



# RED FLAG

**MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM**

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

## **CHARLESTON, SC: RACIST MASSACRE CALLS FOR COMMUNIST RESPONSE, SEE PAGES 2 AND 3**



**LOS ANGELES, CA,  
JUNE 2015**



**NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C.,  
PROTESTING RACIST POLICE MURDER,  
MARCH 2015**

### Bosses Want to Super-Exploit Janitors Equally

## **JANITORS & ALL WORKERS NEED TO END WAGE SLAVERY**

“The march scheduled for June 29 was cancelled,” said a janitor.

“What a shame! It would have been another good opportunity to massively take communist ideas to the janitors,” replied a comrade of ICWP (International Communist Workers’ Party). “Over 1400 janitors marched on June 18 and we distributed almost 500 *Red Flags*.”

“Yes, I saw. The response was very good. I heard several favorable comments,” responded the janitor.

“Many were amazed when we said that the newspaper is written by workers like you and me and not by professional journalists. Why was the march canceled?”

“Because BOMA, the US Building Owners’ and Managers’ Association, canceled their meeting.”

“What did that have to do with the janitors?”

“Our union contract will expire next year. BOMA is not happy with the cleaning companies who hire us. They want to know why they charge different rates per janitor depending on the area we work in. In area 1,

they charge \$85, in area 2, \$70, and in area 3, \$45. BOMA wants to pay the companies \$45 per janitor everywhere.”

“This is the equality that the capitalists brag about.”

“Yes, they want to super-exploit us all equally. Now the companies pay us \$15/hour in area 1, \$13 in area 2, and \$9.75 in area 3. The janitors in area 3 are the most humiliated and exploited. They have no sick days or time off for mourning and very limited health insurance. They have to clean 100,000 square feet per janitor per shift. In area 1, most only clean 50,000 square feet. But in the Wells Fargo building downtown—where there is a union leader—they have to clean 95,000 square feet.”

“And what do you all want?”

“We want them to pay all of us the same, but paying us what they pay to those in area 1, and we want a wage increase and better benefits.”

“Do you think the union will fight for this?”

“Well, I’ve already told you that

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### Boeing Workers Learn:

## **COMMUNIST ANSWER TO RACISM BEATS BACK CYNICISM**

SEATTLE—Cynicism took a hit last week in the plant. The racist murders at Charleston Mother Emanuel Church dominated our discussions in the factory buildings and at our friends’ homes. Once again, communism proved to be the best antidote to pessimism.

“I grew up in Detroit,” began a past union official, reader and distributor of *Red Flag*. “The cops shot my brother at a Black Panther rally and I was arrested at 14. But I think it [racism] is worse now.”

“My wife says I go overboard. I don’t.”

To a woman or man, everyone was disgusted with the evasions. “Crazy my ass,” spat out another machinist. He knew racism was the main culprit.

Racist ideology inevitably leads to racist murder. Just look at the racist cop killings.

“If we change the economic basics that drive racism, we can finally end racism - maybe,” offered another friend and distributor.

“Yeah, communist revolution

could start the process. I know we can’t diminish it with capitalism, no matter how much blood is spilt,” admitted the ex-union official.

“You know,” he added as an afterthought, “a lot of the workers’ enemies will have to be killed.” The shop stewards lurking around beat a hasty retreat when they heard this.

The discussion shifted to the topics of violence and forgiveness. These two subjects came up throughout the week.

By this time, most were familiar with the history of Mother Emanuel. “The original parishioners (who died organizing slave rebellions) would be turning over in their graves,” commented a third *Red Flag* distributor. “Forgiveness has its place, but not here!”

“You can never defeat the power structure with peaceful struggle. The new can’t come into being without struggle, violent struggle. And we’ll live to see it!”

“It’s just a fact of life!”

“The present church leaders--and I’m sorry to say--the established

See BOEING, page 4

**Racism and Religion:****WORKERS UNITED BY COMMUNISM WILL END THE HELL OF CAPITALIST WAGE SLAVERY**

Arsonists have torched at least six black churches in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Ohio since Dylann Roof's heinous massacre of nine black worshippers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, SC.

This was the church that Charleston city officials burned in 1822 after discovering plans of the ex-slave Denmark Vesey for a massive rebellion of enslaved persons. Vesey, a founder of Emanuel AME, preached a theology of armed insurrection against slavery. The masters of Charleston had him and 34 other church members hanged.

Racism – and the unscientific idea of human “races” – was invented by capitalists who profited hugely from the atrocity of chattel slavery. Today we continue Vesey's fight by mobilizing

anti-racist struggle. That's why they continue to attract members — and racist attacks.

On the other hand, as historian Stacey Patton put it, black churches promote “the politics of forgiveness.” After every vile racist attack, black people are expected to express forgiveness instead of grief or rage. They are promised a better world “in the next life.” Obama outrageously preached that racist Roof was “being used by God.”

Forgiveness can mean refusing to be reduced to victimhood. It can express moral superiority. But the expectation of forgiveness imposes yet another huge psychological burden on those already most oppressed by racist capitalism.

We do not “forgive” terrorist Dylann Roof. We do not “forgive” slavery or genocide. We do not “forgive” the callous exploitation that most work-

down the social walls that separate us today. It demands that we deal frankly with incorrect assumptions about race and unintended racist slights that arise during the struggle for communism.

To mobilize the masses for communism requires us to confront and defeat the racist ideas that the capitalist rulers intentionally use to divide us.

Ending the wage system will enable us to end residential segregation and many other ways that racism permeates capitalist society. This, however, will require continuing struggle against racist ideas and ways of doing things.

For example, racist capitalism places huge stress on black, immigrant and indigenous workers. This stress intensifies or causes many health problems. Those of us who are super-exploited today will likely need more health care early on in communism. This won't be “preferential treatment.” It will be an application of “to each according to need.”

