

# RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

## BUILDING A COMMUNIST WORLD

# M A Y D A Y



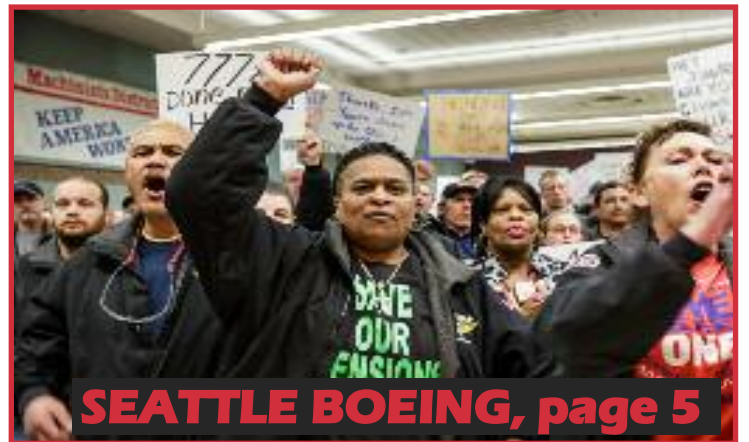
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As we celebrate the fifth May Day of the International Communist Workers' Party, our industrial worker comrades in South Africa are showing the urgency and possibility of mobilizing the masses for communism.

"Our comrades have grasped our correct political line with ease, which I found amazing," one wrote. "We will stop at nothing to mobilize masses for communism using the *Red Flag* as a tool."

Amazing!

A bus driver in South Africa organized a street meeting in her neighborhood the day after she met our Party.

Hundreds of Los Angeles MTA bus drivers, mechanics and service attendants are seriously reading *Red Flag*.

Women and men workers are reading *Red Flag* and enthusiastically building our Party in the maquilas of El Salvador and the garment shops of Los Angeles.

Our long-term work in Seattle is bearing fruit among Boeing workers and others.

Our young soldiers are building our Red Army in the bosses' armed forces.

New young Party leaders are stepping forward in Mexico and Honduras.

It is telling that ICWP is growing in South

Africa and El Salvador, where masses of workers fought for the vision of a communist world but were betrayed by false "communist" leaders.

This shows that ICWP is winning many workers to have confidence that workers and soldiers can fight for and win a communist world. They see ICWP as the means to achieve this goal.

We shouldn't really be amazed, because communist values reflect the highest aspirations of the masses everywhere: cooperation, collectivity, solidarity, selflessness, sharing.

Communist principles reflect the way our "better selves" want to live, and the way we do live as best we can even in this racist hell-hole of capitalist society:

-No one goes without while others have plenty.

-Value everyone's contributions, meet everyone's needs.

-Unite head and hand: end the division between "mental" and "manual" labor. Head, hand, and heart: working not for wages but for the common good.

Communist society will eliminate money and bosses. This will destroy the material basis of racism and sexism, of nations and borders.

Communist society will have meaningful work, dignity and respect for all. The mate-

rial basis of society will support and develop our fullest humanity.

The laws of capitalist development reveal the urgent need for communism.

These laws force capitalists to squeeze the maximum profits from our labor by paying us as little as possible to work harder than possible.

Under capitalism, the impoverishment of the working class is irreversible. Our fight is to eliminate wage slavery.

Capitalism's laws have created a global crisis of overproduction. A billion of us are hungry and a million children starve each year while at least one-third of the food we produce is destroyed.

Fossil fuel, the lifeblood of capitalism's industry and military, is the main contributor to catastrophic climate change. In drought-stricken Ethiopia and Somalia our sisters and brothers die of famine, while in Asian coastal villages and island nations they are flooded out of their homes forever.

Communism's production for use value — for human need — will eliminate capitalism's reckless production for exchange value. Capitalists organize production only to increase their wealth, while polluting and ravaging the world, endangering our present and our future.

**COMMUNIST WORLD, see page 2**

## South Africa

### PRE-MAY DAY MEETING SIGNALS GROWTH OF ICWP

April 12, 2014—Revolutionary greetings, comrades. We are very excited today, as ICWP members in South Africa. We had a robust discussion on quite a range of issues. Instead of a 2 hour meeting as planned, we met all day, for 6 hours. Five comrades joined the Party.

As you know, in South Africa today, elections are a hot issue. We tackled a number of questions coming from the election circus. We showed that these concerns are not helping our cause, they are just cosmetics. Some new comrades were having preferences of one party to the other. After a lengthy debate it transpired that not a single party is worth a dime. They are all reformist parties pushing a revisionist lie that capitalism can be reformed.

Another question that we dealt with was around the independence and security and safety of our party ICWP. The importance of building the ICWP independently of the state and other capitalist parties was emphasized. These are just some of the issues raised at our meeting today.

It was a successful event, everything went ahead as planned. Let's call this the new unit. It consists of four core comrades. We were joined by four other comrades who participated actively in the event. One comrade who had gone to work joined us later after work. We all agreed to reconvene the following day to accommodate him.

One comrade remarked about Slovo's hypocrisy. Joe Slovo was the General Secretary of the South African Communist Party who served in the cabinet of Nelson Mandela, who wrote a famous pamphlet "no middle road," and who sold out the working class.

The network of *Red Flag* readers is growing exponentially, there is another new unit in the pipeline. We have identified five comrades and distributed the *Red Flag* to each of them. We intend to monitor their reading and at the opportune time call a meeting to share our experiences.

We are sharply struggling with the new com-

rades to write for the *Red Flag*. These comrades are very articulate; they are well liked by their friends. However, under capitalism we are not encouraged to write. We are going to overcome this obstacle with patience. We will make sure that in the coming weeks and months the *Red Flag* will be filled with letters and articles by the young comrades.

