

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS, LET'S FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 30--"The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill (CFR) will not benefit undocumented workers. I didn't participate in the demonstration to support it. I went looking for people like you with a socialist or communist vision," explained an immigrant worker.

We met this worker in a demonstration in which over 5,000 people participated on Sunday, Sept. 23 in downtown Los Angeles. Members and friends of the International Communist Workers' Party also came to bring the masses our analysis of Comprehensive Immigration Reform and our vision of a communist world.

Many responded enthusiastically, chanting our class-conscious slogans like, "The Working Class Has No Borders!" "What do we want? A world without borders!" and "This is the fist of the hour: Workers to Power!"

We distributed over 700 copies of our communist newspaper *Red Flag* and met several workers who wanted to know more about our communist ideas.

Fight for reforms or for revolution?

"We also don't support Immigration Reform. We participate in these demonstrations to spread our communist message and look for people like you who long for a radical change," we told him.

"Yes," he emphasized, "reforms cannot end capitalism. Immigration reform is a farce."

"It is more than a farce. It means 10 years of slavery for these workers..." we started to explain.

"No, not 10, it's 13 years," he interrupted.

"Yes, 13 years of slavery," we said, accepting the correction. "If one is unemployed for more than 60 days, one can be deported. The bosses will use this to impose lower wages and slave-like working conditions. Short term, this super-exploitation will make the products of the US capitalists-imperialists more competitive in the market. This will produce enormous profits for them.

"But, in the long run, it is to enslave them in the bosses' war industries to produce weapons on the cheap when the US confronts China and Russia in WWII for control of the world.

"That is also the purpose of the DREAM Act.



IMMIGRATION REFORM = PROLONGED SLAVERY



It pretends to help undocumented youth go to college by giving two options to become residents: two years of university studies or four years of military service—or be deported. The majority of these two million youth will end up in the army. That is why the Pentagon supports this law," we explained to him.

"I agree with you. There is no good reform. We must destroy capitalism. I support the long term struggle for socialism and communism," he answered us.

"Industrial workers and soldiers are crucial for revolution. We send our young comrades to the factories and the military to organize for communist revolution. Both experiences have shown us that the masses can be won to fight directly for communism," we stated.

Fight for Socialism or for Communism?

This discussion took most of our meeting. We explained that socialism is state capitalism. It kept wages, money, and production for sale. Our friend agreed that money corrupts and that the communists who ran socialism ended up becoming capitalists.

He took our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and several copies of *Red Flag*. He told us he would share our ideas with his friends and family, here and in Mexico. We agreed to meet in two weeks.

CAPITALIST ELECTIONS? NO! COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

EL SALVADOR--What is ALBA Oil? A few days ago, it would still have been an act of treason against the FMLN electoral party to have said that it was a capitalist business with a clear mercantilist vision, willing to make a deal with anyone. But in this pre-election period it has been the same owners of this capital who have opened an enormous campaign saying what the communists organized in the International Communist Workers' Party have been saying for years.

"We are a company that believes in the free market." "We are the defenders of individual freedom." "We do business with large producers," etc. These kinds of statements would have put before the firing squad more than one fighter for the now extinct Faribundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN). Now old figures from the disappeared Salvadoran Communist Party are the owners of these kinds of businesses.

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FROM MEXICO TO THE WORLD: FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST PACT WITH THE WORKING CLASS!

More than 40,000 teachers from the National Coordinating Council of Education Workers (CNTE) camped, for the month of September, in the Zócalo (Main Square) of Mexico City, protesting against Education Reform. Thousands of workers across the country brought them food, clothes, money, medicine, water and literally opened the doors of their homes to thousands of them.

Together with thousands of students and other workers, teachers organized marches, protests, and leafleting. There were many clashes with more than 10,000 police who the government mobilized to crush the protest.

In other states, the teachers, supported by tens of thousands of workers and students, organized to close roads and government offices. They carried out marches and occupations, including against the US and French embassies. At the end of September, over 120,000 people marched in Chiapas.

The teachers are the spearhead of millions of workers, students, and farmworkers, who are protesting across the country against the conditions imposed by capitalism/imperialism through the “Pact for Mexico.”

All this effort, heroism and sacrifice must be channeled into seeking the elimination of wage labor, and the building of a communist world in which the principle is to produce to meet the needs of the international working class.

PACT for MEXICO: Workers’ Poverty and Imperialist War

Pact for Mexico is the US and Mexican bosses’ strategy to reform education, tax law, and energy law. All of these reforms are a deeper attack on the Mexican working class.

Education Reform was passed with the approval of the PRI-PAN and PRD. This law means a more direct control by the federal government over teaching that goes along with the interests of the US imperialists in their “Pivot to Asia.”

LET’S CONVERT THE FRUSTRATION OF MANY INTO A TRUE HOPE FOR ALL

MEXICO, OCT. 1 —“If you really want to change the situation, instead of talking about how schools arose in class societies, and about education in capitalism, we should cooperate to help the people who beg or who have nothing to eat. They really have it bad. The teachers of CNTE (National Coordinating Council of Education Workers) have many privileges, bonuses, paid vacations, health insurance. Why are they complaining?” commented a friend of ICWP in an extended Party meeting.

A *Red Flag* reader replied, “It’s very important to know the causes of the problem in education and to know where we are going is even more important. In capitalism, the whole working class is screwed. It’s not about seeing who is in the most extreme poverty and swimming in misery to help the most destitute. It’s about understanding the essence of the problem and organizing to ensure that all workers have what we need.”

“The wage system creates divisions among

They want trained and patriotic youth to be workers in industrial war production and soldiers in World War III.

Organize Communist Revolution to End Wage Labor

This is a mass, militant movement, with insurrectionary characteristics. But its leaders fight to reform capitalism, seeking to negotiate with the government to keep what exists. Even if the CNTE managed to stop the Education Reform, this would not be a victory for the teachers and workers, since it would still maintain capitalist education that teaches the ideology that produces wage slaves and perpetuates capitalist exploitation.

The mass struggle in Oaxaca in 2006 must serve as experience that shows that fighting to reform capitalism is a dead end. Eventually many of the reformist leaders ended up in public office with the working class disappointed and in the same or worse conditions as before.