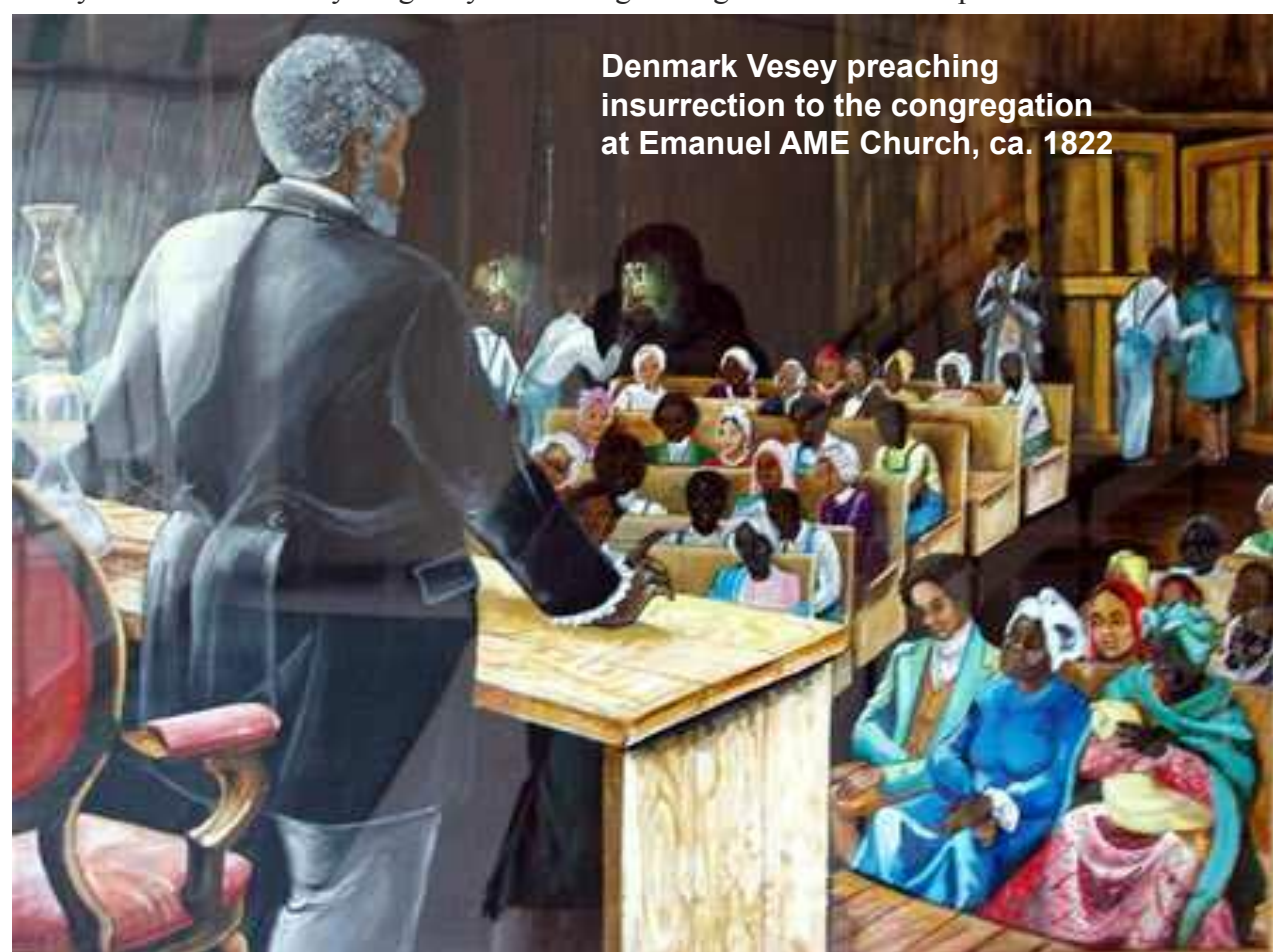
Some sections of the working class have systematically been denied access to training for certain kinds of skilled work. In the interest of thoroughly integrating workplaces, we will make a priority of recruiting them for on-the-job training.

Mobilizing the masses for communism won't end racism overnight. But every small action we take to build the International Communist Workers' Party is a step toward a real solution. Religion is not.

“As a nation, out of this terrible tragedy, God has visited grace upon us, for he has allowed us to see where we've been blind,” Obama declared. “We're all sinners. We don't deserve it.” More than any policy or analysis, he said, we need “an open heart.”

Many of us saw the terrible ravages of racism long ago. Many of us have opened our hearts to all our class brothers and sisters worldwide. We need a communist analysis more than anything. We deserve a communist world.

No individual is perfect, but CLASS SOCIETY is the original sin. Mr. Obama, you and the capitalist rulers are the real sinners! Whether we forgive you or not, we will put an end to your deadly racist system.



**Denmark Vesey preaching insurrection to the congregation at Emanuel AME Church, ca. 1822**

to end today's main form of slavery: capitalist wage slavery.

US President Obama said in his eulogy of Emanuel AME's pastor Rev. Clementa Pinckney that “None of us can or should expect a transformation in race relations overnight.” That's true. Then he said, “If we can find grace, anything is possible.”

Let's get real. Communism, and only communism, can end racism by destroying its material basis: capitalism itself.

Masses of black and non-black workers and youth have marched, rallied, and joined prayer vigils at AME churches nationwide. The sharp contradictions in the black church are being exposed.

On one hand, as Obama said, black churches are among the few institutions where black workers can temporarily escape the racism that permeates most work and other situations. In church they are not disrespected for being and expressing themselves.

And some black churches continue to foster

ers endure if they have a job, nor the grinding poverty they suffer if they don't.

But forgiveness isn't the point. The point is to rip out the roots of the system which continues to insult, to assault, to murder, to exploit black workers and all workers. The point is to build a communist future in which racism is not accepted, not tolerated, and eventually not imaginable.

Communism means building the world we long for in the here and now, not praying to see it after we die. It means thousands, then millions, then billions of us taking collective responsibility for every aspect of society.

Communist production and distribution won't rely on money and markets. Instead, we will organize everything through networks of comradesly social relationships.

Our goal will be to meet everyone's needs: basic material needs and, even more importantly, our need to be connected and respected, loved and fulfilled through meaningful work.

Building these relationships means tearing



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**WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674**  
**E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM**  
**WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362**  
**3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA**

## YOUNG COMMUNIST PROUDLY JOINS RANKS OF INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS

EL SALVADOR — A few weeks ago I finished my studies to become an industrial electronics technician. Practical work is a requirement for graduation. Recently I and four fellow students began working in a company where we will stay for over a month. The company installs equipment in industry for other companies.

