

HAMMER & STEEL NEWSLETTER

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The following message was sent to the Committee to Defeat Revisionism, for Communist Unity, London, England:

Dear Comrades:

Your letter informing us of Comrade McCreery's death was delayed. We were unable, therefore, to send a message to the memorial meeting.

We met Comrade McCreery in August last year. He was extremely busy yet he found time for talks with us. He had a keen understanding of the importance of a Marxist-Leninist movement in the U.S. He understood well the need for comradely criticism and theoretical assistance to the students of Marxism-Leninism in our country.

Comrade McCreery had outstanding respect for Marxist-Leninist theory. Unless the newly developing Marxist-Leninist organizations are able to break theoretically with revisionism, to develop Marxist-Leninist ideology and combine it with the conditions of struggle in each country, then we too will fall into revisionist paths.

Comrade McCreery well understood that Marxist-Leninist groups and parties from the different countries would not automatically agree with each other on all points under present conditions. Yet he clearly saw the need for reaching international ideological unity as soon as possible.

The death of Comrade Michael McCreery is a great loss to the comrades in Great Britain and the international Marxist-Leninist movement. There is no doubt that the struggle against imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, and the bitter battle against imperialism's revisionist agents will produce comrades who will successfully carry on the challenging tasks facing Marxist-Leninists in Great Britain.

Signed/ H. Chase, Chairman, Ed. Board

The editorial board of Hammer & Steel congratulates the Chinese people, the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party on their second successful nuclear test. It is inconceivable that nuclear weapons can be destroyed on a world scale as long as U.S. profiteers believe they have an advantage. It is necessary that countries governed by the dictatorship of the proletariat have superiority in nuclear weapons over countries governed by capitalist dictatorships. The peoples of China's neighbor, Japan, have suffered an atomic attack by U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialist forces are now advocating and practicing genocide by conventional arms in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Successful Chinese nuclear tests strengthen the defense of Asia, Latin America and Africa. Chinese nuclear weapons aid all forces in conflict with Wall Street, including the Afro-American liberation forces and the U.S. working class.

The leaders of the CPSU did not hail the Chinese tests, but echoed the statements of the U.S. government. One must ask these so-called Marxist-Leninists, do you read the U.S. papers? Are you unaware that U.S. writers and Senators are discussing use of H-bombs against China? Do you think racist, chauvinistic, Soviet-baiting, profit mad maniacs like Johnson and Senator Russell will leave you free from nuclear attack after they've bombed China? For how many hours, 24 or 48?

We should also ask Kosygin, Mikoyan, Breshnev and Suslov what happened to the defensive umbrella they promised the peoples in the Socialist countries in case of imperialist aggression? Socialist North Viet Nam has been under attack since last August. Not one aircraft carrier of the aggressors has been sunk by the Soviets, not one plane of the aggressors has been shot down by the Soviets, not one governmental war criminal directing torture and genocide against war prisoners, women and children has been punished by the Soviets. Such a protective umbrella closely resembles the one Chamberlain took to Munich.

The Soviet leaders talk of a UN peace keeping force to aid U.S. imperialists while 40 thousand U.S. troops seek to impose a colonial fascist regime on the Dominican Republic. Soviet leaders promise India material aid to supplement U.S. armaments for Shastri's aggression against China and Pakistan.

The Soviet leaders are trying to return to the profit system, to solve the exploitation of man by man down the throats of the Soviet people.

Thus we see that all Soviet statements and actions on major policies are not Marxist or even Russian. They are made in America, exported to the Soviet Union, and thinly camouflaged by pseudo-Marxist tinsel in the Kremlin.

Khrushchev and his followers are exponents of "American exceptionalism", the crutch for the world revisionists. William Z. Foster said the essence of American exceptionalism is that "capitalism in the U.S. is different from and superior to capitalism in other countries and is therefore, exempt from the systems laws of growth and decay." Stalin said, in 1929, "It would be wrong to ignore the specific peculiarities of American capitalism. The CPUSA must take them into its account. But it would be still more wrong to base the activities of the CP on these specific features, since the foundations of every CP, including the American CP,must be the general feature of capitalism which are the same for all countries, and not its specific feature in any given country." Stalin also said in 1929, when discussing the differences in the U.S.C.P. that, ".....exaggerating the specific features of American imperialism lies at the root of every opportunistic error committed by both the majority and minority groups."

