much cheaper—perhaps by 30%." (*Wall Street Journal*, 2/8/2010).

The expanded canal will accommodate tankers with a capacity of a million barrels of crude oil. China can then use this route to transport oil, gas and mineral resources from West Africa and Venezuela directly to China. This avoids the Malacca Straits, a strategic chokepoint especially in wartime.

In addition, the expanded canal will be large enough to accommodate the gas industry's existing fleet of liquefied natural gas carriers. Most of these are too big to make the Panama crossing and are forced to take the longer more hazardous route around Cape Horn in South America. The widened canal will allow Venezuelan oil to travel cheaper and faster to China.

"Acting as a link between the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean, the Panama Canal shortens the voyage by 5,500 miles for oceangoing vessels engaged in shipping between Asia and the east coast of the US." (Wei Jiafu, President of the Chinese Shipowners Association and Cosco group in Shanghai).

China is set to displace the European Union in Latin America as the second-largest trading partner after



the US. Currently China is Latin America's main market for mineral resources. The widening of the Panama Canal will increase these ties.

The US imperialists must fight to prevent the growth of Chinese imperialism in Latin America—and will spill the blood of workers from Panama to China to do it. Chinese imperialists already have plans for alternative routes in South America should the US cut off the Panama Canal. This fight must sharpen as the US bosses desperately fight for their empire, even to the point of world war. The ICWP calls on workers to join us and fight to turn imperialist war into a war to smash all these imperialist bosses and their bloody system with communist revolution

SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG. Take extra copies for your friends. Help spread *Red Flag* and participate in this vital struggle. Please send \$20 in cash or money order, to PMB #362, 3175 S. Hoover Ave, L.A., CA, 90007. If you would like to receive more than one paper, let us know that also. Thank you.

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Questions for Red Flag Action-Study Groups

1. MTA workers in LA will take a strike vote on August 25 (see p. 1). Should communists recommend a "yes" vote (because even trade-unionist strikes for limited reforms offer opportunities to raise communist ideas, expose the bosses' system, and train workers to fight back)? Or should we take the same approach that we do to the bosses' elections: that they are no-win situations for the working class?
2. The letter from "Young red worker" (p. 15) asks whether World War III is inevitable. If ICWP takes our work seriously, might we be able to prevent this bloody holocaust with communist revolution? Or do we expect to seize power in the midst of global catastrophe? What's at stake in this debate?

Please send in letters reporting on your discussions of these and other issues.

MEXICO: MILITANT TEACHERS MUST FIGHT CAPITALISM

MEXICO CITY, April 30—Close to 100 teachers marched from the *Obregon Monument* in the old *La Bombilla* park toward the office of the president of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), demanding a pay increase and better working conditions for “unassigned teachers” (those contracted by the hour, the majority not permanent, in other words without any contract).

UNAM has been recognized as one of the best universities worldwide and President José Narro claims in many forums to have “progressive” ideas. Nevertheless, most of the teachers receive miserable wages. In the Preparatory High School program they receive a maximum of 4,253.25 pesos every two weeks (\$177.00 US dollars). The majority of teachers have only interim contracts and receive a monthly salary of about \$100 US dollars.

The labor politics of the “progressive” university authorities (tacitly allied with the social democratic practices of the PRD) are the same as those of the state governed by the PAN and that of the international financial institutions (IMF and the World Bank): meeting the needs of business.

It can't be any other way since we live under imperialist capitalism, now called “neoliberalism.” The university can only prepare leaders and technical personnel who are highly qualified to resolve the problems of the market. As a result, thousands of courses have been cut, thus turning many of the youth into cheap labor in many job sectors (if they are lucky enough to be employed, since

thousands that graduate can't find jobs in the field they studied).

To keep themselves in the imperialist competition, the Mexican capitalists have managed to drastically reduce wages and they have improved their ability to challenge their US, European or Asian partners for part of the *surplus value* extracted from the workers.