We also emphasized the importance of distributing the *Red Flag* as a revolutionary tool to counter the bosses' propaganda and lies. Our line remains the only correct one. In small numbers we are recruiting members to ICWP. This process of recruitment clarifies our line among new members and they bring energy and enthusiasm. Corruption, poverty, diseases, inequalities, unemployment, homelessness, hunger and many other social ills are bred by capitalism. Capitalism breeds all these social ills, it produces and reproduces all these evils.

Reformists always peddle the lie that absolves capitalism and blames it on a skewed type of capitalism. We are not fooled with these schemes. We've seen them all and we are not deterred. We remain firm and resolute in our class struggle fight against capitalism and all its manifestations. That is why we are convinced that ICWP, the International Communist Workers' Party, is the only party that pushes the correct political line of a communist revolution. On May 1, ICWP members in South Africa will participate in a mass demonstration to massify our line of communist revolution.



**The August 2012 murder of dozens of miners in Marikana definitively exposed the African National Congress' betrayal of the struggle against apartheid. It brings into sharp focus the need to build ICWP in South Africa.**

We have a long way to go but we're on the only path that will end the tyranny of wage slavery. As always forward ever! Phambili nomzabalazo wokwakha umbutho onguwo wehlabathi phambili! Phantsi namasela phantsi! Viva ICWP Viva! Raise the *Red Flag* high!



#### COMMUNIST WORLD from page 1

Capitalism's laws inevitably force bosses to defend or extend their profit-hungry global empires with ever-widening wars. Their "peace" and "diplomacy" camouflage their preparation for world war.

**Masses of courageous workers are on the move against the ravages of capitalism.**

Workers, soldiers and youth must refuse to be

cannon-fodder, "collateral damage," or killers of our class brothers and sisters. Our fight is turn the guns around for communist revolution.

Our fight is to show that a new way is possible by building a mass revolutionary International Communist Workers' Party that constantly enlarges and enriches our understanding of how a communist society will be.

We must develop more and better commu-

nists, emerging leaders increasingly capable of mobilizing the masses for communism and able to use the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism to help develop the Party's line and work.

**Communist rule depends on YOU...**

...spreading *Red Flag* and organizing masses of workers into the Party, to mobilize even greater numbers to act on communist ideas before, during, and after the seizure of power.

Often we don't feel that we know enough to start mobilizing for communism. None of us knows enough, and all of us know enough.

We learn through practice, especially from mistakes. We learn collectively. That's why we invite you all to join the International Communist Workers' Party.

Join with your doubts, criticisms, questions and ideas.

Join with your family and friends, with your head, hands and heart.

**Join in building the amazing communist world that the masses worldwide want and need!**



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## El Salvador

### COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM!

SAN SALVADOR—On this always-historic May Day, the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP—is present in the streets of San Salvador and of the world. We are taking the message of our communist ideas to our whole working class.

“This year, the men and women workers in three maquila factories and a group of workers from auto shops who have been fired will march on May Day through the streets of the capital,” said a worker leader.

“This news that more men and women workers will march together with ICWP is good for our class, and for the party,” a woman worker from the maquilas concluded.

“We youth want to participate on this historic day of the working class.” Urban youth from the Salvadoran capital and youth from the interior of the country have been preparing literature and banners to place along the path of the workers' march and making plans for the distribution of our newspaper *Red Flag* and the pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

“We want to join the march; you are not going to leave us out,” said a group of farmworkers who had been absent in some of the

meetings of the International Communist Workers' Party.

The communists organized in the International Communist Workers' Party come from the factories, from the mountains, from the outskirts of the cities, making contact with the whole organized working class that waits every May Day for our revolutionary communist literature.

As the International Communist Workers' Party, we are reflecting the urgent need to struggle for a system of life that takes us forward and doesn't allow us to keep suffering with the scourge of capitalism and its reformist lackeys. We, all members of the working class, have to fight for a better, communist world.

We cannot continue to fight for reforms that only disguise the rotten bosses' system. We workers are the only ones who produce what our class needs to live; as the working class, we are those who will guarantee a better life for our future generations.

The struggle appears to be slow, but it is constant and it needs the organization of every one into an International party like ICWP. Millions of workers around the world are conscious that the only solution for the working class is the

working class. We are in South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, the US, El Salvador, among others, waging a relentless struggle for communism.

A communist wrote “Let the ruling classes tremble at communist revolution. We workers have nothing to lose but our chains. We have, however, a world to win.” Today these words are more relevant than ever. “We have been naught; we shall be all,” as the Communist International says, which should be again taken up by the working class world wide.

We invite you on this authentic day of the working class to take the enormous decision to join the struggle for a communist world. Demand your newspaper *Red Flag* and your pamphlet, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and contact us on our web page, www.icwpredflag.org. Only by doing this will we have a dignified world for our working class.

Yesterday the struggle was for the 8 hour day. Today it is for Communism!

Long live the heroic deeds of the martyrs of Chicago!

Long live the International Communist Workers' Party!!

## Mexico

### “MILLIONS OF COMMUNIST WORKERS WILL ENSURE VICTORY”

This May Day, International Workers' Day, we call on the working class of Mexico and the world to join the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) in the struggle to overthrow capitalism and establish communism. Communism is a system with no bosses, no money, no borders, where we will work collectively for the common good without damaging the environment. Each will give according to their capacity and commitment and receive what they need to live with dignity. We will all contribute with mental and manual work, and the worldwide working class, through ICWP, will decide what is best for everyone.