However, precisely because of this, a great potential exists to win the masses in these movements to fight for communist education and a world without exploitation. We must have confidence that the masses can mobilize for communism. Even though it is a giant task that sometimes seems impossible, experience has shown us that the masses are not blind, deaf or dumb. On the contrary: they are an immense source of inspiration, ideas and actions, and can take communist ideas as their own and act on them.

What Is the Best Way to Support These Struggles?

The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) can and must put out thousands of communist leaflets, along with our newspaper *Red Flag*, and distribute them massively. We must mobilize friends and comrades to carry out this work, as well as organize study-action groups and recruit massively to the Party, as part of the commu-

nist struggle to create a new world in which the working class, organized as the Party (ICWP), has the power.

In Los Angeles, thousands of workers in the garment industry and MTA have relatives in Mexico, many of whom are directly involved in these struggles. We should sharpen the ideological struggle with them and mobilize our base to support the struggle more actively, by helping to distribute *Red Flag*, both here and in Mexico.

The potential was shown by a worker who we recently met in a demonstration. He told us, “Education reform in Mexico, like land reform, is to increase the workers’ exploitation. We workers don’t need reforms, we need revolution. But the majority doesn’t see that.” To help change this, he made the commitment to share *Red Flag* with his friends and relatives in Los Angeles and in Mexico.

In El Salvador and elsewhere our comrades, especially those who work in the maquilas and the teachers, should support these struggles by showing objectively the need for communist revolution.

For the comrades in Mexico this is a great opportunity to be in a militant mass movement with its countless contradictions. The potential exists to massively spread the communist ideas of ICWP, to contact and recruit new comrades. It is also a great opportunity to train the young comrades and those not so young in boldly presenting revolutionary communist ideas in the heat of class struggle.



the workers, subjecting us to a permanent individualism. That’s how the bosses treated the drivers of BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) in the San Francisco, California, Bay Area, who, during their strike were discredited by comparing their higher wages to the rest of the workers in the area, misleading the rest of the workers to ask, ‘What are they complaining about since they make so much more?’ Meanwhile the bosses’ media do not report on the huge profits that the drivers generate. The Mexican bosses do the same with the teachers,” argued a comrade.

“Education reform will affect all teachers; it will eliminate the possibility of a permanent job; it will privatize education and fewer workers’ children would study,” commented a teacher in ICWP.

Another comrade replied, “The US bosses no longer have any other choice but war against the Chinese bosses. That’s why the US bosses are imposing new rules for their interests. They need

Mexican oil, raw materials, and especially unorganized skilled workers to carry out their wars. Knowing English, being in good physical condition and having technological skills are changes to the curricula that respond to this. Whether public or private, it meets the needs of the bosses.”

“Getting many friends, relatives and co-workers to join ICWP will convert it into a party of millions all over the world! This is what’s urgent!” commented a young teacher in the Party. He continued, “We must go to the encampments of the teachers of CNTE so that they know our goal.

“Now that they are massively angry at the way they live, and when thousands of people are coming out to protest, we must take advantage of the opportunity to make communist ideas known massively.

“We must convert the frustration of many into a true hope for all. Communism is the only thing that will save us,” concluded the comrade.



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BART Contract Struggle Highlights How **THE WAGE SYSTEM BEATS US DOWN!**

On October 11, the 60-day cooling off period imposed on Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) workers comes to an end. Workers may strike against wage and benefit cuts.

The media was “outraged” that at \$76,551 per year, BART workers make more than tens of thousands of other Bay Area Government workers. Instead, they should be outraged that tens of thousands of Bay Area Government workers make way less than \$76,551, and that most workers throughout the US and the rest of the world make much less!

According to the Self Sufficiency Standard, a family of four living in the 11 counties of the Bay Area needs \$74,541 just to get by. The media should be outraged that tens of thousands of Government workers—many earning \$40,000 or less—have to work two or three jobs just to get by.

Higher wages will not solve the problem. Whatever our wages are, the bosses will use their power to keep us at subsistence—or below it.

Red Flag argues we should all support BART workers by fighting to abolish the wage system altogether.

Wages keep us under the thumb of capitalists just as, in feudal times, serfdom kept the peasants under the thumb of Dukes and Kings, and in slavery times, we were under the whip of the slave masters.

BART WAS CREATED TO MAKE PROFITS

Take BART for example. It, and the jobs that go with it, exists because in 1946 a group of capitalists (Stephen Bechtel, the owners of Kaiser Industries, Chevron and so on) calculated they could make a fat profit from it.

Like the rest of us, BART workers only have jobs because capitalists can make profits off them. As the press revealed in the last strike when BART was shut down, these capitalists lost \$73 million a day! That means in a regular five-day work week, the wage work of BART employees generates \$365 million or \$1.2 billion a month.

That’s capital: it’s social power that controls the media to influence the public against ‘greedy’ BART workers. Yet what happens to BART workers happens to all of us in one way or another. Our day to day wage work (job) creates use value that the bosses turn into capital that they

use to perpetuate our slavery. Under communism, the use value that we create will only be used to meet the needs of the international working class.

Like peasants in feudalism we are locked into a system of inequality. Whereas peasants feared losing their household plot, without which they couldn’t survive, we fear losing our wages, without which we can’t survive.

THE WAGE SYSTEM STARVES US!

The vast majority of working-class families are just three months or less away from poverty (meaning that if their wages dried up they could be homeless within three months or less). Capitalist wage slavery empowers the bosses to decide who of us lives or dies by hiring or firing us. We can’t just lay down and let BART workers fight the cuts alone. They and we must take up the fight to abolish the wage system.

To do otherwise is to tighten the chains that enslave us to the bosses. The wage system is the very heart beat of capitalism. But what do we replace it with? *Red Flag* argues, with communism!

We are not talking about the socialism of Russia and China which modified capitalism but kept both banks and the wage system. We are talking about communism, a system where our work is organized around producing only socially useful things, not private profits.

Such a revolutionary change won’t happen overnight. Capitalism didn’t replace feudalism overnight either, but the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

There are many ‘next steps.’ Agitating and organizing for a political strike against imperialism and the wage system is one. Becoming a regular reader of *Red Flag* is another. Getting friends and co-workers to read it is another. Joining the International Communist Workers’ Party is better yet. Start the fight for communism now!



Self Sufficiency Standard for Bay Area: \$74,541

In capitalism, we can only live if we can get a job, and we can get a job only if the boss or capitalist can make a profit off it.

We see ourselves as strong, caring human beings but capitalist economics sees us as “units of production,” as things.