It's morning and I am in the public transport. I get off and walk together with dozens of workers, filling the whole sidewalk, to an industrial area, everyone going to work. It's a new and magnificent feeling.

Feeling part of the working class gives me immense pride. We are an enormous mass; we are the ones who move the world. It's pride above all because it is not a passing adventure, it's something for a lifetime. We youth have to understand that we have to join the ranks of the working class and the army to strengthen the base for communist revolution.

There are details that are so simple that, in these few days, they motivate me in an extraordinary way to continue the struggle for communism as a worker. When I am carrying out a task with my co-workers, I am realizing that really we workers are capable of taking the reins in this world. At the same time, I am seeing how a few fill their pockets at the cost of the sweat of the great majority. At lunch time I am simply seeing that hundreds of workers gather in the same lunchroom or common areas to eat.

At one point today I tried to initiate a more political conversation. I began asking, "How many people do you think work in this whole area?" "Where do most of us come from?" but I was interrupted when they gave us another task to do.

Later in the afternoon, they sent us two practitioners with two technicians to install a machine in a factory. It was the first time that I went to an installation. We got to the place, it was a maquila.

From what I could observe, they make sportswear. Later they told me that they make clothes for different labels. It was an enormous factory. I felt that the Party should be there.

Without my expecting it, a co-worker said, "Look, they have it hard," referring to the women working at the sewing machines. And I began to tell him about the conditions in the factories where our comrades work also in maquilas. The technicians told us that the bosses demand immediate solutions regardless of whether the equipment is being used correctly and regardless of the workers' safety.

"Imagine, on a production line, they tell you that you have to repair something; sometimes they demand that you do it faster and not the safer way."

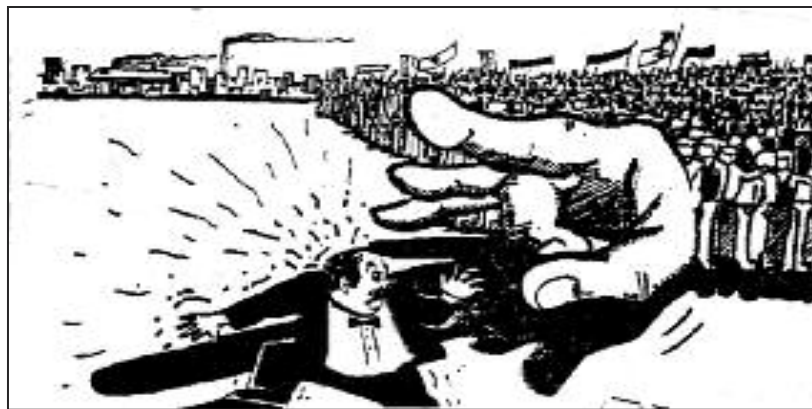
Self critically, I could have made it a deeper

discussion. However I have only been there a few days and I lacked enough confidence. We installed the equipment and took away one machine that was damaged. We could see how hundreds of men and women workers left running from their work modules when the alarm sounded.

I hope soon to deepen certain topics and introduce communist ideas to my co-workers. With care and caution since it is a small company and the relationship with the bosses is too close. I also hope to meet workers in the factories.

We returned and I ended the day's shift. I walked together with my co-worker to the bus stop commenting on what we did, while next to us, dozens of workers returned to their homes. On the same street, at the same bus stop, in the same bus, because we are the same class.

**READ OUR PAMPHLET:  
BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING  
CLASS: BIGGER COMMUNIST  
POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE  
AVAILABLE AT:  
ICWPREDFLAG.ORG/INDUSTRIALE/WORKE.HTML**



### COMRADES WRITE ABOUT CHARLESTON

#### Down with All Racist Flags! Let's Fly the Red Flag of Communism!

Dylann Roof wanted to start a "race war" but the US rulers do not want a race war. They're opportunistically using the horrific Charleston massacre to build a multi-racial patriotic mass movement. They hope to win us to fight for their racist system in imperialist wars, up to and including world war.

So the "stars and bars" battle-flag of slavery is finally coming down. In its place the rulers want us all to salute the "stars and stripes" battle-flag of US imperialism.

Every stripe represents one of the thirteen original colonies. All had legalized slavery. Boston and New York City flourished from the slave trade every bit as much as Virginia and South Carolina.

Every star stands for the expropriation and genocide of indigenous peoples of North America or Hawaii.

From Haiti to the Philippines, from Honduras to Palestine and beyond, the US flag has brought brutal exploitation and misery to the international working class.

The US flag adorns uniforms of racist killer cops. It decorates sheriffs who evict workers from their homes. It flies over prisons where millions are incarcerated, many in long-term solitary confinement. School children must salute it as they start each day of training and indoctrination to become obedient workers and soldiers.

Capitalists of every nation wave their flags to hide the exploitation of the working class and to rally troops for fratricidal wars. Down with all of them! Workers and soldiers worldwide must unite under the one **Red Flag** of revolutionary communism.

--A Comrade

#### ICWP Charleston Leaflet:

##### Communism in Action

The ICWP leaflet on the massacre at the AME Church in Charleston sparked a good debate.

As we were talking about the first attacks on the Church (when Denmark Vesey was organizing his rebellion) we realized that the forces that attacked it didn't 'wave' the Confederate flag but rather the original Betsy Ross, Stars and Stripes flag.

Treated with reverence in the bosses' media and textbooks, that flag presented the most vicious racism the world had ever seen—village burning, land grabs and slavery. To the indigenous people it must have looked like the Al Qaeda flag does to us today. It was backed by a constitution Vesey and his comrades despised. The Constitution of Haiti—which banned slavery—was far more progressive. So important is the myth about the 'heroic' birth of capitalism in the US that to this day our High School students are not made aware of the comparison.

The fact is that since the foundation of capitalist nations, all national flags have been soaked with workers' blood. The only flag worth waving is the red flag of workers' communist internationalism.

Then the conversation turned to the pa-

rishioners "forgiving" the racist murderer. "I can't believe that," a retired teacher who was raised under Jim Crow laws in the South said. "There's no way I would forgive anyone who killed us while spewing forth those lies...especially within a day or two of the massacre!"