We live in a period of capitalism called inter-imperialist war. This means that the big bosses (mainly the Chinese against the US) in different parts of the world are fighting to build their empire and not perish. The bosses are in a crisis of overproduction, which they can only resolve by destroying the productive capacity of their imperialist rivals: their factories and workers.

This will inevitably lead to World War III. If the working class is not organized, we will be used as cannon fodder, and there will be even more exploitation and poverty. At the same time we, the whole working class, have the historic opportunity to fight in our own interests--to fight directly for communism. Not by stages, since socialism resulted in being state capitalism and openly returned to capitalism.

Workers in Brazil, Ukraine, El Salvador, the US, South Africa, Mexico and other parts of the world are demonstrating massively in the streets, unhappy with the conditions that the bosses are imposing on them. They no longer want to live in the old way. They are hungry for alternatives and need to know about communism. Today in Mexico the main mass workers' movements are: the struggle against education, energy, finance and labor reform, against wage cuts and mass layoffs, against drug trafficking and insecurity, and against the imposition of genetically modified foods.

The way we can confront these problems is by organizing ourselves into an international party of the working class. The members of ICWP in



Teachers on strike in Mexico, 2012 and 2013.

Mexico have distributed *Red Flag* and talked with teachers from Oaxaca in their permanent encampment in Mexico City. Now they are readers and distributors of *Red Flag* in the communities where they work. Several men and women teachers are conscious that they have been fighting for years and have only gotten small improvements in their wages without solving the problems at their roots. Therefore they want to join this international communist movement.

We have distributed *Red Flag* in the demonstrations of electrical workers and against the structural reforms that the government of Peña Nieto is imposing, which respond to the interests of the US bosses. At every opportunity we tell the workers that the unions only fight for wage increases and thus they condemn us to wage slavery and keep the true enemy, capitalism, intact.

With each new edition of *Red Flag*, we give speeches and sell *Red Flag* to students, workers and teachers in the center of the country. After three years and with collective work, there is now a broad network of readers. The youth are interested in understanding the communist point of view about the current problems. So we invite

them every month to discuss topics of current interest like genetically modified food, the self-defense groups, and the production of food. In these meetings it had been understood that the bosses, like those of Monsanto, are taking possession of the seeds of basic foods and the farmworkers can no longer cultivate their own seeds, or they are contaminated with the carcinogenic genetically modified seeds. That as long as a system exists in which the foods are commodities we will be forced to feed ourselves with food that kills us massively.

The issue of the self-defense groups in Mexico has been one of great interest in the talks with readers and sympathizers of ICWP. It has become clear that in reality this is a war between the bosses for control of the wealth of Michoacán.

History has shown us that any struggle that is not for the destruction of capitalism is reformism and generates false illusions among the working class. That is why we invite the working class to struggle together, not for minimal improvements, but to replace the current system with communism.

To make this possible, we need workers, soldiers, students, teachers, farmworkers and the unemployed not only in the center of Mexico but in the whole world. That's why ICWP needs to grow so that we really win the working class. We must be thousands, millions of workers to assure victory.

Join us in ICWP.

## Los Angeles MTA

### MECHANICS STRUGGLE OVER INDIVIDUALISM VS. COLLECTIVITY

Sharp political debate fills many of the bus divisions of MTA these days. MTA, which transports hundreds of thousands of workers every day all over this huge city, is key to the LA profits. These bosses, afraid of the bonds of solidarity, have divided MTA workers mainly into two unions—the ATU for mechanics and service attendants and the UTU for bus and train drivers—both led by opportunists and loyal servants of capitalism.

The UTU and ATU contracts expire at different times. The ATU contract expired first. The MTA bosses and traitorous union officials pressured the mechanics and service attendants to accept the contract. They hope that if the drivers strike this summer, mechanics and service attendants won't respect their strike. *Red Flag* struggled for them to reject the contract and wait for the drivers so that together they could organize a political strike against wage slavery.

Forty percent of those MTA mechanics and service attendants who voted, voted against the contract, voting for solidarity and working class unity. We invite them to join ICWP to build the communist solidarity needed to get rid of wage slavery. We will not achieve this by voting or by decertifying the union or changing the union leadership. We will only achieve it by mobilizing the masses of workers, students and soldiers to fight for communist revolution.

This political fight in MTA has brought to the surface an important political aspect of the struggle between capitalist and communist ideas: individualism vs. collectivity.

In 2000, when MTA drivers were on strike, mechanics and service attendants taught the ATU officials a political lesson. Union President Silver went on TV and called on ATU members to cross the drivers' picket lines and go back to work. Me-

chanics and service attendants answered with an overwhelming NO! In many divisions there was jubilation when the mechanics and service attendants came, not to cross the drivers' picket lines, but to make them stronger and more militant.

The bosses' latest attempt to split MTA workers has gained some acceptance among those who have no notion of the class struggle. Some think that the few benefits that they now enjoy are because MTA in its time was a good company. This political ignorance is not fortuitous or random, but the result of the boss-union campaign to divide and conquer.

#### Mechanics Struggle over Solidarity

A group of MTA mechanics was talking about whether or not to support the drivers. One mechanic said, "I am sure that the drivers wouldn't support us if they were getting the benefits that the company has offered us. I'm sorry, but for me my family comes first. I am a man of God and I have to look out for number one."

"Look," said another, "the history of drivers, mechanics, and service attendants has been a path of support and solidarity. That's how we have been able to break several attempts by the bosses to divide us and take away our benefits."

A third mechanic added, "Look at the results of the vote. There were 923 in favor of the contract and 659 against with 3 annulled. So 40% voted against the contract. Don't you think that this raises a red flag, since in the past the vast majority was either in favor or against but now it was a close vote?"