They calculate our worth as if we were a machine; how much it costs to produce, maintain and replace when it’s worn out.

In human terms, “replace” means bringing up a family—the next generation of workers.

So it’s no accident that, no matter where you live, wages will be around, but mostly below, the Self Sufficiency Standard for that region, just like we see for the Bay Area government jobs. However, the racist bosses internationally say that you are not poor if you make more than \$1.25 a day!

This brings to light, however, the weakness of capitalist economics: we are not “units of production.”

In contrast, it highlights the strength of communist thinking: we are caring, strong human beings and will one day build the revolutionary communist society that reflects that.

Self Sufficiency Standard is a formula that calculates the costs of basic needs—rent, food, healthcare, childcare, transportation and taxes—for a family of four (with two adults, one preschooler and one school age child) in the US. After five hundred years of capitalist development with amazing productivity gains, the wage system still forces most households to take three or four jobs to make ends meet.

State’s Highest-Paying agencies

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| BART (union workers) | \$76,551 |
| SF Muni | \$73,594 |
| AC Transit | \$59,059 |
| Orange County Transit Authority.... | \$54,851 |
| LA County MTA..... | \$54,126 |

Bay Area’s higher-paying large agencies

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| BART..... | \$76,551 |
| AC Transit | \$59,059 |
| County of Contra Costa | \$58,048 |
| City of Oakland | \$54,478 |
| Oakland Unified School District | \$39,719 |
| West Contra Costa School District | \$32,013 |

ALBA/fmln from page 1

“We are part of the new, modern left,” shouts the fmln Presidential candidate Salvador Sánchez Ceren. Clearly, they were never communists, but instead part of the reformist petit bourgeoisie that always believed in the electoral system and never in the working class.

The reaction of the local bourgeoisie has been one of satisfaction and that is why the biggest bosses of this country are supporting the “democratic alternative.” Clearly, the owners of the country will continue to be the same with some small reform.

Thousands of dead fighters in the streets of this country gave their lives with the desire to see the working class take power, not to serve as the capitalists’ puppets. The leaders of the current fmln party have made their political-economic moves with true capitalist cunning. As a politician of the old right said, “We have them where we want them!”

The communists of ICWP struggle for the means of production not to be private property, since what is produced is the product of collective work. The means of production must be geared to meet the needs of the working class. Their respective distribution must be, “from each according to commitment, to each according to

need” and not be the property of a tiny group of small bosses as is currently the situation in El Salvador.

Many former members of the fmln have been building *Red Flag* study-action groups and believe in the working class as the main focus of the transformation for this country and for the international working class. They have discussed a lot about these new elections of 2014 and there is definitely nothing new. On the one hand, there is an old group of the right (ARENA) and a group which split from them (GANA) and the emerging capital of the new bourgeoisie (fmln). (The electoral party uses lower case initials to distinguish themselves from the FMLN, the guerrilla movement.)

Communism does not create false expectations among the working class. Workers are conscious that these ruling class options will only change the names of the capitalist henchmen. The only real option that the comrades in the factories, army, schools and universities have is to immediately join the *Red Flag* reading groups and be an active part of the organizational growth of the International Communist Workers’ Party.



Los Angeles MTA

END CAPITALIST INEQUALITY WITH COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY

“Inequality is increasing almost everywhere in the postindustrial capitalist world... Inequality is an inevitable product of capitalist activity,” wrote Jerry Muller in *Foreign Affairs* (March-April 2013). This magazine speaks for the most important section of US capitalism-imperialism.

Muller claims this inequality can't be eradicated because “expanding equality of opportunity only increases it.” He would have us believe that the rich will get richer by grinding us into dire poverty, and there is nothing we can do about it.

Capitalist inequality, however, is based on our exploitation. Maximizing profit demands we be paid a subsistence wage—barely enough to keep us working daily, and able to raise our replacements. Only communist revolution can end this vicious cycle by destroying this murderous, racist system. Then, as free workers, we will collectively produce and share everything according to the needs of our class.

Why Are US Bosses So Worried About Rising inequality?

Muller's article claims that “rising inequality and economic insecurity can erode social order and generate a populist backlash against the capitalist system at large.”

In other words, the bosses are afraid of revolution. And they should be! Millions of workers worldwide – including many at MTA – are questioning capitalism. They are open to communist ideas. That is why the US capitalists have their anti-communist union officials putting forward solutions that will forever keep us as wage slaves. Robert Reich's new movie *Inequality for All* echoes this line.

MTA Union Hack Proposes Maximum Wage Law

Lawrence J. Hanley is the International President of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU),

to which LAMTA mechanics and service attendants belong.

He notes that “The average CEO made 380 times the wage of the average American worker in 2011: a wage disparity far greater than that of any other country.” (*Huffington Post*, Aug. 3, 2012)

His “solution”: a federal law limiting “an employer's income to no more than 100 times the wage of his or her lowest paid workers.” If that worker made \$25,000 per year, “the employer would make no more than \$2.5 million per year! The employer's compensation could not increase above that amount unless his or her lowest-paid workers got an equivalent raise as well.”

He argues that such a law “would actually ensure that ‘a rising tide [would lift] all boats’ and improve lives at every level of society.” What a joke!

Roosevelt's “New Deal” Revisited

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order limiting after-tax corporate salaries to no more than \$25,000 per year. Compare this to soldiers then risking their lives for a miserable \$720 a year! This was the US bosses' ploy to make workers believe that the rich were also sacrificing for the war effort. Big sacrifice!

This scheme also had an economic goal. The money no longer going to CEO salaries was reported as corporate profits, which were taxed at 92%. The “sacrifice” demanded from all US capitalists: a contribution to pay for the war that would give US imperialism its world hegemony!

Today, as some US rulers desperately cling to their empire and prepare for World War III to defend it, corporate taxes are only 29.2%. Many capitalists would rather compensate themselves



than pay for military-related expenditures.

Those bosses want us workers to do all the sacrificing. The top US imperialists, however, understand you can't bleed the workers dry without risking mass rebellions and perhaps revolution. They need those greedy bosses' “sacrifice” to make us believe that “we are all in this together.” The union hacks' job is to peddle this lie to get us to fight and die for the bosses' profits and empire.

Workers need communism

Communists understand that no two things in nature are identical or equal. There is no such thing as equality. Equality is a myth invented by the capitalists to make us believe that capitalism can be fair.