We then thought about the changes that had come about in the way we understood Christianity because those original AME parishioners weren't about to forgive the slaveholders, they were going to slit their throats! The Spanish conquistadores didn't forgive the indigenous people who refused to become Christians; they killed them, with Papal blessings. It seems the doctrine of forgiving is brought to the forefront when it suits the powers that be.

Like so many things **Red Flag** does, this leaflet was communism-in-action, communism today! Produced voluntarily, immediately and without charge, it provided us the platform to spark debates that undercut the ability of the system to spin mass reaction to events in ways that strengthen capitalism. As the leaflet said, how strong this communism-in-action is depends on you, the reader, joining us.

--Comrades in California

## MASSES NEED COMMUNIST MOBILIZATION, NOT PRAYERS TO ST. OSCAR ROMERO

EL SALVADOR—Death squads murdered Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero in 1980, by the groups in power in this country. Today Monsignor Romero was beatified, a step toward sainthood. Present were members of Opus Dei. This rightwing and reactionary tendency in the Catholic Church openly supported the military that killed the archbishop of San Salvador.

The capitalist government of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN) used this event as a form of massively pacifying the workers' struggle. It's trying to get them to stop protesting in the streets against the murders caused by organized crime and the terrible economic conditions in which they are forced to live.

The martyred archbishop was forced to join the side of the poor. It wasn't through political conviction. It was because the repression of the Salvadoran state's security forces had reached the Catholic Church, where hundreds of priests put aside Vatican guidelines and joined the struggle for socialist revolution.

The church as an institution never agreed with the revolutionary armed struggle. Those priests who joined the armed struggle lived in the rural areas in contact with the farmworkers.

They were part of the Jesuit tendency that tried to give the impression that the church and religion are like a neutral point that would allow dialogue, rejecting both capitalism and Marxism. This is anti-dialectical and the history of workers' struggles throughout the centuries has disproved

it.

This beatification and the "conciliatory" government propaganda about "dialogue" from the government of Salvador Sanchez Ceren are meant to make us believe that with positive thoughts, joy and hope we can look forward to one day when the society will become better.

However this is in order to keep their businesses now that they are also businessmen. They live off the wage exploitation of the men and women workers of the Alianza Bolivariana companies and others.

Inter-imperialist rivalry is hidden behind the beatification. Due to the closeness of the current liberal Pope Francis with the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) they are preparing a moral blow to the United States, direct collaborator with the military dictatorships in El Salvador. They are implying that they are the bad imperialists and that the European imperialists are the good ones.

This is happening while Pope Francis covers up the actions of his right wing predecessors like John Paul II. He sympathized with the Polish union movement Solidarity whose goal was the return of bourgeois democracy to Poland. Pope Francis supports John Paul I with silence about the violence in El Salvador during the 1970's.

At the same time that Romero's murder was engendered in the historical memory of the working class, the church is pardoning his killers. The electoral left is pardoning and dialoguing with the

### Romero: Religion and Reaction

*"The church cannot be Marxist. ... The best way to defeat Marxism is to take seriously the preferential option for the poor."* — Archbishop Oscar Romero, Pastoral Letters (published in 2000)

*"In this stormy world overrun by insecurity and doubt, the superb doctrinal fidelity that characterizes Opus Dei is a sign of special grace from God."* — Archbishop Oscar Romero, letter to the Pope, 12 July 1975

Romero attended an Opus Dei gathering of priests on the day he was killed.

traditional right wing.

The masses don't need peace marches or beatifications to solve their economic and social problems. These problems result from the economic, political and thus social organization of capitalist society.

The masses need a Communist Revolution and an International Communist Workers' Party following a dialectical process in the struggle for Communist Revolution.

We are continuing the organization of the masses of workers in El Salvador mainly in the areas of textile factories where the psychological repression and mistreatment by the bosses and supervisors are constant. The ICWP accompany the struggles and protests of the workers throughout the country.

### JANITORS from page 1

the union is in favor of the companies. But the union is us, the members. If we don't do anything, the companies will get away with whatever they want."

"We communists always emphasize that the trade-union struggle won't get us anywhere. It is a constant struggle and the bosses always end up winning because we're still being exploited. Only communist revolution can end wage slavery.

Then we won't be anyone's servants. Almost everybody has two hands. We can clean up our own messes."

"I agree. Sometimes we make mistakes along the way, but sometimes the way teaches us how to correct ourselves."

"Yes, practice is a good teacher. The janitors can play an important role in organizing communist revolution. The internal distribution of *Red Flag* at work is crucial."

"I understand. I distribute seven where I work.

Juan distributes ten. Juan needs to meet with us. He can help a lot to recruit more people."

"Good. Let's continue to struggle with him to join us more seriously. We made more contacts in the march and we'll follow up with them."

"They can also go to the Staples Center to distribute *Red Flag*. About 100 janitors work there. That place is one of the most exploitive. The best time is between 10 and 11 pm."

"Thank you. We will make plans to go there and to the next march with the new *Red Flag*."

### BOEING from page 1

black leaders are not living up to the example set by Vesey. Obama too!

"Of course, I'm pissed at the racist who shot those people. I'm also pissed at the so-called leaders."

This worker follows the news closely. He remarked on a crowd outside the church who shouted at a CNN reporter, "Why don't you interview those that are angry?"

"I keep hearing the argument that violence won't produce anything."

"Oh, it can produce something: a communist revolution!" interjected a comrade. "Capitalism reinvents racism in more virulent forms to justify super-exploitation and division in the working class. When communism ends wages and profits, we can carry on the multi-racial anti-racist struggle to final victory."

"Speaking of divisions, the British and other imperialists divided up blacks in Africa to rule," added a worker and her husband as we enjoyed a delicious lunch the next day. "They told the light-skinned they were better than the darker-skinned. Then they told the darker-skinned the light-skinned think you are garbage. The fight against racism is international."

After these debates, our friends took drafts of the lead article for the Party's forthcoming pamphlet "Only Communism Will End Racism." Many promised to help us improve it. Some started writing comments right then and there. Three have already written at least a paragraph with their suggestions.