As a result they have gotten richer than ever. Cutting teachers' pay is part of this process. This is why we have to understand the need to replace the capitalist social system we live in with a system of communist social equality.

This is what ICWP is fighting for, not for socialism which the old movement fought for, which, by maintaining wage labor, led to the restoration of capitalism in Russia, China and other socialist states.

A poster in the march demanded a wage increase, permanent positions (full time or part time with a contract) as well as incorporating the “stimulus funds” in teacher salaries. The march also denounced the coming approval of the reforms to the Statute of Academic Personnel—which benefits the bosses.

Truly, teachers do not need a “statute;” the current Federal Labor Law is restrictive enough and now they want to add such a nefarious “statute.”

Those of us who publish this newspaper invite you to read it and participate in the transformation of the world, which is a long process, but one which is beneficial for all of humanity. Join in the fight for not only for better salaries, which is the immediate fight, but rather the fight to abolish wage labor. There is no better future!

Dear Red Flag,

Congratulations for calling the murder of Oscar Grant an example of genocide. However you should not have qualified it (in the same article) as “near genocide.” There's no such thing.

The original definition of genocide by the UN (1948) doesn't require a minimum body count. Killing people because of their race is genocide, period. Furthermore, murder by cops is just one of aspect of the genocidal racism against black (and other) workers in the US. We have to include deaths from premature disease, from drugs, drug-related diseases like TB and AIDS, and drug related gang violence - all the inevitable consequence of the hypocritical “war on drugs.”

It's great that *Red Flag* is calling this genocide, but we have some catching up to do. Nearly fifty years ago, in 1951, Paul Robeson and a group of civil rights activists close to the Communist Party submitted a powerful petition “We Charge Genocide” to the UN (they were not naive enough to think the UN itself would do anything). They made an irrefutable case that US racism constituted genocide, a case which is only stronger today. It's worth quoting from its introduction:

“Out of the inhuman black ghettos of American cities, out of the cotton plantations of the South, comes the record of mass slayings on the basis of race, of lives deliberately warped and distorted by the willful creation of conditions making for death, poverty and disease ...

“It is sometimes incorrectly thought that genocide means the complete and definitive destruction of a race or people. The Genocide Convention, however, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1948, defines genocide as any killings on the basis of race, or, in its specific words, as ‘killing members of the group.’ Any intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial, ethnic or religious group is genocide, according to the Convention. Thus, the Convention states, ‘causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group’ is genocide as well as ‘killing members of the group.’

“We maintain, therefore, that the oppressed Negro citizens of the United States, segregated, discriminated against and long the target of violence, suffer from genocide as the result of the consistent, conscious, unified policies of every branch of government.”

— A Comrade



MARINES, from page 1

they went somewhere else. We said that it's the capitalists and their government who are screwing things up and we have to get rid of them.

A *Red Flag* seller emphasized that we consider members of the military our class brothers and sisters, comrades-in-arms in the fight to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. After seeing *Red Flag*, one Marine said, “Yeah, you're right. Big government can be taken out.”

We all saw that many Marines and soldiers are open to communist ideas. The ideological struggle with them must be sharp so their justified anger is taken out against the bosses, not against other workers, as the fascist Tea Party movement would have it. Communist ideas of workers' international unity against the bosses are the key.

Soldiers, Sailors and Marines: Key Revolutionary Force

Before this trip, we discussed the importance of bringing communist ideas to soldiers and Marines. Several young comrades related their experiences in Seattle and told how open soldiers were to *Red Flag*. They also explained the rich experiences of communists who successfully fought against racism and for communism inside the bosses' army during the Vietnam War. Rebellions and fraggings were mass occurrences and communist politics moved big groups of soldiers.

Soldiers played a key role in the Russian Revolution. A comrade explained that there can't be a revolution without winning over soldiers to join with workers to seize power from the bosses. More communist youth must join the military to organize their fellow GIs.

