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HAMMER & STEEL NEWSLETTER

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Malthus, Murder, and Oil

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Most of this newsletter was discussed by H&S's editorial board before Nixon's speech announcing further aggression and genocide in Vietnam. This newsletter explains the basic reason for Nixon's actions.

Would Nixon have spoken or acted as he did without prior agreement by Mao and Chou, Breshnev and Kosygin? As we have explained in many newsletters, Mao's and Breshnev's token aid to Vietnam is offset a thousand times by peaceful coexistence aid to US imperialism. The US could not kill one more Vietnamese without retribution and defeat if the rulers of Russia and China did not also fear and oppose the national liberation struggles of oppressed peoples.

When the policy of peaceful coexistence with US imperialism is no longer tolerated in China and the USSR; when Mao, Chou, Breshnev and Kosygin are ousted and punished; then the path will be clear for anti-imperialist activity by China and Russia. The struggle in all nations against the peaceful coexistence line of betrayal by Breshnev and Mao is the most important support anyone can give the heroic Vietnamese battle against US imperialism.

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WHO IS "WE"?

Several recently-published "studies" claim to show that population growth is the main cause of misery in the world. If population growth is not curtailed, they say, we will exhaust the world's supply of natural resources in less than 100 years.

H&S asks: Who is "we"?

The majority of the world's energy comes from coal, oil and natural gas. At present rates of consumption and allowing for expected increases, presently known reserves will not last long: coal, 111 years; natural gas, 22 years; petroleum, 20 years.

H&S: Who is doing the present consuming and who expects to increase consumption?

Within present US borders lives approximately 7% of the world's population. Of these people, over one-sixth are oppressed nations or peoples who do not share the standard of living of US whites. Therefore, "US" fossil fuel consumption figures understate the actual concentration in the white oppressor nation. Of the world's energy the US consumes: coal, 44%; petroleum, 33%; natural gas 63%. (Limits to Growth, Club of Rome Report, Potomac Associates, Washington, D.C. pp 56-60.)

It is the US and specifically giant US corporations who consume fuels at a tremendous rate. Meeting presently predicted demand for petroleum for the next 50 years will require reserves five times those presently known. This also means expanding the US share from 33% to 40% or more.

The US, USSR and Japan together presently consume half of the world's oil. US companies scramble to stake claims to the coastline of Vietnam, Burma and China in the search for more reserves. Vast new oil reserves are a must to meet US plans which do not include sharing.

CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT

The imperialist stage of capitalism leads to automated production methods using more raw materials, more energy, and less labor power. When Lenin described imperialism in 1916 he gave the following reasons for export of capital to "backward countries":

"In these backward countries profits are usually high, for capital is scarce, the price of land is relatively low, wages are low, raw materials are cheap." (Imperialism, FLPH, Moscow, p. 104.)

In 1916 imperialist industry ran on electricity from coal and hydroelectric power. Transportation depended almost entirely on coal.

In 1972 oil, natural gas, and nuclear power provide over one-third of the electrical energy and most of the energy for transport. Total US energy consumption has increased approximately 40-fold since 1920. Another fifty-per cent increase is predicted by 1980.

In 1916, obtaining cheap raw materials was one reason for exporting capital to "backward countries". In 1972 it is the main reason.

Oil exploration and production require relatively small numbers of workers in the oppressed oil producing countries. The people of many present and potential oil producing countries live on the brink of starvation. They are too poor to provide a market for oil and its products. To the US imperialists these people are "excess" population. Their very existence is threatened. US drive for increased energy cannot succeed without genocide against these people.

Projected oil demand in 1980 requires one tanker arriving in a US port every hour of the day and night. (N.Y. Times, April 26, 1972, p. 69.) Projected demand means an Alaskan pipeline which destroys the land and culture of

the Eskimo people. Projected demand means Portuguese-US oppression of Angola for Gulf Oil. Projected demand means genocide.

The imperialist oil timetable leaves no room for "reform", no room for peaceful coexistence or peaceful economic development. For this reason the main anti-imperialist force in the world is the oppressed peoples struggling for national liberation. For this reason the coalition against imperialism includes the middle class in oppressed nations, which suffers from imperialist control over resources and the peasantry, the main object of genocide.

The alternative to genocide is national liberation struggles which cut off oil supplies--destroying the US imperialist fist finger by finger, following the path indicated by Lin Piao when he was influenced by Marxism-Leninism.