Communism is based on satisfying everyone's needs even if this is done unequally, because we all have different needs and even different degrees of the same need. For example, one person's hunger might be satisfied with one plate of food, another's with two. After eating, both needs have been “equally” satisfied with unequal amounts of foods. This is the closest thing to “equality.”

Only in communism, where we collectively produce and share everything according to need and without money, can we have “equality” based on need. Therefore, our fight must be for a communist world where production will be for need, not for profits – without exploitation, bosses or their treacherous union hacks. Join us!

Bangladesh

MASS STRIKES SHOW POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION



“A culture of mass strikes” is how the bosses' newspaper the *Wall Street Journal* described 36 general strikes that have taken place in Bangladesh so far this year.

In the latest strike wave hundreds of thousands of garment workers shut down over 400 factories, blocked freeways and fought pitched battles with police. Police vehicles were burned down, tear gas and rubber bullets were countered with homemade bombs and guerilla-style ambushes that workers organized. Since the police force could not contain mass violence, three army battalions were called in.

The courageous garment workers need to mobilize to destroy the system of wage slavery. As long as capitalism exists, the bosses have the upper hand. Reform struggles, no matter how massive or militant, can't end capitalism's unbridled racist exploitation.

The Bangladesh garment industry is the second-largest in the world, employing 5 million workers (mostly women) who earn \$38 a month or less. While the bosses make hundreds of bil-

lions of dollars in profit from the unpaid labor of these workers, wages of \$38 a month force workers to live in overcrowded housing, suffer chronic hunger and lack any healthcare. The workers demanded a wage increase of \$100 a month, barely enough to survive. The bosses reacted to this demand with police violence as the union sellouts did their best to pacify the workers.

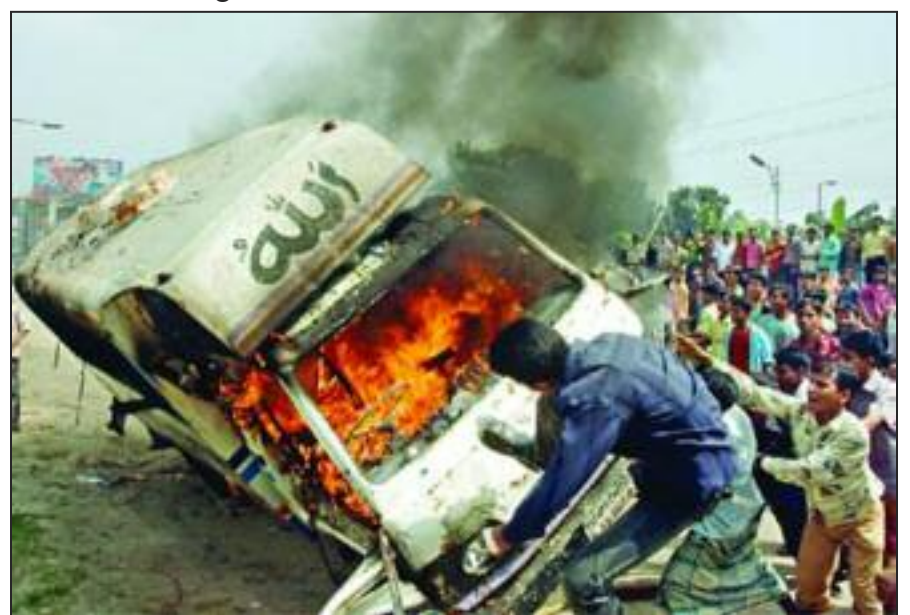
This struggle of the Bangladeshi workers exposes the brutality of capitalism based on the wage system. Capitalist bosses always compete with each other, which forces them to invest more in machinery and less in the workers who produce profit. The resulting decline in the overall profit rate is countered by the bosses attempting to lower wages and impose unsafe work conditions. As a result, over 1200 garment workers in Bangladesh were crushed to death six months ago when an unsafe garment factory collapsed.

That's why the International Communist Workers' Party is building a revolutionary communist movement to abolish wage slavery. In communist society, workers' needs for clothing and everything else will be met by each and every worker contributing according to his or her ability and commitment. By abolishing wage slavery which creates profit we will be able to provide a

safe and healthy work environment for everybody.

The workers in Bangladesh have shown many aspects of communism in their struggle. We are learning to reach out to these workers. We invite the readers of *Red Flag* in Bangladesh and all workers to join ICWP.

These strikes in Bangladesh, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico and other countries show that the bosses always use their military to crush workers' struggles. The military is the working class in uniform. We must expand our work among these working-class soldiers to fight for their class interest to overthrow capitalism and replace it with communism. The ‘culture of mass strikes’ is shaking up the bosses; the culture of masses mobilized for communism will end their tyranny once and for all.



US BUDGET CRISIS: WORKERS MUST SHUT DOWN CAPITALISM!

October 1st— “It’s disgusting,” a friend said after watching the televised political circus that led to the first US government “shutdown” since 1995-96.

Congress can’t agree on a budget. So 800,000 federal workers are on unpaid “furlough.” Millions of workers aren’t getting services they need, like housing vouchers or WIC food coupons.

Of course the U.S. rulers make sure that things THEY need will continue. That includes militarizing the border, overseeing the banking system, spying on folks at home and abroad, and keeping the US Armed Forces on track to confront their imperialist rivals in World War III.

“Tea Party” Republicans happily forced the shut-down to protest “Obamacare,” which opened its insurance marketplace today. Health insurance companies hit the jackpot with this program, which leaves many in the US – especially immigrant workers – without even the access to health care that is taken for granted in much of the capitalist world.

About half the members of Congress are millionaires, including Ted Cruz and Harry Reid. So is President Obama. They all have “platinum” health care. Often they get campaign money from the same companies. For example, Goldman Sachs and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius bankrolled both Cruz and Obama!

The politicians are all blaming each other for the budget crisis. We blame CAPITALISM!

The US government is not “of, by, and for the people,” as we’re taught in school. It’s a dictatorship of the rich. The capitalists use their State

Power (government) to enforce their exploitation of the masses, to defend their global empire, and to negotiate disagreements among their own class.

They can’t always succeed. Competition for maximum profit is at the very core of their system. Contradictory political-economic interests (like whether to cut into private profits in order to fund imperialist war) break out into vicious unprincipled dogfights.

Usually the most powerful capitalist-imperialists end up tightening their control – becoming more openly fascist.