In reality, *Red Flag* has raised the level of political struggle at MTA. For over four years, hundreds of MTA workers have been reading *Red Flag*. This vote shows the political impact of *Red Flag*'s communist ideas on MTA workers.

Many who voted for the contract did so be-

cause they did not see an alternative, but plan to support the drivers if they strike. We invite them to join ICWP and help build a political strike which builds solidarity with garment workers and student passengers, also under the bosses' attack.

This will not happen with the union's capitalist outlook. It will only be organized by workers willing to break with the bosses-union leaders and their laws. The goal of such a political strike should be to mobilize for a communist society based on collectively producing to meet workers needs, not for profit.

The discussion was broken up by a supervisor who asked if this was a union meeting. We left, agreeing that different opinions wouldn't make us enemies. Instead it is an opportunity to struggle among ourselves to understand what is best, not just for one person, but for our whole class. Out of this will come many lessons that are connected with our final goal—building a communist society.

This struggle for solidarity is not just a question of supporting the drivers. Workers in transit and workers worldwide have the same interests. Militant reform struggle will not halt the bosses' attacks. As capitalist attacks increase, we need collectivity to defeat the bosses and to build a communist society that meets the needs of the whole working class.



## MTA Contract Terms Set by Capitalists in Crisis:

### WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST POLITICAL STRIKE

The major thrust of the contract negotiations between MTA and union negotiators was set before they sat down to bargain across the table.

Four things shape them: the on-going economic crisis; the struggle to control the world (from Ukraine to 'the pivot to Asia'); the debt-ridden impoverishment of the masses and the world wide wave of strikes, demonstrations and rebellions, bringing together workers, students and even soldiers. In short, it is the political climate that shapes the negotiations.

As if to highlight this point, a report called "A Time For Truth" came out in Los Angeles right in the middle of the MTA contract talks. Commissioned by the city council, it seemed frank and hard hitting. It said the city is deep in debt, its schools are (still) failing and 4 out of 10 families live "in what can only be called misery." It went on to point out "28% live at or near poverty and survive only by working multiple jobs and drawing on the support of family." Blame for all this was placed on lack of (civic) leadership!

#### Civic Leader or...

Reports like this fool some people. They think it shows government has woken up, that it can be honest and respond to the plight of the people.

The opposite is the case. The first use of this report will be to argue that city workers are like an "aristocracy" of the working class whose high wages, benefits and pensions the city (and its poorer masses) can no longer afford to support in the same way.

Next the report will be used to justify tax

breaks and other incentives to attract business to Los Angeles. Anything must be done, it will be argued, to alleviate the 'misery' of the unemployed and under employed. In short, the report is more propaganda than analysis. Its aim is to divide the working class.

#### Communist Leadership!!

And this is why "A Time For Truth" hides the truth. It is not a "lack of civic leadership" that causes poverty, it is capitalist production. Capitalism demands that masses of people -those of us who make up the working class - have no other means of survival other than our wages. No job means no wages. No wages mean no life.

It is a simple and brutal formula. And it is repeated the world over. As too is the division of wage workers (or working class). At one level there are those in stable jobs, integrated into the system of production (like bus drivers, mechanics, teachers or hospital workers), then there are those in temporary, casual labor and finally, those

who are often migrant or immigrant labor. There is not a country in the world where this type of division is not enforced. It's not 'a lack of (civic) leadership' that causes poverty, it's capitalism.

The workers of Los Angeles County produce more than \$500 billion in goods a year. It is the largest manufacturer in the US. However, as the report states, 40% of its residents, mostly black and latino, live in extreme poverty. At the same time, over 126,000 millionaires in LA County live in luxury! This is capitalism, where we, the producers of this wealth, live in poverty, while the parasite bosses live in their mansions.

Capitalism is our enemy; the working class our strength. We mean the whole working class - with and without papers, casual and full-time workers, skilled and semi-skilled. That is why we are setting out to build communist political, not trade union, strikes. That is why we are building a *RED FLAG*, communist May Day.



## From Boeing Engineers to Minimum Wage:

### THE TYRANNY OF WAGES LEADS TO WORKERS' IMPOVERISHMENT



Union activists in \$15/hour campaign in Los Angeles, October 2013

SEATTLE, WA, April 16 — “Boeing’s transfer of 1,000 engineering jobs to California ... has sown widespread dissent [and] distrust,” shouts the front page of the *Seattle Times*.

The official summary of weekly company meetings justifying the move “shows feedback is unrelentingly negative (*Seattle Times* 4/16).”

“No one in the workforce believes what they are being told,” said Ray Goforth, executive director of Boeing’s white-collar union.

Engineers will not be allowed to transfer, but will be required to apply for their old jobs. The company plans to take advantage of huge aerospace layoffs in Southern California. Many engi-

neering graduates there can’t find jobs. The whole point of this move is to create a lower-paid, more pliable workforce.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Seattle media is filled with debates around the \$15 minimum wage. While the bosses, reformists, and socialists debate how much exploitation is acceptable, capitalism’s relentless drive to “immiserate the working class” marches on.

Karl Marx, the founder of the communist movement, first used that phrase over a hundred years ago to describe the inevitable path of maturing capitalism. More than inequality, Marx predicted the conditions of the masses could only get worse. The worldwide capitalist crisis of overproduction has proved him right.

Neither raising the minimum wage nor any other capitalist reform can ever turn back this relentless descent. The debate must go beyond how much exploitation is acceptable. The limits of this debate hold back those very workers and youth most likely to embrace a communist vision.