"Hi, just read the pamphlet," wrote one reader. "Overall excellent, especially the section on how things will be under communism. I do feel however maybe the explanation of how racism destroys all workers could be more detailed ... how

white workers' lives are destroyed by capitalism ... and more about class."

She ended her comments with particular edits for other sections.

These are only a small sample of workers' ideas. The wisdom of the masses inspired by communism gives us hope and confidence.

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## FOR A MASS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MAY DAY MARCH 2016

“What will we do with people with a Nazi mindset who kill other people because of their skin color?” asked a comrade at our first ICWP Summer Project forum as we discussed the Charleston massacre. What would we do if people like that existed in our communist world? Do we isolate them? Give them consequences? Or execute them?

The bigger question is why does this mindset even exist? Why would a human being want to kill off other human beings due to the color of their skin? It exists because of capitalism.

In a communist world we won't be divided between “minorities” and “majority.” There won't be exploiters nor exploited. There won't be groups with special privileges but rather one human race and one world where we'll all treat each other with respect, love and human dignity.

We also discussed plans for the year ahead and how we plan to prepare well in advance for a mass Communist May Day March. This followed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the history of May Day. It discussed how we can make the march revolutionary and not reformist, for example by focusing on abolishing the wage system and private property.

“To assure a mass May Day march,” a comrade said, “we have to begin putting up stickers as soon as possible, raise awareness for the march in every issue of *Red Flag* and leaflets and start visits early.”

Another young comrade added, “Every party club needs to make plans and goals and they should be followed up in every meeting. Invite a larger number of friends, family, and co-workers.”

We ask all *Red Flag* readers to join this collective effort, to form groups and become organizers for May Day 2016. In the upcoming months the International Communist Workers' Party will organize rallies and demonstrations to build for the upcoming march.

We also practiced how to distribute *Red Flag* to people who haven't seen it before. Sometimes people don't want to take *Red Flag* because they don't know what it's about and/or have the misconception that communism is bad.

“In the books it says communism is bad.” Who writes the books? Not the working class. The capitalists pay to put what they want in the books. They will say communism is bad but leave out plenty like the brutal nature of their exploitive capitalist system.

Their books will never explain the laws of capitalist development and how these laws lead to mass human destruction and world war. The capitalists discuss “communist” attempts that led to



“awful things,” but were these attempts actually communist? No!

Another comrade showed how, when people asked why he was a communist, he'd respond by asking, “Why aren't you?” More comrades plan to do the same.

People may answer, “I don't want to live like they do in Cuba or China.” But we have to explain that neither Cuba nor China is practicing communism. Both have inequality and exploitation, wages and private property.

These conversations are continuing in Summer Project study groups, with younger comrades taking more leadership. Concrete plans will be made for how the high school students in the Summer Project will bring a large contingent to march for a Communist International May Day 2016.

## COMMUNISM WILL HAVE REAL WORK FOR EVERYONE AND PLENTY OF HANDS TO DO IT

How will communism succeed if too many people decide they don't feel like working?

Meaningful work is a human need. We like to feel appreciated and esteemed, not useless or a burden on others. Most people will be happy to make full use of their abilities and talents and to develop new ones.

A huge portion of the world's population is now unemployed or doing things that will be unnecessary in communist society. This vast labor pool will be freed up to help meet everyone's needs.

Here are some official numbers for Los Angeles County (California, USA) from December 2014. Almost 5 million people were officially in the work force. That included many useless jobs:

Sales, marketing, advertising, and related occupations: 562,000 (11% of total). In communism, we won't buy or sell anything. We will produce for use, not for the market.

Managers, politicians, executives, administrators: 426,000 (9% of total). In communism, the masses will collectively plan, manage, execute, and administer our own work.

Business and financial professionals (such as accountants): 194,000 (4% of total). In communism there will be no money because we will share everything.

Cops, courts, lawyers, prison guards: 150,000 (3% of total). These are worse than useless. In communism, there will be no private property or

laws to protect it. There will be much less anti-social behavior. When a problem arises the organized masses will handle it collectively.

These categories alone include 27% of all jobs in Los Angeles County! And there are many more useless jobs. For example, computer programming, data entry, and secretarial work are not necessarily useless. However, most such jobs today only help bosses make money. So do many jobs in arts, sports, and entertainment, and education. Many industrial workers are intensely exploited making unnecessary junk.

In December 2014 about 7.8% of Los Angeles workers were officially unemployed. The real figure was probably double that. So we can safely estimate that capitalism wastes over half our available labor!

That doesn't even include 30,000 Los Angeles residents in county or state prisons, nor retirees and children who could do useful and appropriate work.

When the masses are mobilized for communism, there will clearly be plenty of hands to do the work.

In communism we'll all be “comrades,” not a “machinist,” “nurse,” “bus driver,” “teacher” or “farmer.”

We'll all do many kinds of work. Someone might build airplanes in the morning and work in a clinic in the afternoon. That comrade would be teaching less-experienced comrades, learning

new skills, and participating in decision-making and political education. The comrade might drive a busload of children to do farm work over the weekend.

Airplane-building would not be divided among “aerospace engineers,” “machinists,” and “aircraft technicians.” Clinic workers wouldn't be “physicians,” “nurses” and “assistants.” Instead, teams of workers would collaborate so that everyone could learn all aspects of the process and help to improve it.

We prepare today for the communist working world by volunteering to do or learn many different tasks involved in communist mobilization:

Distributing, writing for, and producing *Red Flag*.

Participating in meetings where we use criticism and self-criticism to improve the Party's work and political line.

Fighting for communist ideas in the workplace, classroom and amidst the class struggle.

Organizing communist meetings and other activities with co-workers, classmates, neighbors, relatives and friends.

Spending time with them, listening to them and recruiting them to the Party.

This is how we begin to unleash the tremendous creative potential of the masses to fight for and build communist society!

### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### Communists Come in Many Shapes and Sizes

I think that *Red Flag* made a mistake in the article on FIFA in v. 6 #9. One sentence says that football (soccer) “invites people of all body sizes to play and excel.” Now it's true that many people enjoy football. Players can be short or tall. Even professional players can be heavier or lighter than average. However, even the “fattest foot-

ball players of all time” have not been morbidly obese. Many workers are too frail or too overweight to excel in the game. Further, the sentence seems to imply (though it doesn't actually say) that it's a game for everyone. That's not true for many with mobility issues who, for example, use walkers or canes or wheelchairs to get around.