The murderous bosses are fighting to win workers, soldiers and Marines to side with them in their expanding wars. But the class interests of soldiers, sailors and Marines lie in turning the guns around and uniting with the international working class to destroy capitalism, with its racist unemployment and deadly imperialist wars.

Only communist revolution can end competition and wars for profit. Wider war and coming world war give growing urgency to the fight to make communist ideas primary among the soldiers, sailors and Marines.

War “Games”, from page 16

smashed the Left in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which had militantly opposed the Vietnamese communist party's revisionist policies. The victory of revisionism in both China and Vietnam paved the way for continuing imperialist war – up to and including world war – in southeast

Asia.

It's our task, in the face of impending world war, to defeat revisionism, including its nationalism and its “two-stage” theory of revolution. We must build the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY and prepare to turn the bosses' imperialist wars into communist revolution.



Bolshevik Regiments Marching to Smolnyi (1918) - Banners read, “Long Live the Revolution!”

Garment Workers Need Revolutionary Communism, Not Unions

"You're not welcome here," the boss lady of a garment factory told a comrade who was handing out copies of *Red Flag* to the workers.

"Look at the workers – they're all reading it!" the comrade replied.

"Well your trash will be all over the place and I will call the cops," said the rattled boss.

A few minutes later everyone was inside. We had handed out 200 papers and not one was left on the ground.

"Would you like to read this communist newspaper?" another comrade asked a worker. "Yes," he said, "it's pure exploitation here. We need a union."

"Unions can't meet workers' needs," said the comrade. "What you need here is a revolutionary communist Party."

"Yes!" the worker said with a big smile.

We in ICWP must take much more seriously our responsibility to organize and give leadership to the class struggle at factories like these under the banners of communist revolution. We must prepare to lead communist political strikes against this capitalist system of pure exploitation. We must prepare ourselves and the working class so that when the time comes we can seize state power with communist revolution.

If you're not yet a member of our Party, please join us now!

Summer Project Volunteer

It's Good To Be More Politically-Conscious

All the experiences that came with the 2010 summer project were great. What I enjoyed most was taking part in *Red Flag* distribution and study groups. Seeing the workers react to our literature in such a positive way was amazing. It was great to learn about what Capitalism really is and how it exploits workers. I never thought of viewing politics like this. My hatred for capitalism has never been so intense. Now I know who to blame for all the horrible things that have happened in my life.

I am glad to be more politically conscious. I have decided to join the party to help the fight against this system that has screwed so many working-class families, of which my family is one. I hope I am politically sharpened as my participation in the party proceeds and the fight for a better system continues.

A New Red Youth

Stop World War III with Communist Revolution

During the ICWP cadre school this month, the most interesting topic was about World War 3. A question asked was "Is World War 3 inevitable?" A comrade said, "One clue is that they are no longer using Velcro in uniforms; now they are using buttons." The reason for this is that the dusty desert weather conditions in the oil regions of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran damage the Velcro and keep it from working effectively. The fact that they are making a whole new set of uniforms means they plan on being there for a long, long time.

Another interesting fact is that Obama is trying to win over undocumented workers by offering them citizenship by immigration reform. This process will take over twelve years but joining DREAM Act is disguised as helping undocumented people to become citizens, but the true purpose is to push many to join the military for financial solutions, housing and school.

Why is the government spending so much money on

new military uniforms if Obama said "the troops are coming back home?" Of course, he promised that when they were in Iraq and then he redeployed the troops to Afghanistan. Now there's word about the US going against Iran but China, Russia and other countries are backing up Iran against the US. Why? Because all the dirty capitalists want one thing: oil. If the US goes against China and Russia that really would be World War 3.

Whose blood is being shed for this? The working class' blood! Many of my comrades discuss that World War 3 is possible, but what can be done to gather more people towards the revolutionary movement to prepare to fight the scum that created all this chaos?

What can ICWP do to prevent any more bloodshed from the working class? Should we pass out more *Red Flags* to the working class such as in the military and industry? Now is the time to push communist ideas to overthrow capitalism and be open to the people that we talk to about solving this great problem. ICWP shouldn't wait for World War 3, which will cause the greatest genocide known in history.