Workers worldwide must understand that our task is not to “take over” governments through elections or even to try to influence them through mass protests. Our historic task is to mobilize the masses to destroy capitalism and all its institutions, including “government,” with communist revolution.

Communism won’t have budget crises or budgets or even money. Instead, workers will organize ourselves as a massive International Communist Workers’ Party to produce what we need and get the goods to those who need them. Instead of having a “government” that pretends to “represent” us, we will struggle to get EVERYONE directly involved in making and

carrying out the decisions that affect our lives.

The need for communism is the objective class interest that can and will unite the oppressed and exploited masses of the world. Cooperation, instead of competition, is at the core of a communist system.

In communist society, there will sometimes be shortages and even extreme hardship, especially while we are still fighting to wipe capitalism off the face of the earth. There are always disagreements about what’s most needed or how to do things. That’s why leadership’s main task is to guarantee open and principled struggle.

We must struggle now (and always) to train ourselves and the masses to work and think collectively.

We must learn to use the communist science of dialectical materialism to analyze the interests of the international working class at any moment, putting that ahead of personal or regional or particular interests.

It’s a hard road, but it’s the only way to stop the disgusting capitalist bosses from running the world in their own interests off of our blood, sweat and misery.

It’s the only way to liberate ourselves and the planet and the only way to realize our deepest hopes and dreams.



FOR A HEALTHY WORLD, PLANT SEEDS OF COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Every 30 minutes a poor farmer in India commits suicide, unable to pay back a loan of an average of \$200 to the banks. Over a quarter million farmers have taken their own lives since Monsanto introduced genetically modified cotton seeds in 2002.

Every year over 7.5 million people die of hunger worldwide. 33% of the world population, which is one in three people, is starving, unable to survive on pay that’s less than a dollar a day.

Another 20% of the world population is obese, primarily because of lack of access to a healthy food and lifestyle. (Healthy food costs more.) Obesity is the cause of premature death due to multiple organ failures.

Science under capitalism has greatly increased our knowledge of agriculture, climate, seeds, food processing, transportation etc., but food is primarily produced for enormous profits for banks, fast-food chains, food processors, supermarkets, agro-industrial companies like Monsanto and Cargill. Finally, the pharmaceutical companies profit from the diseases created by the food industry and unsafe living conditions under capitalism.

The profit motive of capitalism has caused epidemics of hunger, starvation, obesity and diseases. But profit has a tendency to decline. As capitalist bosses compete against each other, they are forced to invest more in machines, replacing workers who are the only source of profit. To counter this

falling rate of profit, bosses look for new markets and also new areas where it is cheaper to grow crops.

Today, 80% of the world population is dependent on corn, rice, wheat and soybean. To counter the falling rate of profit the bosses are introducing GMO seeds (genetically modified) and occupying land in areas where the poorest of the population is barely surviving.

This profit motive has caused misery, starvation, disease and in its wake transformed the most fertile lands, river deltas and pristine forests into wastelands with poisonous chemicals and a hostile climate.

Our party, International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) is building a mass revolutionary party to end the tyranny of capitalism. We want to build a communist society where workers are not wage slaves, where there are no bosses, no banks, no money and the society is organized to meet our needs and not private profit.

Only under communism can we eliminate hunger, obesity and the diseases caused by the capitalist lifestyle. To feed eight billion people in the world, every person will be struggled with to contribute in productive activity according to their ability. Out of our struggle as a class to meet our needs we will develop scientific knowledge not only to grow healthy and nutritious food but how to organize the best possible housing, transporta-

tion, health care, recreation etc. This scientific knowledge will not be confined to experts; rather it will come from the masses. For the first time in the history of humanity, the products of labor, rather than dominating us, will liberate us.

Our task is not easy. And certainly it will not be easier after a revolution. The bosses have their police, courts, army, unions to control workers and schools and universities to poison and indoctrinate us to individualism and the myth that capitalism is here to stay. But as Marx said, “What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers.”

As events in the world show, workers in every country are in motion. The working class is hungry for change. We see seeds of revolutionary potential.

However, to transform this potential into a mass revolutionary party we have to distribute our newspaper *Red Flag* massively worldwide. We want to create a society without the banks, the Monsantos, capitalist wars for profit and the unions that tie us to wage slavery.

Once and for all we will bury the capitalist system that has brought slavery, genocides, wars and diseases and unspeakable misery to the working class. Join ICWP today and let the bosses know that their end is coming. We have the strength, patience, courage, determination and trust in the working class.

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Comrades in Mexico Discuss How

COMMUNISM WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO END ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

“Why today do some people steal, and some kill or rape other people just like them?” asked a friend of the party in a recent meeting.

“Could it be lack of money and other material resources, which generates selfishness, envy and rotten attitudes?” mentioned another.

“No, I don’t think so. The working class is frequently subjected to such poverty, and still shows solidarity,” answered a comrade.

“The bosses’ propaganda says things like ‘Have the best,’ ‘Win in life,’ and ‘Make it.’ But how are ‘we going to make it?’ Easy! With money, cars, power, big televisions and other gadgets that give us status. They win us to achieve no matter what the cost, usually at business or a good career...but you alone. This is part of the ideological base that sustains the current society, the society with bourgeois, or rather capitalist ideology,” said another.

At this, a comrade said, “Looking at this superficially it seems valid, but we have to look more deeply. What do you neglect when you focus on ‘success’—when you look out for your family at the expense of the rest of the families? Is it valid to look out for your own, to make money from the needs of others? To profit from selling marijuana to youth with addiction problems, or what about renting rooms to couples to have sex?”

“Ahh...So anything up to openly stealing, raping or killing is valid in this rotten system, if it brings us ‘success’ or meets our most basic needs,” concluded a friend.

Obama’s Speech to the UN Exposes

HYPOCRISY OF DECLINING US IMPERIALISM

“I believe that America is exceptional,” Obama told the UN last week. With tremendous hypocrisy, he tried to make a case that US imperialism has the humanitarian interests of the world’s population at heart.

After stating that “98% of humanity” agrees that chemical weapons should be banned, even in war, he scolded the Security Council for not agreeing to act against Syria’s Assad. He even had the nerve to cite the huge attack by Saddam Hussein in 1988 as an example of the lethality of nerve gas. Tens of thousands of Iranian soldiers and civilians were murdered. Obama pretended he had no knowledge of US imperialism’s complicity in these atrocities.