Too often people with physical challenges like

these are treated as though they are invisible. Our promise as communists is to value everyone's contribution. We must make it clear that this specifically includes those with different abilities. That must start now, including guaranteeing accessibility to events we organize and avoiding language that seems to marginalize anyone.

--Reader

## LETTERS FROM COMRADES IN SOUTH AFRICA



**March 19 – Tens of thousands of people joined rallies and marches in big cities and small towns across Australia, like the one above in Perth, for “Close the Gap” day. They focused attention on the racism that creates lower life expectancy, fewer jobs, and employment possibilities, and worse schools for Aboriginal people. The day of action targeted a plan to evict residents from 150 or more Indigenous communities. We hope that Red Flag readers with friends in Australia will get this issue of the paper to them!**

### Communist Revolution Will Smash Racism against Aboriginal People

In Australia, until the 1960s, Aborigines came under the ‘Flora & Fauna Act’, which classified them as animals, not human beings. A horrific picture of a group of Aborigines chained and kept like animals shows how dehumanizing racism is.

In response to this picture that was circulated on the Internet, a comrade in South Africa wrote these comments:

*Who owns banks, private properties, profitable organisations, multinational companies?*

*Who makes laws? Who commands soldiers? Who came up with a police state system, etc.???*

*Who endorses wage slavery, racism, tribalism, xenophobia etc.?*

**ANSWER: CAPITALISM – way to make profit out of divisions.**

*What is the solution? My answer is COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WORLD WIDE.*

*I repeat: COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WORLD WIDE!*

*That’s what made me join International Communist Workers’ Party. I read Red Flag every day and mobilise the working class to join our communist classes to empower the great knowledge of true communism, not revisionism.*

**RED SALUTE, COMRADES! ALUTA CONTINUA!**

### South Africa:

#### Soldiers Reading Red Flag

One of our comrades was relating a story to me about how he came about distributing the *Red Flag* to the soldiers, only to learn that these soldiers were already in possession of the RF. What I suspect must be happening is that we have a soldier who is receiving the RF. He must surely be the one who is distributing them amongst the soldiers. These enthusiastic soldiers, who were eager to meet with us, unfortunately had to go away for three months’ training.

Again there is a comrade I recruited sometime last year. I recently bumped into him. He urgently wants us to meet; he has been interested into our party. Soon we will be meeting with this comrade and others.

It was very comforting to receive greetings from comrades as far away as Spain. It has

also emboldened us to continue with our resolve to build the party on our shores. I also want to reassure our comrades in Spain that our thoughts are with them as well. Viva ICWP Viva!!!

### Need to Expand Strategies of Mobilising Masses for Communism

Good day to all the ICWP Comrades and *Red Flag* readers from all over the world from El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras to Spain.

It’s been so long since I have written an article in the *Red Flag* and participated in the struggle to mobilise the Masses for communism due to some personal reasons and internal contradictions about which I am fully aware and know result from this capitalist system.

Me personally I felt like we as some members of ICWP are not working essentially, dedicated and committed enough to mobilise for communism and we lack the right way, the correct tools to utilize when holding meetings.

Capitalism is a brutal system and I feel like we are babysitting it and treating it softly on our side and we are moving very slowly or we are not fully committed. Due to these reasons I took a step back and told myself I will be active again when I see commitment amongst all of us comrades.

Also the other problem we had is that we have mobilized a lot of comrades but it’s impossible to gather them because we are in different areas far from each other. We need to mobilize masses with a driven force because capitalism is driven by force as well.

I told my fellow comrade I will attend meetings again when we do things the proper way. My fault was not to overcome these contradictions but to avoid them, which was not how dialectical materialism taught me, but

due to furious anger I had toward these problems I have mentioned I just avoided the whole thing, which was wrong.

So to all the comrades of ICWP, if we want to destroy capitalism, let’s be dialectical in all our approaches when fighting capitalism.

The working class is fed up, society, and the community are fed up with how things are. They also see how brutal capitalism is and honestly speaking the working class doesn’t even know the word capitalism, what it means and what this brutal system is called. But they know we are being exploited and treated brutally and inhumanly. People are suffering, poverty is at its peak, unemployment rate is very high, retrenchment rate is very high, and employment agencies have taken over our labour all over the world.

We need to be more committed to mobilise for communism, we need to expand our strategies of mobilising masses for communism urgently.

### Exciting Developments in South Africa

Greetings, comrades.

When I got to B’s place, I got to meet his wife for the first time. I introduced myself and our party ICWP and our intention to use their home as a venue for our conference in November. She welcomed the idea enthusiastically.

I was taken aback when she told me that she has been distributing the *Red Flag* to her workplace already. So I was the only one who was a stranger, not the *Red Flag*. Their small boys are doing their bit by distributing the *Red Flag* to the neighbourhood, I couldn’t believe this, and the small boy told me the story by himself.

Teachers at the nearby school are *Red Flag* readers, all because of the efforts of this wonderful family. The good stories shared by this family were really uplifting, I went home feeling upbeat.

I also would like to share some interesting developments around our contacts with soldiers. I couldn’t hide my excitement. Soldiers at a nearby command are reading the *Red Flag*. We have plans to meet with them.

We will also be starting with our classes on dialectical materialism with those comrades we recruited at an Economic Freedom Fighters rally on May Day. These were the comrades who sang the Internationale in Xhosa.



**Building ICWP in South Africa**

## LETTERS

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**Let's Unite to Abolish Wage Slavery!**

Under capitalism, there is no "fair wage." There cannot be "good" working conditions, no "adequate" medical care, no "decent" housing or education, much less respect and consideration for the men and women workers!

Capitalist wage slavery dehumanizes us. It pits us against each other in competition. Our historic task is not to demand useless reforms. It's not to make exploitation more palatable. It is to abolish wage slavery!

For example, the majority of farmworkers in the San Quintín Valley in Baja California, Mexico or in the San Joaquin Valley in California, USA, are indigenous Zapotecos, Mixtecos, Triques, Popolucas, Seris or Yaquis, etc, from Oaxaca, Guerrero, and from Sinaloa, Mexico.