American exceptionalism leads to awe of U.S. imperialism, to hesitation in fighting it, since its strategic strength is overestimated. It develops contempt for the strength of the Afro-American liberation struggles and disregard for the revolutionary potential of the U.S. working class. As the U.S. working class potential is downgraded the role of the U.S. middle class is exaggerated. Some

outstanding middle class elements in the U.S. can recognize, and live by, the hegemony of the working class. It is also true that the working class must win as allies sections of the middle class. That is different from the constant emphasis on the U.S. middle class and the almost absolute negation of the U.S. working class in many periodicals, movies, newsletters, etc. published by forces which have a generally correct viewpoint. For example, how many Marxist-Leninist publications could find a paragraph to comment on the recent strike of the East Coast longshoremen? That strike was conducted for weeks against opportunist labor leaders and extreme government pressure for a quick return to work.

The struggle against American exceptionalism by Marxist forces dates back to 1845 when Kriege saw an end to poverty in the U.S. Kriege was sharply criticized by Marx. Recently Hammer & Steel praised ANTITHESIS on the West Coast for serious efforts to develop Marxism-Leninism in the U.S. This comment turned out to be somewhat hasty. The majority of ANTITHESIS editors have decided to seek the American Way out--past experience proves this is the bourgeois way, the path of opportunism.

Recently H&S had a visit from one who described himself as an "old friend." This "old friend" has been about to strike a great blow against revisionism for several years, but somehow he never quite had the time or opportunity. "Old Friend" came to us after attending, in the same week, both a social affair of CPUSA leaders and a Progressive Labor convention. He scolded us at great length for criticising revisionism and adventurism in PL. He advised us to criticize the CPUSA leaders only on special occasions. He was most bitter that we had tried to make a contribution on world Marxist-Leninist leadership and unity in our #3 issue. "Old friend" warned us that U.S. Marxist-Leninists must be "exceptionally" careful not to identify with the world Marxist-Leninist movement. "Old friend" strongly inferred that Marxist-Leninist leadership would never originate from Boston workers, but was the exclusive property of "exceptional" middle class forces in N.Y.C.

The New York Times magazine, the Hearst Press, Saturday Evening Post and Newsweek have all had long articles acclaiming Progressive Labor as the official, successful, pro-Chinese opposition to the revisionist CPUSA. Why are the imperialist press so anxious to build up Progressive Labor? Because PL has not made one theoretical contribution against U.S. imperialism or against revisionism. The reactionary press hopes that PL, by adopting a Party form of organization, will be able to further split Marxist-Leninist forces in the U.S. and prevent Marxist-Leninist ideological development. U.S. Marxist-Leninists will gain strength in overcoming any puny, petty-bourgeois, American exceptionalist efforts to forestall a Marxist-Leninist vanguard Party by PL leaders.

An advertisement on Viet Nam appeared in the Boston Globe of May 11. Among the signers were leading revisionists as well as middle class elements who are identified in this area as Marxist sympathizers. Many of the signers are lawyers, preachers and doctors who have made a nice living from workers and Afro-Americans who went to them because of their "left" reputation. These revisionists and their allies gave all out support to Johnson in last November's election, after he had bombed North Viet Nam.

Many of these people are complaining that the Liston-Muhammad Ali fight was a fake. Yet they willingly aided the promotion of a phony fight last November where both men were owned by the same promoter, the 50 richest families. Was there ever a more crooked contest with a bigger smell than the so-called bout between Goldwater and Johnson? Marxist-Leninist forces in the U.S. must struggle against the notion that presidential elections or votes in congress have anything to do with how the country is run. We must identify the real rulers, dispel poisonous illusions about bourgeois democracy, and explain how U.S. imperialists order the government about.

The ad urged UN intervention in Viet Nam. It called for negotiations without mentioning withdrawal of U.S. troops. It hailed Pope Paul VI who demands an end to wars of national liberation. It did not mention the Geneva agreement. In short, it was completely in support of U.S. imperialism's objectives in Viet Nam and completely opposed to the interests of the Vietnamese people.

This is an example of American exceptionalism in action. This is an example of how the line of Soviet leaders aids reaction everywhere. The revisionists and their allies (who deceived many signers on the purpose of the ad) will be answered and exposed. They will then cry, like the CPSU leaders, "Don't attack us, we want unity." They want unity behind U.S. imperialism. We want unity against U.S. imperialism. That is why we will take the issue to the Afro-American people and the working class.

Recently President Johnson said that "He was not going to sit in a rocking chair with folded hands and let Latin American nations go Communist one by one." This attack on his fellow imperialist, the late John F. Kennedy, should make those following revisionism ponder. If Johnson thought Kennedy such a failure could he really have been so sad at the assassination in his home state of Texas? Those following revisionism should seriously contemplate their own fate once Johnson is thru using them.

The peoples of the world will soon end Johnson's reign of terror. Neither American exceptionalism nor any other form of revisionism will save a neo-Hitler or his stooges from their Nuremburg trials.

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