We as communists can take action towards stopping the capitalist beast once and for all by making greater efforts towards the revolution. Each day we hesitate to act means untold suffering and millions more deaths for the working class.

Young red worker

Is Gay Marriage Part of the Bosses' War Plan?

The California Supreme Court recently struck down Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage.

The decision included language suggesting that gay men and lesbians should be protected under "strict scrutiny." If upheld by the US Supreme Court, this would probably cancel the present US military policy of "don't ask, don't tell." President Obama has said since January 2009 that he wants to end "don't ask, don't tell."

The US imperialists can't re-institute a draft as long as "don't ask, don't tell" is in place. It would be too tempting for young people to fake homosexuality as a draft-dodge!

And they definitely will need a draft in this period of global crisis as they plan for extended wars, up to and including World War III.

Let them bring on their draft. Let them bring on their wars. Red youth in the military will organize soldiers, sailors and Marines to turn the guns around and join other workers in the revolutionary fight for state power and a communist world.

California comrade

Nigerian oil spill: Racist attack on the working class.

While the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been publicized to epic proportions these past months, there have been greater oil spills going on in Nigeria for the past five decades that have been conveniently ignored by the capitalist class. According to an arti-



Hannah Baage walked through polluted Gio Creek in Kegbara Dere. She said recently, "There is Shell oil on my body."

cle in *The London Observer*, (5/30/10), as much oil is spilled in Nigeria every year as was spilled this year in the Gulf of Mexico. These oil spills in the Niger Delta have brought famine to the Nigerian working class.

Despite the horrid conditions the Nigerian working class finds itself in, the bosses have chosen to ignore it and pin the spills onto nationalist rebels and "worker follies." They say that the companies were not responsible for the major disasters that have crippled the Nigerian people, only for "minor mishaps" that "may have occurred." The most recent oil spill in the Niger-Delta has left 2000+ families living in conditions no human beings should ever find themselves in.

Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) has been trying for the past two months to force the blame onto the fish farmers for the oil spill because of their "careless behavior and actions." A senior official of Chevron said that their "minor leakage" from a sunken tug boat belonging to one of its contractors (with only 8 liters) could not possibly have caused the ecological catastrophe.

They claim that it must be something else because their company is such a "responsible" one, blaming the workers and attacking them by implying that they are primitive, irresponsible, and unsanitary peoples furthering the racist claims that have been perpetuated by the capitalist class for centuries.

This time period opens the doors for fascism for the ruling class; however, this is also an opportunity for workers to fight against capitalism and expose its true disgusting racist nature.

A reader

Abolishing the separation between manual and mental labor

A group of 20 people, mostly youth and also with older comrades, took part in a cadre school. The cadre school focused on shaping the younger comrades into sharper leaders, critical thinkers.

One of the topics that intrigued the group was the idea of abolishing the separation of manual and mental labor. In other words, under a communist society will there be people who strictly do physical labor and other people who strictly do intellectual labor? For example, how do we decide who will be behind a computer desk doing important research necessary for the working class (*intellectual labor*) and who will be in the fields farming and harvesting food for society (*physical labor*)?

A comrade expressed that the separation of mental and manual labor cannot be abolished. Some people agreed with the idea, arguing that not everybody can be thinkers and not everybody can be a manual laborer.

Others felt that under communism all workers can do manual work and mental work, saying that communism will set free the human creativity and potential in ways that we can't even imagine.

Capitalist education has been based on preparing the people for their role in class society for the past 200 years. Working class kids have been taught to be workers and follow orders, middle class kids have been taught to be managers or petty capitalists and ruling class kids have been taught to be bosses.

We came to an agreement that the bosses use the idea of people strictly being made to do something based on their level of education as a reason to justify why they deserve to be rich and we deserve to be poor. We need to abolish that idea and practice. We know that in a society without bosses, people can be both workers and thinkers—not one or the other, but both. To make a revolution and get to that society, people have to be both thinkers and doers now.