Yet, these facts had been plastered in the world’s media most recently. Even *Foreign Policy*, an important US imperialist magazine, wrote (Aug. 26, 2013): “In 1988, in the waning days of Iraq’s war with Iran, the US learned through satellite imagery that Iran was about to gain a

“But for us workers, who are the majority of humanity, a family that achieves ‘success’ at the cost of cheating and robbing others is not useful, it’s not human.

“What would happen if we extended the limits of the family and saw all of humanity as our family? The answer is obvious. We would not want to harm any member of the family. Most people want to be useful to others. We would all be supportive of each other. Problems would seem insignificant with so many people dedicated to the wellbeing of all. This is what we call communism, working for the common goals of all.

“In a society organized on common bases, we would quickly reject activities that harm others. Some examples: slot machines, casinos, lawyers, hourly hotels that injure and destroy families, money managers, the profit system itself. Imagine the great relief for workers if we threw out all these activities that suck us dry.

“On the contrary, let’s imagine the talents of millions of people committed to taking care of children, pregnant women, the elderly, and of every human being. Let’s imagine millions and millions of workers living in peace, generating products and services for the well being of themselves and of every one else.

“That is how societies were organized for over 35,000 years before the 5,000 years that we have been organized in class society. But the bosses don’t want us to see ourselves as only one family. They want us to be separated so that it’s easier to rob and exploit us.

major strategic advantage by exploiting a hole in Iraq’s defenses. US intelligence officials conveyed the location of the Iranian troops to Iraq, fully aware that Hussein’s military would attack with chemical weapons, including sarin, a lethal nerve agent.”

Capitalist logic drives the imperialists to lie to hide their real reasons for invading other countries and massively murdering workers. Empires must super-exploit the world’s workers and its resources. Obama is trying to win US workers, soldiers and youth to believe that the US has humanitarian motives to bomb Syria. *Red Flag* exposes these lies, which are meant to manipulate us to fight our class brothers and sisters. Communist logic tells us that all capitalists-imperialists are our enemies and our liberation lies in destroying them all with communist revolution.

Besides showing the US’ hypocrisy before the world, Obama’s speech also reflects the decline of US imperialism, which in the past could

“In communism, we have to ensure that everyone eats, has clothes, a comfortable house, health care, healthy fun, and is protected from the adversities of nature. Money, bosses, racism, sexism, wages, borders and religion are and will be pure poison for our children and brothers and sisters,” argued the comrade.

“Even in situations where there is not abundance, we will be able to share scarcity. But with communist collectivity we will be capable of meeting every one’s needs. When principles change, people change.”

She concluded, “Let’s start by saying to our brothers and sisters that another world is possible, and that our family is growing. Join ICWP!”



Volunteers from 53 countries fought fascism in Spain between 1936 and 1939 under communist leadership. The international communist movement, however, joined the “lesser-evil” bosses to fight against fascism. At the end of World War II, the Nazis were defeated, but capitalism was alive and well. We are inspired by the internationalist heroism of the anti-fascist volunteers, but we have learned to fight for communism, and nothing less.

quickly send in US troops to depose rulers and massacre civilians, forcing their “allies” to go along.

Rising imperialists are no better. All the imperialists are fighting for maximum profits from workers’ blood and sweat. Let’s spread *Red Flag* to mobilize masses of workers, students and soldiers to build a world of collectively sharing resources and producing to meet the needs of workers everywhere.

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

This is OUR Century!

I think the discussions at Boeing on Syria makes a great article. Thank you for your hard work and great efforts. Change is the result of dedicated persistence and continuous tenacity.

I may add the following:

They want the gas pipeline that must go across the Syrian territory. They have to create chaos so they can go in and appear to be saving lives. Once inside, they will elect a so-called democratic government - one the superpowers own and control. Same tactics, same reasons, different place and well planned ahead.

It is worth noting that the so-called Syria freedom fighters in reality are the old French-Syrian groups. Pay attention to their flags: the Syrian flag with the French logo. (They are not Syrian citizens- if anything Legionnaires). I call them mercenaries; I am wondering who is paying them and where the money comes from. I am sure we will see a fund request in the next weeks during our budget appropriation and if denied, it will come out of the discretionary reserve funds. That, my friends, is Social Security.

Venezuela is next, as soon as they create a war between Colombia and Venezuela and

they have to go in to mediate and help the people!

We all know the solution, day by day the world is waking up and they have begun to make big mistakes and they are worried.

This is OUR TIME, we the working class of this planet will claim THIS century as THE PEOPLE’S CENTURY

--A friend

Red Flag comments: We applaud your revolutionary enthusiasm. The working class will certainly make this century ours as more like you join the ICWP.

THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

In Memory of Norma

Norma visited us in Latin America in 2006. She showed us strength and courage.

We were under the scrutiny of the ruling class. Some chose to retreat. She contributed to meetings and helped to ensure their successful conclusions.

We met Norma when she emigrated from her country of origin in 1976. Immediately she joined the effort to build a party of the international working class. For many years she worked in the garment industry and spread the ideas of getting rid of the wage system and establishing a workers' government.

Norma's activity and that of her comrades helped to build a base in the garment industry, which in spite of inevitable setbacks, will someday bear fruit in emancipating the worldwide working class.

Whenever we visited Norma's family, they kindly offered me accommodation and food. Norma cooked not only for us but also for party meetings.

After a long illness, Norma has left us. We hope that other comrades will continue her efforts. Those who survive are suffering. We give our deepest sympathy to her family and hope that they find consolation. Norma will not only be forever in our thoughts, but she will always be an inspiration to follow!

--Comrades in Mexico

"Comrade Norma: Until Victory"

EL SALVADOR—The year was 1988 and the civil war in this country was in full force. Thousands of us Salvadorans were involved in this, some in the now-extinct FMLN and others in the government army. "Communist terrorists attack" was one of the headlines in the newspapers of the local bourgeoisie.

Comrade Norma came to this country in that year and was the first to contact us. At that time we were part of the FMLN guerilla groups and this encounter was very moving, since several years had passed in which many comrades had to leave to seek asylum in other countries due to the political persecution and the imminent danger of being tortured, disappeared, or killed by the armed forces of the Salvadoran government.

Norma was a very strong person in her ideas. In this visit she opened up the road for us to continue our revolutionary process, in that moment, with a new perspective of struggle. It was a huge impulse in our ideological struggle, in the consolidation of the working class' ideas.