The only real solution is to eliminate this system of wage slavery. Mobilizing the masses for communism must be our guiding principle.

#### Recapture Our Humanity

Today everything is for sale, even our labor power. We are a commodity as far as the capitalist is concerned.

Most of the value we produce goes to the bosses’ profit and power. The bosses pay us only what it costs to keep us alive and well enough to be exploited and to reproduce the next generation of workers.

The mode of production—how society produces what it needs to survive and prosper—de-

termines the value of human life. Communism envisions a society based on production for need, not sale or profit. A communist society will restore our humanity.

Wages tie us to capitalism. The capitalists own the means of production: the factories, banks, etc. We build all that with our labor, but capitalism allows the bosses to steal it from us. As a result, we are forced to go cap-in-hand to the capitalist to get a job.

They will give us a job only if they can exploit us. As capitalism matures, they must maximize that exploitation or other bosses drive them under. The whole debate about the minimum wage assumes the bosses have a right to the fruits of our labor.

Communism will replace jobs with collective work. We’ll collectively produce what we need.

Wage differentials perpetuate the division between mental and manual labor. The machinist, the assembler and the engineer will be one and the same in a communist society. Each worker will contribute according to his or her commitment and ability.

Racism and sexism are baked into the system of wage slavery. Without racist and sexist pay differentials the bosses could never accumulate the capital necessary to compete. Eliminating wages will destroy the material basis of racism and sexism, creating the potential to end racism and sexism altogether.

Workers’ impoverishment is built into capitalism. Join the ICWP and thousands of workers all over the world on May 1st as we march in the streets to end the tyranny of wages with communist revolution. Nothing less will do.

## MAY DAY DINNER HIGHLIGHTS STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL COLLECTIVES

SEATTLE, WA, April 12 — “I’m going to make sure to get May Day off so I can march with the Party,” a Boeing Machinist announced after our discussion at the ICWP May Day Dinner.

He and other Boeing workers, Seattle comrades and friends viewed a video of our new South African members discussing communism with their friends. Five workers from South Africa had joined.

Naturally, the question of joining here came up. “There is nothing I disagree with in *Red Flag*,” said this same friend, “and like the South African comrades said we can’t expect any help from the bourgeoisie.”

“We wouldn’t want any help from the bosses even if they offered it. Their help — just like their reform ideology—is always the trump card against the workers.”

“I’ve seen too many groups that didn’t remain loyal to the working class after they took power. That’s why I hesitate [to join].”

A comrade explained that we won’t sell out—and not only because we are trustworthy people. The fact is the other groups he’s familiar with, like the union, are committed to capitalism.

Even those that fought for socialism were maintaining capitalist relations, even if that’s not what they intended. The development of a new ruling class was pre-determined.

We’ve learned from these mistakes. “Just like we said earlier we’re mobilizing for a society without wage slavery and borders,” a Boeing party member argued. “We’re mobilizing the masses directly for communism. That’s why the outcome will be different.”

Many are looking for communist solutions. We listened with interest as one comrade in the video

said, “We need an different kind of organization to consolidate” this sentiment.

“We’ve talked about this at work,” continued the Boeing Machinist. “I really think we’re only a hair’s breadth away from revolts like in South Africa.”

We should rely on the masses to fill the ranks of our revolutionary party, particularly in times like these.

#### Boeing Workers Already Contribute

We have a good group of Boeing workers coming steadily to our events. To a greater or lesser degree, each worker already does party work. They read and distribute the paper. They discuss ideas for new articles. They’re thinking and asking questions. They help advance our communist line and commitment.

Some are beginning to struggle with their friends to also come to our events. Our Boeing friend decided to come to May Day because he wanted to see how workers at the march reacted to communist ideas.

There’s no big secret about how to build our party or what party members should do. These friends are already doing it.

We have to focus the energy of a party collective to consolidate. Together, we’ll learn how to answer the hesitations of the masses in the plants. New members will build the clubs necessary to construct a party steered in industrial working-class struggle.

Our practice today gives us a taste of how communism will work. The contribution and consolidation of millions more when we take state power will ensure the success of a future communist society.

Our Boeing friend took more than the usual number of *Red Flags* to distribute. So did others. The whole pile of papers was gone by the end of the evening.

The next step is to secure a modest Boeing group to march under the red flag this May Day along with other area workers and students. A contingent of a dozen new hires and shop stewards came to May Day last year on their own.

This combination holds potential. The party’s base can bring a communist vision to a broader section of workers. Our friends will develop confidence in themselves and the masses during this struggle. Then more will join.

Bring the red flag to May Day! We invite all to join us in mobilizing the masses for communism — in the streets and in the plants.



Boeing, January 2014

## LOS ANGELES GARMENT WORKERS TAKE RED FLAG TO SWEATSHOPS

LOS ANGELES, CA—"Last year we distributed 200 - 300 *Red Flag* newspapers each edition in a building of garment shops, but this year it rose to 450," said a garment worker comrade. She and her collective get up at 4 a.m. to distribute the papers before going to their own jobs.

More than a thousand garment workers work in this ramshackle building in the center of the city. Every morning they flood in to be subjected to the cruelest exploitation, without any benefits. The majority works over 50 hours a week and takes home less than the miserable minimum wage.

A few months ago, while we were distributing the newspaper, a worker from this building approached us to tell us that the bosses and the supervisor harassed her, yelling and demanding more production. We told her that she should look for unity with other workers and confront the boss.

A few weeks later, she told us that she had confronted him, but due to his continuing harassment, she had to look for work in another shop. But the new boss harasses the women with obscene gestures, including touching some of the women workers inappropriately, but they do not denounce him for fear of losing their jobs.