PIE IN THE SKY--SWEDISH STYLE

The Manifesto Group in Sweden claims that imperialism does lead to peaceful economic development in oppressed nations by proletarianizing the people. (Hammer & Sickle No. 1, Dec. 1971) They hold that today

"imperialist countries' exploitation of the dominated parts of the world shifts from agriculture and mining to the industrial and financial sectors...Feudal remnants, if any are smashed to pieces, land reforms are carried out (and that is something which today in

every place of the globe plays into the hands of the imperialists...from the peasants the growing industrial working class is also recruited in these countries and this class is no longer a tiny minority in these societies... [the majority of the peasants] don't have any interest in a so-called 'national-democratic' revolution, for such a thing can't tear these classes away from imperialism and fundamentally change their situation. The only revolution they have an interest in is the socialist revolution."

Although they cite no evidence the Manifesto Group says that in Central and South America imperialism acts as they describe. A brief look at developments in Brazil, the most industrialised country in South America, proves their view completely false. In 1971 Brazil exported (in order of importance) coffee, beans, raw cotton, iron ore, cane sugar, pine wood, corn and cocoa beans; and imported wheat, petroleum, machinery, chemicals, metals and vehicles. (New York Times Almanac 1972, p. 664.) To open new sources of iron ore the agents of US corporations slaughtered thousands of Brazilian Indians in the Amazon region.

In the ravings of the Swedish group imperialism in the oppressed nations develops advanced industry (machine tools) and a large proletariat. Only in their imaginations is it possible to defeat imperialism and head off genocide without an anti-imperialist coalition including all classes of oppressed peoples. To the

pseudo-Marxists of Sweden it makes no difference whether Rockefeller or a Vietnamese peasant owns a piece of land.

Sweden has a high standard of living including a high rate of energy consumption. In their imaginings, are the Swedish writers influenced by their share in the Swedish bourgeoisie's superprofits at the expense of the oppressed peoples? The Swedes are, objectively, preparing the oppressed for genocide by arguing they are economically necessary to imperialism.

HAUNTED BY MALTHUS

The neo-Malthusians argue that the food supply and raw material reserves are insufficient for the growing numbers of the oppressed. Actually the food growing potential of the world goes largely untapped because the land is in the hands of imperialism and its collaborators. Petroleum is exported to the US instead of being burned in tractors in oppressed nations.

National liberation will open great possibilities for increasing production in oppressed nations. For example, after imperialism is destroyed, the energy now used to produce nuclear weapons could be used to desalinate sea water for irrigation.

Until such measures become reality, it is impossible to say how many people could live on the globe. Today's population explosion "theorists" carry out their studies

with support from imperialist foundations. They are unable and unwilling to consider the alternative of national liberation. Objectively their theories provide a rationale for genocide.

Population controllers' claims to be humanitarian and objective are false. Yet one of their self-serving arguments contains an important element of truth: fossil fuels-- basic source for most of the world's industrial energy-- are being used up.

The vast majority of the world's people live in economically underdeveloped oppressed and formerly oppressed nations in which consumption per capita of energy under the present distribution is negligible. Reducing their numbers as the population controllers advocate would not greatly change the demand for energy.

As stated above the US consumes over one-third of the world supply of oil and coal and almost two-thirds of the natural gas! As the Club of Rome report recognizes, the oppressed nations must threaten the status quo in energy first as political rebels before they can become rival consumers.

The scholars of the Club of Rome glance up from their computer printouts long enough to note the "imponderable political question" and then return to "solve" the economic question a la Malthus. The world population and its demand for energy are growing too fast, they say. To be strictly accurate, two words must be changed: US imperialism and its demand for energy are growing too fast.

HEGEMONY

US drive for world hegemony over fossil and nuclear fuels since World War II explains its inordinate energy consumption today. Maintaining the growth rate in US energy consumption requires stepped-up efforts to control new reserves. Unlike the MIT-Club of Rome scholars, the US government does not regard this as an "imponderable political question" which "may arise".

US policy is geared to defending and extending US corporate control over resource reserves. Is there copper in Chile? Are the coastlines of Vietnam, Burma and Bangladesh prime prospects for oil exploration? When the answer is yes, can the CIA and US troops and planes be far behind?

Following World War II national liberation struggles in China, in Korea, in Vietnam and in Indonesia, as examples, closed off large areas as sources of materials to imperialism. The Soviet Union under Stalin's leadership backed national independence for former colonial nations, backed their control over their own natural resources.

After World War II imperialist industry's dependence on oil increased greatly, creating a new potential for weakening US imperialism on the part of the Vietnamese, Palestinians, Congolese, and the Biafrans, as examples. Victories for these peoples, cutting off oil supplies to the US, could hurt more than ever.

REVISIONISM TO THE RESCUE

Why haven't such victories been achieved? National liberation is held back temporarily because imperialism receives substantial aid from revisionism in Russia and China. By adopting a policy of peaceful coexistence Mao and Breshnev concede US imperialism's "right" to grab the world's fuels.