Many years have passed since this visit to El Salvador by Comrade Norma and our commitment to continue the effort has grown from this example that she showed us, which is still present in our struggles for communism. Her physical loss hurts us but her legacy as a revolutionary woman worker inspires us to continue to participate with greater strength in the revolutionary actions of the people.

Communists like Norma are those who the working class, especially those who are organized in the International Communist Workers' Party—ICWP—must have. Her example of struggle in the face of the capitalist system, her vision to win a better tomorrow for our class, must constitute our attainable ideal. Her proletarian life, her life as a worker, is a goal that all

the communists in ICWP should aspire to.

The ICWP in El Salvador has the complete conviction to continue the struggle waged by Comrade Norma and to succeed in building the communist dream for which she fought.

—Comrades in El Salvador

The Workers' Struggle Against Cancer in Communism

We know that the cells in our bodies divide and multiply according to the needs of each organ or tissue. Some multiply more rapidly, like skin cells, breast tissue, and the gastrointestinal (stomach), pulmonary (lung) and genital mucous membranes. This process of cell division involves the risk of getting out of control and continuing the division and multiplication to the point of generating an illness, cancer.

Does this mean that even in communism cancer will be a problem? Yes, it will. What will change, what will decrease dramatically, will be the risk factors, which in large quantities increase the likelihood that this disease appears. How will we achieve this? The time will come when workers will refine the details, but surely the efforts will aim to strengthen the defense systems in our bodies and to control cancer-causing risk factors like the following:

—Production of food with healthier techniques, the best and most varied food for all.

—Water intake free of dangerous substances, the best water for everyone

—Nutrition policies which favor a balance between oxidizing systems which damage our genetic material and antioxidants that prevent or reduce damage.

—Exercise, work, rest and other habits of healthy living that keep our bodies fit to fight against disease, including the elimination of cancer cells.

—Prevention, detection, and removal of infections which promote the transformation into cancer cells.

—The most suitable protection for any risky activity. Neutralizing or inactivating all dangerous waste to avoid contamination of the food chain.

Would you like to live and contribute with your work in a society that devotes much of its efforts to the prevention of diseases? This way of living could only be implemented by a social

system based on collective work for the good of all and of the world that we inhabit. This society is possible! This paradise on earth is called communism. As much as we seek it, as much as we avoid seeking it, it is the only way.

The workers who, even with this type of communist life, become ill with cancer, will be cared for with dignity so that there is quality in their days of life. When they reach the moment of leaving, they do it knowing that their great communist family will care for their closest loved ones.

—A comrade

Capitalism Causes Disaster in Guerrero

"We went to sleep thinking that tomorrow we will continue fighting to survive. One night it started to rain, and we thought it was just another rain. Suddenly the noise of a great current of water woke us; and we saw mud, rocks, trees and branches coming at us, burying our families and taking what little we had. The pain of seeing how you can lose a son, a wife, or a parent, is so great that you feel a choking desperation and think that the world has ended for you," said a farm worker in Guerrero.

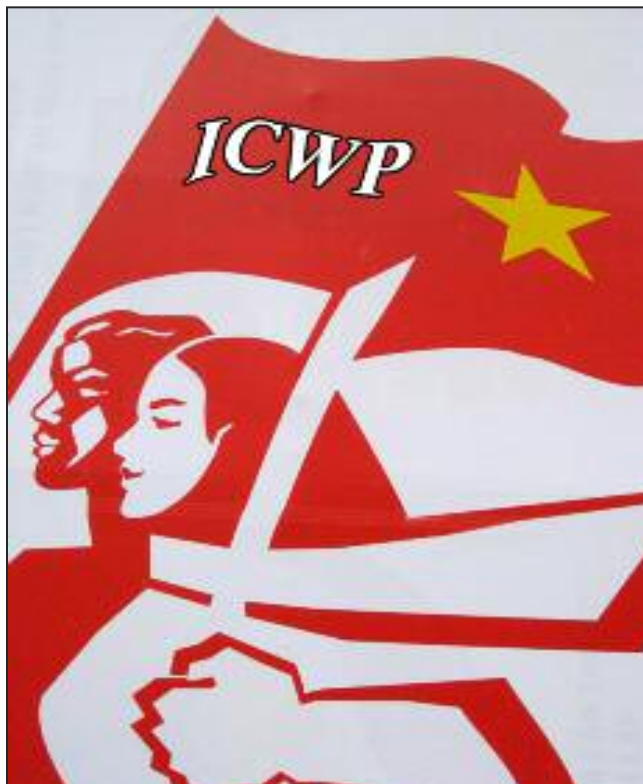
By the end of September, 145 people had died, according to government figures, in addition to hundreds who disappeared in the mud and debris on the hillsides that collapsed in Guerrero, Mexico. The growing number of homeless passed one million. A state of emergency was declared in 312 municipalities in 14 states.

But nature is not to blame. The capitalist system is guilty, together with the government and the bosses who know in advance the dangers to which we are exposed and do nothing. It's a consequence of this system that destroys areas of trees, cut down without being replanted in order to satisfy the profits of big farmers and the companies in charge of agricultural production. The government and bosses build unnatural dams to get energy and control water for whoever can pay more; and then they do not give the dams needed maintenance. They force the population to settle in areas with a high risk due to lack of resources, since the best land is used by the big landowners and big companies.

Bosses care only about money and the government is focused on building roads that will cost \$40 billion in order to continue the movement of goods. In Mexico the cost of construction in emergency cases is 30 times more than what is spent on prevention. This system works for the benefit of a few millionaire families.

We need communism, a system in which we workers will decide on planning and security for everyone. We will eliminate money so there won't be limits on building homes and communities in the most secure places possible and with materials resistant to climatic changes. Planning population areas will take into account the risks in the areas. We will not allow private property; and natural resources will be accessible for everyone, along with the responsibility for taking care of them. The most important thing about the communist system that we, millions of workers, must build is that no one's life will be wasted due to the lack of material resources. Every life will be as appreciated like one's own life. Let's build ICWP.

—Comrade Industrial Worker in Los Angeles



Red Vietnam-Era Veteran's Story

LIFELONG COMRADES IN STRUGGLE CAN MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

Ft. Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord) soldiers I fought back with during the Vietnam era have revisited my life over the 40 years since I was discharged. Their early exposure to revolutionary communist politics in the military still reverberates through their lives. I never fail to be amazed and inspired. A few incidents come to mind.