A comrade

War 'Games' in the South China Sea: US, Chinese Bosses Prepare for World War III

In the British thriller *Dragon Strike* (1997) China attacks Vietnam and other regional states in order to secure the South China Sea. This prompts US intervention, bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war.

It's fictional, but not far-fetched. The South China Sea has long been hotly contested by China and Vietnam. Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines also have claims. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, "one-third of the world's shipping transits through the South China Sea, its waters are rich fishing grounds, and the seabed is believed to hold huge oil and gas reserves." (*WSJ*, 7/28/10)

"The strategic competition [between the US and China] is likely to increase and intensify. If the history of the two world wars is any guide, there is always the danger of such competition sliding into confrontation and, eventually, leading to conflagration," writes Australian journalist S.P. Seth (*Pakistan Daily Times*, 8/15/10)



natural gas.

In 2008 China forced ExxonMobil to abandon plans to explore for oil off Vietnam's shore in disputed waters. Because of continuing disputes over sovereignty, the extent of the oil and gas reserves are unknown. Meanwhile, as much as 85 per cent of east Asia's energy passes through the South China Sea. While China is working hard to develop overland pipelines, sea transport will remain important for the trade and energy needs of Japan and other east Asian nations.

More important are strategic considerations. "A military base in the Spratlys, such as an island-based airstrip, could effectively be used to stop all shipping in the South China Sea," according to a 1998 report. (www.southchinesea.org/docs/Joyner,%20Spratly%20Islands%20Dispute.pdf)

Now "China is seeking naval preponderance in the South China Sea as part of its bid to become a global naval power. This would include projection capabilities in the Indian Ocean, which is fast becoming a zone of Great Power competition. Japan and South Korea, too, are seeking to strengthen their naval prowess." (www.riskwatchdog.com/2010/08/11/south-chinesea-dispute-what-is-at-stake/)

Historically, a major function of the Chinese navy in the South China Sea has been to block the threat of a sea-based nuclear attack. "China has invested decades in a patient and aggressive campaign to slowly push other countries out of the East China Sea and South China Sea. The US Navy is the main target, as it's the largest obstacle to Beijing's strategy," wrote US naval analyst James Kraska (*The Diplomat*, 5/6/10).

Defeat Nationalism and Turn Imperialist War into Communist Revolution

The new US military alliance with Vietnam – China's main rival for the Spratly Islands – is an attempt to block China's not-so-peaceful rise. This, after US imperialism killed millions of Vietnamese workers and destroyed the countryside in the 1960s and 70s in an unsuccessful war to control this very same region!

The once-communist leadership of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front defeated the supposedly all-powerful US military in 1975 but their "10-point program" opened the door to imperialist investment—meaning capitalist exploitation. Now Vietnam is regarded as a "low-wage" region even within desperately poor southeast Asia.

Meanwhile the Chinese Communist Party

See War "Games", page 14

The Working Class Has No Nation

When we write about "China," "Vietnam" and "the US" we really mean the capitalist ruling classes of these countries. Workers everywhere are locked in struggle with the capitalists. The bosses' "national interests" and "core interests" are not ours. We must understand that our interest is what's best for the international working class as a whole. And that means communist revolution: the only way to smash capitalist wage slavery, its borders, and its deadly imperialist wars.

The Bush administration paid little attention to east Asia, despite warnings from the Hart-Rudman Commission (1999-2001). US Secretary of State Clinton announced the end of this era on July 28, 2010. She declared herself willing to mediate talks between Vietnam, China and other nations over the tiny Spratly and Paracel islands in the South China Sea, calling them a US "national interest." She was responding to China's March declaration (for the first time) that the South China Sea was one of its "core interests" and that it wouldn't tolerate US interference.

Not Just A Diplomatic Squabble

Last October, the spy ship USNS Impeccable approached the Chinese base on Hainan Island in the South China Sea, where it was harassed by Chinese forces.