We are super-exploited, and racially discriminated against, but we have the great potential to provide crucial leadership to mobilize the masses for communism. Because only communist revolution will put an end to this racist wage slavery.

In a communist society, we will integrate the city and the fields, because we will produce food as well as industrial products. We will work in the areas of health care, construction, etc. We will plant and harvest the healthiest products in a healthy environment.

We will use machines whenever possible, but to make the work easier, not to "fire people," but to give us time to study or travel or play or participate in an endless number of many, many new social activities.

Starting right now, we need communist solidarity not only inside our organization ICWP, but with those workers who have mobilized

their strike and with the teachers of section XXII of the teachers' union of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero and Michoacán, etc. With their massive public marches and their work stoppages they are exposing the racist capitalist system both in Mexico as well as the US, exposing their corruption and exploitation as the root of all our woes, sufferings and deprivations!

Together and coordinated, we must mobilize ourselves for a new world where we produce only to meet the needs of our international worker social class, not for the profits of a minority of racist capitalist murderous bosses! United and organized we will bring down this wage slavery! Let's unite! Let's unite!

--Comrade in the East of the US

**The Masses Are Not Clueless**

While I admire "Red Soldier's" work in the armed forces I think his/her front page **Red Flag** article went seriously astray. The article calls the masses "clueless." Worse, it calls his fellow soldiers "clueless" and the masses "even more clueless."

To borrow a phrase, I think "the masses are clueless" is not a communist principle.

Why, according to the article, are the masses clueless? Because they don't believe a US/China war is imminent.

If that's clueless, then count me in, because I don't believe it either. The main reason is that I don't yet see the kind of frantic war preparations that led up to WWII.

Adam Tooze in his book *The Wages of Destruction* described how in 1933 Germany gave up trying to compete economically with its rivals. Instead, they started spending every spare pfennig on armaments and training. Neither the US nor China is doing anything like this.

The real problem with the article, however, is that it doesn't talk about communism, or the party, or winning soldiers to communism, or recruiting them to the party. This is the whole reason that communists join the armed forces! Not to shake the masses out of their supposed cluelessness.

If you think about why workers join the army you find plenty of grounds for winning them to communism and the ICWP. For a start, many join because of (racist) unemployment. Under communism, everyone works, in the (red) army or out. And everyone will be given the opportunity to learn advanced skills.

Many join for the benefits (like healthcare) for them and their families. Under communism, everybody's needs – healthcare, but also food and housing – will be taken care of free of charge (there will be no money).

Many join under the mistaken impression that the forces are free of racism. However it is no mistake to expect that communist revolution will deal a fatal blow to racism. And under communism, we will eventually exterminate racism for good.

Finally, it's true that some join because they're willing to fight to make the world better. Great – there's no better way to fight than in the Red

Army that the ICWP will eventually build.

The real struggle is to convince soldiers that communism is achievable. After all, it sounds too good to be true!

It can be done, but there is no shortcut. Trying to shake them up with horror stories of coming massive destruction, real or imagined, will not work.

--A Comrade

**Red Flag comments:** We agree that the word "clueless" was a mistake. Instead, the English should have used the same phrase as in Spanish: "the masses don't realize..."

However, the young soldier who wrote the original article nowhere used the word "imminent" to describe world war. It actually said that "there is no way of knowing for sure when World War III is going to happen."

We should struggle with our comrades to sharpen their understanding, seeing it as a dialectical process of constant change and appreciate their commitment for the fight for communism.

**How Communism Influenced Me**

I was introduced to **Red Flag** three years ago. The first time I worked with the Party I didn't know much about communism. In fact, I thought it was bad.

But when I started to understand what communism was I began to wonder, "Maybe this is good for me because communism doesn't look down on the working class like the capitalists do."

Capitalism wants us to be slaves to the bosses so they can increase their profits and get more power and control worldwide.

Capitalism robs workers. The capitalists pay minimum wages to workers like me. And we have to work extra-long hours. Actually, we are the ones that produce everything and we should get all the value of what we collectively make.

Capitalism also uses media to deceive us into believing that our economy is doing very well. The bosses are doing well because we workers are doing badly. It makes me want to fight capitalism harder.

For that reason I have joined the Party. With our paper **Red Flag** we are going to fight for

**Flag** worldwide. There are already regular readers in many countries, among them Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Egypt, Qatar, Pakistan, and Norway.

They should all join ICWP and help mobilize the masses for communism. This will shorten the days of capitalism-imperialism and the birth of the communist world that our class needs and deserves.

every worker's benefit, all around the world. We won't overproduce like the capitalists must, leading to depressions and war. Under communism we'll organize together to produce according to the need of people. We are going to prepare our children by giving them the best education, an education dedicated to the wellness of all people.

--Seattle construction worker in the ICWP

**"We become ourselves through others" versus "Think for yourself. Act for others"**

"Take care of yourself... Look after yourself... Think for yourself."

Phrases like that don't crop up in a language by accident. One way or another they reflect dominant social or political struggles of the times. These particular expressions usually reinforce one of the main planks of capitalist culture: individualism.

The communist movement is full of counter expressions. Vygotsky's insight that "We become ourselves through others" suggests how liberating a communist society could be.

Imagine a world where each of us was conscious of the value of others in our own make-up. Of course, communists set out to act like that now but the dominant capitalist culture keeps running interference on us. It will be the mark of success for our revolution when such a collective understanding becomes a mass phenomenon.

If the intent of the "Think for yourself, Act for others" was to encourage fuller participation in collective discussions, that's good. However, the wording encourages us to think one thing but do another. That's no different than the way capitalism operates. Perhaps if we tweak the wording we can get a slogan closer to the intent of the argument. How about "Think and act with others?"

This short exchange is useful because the revolution we are working for will not just sweep away the old world of political and economic relations but the very culture of capitalism too. Even our everyday language will change, both making and reflecting a shift in our emotional makeup.

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win.

--Comrade in Bay Area (US)

**GREECE from page 8**

**and how to achieve it.** Capitalism in crisis creates many opportunities for our class to seize power. However, this will not be automatic. Our work in the factories and barracks is crucial to build a mass ICWP and a mass red army to lead the armed struggles for communist workers' power.