About 25 years after I left the Army, I got involved with an opposition caucus in my union. Caucus members from various areas gathered at a central location. I didn't know the workers from other cities, but one of them remembered me from Ft. Lewis.

The FBI had visited him after I was discharged, trying to get information on my activities. He refused to talk to them. He wasn't about to forget me!

He gathered up his friends for a "side meeting." He bragged about our Ft. Lewis struggle and asked if I could get copies of a revolutionary communist newspaper for him and his friends. "These people really know how to fight," he said, recommending us to his friends.

Marines Fight Ku Klux Klan

In 1976, black Marines rebelled against the Klan at Camp Pendleton, CA. Marines wearing KKK insignia had already beaten two African-American soldiers.

On December 6th, the marines held a pre-trial hearing to charge 14 rebels. The Camp Pendleton 14, as they became known, responded to the KKK in the only language the Klan understood—violently.

A black Marine vet, inspired by our revolutionary activity at Ft. Lewis three years before, had just decided to build our communist organization. He took vacation from his industrial job and flew to the camp to help mount an anti-racist defense.

Talk about a baptism of fire! Red-led anti-racists—black, latin and white—beat David Duke, National Grand Dragon of the KKK, and his supporters when they showed up for the hear-

ing. A battle with the camp's MPs ensued. Black and latin comrades took the lead.

Our militant, class-based anti-racism freaked the liberals and led to sharp ideological struggle within our organization.

Jesse Jackson came to talk with the base commander. He and the ruling-class forces behind him wanted to make a show against the Klan. He reasoned this would better prepare the Marines to fight for the national (read: bosses') interests abroad. We, on the other hand, emphasized the links between domestic racism and racist imperialism.

Sharp Inner-Party Struggle Guarantees the Fight for Communism, not Reform

Our new member made it clear that he had come in order to build for communist revolution—the only way to finally smash racism and imperialism. Some in the Party leadership told him that that was not what he was supposed to do. He was to limit his activities to "Freeing the Camp Pendleton 14."

As it turned out, we continued to bring the red flag to events—figuratively and literally. The defendants were more than open to our revolutionary politics. Our new recruit learned a lot. He gave speeches to that effect at demonstrations when he returned to his home city.

The court-martial dragged on for almost a year. The Klansmen were transferred to other bases and other parts of Camp Pendleton to "defuse the situation." (*New York Times*, 1/8/77) Membership



in the Klan was legal, according to the Marines, and didn't interfere with their mission.

The Camp Pendleton 14, on the other hand, got months of hard labor, fines, and a reduction in rank. One was sent to the stockade for 2 years.

Our base and we advanced through this sharp struggle. Some, unfortunately, caved in to the demands of the liberals. They wanted to be "big" and if that meant hiding revolutionary communist politics so be it, they reasoned.

A general Party meeting was called to settle this question. Still in his work clothes after a hard day's work, our new recruit jumped back on a plane to defend a communist line at that meeting. Introduced to our politics during the Ft. Lewis rebellions, he played an important role defending communism years later.

Friendships Forged in Struggle: Life Long Political Ties

Somewhere between these two incidents, I met Pete, who had helped lead a number of on-base rebellions, entering the factory gate. We hadn't seen each other in over 15 years.

He asked how I was doing. "Oh, the same old thing," I answered, noncommittally.

"That's good because this place is the most racist worksite I've ever seen!" So we started a multi-racial, anti-racist fight-back at work.

A few weeks later, he invited me to his house. The living room was filled with relatives and friends. My wife and I sat down and the whole crowd began reminiscing about Ft. Lewis and all sorts of personal details of my life.

Did I know these people? Had I forgotten that I had met them? Then they all started laughing. It seems my rioting buddy had been entertaining his relatives and friends with stories of our anti-racist rebellions in the Army for fifteen years. They knew the stories by heart.

You never know how far our modest efforts will go. Soldiers respond to revolutionary communist politics. It opens the door to a lifetime of struggle.

STUDENTS TO SOLDIERS: U.S. GOVERNMENT IS YOUR ENEMY

In a recent ICWP youth study group meeting we started talking about the role of soldiers in the revolution. An ROTC student who had carried our communist banner in last year's May Day march asked, "But how can we convince soldiers that the government is their enemy and how are we going to fight the government?"

After the study group, students wrote up their thoughts:

* "First of all, the government represents the interests of the capitalist class. And they convince soldiers to be loyal to their country. The soldiers are out there fighting, killing and losing their lives for "their country". Soldiers need to realize that they are fighting fights that aren't theirs. The enemy is not in another country but in the one we live in."

* "Other countries have resources that the capitalist government wants. The soldiers can be convinced that the government is their enemy just by looking at past events. For example, when Bush sent them into Iraq for a cause that later showed no evidence."

* "We can also say to soldiers that the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. They tell us to live our dreams but many of us end up homeless. And many of us do not even get the proper medical attention that we need."

* "Soldiers need to remember that they are

part of the working class and so are soldiers from other countries. Why does the working class fight among them selves, while the true enemy is safe and sound?"

* "I believe if we put each and everyone's effort we can overpower the capitalist class. We are the majority."

* "We the working class work all of our lives to increase the power of the capitalist class. We work in their factories and we fight in other countries to defend them. If we go on strike, yes, they might cut off our electricity or water but we can help each other as a community. We have worked in their factories and companies for years and we have learned how to fix electricity wires and water pipes. We should use everything that we have learned against them."

* "To attack the government we need our own army, an army of the international working class. We need to start small and build and eventually take over the factories. We need to distribute *Red Flag*, we need to get the word around. The

under-paid workers can go on strike. Then more sections from the working class will follow. It all depends on the working class, after all there is more of us than there is of them."

It's true that we have to convince soldiers that the capitalist government is the enemy. But to do that students need to join the military and organize inside of it. They must present to their fellow soldiers the possibility of a different world, a communist world where the principles of human fraternity will blossom. A world where we will contribute based on our abilities and commitment and receive based on our needs. This will take a revolution—and soldiers are absolutely crucial to its success.

Students distribute close to 100 Red Flags amongst their school peers. Our newspaper gives

leadership to the class struggle of students, soldiers and the masses that are mobilizing around the world. We have to multiply the distribution of *Red Flag* and write about our struggles so that the international working class can live in a world without war and borders and in full collectivity.