In March 2010, North Korea allegedly sank the South Korean ship Cheonan. China refused to criticize North Korea. In response, the US and South Korea conducted joint naval exercises in July, deploying the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington and three destroyers. Under Chinese pressure, the exercise was moved out of the Yellow Sea. China then conducted its own military maneuvers.

And in August, the USNS George Washington battle group entered the South China Sea for joint "naval engagement activities" with Vietnam, along with the battleship USS John McCain.

More Than Oil Is at Stake

China's rapid industrialization and its growing blue-water navy mean skyrocketing demands for oil and gas. The South China Sea has proven oil reserves larger than those in the Gulf of Mexico, perhaps much larger, and substantial reserves of

Dialectical Materialist Philosophy: Quality and Quantity

Dialectical contradiction is the central concept of dialectical philosophy. Contradictions cause change, become more intense and are eventually resolved and replaced by new contradictions. Dialectics also has other laws that help explain what happens in processes that are driven forward by contradictions.

Two important concepts for describing things and processes are **quantity** and **quality**. A **quantity** is a property that can be measured in numbers, like temperature, age, hourly wage, rate of profit, number of *Red Flags* sold, etc. One feature of quantities is that when they change, they usually go through intermediate stages. If the temperature falls from 90° at noon to 50° at midnight, it goes through the temperatures between 90° and 50°. A large change of quantity doesn't usually happen in an instant, even if it happens fast.

A **quality** is a property that cannot be measured in numbers. Qualities include being square, beautiful, green, unemployed, at war, etc. Change of quality can often happen quickly, without going through intermediate stages. When you heat water, its temperature (a quantity) gradually increases. At a certain temperature bubbles suddenly appear and boiling starts. The change from not-boiling to boiling is a qualitative change in the water.

It is a law of dialectics that change of quantity (an increase or a decrease) eventually leads to a qualitative change if it goes far enough. If you add enough heat to ice, intensifying its internal contradictions, liquid water will result: a change of quality from solid to liquid. If you continue adding heat, the liquid water will eventually turn into steam, a second qualitative change.

Each quality has quantitative limits, and when it goes beyond them, the quality changes into another quality. Although people live to different ages, increasing age eventually leads to death, a qualitative change from life. Life eventually reaches a limit, and death results. While humans are alive, the quality of being healthy has quantitative limits. Consistently overeating makes a person fat and can eventually lead to death; consistently eating too little results in malnutrition and eventually death.

Many scientists recently combined their data on Alzheimer's patients into one huge database. This made it possible to find biological markers for the disease that no research group could have found alone. When the number of Party members increases enough, some old forms of organization and leadership will not work any longer, and new ones must be developed.

When one quality of a thing or process changes into an opposite quality, some other qualities change along with it and some do not. Qualitative change preserves some qualities and changes others. Water that boils is still water. A worker who gets laid off is still a member of the working class, despite the change of quality from employed to unemployed.

The development of the contradictions inside the capitalist system produces qualitative change, as some aspects of the system change from minor features to major ones, and vice-versa. As intensifying rivalry among capitalist empires—the US, Russia, China, Europe, etc.—produces larger wars, the US capitalists need to make a qualitative change into fascism within the US itself, lowering the living standard of US workers, increasing repression, and calling this "patriotic" and "sacrifice for the common good."

The idea that quantity eventually changes into quality helps us understand how the communist movement grows. Consistent political work, especially distributing the Party press and recruiting members in key sectors like industry and the military, eventually changes the quality of the movement from merely opposing the capitalist class to defeating it and taking state power.

Before the revolution, however, our movement will go through many qualitative changes. If a shop goes from one or two Red Flag readers to, say, 10% readers, it will mean a qualitative change in the political understanding of the workers in that shop. It would probably mean the party becoming the actual leader of the workers in that shop, another qualitative change. When this happens in enough shops, schools and military units, the result will be a qualitatively new stage at which mass recruitment to the party is possible, and communist revolution is closer.