We felt very angry and we told her that we should give him what he deserves and denounce this disgraceful

boss. She agreed that we do it through *Red Flag*. We will get more information and make a communist struggle against this boss' attacks.

"There is no safe place for the working class under capitalism. No matter if it is in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Mexico or Los Angeles, the bosses think that we are their slaves and that they can do with our lives as they please. The alternative is communist revolution," said a comrade garment worker, as she distributed *Red Flag*.

Hundreds of workers read our communist newspaper here, especially women. Also many male workers are beginning to be interested in the paper and are reading it also. We always rec-

ommend that they read it with their coworkers, friends and neighbors, children, spouse, or girlfriend or boyfriend.

The majority of these workers are young immigrants recently arrived from Central America. Some of them do not speak Spanish. With time, ICWP has been winning their confidence. There is an enormous potential if they take communist ideas as their own. Besides helping organize communist revolution here in the US, they could help with their friends and families in the places they come from.

**Part of the potential of seeing the masses worldwide fighting for communism is right here!**

This building full of extreme exploitation and abuse, like dozens more in downtown Los Angeles, is only a few blocks from City Hall and the offices of those who "protect the law," like the Labor Commission. But these government agencies exist to guarantee the profits of the millionaires of the powerful garment industry, not to protect the workers.

Our goal is the struggle to mobilize the masses for communism and to end exploitative capitalism once and for all. Over a thousand copies of every edition of *Red Flag* are distributed among Los Angeles garment workers. Many of them will help to build a new world without wage slavery, a world without borders.



**Garment workers from Los Angeles to Bangladesh give leadership to the fight for a communist world**

### Janitors' struggles show:

## **THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FAIR WORKDAY OR WORK LOAD!**

LOS ANGELES -- "We understand that companies have been increasing your workload," said *Red Flag*.

"Yes," answered the janitor. "In the office buildings in downtown Los Angeles and in Westwood, all the companies are giving three floors to clean. Before, we only cleaned two floors. No, some companies in Santa Monica are giving up to four floors."

"And what does the union (SEIU United Service Workers West) do about this problem?" asked *Red Flag*.

"Well, look what traitors they are. They say that all the building owners are doing it, and that our bosses would not be able to compete if they don't do it too."

"With friends like these, who needs enemies?" commented *Red Flag*.

"Yes, the union leaders work with the bosses. Both told us that we didn't have to clean the additional floors as well as we did the first two. But now we're being fired for not cleaning them well and the union does nothing. In one building, three workers were fired."

There were other complaints. We'll write about these later. For now, we will talk about the following important question that the current be-

trayal raises: what is a fair work load?

**Trade Union Movement Answer: Shorten the Work Day**

In the past, the bosses imposed a work day of from 10 to 16 hours a day, six days a week. Considering this "unjust," the union movement raised the slogan "Eight hours of work, eight hours of rest, and eight hours of recreation."

In the US, the struggle for this demand exploded on May 1st, 1886 with a general strike in Chicago. From this was born May Day as International Workers' Day.

After bitter struggles, the 8-hour day is the norm in almost the whole world. However, working hours continue to be too long.

The bosses have managed to squeeze us more in fewer hours—using automation, the assembly line, and piece work. In the garment industry they pay by the piece. In cleaning, they assign floors.

Today the unions in the US don't fight to cut work hours but for a subsistence wage of \$15 an hour. They raise the old slogan, "A fair day's work for a fair day's wage."

**Answer of the Revolutionary Communist Movement: Eliminate Wage Slavery**

A "fair" wage or a "fair" work day? They don't exist and they will never exist! In capitalism we

are wage slaves selling our labor power to the bosses to survive.

The wage is the chain that binds us to them. The larger the wage, the longer the chain, giving us the illusion that we are free because we have a little more scope of movement. But, a chain is a chain, even if it's made of gold.

In addition, the wage covers up our exploitation, making us believe that the boss pays us the value of our labor. But the bosses give us in wages only a small part of the value that we produce. Part of the rest is their profits their increases his capital.

Communist revolution will eliminate wage slavery. Trade unionism will never do that because its function is to negotiate the terms of our exploitation, guaranteeing the existence of capitalism.

Communism will destroy capitalism. There won't be money, or "fair" wages, or a "fair day's work." Each of us will contribute to society according to their commitment and capacity and receive according to their need. The product of our labor will be to benefit the international working

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## U.S./Russia Crisis over Ukraine Shows:

### IMPERIALIST POWERS PREPARING FOR WORLD WAR

*“War is the continuation of politics by other means.” - Carl von Clausewitz, 1873*

This has been true ever since the rise of exploiting ruling classes. The whole premise of their being is military force. They first used it to claim as their private property society’s means of production and to enslave and exploit the masses of producers.

Ever since then the exploiters have lived by war. Their unrelenting need to expand their wealth and military power, or be conquered, eliminated or displaced by more powerful rivals, drives them to an unending string of wars.

But history is also punctuated by the rulers’ wars against the oppressed masses whenever they dared to rise up. And the oppressed masses inevitably rise up, leading to war against their oppressors.

In modern history, the capitalist rulers’ fight for profits and empire has scourged humanity with two world wars. But, the working class in Russia made a revolution during the first world war, and the Chinese masses made another shortly after the second.

#### War in the Age of Nuclear Weapons?

Many in the world believe that war among the major imperialists is not possible anymore because of nuclear weapons. This view has characterized the thinking of many US military and civilian strategists. However, leading US imperialists seem to be struggling to debunk this idea.