Our strategy at present is to dramatically increase the readership and distribution of **Red**



# COLLECTIVE WORK TO MOLD NEW HUMANS

## (PART II)

The Gorky educational colony organized to carry out collective work. Teachers worked alongside students and staff. Permanent detachments centered on areas of work. Each detachment had a commander who attended council meetings.

Mixed detachments took care of temporary tasks. The council appointed new temporary commanders for each. They also attended council meetings. In this way, more became committed to the collective.

Everyone did not respond as the council hoped. The colony had a plan for that, too. The commanders' council demanded that offending colonists explain themselves before an open meeting.

For example, the colony gave allowances to students they sent to Rabfak (roughly high school). Colonist Uzhikov stole the stipends.

He was summoned to the council meeting. They decided to shun him. He was expelled from his detachment and not allowed to join any mixed detachment. His commander assigned him individual tasks. He could not talk to any other colonists.

The representatives from the Regional Education Department were aghast. "Of course, you are not going to confirm this resolution!" demanded the officials of the director.

"It must be confirmed," answered the colony's director Makarenko.

Two weeks later the officials returned. The colonists ate dinner with their detachments; Uzhikov had to sit by himself. An official went over to ask how he felt.

Uzhikov stood up. He replied that he couldn't talk to him without his commander's permission.

The council met. They immediately ended the punishment. The threat to the collective the thievery presented ended and a new comrade gained.

### The Joy of Collective Struggle

Uzhikov was not the only hard case. The Gorky colonists--teachers, hired workers and students -- learned the joy of collective struggle. The key to producing communists is "to visualize a better tomorrow, to aspire to it in joyful, common efforts with steadfast visions."

"Perhaps," mused Makarenko, "that is the main distinction between our education and the bourgeois one."

Building our party is a lot like that now. If you expect to find fully minted communists on the streets, you will be disappointed. You will become cynical. You'll develop pessimistic theories that say significant growth is impossible.

Recruitment and consolidation involve fighting for the collective. We must organize common efforts with a steadfast communist vision among new members and friends.

Makarenko was clear. He wanted to discover "methods of communist education." His "epic of education" was a great contribution, but was written in a socialist society. In the end, his educational methods were discarded for traditional capitalist ones.

Looking back, we can see the tell-tale signs. Makarenko repeated the usual socialist nonsense to justify wages. "Wages help the novice to learn to coordinate personal and social interests."

Wages segregate the working class. They lead to other forms of separa-

tion. More than once, the Gorkyists attacked (sometimes with fists) racism, anti-Semitism, and sexism. Nonetheless, certain conventions of the times were tolerated. Girls were still channeled into "women's work" like sewing. The collective never stopped the boys' racist caricatures of black people.

Educational successes like the Gorky colony are impossible under capitalism. They can only succeed over the long term under communism. In turn, they create the able, dedicated cadre necessary for a successful communist society.

The Gorkyists forged the first large-scale experiment in communist education. Their weapons were collective struggle and labor, not money and big budgets. Whatever the colonists' weaknesses, even the most callous among us must cry out, "Look! Look what we can do!"

All quotations from *The Road to Life: An Epic of Education* by Anton Semyonovich Makarenko



Meeting at the Gorky Colony, 1920s

## Economic Crisis and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in Greece

# OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD VISION OF COMMUNIST SOCIETY



July 2—The Greek rulers have closed the banks for a week. While the working class suffers without food, fuel, medicines and essential necessities, the capitalists are engaged in a series of secret talks. These will inevitably result in more brutal attacks on the working class, not only in Greece but all of Europe. Regardless of the outcome of the July 5th referendum, the international working class must advance the struggle for communist revolution.

**The working class does not need banks and money to survive.** We need communist society organized to meet our needs, not a society based on profit for bankers and other capitalists. Only communist society can guarantee everyone healthy food, decent housing, meaningful work and a society without racism, sexism and wars for profit.

In capitalist society money is essential to buy

things for survival. Workers earn money when they are employed by a capitalist boss. However, workers are only paid for part of their work. The unpaid portion of workers' labor becomes profit for the capitalists. The profit motive forces the bosses to compete with each other and at the same time attack the working class to extract more profit. This competition fuels the inter-imperialist rivalry.

**Greece is in the midst of intense inter-imperialist rivalry.** The European capitalists, led by Germany, see that their survival depends on cooperation with China and Russia. However this comes in direct conflict with the interests of US capitalists who see China as a major economic competitor and Russia as a major military threat. The U.S. bosses fought in two world wars to prevent other powers from controlling Europe. They still keep troops in Germany, Britain and other European countries.

The Russian bosses see an opportunity to tighten their grip over Europe by making Greece a hub of oil and gas distribution to Europe. This plan was made more feasible at a recent economic summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. There, capitalists from Europe, China, the Middle East and Russia pledged to invest \$1 trillion in Russia, mostly in oil and gas related projects.

Not only were the US bosses absent, but their competitors made extensive progress in preparing to conduct much of this trade in non-dollar currencies. Russia even invited Greece to join the BRICS. This would make it easy for them to get credit from a bank financed by BRICS countries.

**The battle for Greece is a battle for the future of Europe.** The US bosses are desperate to prevent the Russia/China alliance from dominating Europe. They financed and created military conflict in the Ukraine to isolate Russia. The result has been the opposite. The sanctions against Russia have forged a strong Russia-China alliance, divided Europe and isolated the US, not only in Europe but in the Middle East as well.

The economic options for the US ruling class to keep Europe, especially Germany in its orbit are diminishing rapidly. Military and economic alliances of Russia and China are building land and maritime silk roads, rails and sea lanes to encircle Europe. This crisis will eventually but inevitably lead to nuclear world war.

History has shown that things can change rapidly and dramatically. Before WWII, the US had a paltry air force consisting of 200 airplanes and 10,000 airmen. At the peak of war in 1943, there were over 80,000 airplanes, mostly built by Boeing, and an air force of 2.4 million.

**The crisis in Greece is giving us an opportunity to reach out to the international working class with our vision of communist society**

**See GREECE page 7**