Stratfor, an influential US rulers’ think tank,

recently published an article saying that “since the end of the Cold War, there has been an assumption that conventional warfare” among peers (US, Russia, China, Germany, etc.) “seemed obsolete.”

But, it warns that “believing that any type of warfare has become obsolete is likely to be in error. Ukraine drove this lesson home.” Recent events “point to some realities,” specifically that “future crises might well lead to conventional war, nuclear weapons notwithstanding.

“Ukraine reminds us that peer-to-peer conflict is not inconceivable, and that a strategy and defense policy built on that assumption has little basis in reality.”

Some other US strategists seem to be arguing similarly. On April 4, the Brookings Institution, another influential US imperialist think tank, held an event based on a new book by Bruce Jones, a senior fellow at Brookings.

Jones’s position is that “only American military power, and the willingness to use force if necessary can deter... serious threats” to the US in the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

All the other speakers endorsed his position. They worried that the US rulers seem unwilling to use military power and that “a very large number of Americans [don’t] understand why it has to be used at all.”

The Brookings event held President Obama responsible for persuading the US public, but complained that “he hasn’t really gone to the

American people and said, this is why it [Ukraine] matters and put it in the historical context” of similar events that led to two world wars.

#### Chinese and Russian Imperialists Modernizing Their Military

Stratfor states that the US will face peer-to-peer or even global conflicts in Eurasia. Putin understands this. Unlike Obama, he recently spent four hours on Russian public radio and television explaining the importance of Crimea and fielding questions about Russia’s struggles against the west. He said that by 2020, 70% of Russia’s army will be modernized.

Chinese rulers have also gotten the message. Recently they stated: “The evolution of the Ukrainian situation shows us clearly that in the international political arena, principles are decided by power.” (*Global Times*, 3/3/14) They are also modernizing their army and building a blue-water navy.

#### We Workers Also Need to Prepare

We should never forget that our communist politics require an armed communist revolution, nuclear weapons or not. The US rulers have not won the soldiers, workers, students and the masses in general to fight and die for their profits and empire. This gives us a tremendous opportunity to mobilize them for communism. To win the world we need and deserve, we must wage an unrelenting class war on a worldwide scale to bury all capitalists-imperialists forever.

## Youth Inspired by May Day Dinner:

### “COUNT ON ME! I’LL BE AT THE MARCH SHOUTING ‘LONG LIVE COMMUNISM!’”

LOS ANGELES, April 12—The May Day dinner was to organize the party and friends for May Day and to remind us of why we are marching: to mobilize the masses for communism, to fight for a better world, to fight to get rid of capitalism. Over 150 people came: the majority were workers and their families. There were also many high school and college students in attendance. This multi-racial, cross-generational event was very inspiring to all.

There were two main speeches—one outlining the ICWP’s work, how workers from El Salvador to South Africa are “grasping our correct political line with ease” and the need to build a mass communist party and another stressing the history and importance of organizing in the bosses’ military.

There were revolutionary greetings from a comrade soldier in the U.S. Army and a video presentation bringing greetings from workers in South Africa who have recently joined the ICWP.

The following are reactions of youth to the dinner.

*“My friends and I got there about 7:00 p.m. It wasn’t full yet, but by 7:30 it got pretty crowded. There was such a variety of food, from chicken to pork to pozole, and so many desserts to choose from. The energy and the spirit were very high.”*

*“The dinner motivated me when I saw that all over the world many have the same idea of being equal and that not only one race has that idea but that there are communists of all races. And that means that all can be convinced of what is better for humanity. I really liked it a lot being with other people that have communist ideas like myself.”*



May Day, Los Angeles, 2013

*“Being new to this concept, the dinner has motivated me to fight for the belief that everyone can be equal. Overall, this experience has helped me to convince others to join the march. At first I thought the idea of communism was impossible but after all, this meeting convinced me to not give up.”*

*“The dinner was very good from the organization of it to the food. I did not know much about communism but after the dinner I realize that there is a better and more just life for all of us and united we can achieve great things for our well being and the well being of others.”*

*“People were very welcoming and friendly. The food and music were great.”*

*“I know that this party is going to grow even more, there will be young people supporting com-*

*munism. I would be very happy to have a world without borders and without racism. I am happy to see people of all ages and how they have their vision in bettering this world. Count on me! I will be at the march and I will be shouting ‘long live communism!’”*

*“It was exciting to sing the songs that we sang. The atmosphere was very comforting and loving in which they welcomed everyone with open arms. Overall the dinner was very moving and lots of fun.”*

*“The ideals of the party and Red Flag are big. They are right when they say that by organizing in the military we have a higher probability of winning. I was very much interested in everything that was mentioned. Great job, ICWP and Red Flag.”*

## One World:

# NO BOSSES, NO NATIONS, NO BORDERS, NO RACISM!

LOS ANGELES— On May Day this year the Southern California Immigration Coalition is marching to demand that Obama stop the deportations and that Congress legalize all immigrants. The International Communist Workers' Party is marching for a world where there are no borders and where no human being is illegal. We know that this must be a communist world.

Millions around the world are forced to migrate to sell their labor power. Hundreds die every year hitching precarious rides atop freight trains, crossing jungles and deserts, traveling from Latin America to the US. Hundreds more Africans die trying to cross the Mediterranean, seeking survival in Europe.

Millions work in the oil-producing countries of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, forced by poverty and desperation to leave their homes and families in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Millions of Chinese peasants work illegally in Chinese cities, often for no pay at all, with no access to the most basic social services. Nicaraguans seek a better life in Costa Rica, Haitians in the Dominican Republic, Somalis and Zimbabweans in South Africa.

Our class brothers and sisters around the world are forced by the bosses' wage slavery to cross the very borders the capitalists have set up. They are forced to take the hardest, lowest-paying jobs for their very survival and that of families often left behind.

### People have always migrated to survive.

The human race was born in Africa. It spread across the globe over tens of thousands of years, following animal migrations and responding to climate change. Early people faced physical barriers and scarce resources. But because they cooperated and shared scarcity and abundance in pre-class communism, the human race flourished.

With the emergence of class society—of rich and poor—came wars for conquest. This meant

mass migrations, often under the compulsion of war or fleeing from war.

The development of capitalism brought with it a new compulsory migration, the African slave trade, in which millions were ripped from their homes and sold as chattel slaves to the emerging capitalist class. Slave labor enabled 19th century capitalists to divide the world into nations, becoming today's imperialist powers.

### Capitalism invented nations with borders.

In earlier feudal societies, power was wielded by the armed might of regional lords and aristocrats who conquered what territory they could. It was capitalists who fenced in the land and threw the farmers off the commons, fenced in nations and declared themselves the rulers.

Capitalists created the nation-state to defend their interests. Capitalists created nationalist ideologies to win workers to identify with their oppressors and to support groups of bosses who fought for the power to exploit the masses.

The capitalists divided the earth into countries, and the working masses became subjects of their nations: bound to obey the capitalist rulers' laws. Capitalist borders dominated the lives of those moving from place to place in order to survive. People of every continent were conquered, and the lands where they lived became colonies of those same capitalists.

Still, until the 20th century, few capitalists had the resources to control their borders. Checkpoints on major rivers, railways and highways gave them greater population control, but most borders have always been relatively porous. Today the bosses open and close their borders to allow or stop the flow of immigrants according to their economic, political, and military interests.



Spain: No Human Being is Illegal

Capitalist competition requires racism: the bosses create "racial" groups of workers to super-exploit, to keep workers divided and drive down wages and living standards. "Illegal" status is one way the rulers do this, maintaining a group of workers in a precarious situation where they have to take the worst jobs.

### Capitalist Crisis: Workers' Only Hope is Communism

The global crisis of 21st century capitalism has made workers' survival even less secure in regions historically looted by imperialism, like Africa, India, the Philippines and Latin America. In the imperialist countries of the US and Europe, the same economic crisis is shrinking the opportunities even for low-paying, undesirable jobs.

The oil-producing regions of the Middle East and the factories of urban China are among the few places where immigration is increasing. Even there, workers' hopes for a better life are increasingly an illusion.

Let's grasp that our only road to a better life is the revolutionary communist struggle to put an end to capitalism and its bosses, nations, and borders.

Workers of the world, unite! We have a communist world to win!

## RED SOLDIER SENDS GREETINGS FROM THE BARRACKS

There was an inspiring presence at this year's May Day dinner when a speaker read a letter from a soldier organizing ICWP in the military.

*"Tonight we let the bosses know that in solidarity with our class brothers and sisters, we are still bringing them the fight.*

*"It is also tonight when we commemorate the accomplishments and advancements made by our party's brothers and sisters, who, through their struggles and sacrifices, have paved the way for us. There is no better way to pay homage to them than by continuing their struggle and paving the road for future generations. Many of you are already doing so by struggling with others in your workplace, in your campuses, inside the communities and even in your own homes.*

*"The working class thanks you for this. The work you do is ensuring the victory of the working class over capitalism in the future.*

*"I am speaking to you tonight as a soldier doing work critical to our movement. I can tell you first hand, that this place is ripe for the picking.*

*"Although we may be somewhat removed from civilian life, we face the same struggles you face with your bosses. We, like you, struggle from pay check to pay check to maintain afloat, dealing with cruel and harsh conditions we are forced to work under to put food on the table, working entire days with no overtime pay because we are on*

*salary. A salary may sound good until you do the math and find out that some of us are paid at far below minimum wage.*

*"We understand your struggle because we come from working-class families. At some point, we may have studied beside you in the classroom, or even worked next to you in a factory or warehouse. We are your working-class brothers and sisters, and you should know that we have a common enemy.*

*"Since we are away from the party, we don't instantly hear about the feats you're organizing in your jobs and campuses. We don't get instant news about what is going on with our international brothers and sisters. Many of us don't get the opportunity to write to express ourselves through the paper or get to sit down with others to discuss ideas.*

*"Do not fear though, there is a solution to the problem, and it's quite simple. The solution is to*

*struggle with those capable of joining the armed forces. To introduce the ideas of the party into this place, we need more class-conscious brothers and sisters inside the bases doing the work.*

*"The more time we waste overlooking this work, the more*

*we hurt ourselves. We must rid ourselves of the mentality that someone else will take care of it, and we must start asking ourselves, 'What can I contribute?'*

*"Military brothers and sister are in need of your aid. Come to their aid and ensure that one day we step off the shoulders of giants in order to become giants ourselves."*

In the midst of imperialist tensions that can quickly explode into world war, this greeting from our red soldier puts this type of work in the forefront. As capitalists are scrambling to control the Ukraine crisis, officials like Col. Martin Downie, spokesman for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, are stating that the "Texas-based 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division—the unit designated to the NATO Reaction Force—could be deployed to the region to train with allies in the east."

While the bosses talk of "peace" and "training," they are preparing for war. This makes our responsibility of bringing communist ideas to soldiers even greater. Red soldiers, struggling politically with other soldiers, can be a force in turning imperialist war into communist revolution. This soldier is an embodiment of ICWP's commitment to guarantee communist work inside the military. His question, "What can I contribute?" must be answered by more people joining ICWP and joining the bosses' army to destroy their capitalist system and fight for communist revolution.