An example is the struggle of Biafra for independence. When Biafrans seceded from "Nigeria" they declared their just claims to large reserves of low-sulphur oil which the Nigerian government had handed over to US and English oil companies. In response the Russian revisionists shipped arms to Nigeria. The Chinese revisionists recognized the government of Nigeria and its "right" to control Biafra.

Revisionism developed out of US imperialism's pressure on the former Socialist countries--pressure largely resulting from a need for more oil. The US used its dominant position in energy and especially nuclear power to blackmail Khrushchev. His attack on Stalin in 1956 began the transformation of the SU from an opponent of the US drive for control of energy sources to a supporter and assistant. Where Lenin and Stalin pursued policies to gear socialist economic development to the alliance between the SU and the oppressed nations, Breshnev prepares to sell natural gas to the US.

The cultural counter-revolution of 1966 was a victory for revisionism in China. Mao, Chou and Lin Piao used the Red Guards to smash the CPC and began a secret detente with US imperialism which Nixon's trip merely made more open. Far from blocking US needs for more oil, Chinese leaders are considering inviting US oil companies to "develop" China's reserves.

Lenin defined revisionism as bourgeois ideology covered up by Marxist phraseology. Revisionism leads to practical actions in support of imperialism as in Biafra. Revisionism also aids the development of more open forms of imperialist ideology such as the "theories" of population explosion.

The current revival of Malthusian ideas is relatively recent. "Population explosion" replaced "nuclear holocaust" as the number one bugaboo after revisionism had a firm hold in Russia and China. Nuclear blackmail had done its work in turning the revisionists into supporters of the status quo who would not, as Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin did, challenge neo-Malthusianism and expose its reactionary nature.

The drive for more oil and genocide are not new. US imperialism committed genocidal crimes in Japan (Nagasaki and Hiroshima) and in Korea in 1950. Today, genocide intensifies as resistance from ex-Socialist countries has temporarily disappeared and the resurgence of imperialism in Japan and W. Europe heightens competition for oil and superprofits.

RESISTANCE IN THE US

In time US imperialism may scrap neo-Malthusian preachings and develop another rationale for genocide. However, it will never drop, it cannot drop, its frantic drive for oil reserves. This understanding is essential to any effective exposure of imperialist ideas--neo-Malthusian or otherwise.

In the US small numbers of people are raising doubts about the population control arguments. Somewhat larger numbers question the massive bombing and mining of north Vietnam--a more flagrant form of population control and genocide. These people almost never mention US imperialism's drive for oil and energy supplies as the basic source of open and covert genocide. They seek to persuade the government of US imperialism to stop at least its most flagrant attacks on the oppressed people and their unborn children.

US whites who "oppose" population control cannot have it both ways. They cannot demand more cars in the "class struggle" against US imperialism and simultaneously oppose genocide. Increasing US car production requires vast quantities of oil that can be obtained only by genocidal measures like the Alaska pipeline and the destruction of the Biafran State.

Gus Hall (CPUSA) and Milt Rosen (PL) identify with the US workers' greed for more cars inspired by oil-greedy imperialists' need for support at home. "Sure we're against genocide and for the oppressed peoples," say these "Marxists", "but we regard US workers' demands for cars and high living standards as the "revolutionary" key to the class struggle." When it comes to lauding US workers' demands for more cars, leading to more profits, PL Magazine and the Daily World read like the annual reports of GM or Standard Oil.

FEWER CARS, MORE ANTI-IMPERIALISTS

H&S does not foresee a US with the present number of cars, a US where air travel between cities burns far more fuel than more economical train transport. Victories for the national liberation struggles will come as the oppressed peoples reject the advice and leadership of Mao and Breshnev. Victories shutting off oil supplies will be of great assistance to anti-imperialists among US whites.

Our task of winning support for national liberation will advance as US imperialism has less oil with which to bribe our people. Our task as Marxist-Leninists is to expose imperialist ideology whether it be the "Marxism" sponsored by Moscow and Peking or neo-Malthusianism sponsored by the Club of Rome. Our cause will advance as the oppressed peoples begin to expose Mao and Breshnev for what they are--servants of US imperialism.

Meeting US demand for one tanker load of oil per hour requires genocide. Therefore anti-imperialists want less oil for the US white oppressor nation.

To fight successfully the oppressed peoples will reject "population control" and will increase their populations as rapidly as possible, throwing them into the anti-imperialist struggle. If the Vietnamese had accepted population control and rejected babies in 1950, who would be fighting so heroically now?

Control of the world's energy by US imperialism is doomed. H&S calls on all anti-imperialist forces in the US and

world-wide to join us in exposing the ideology of "population control" thus speeding the destruction of US imperialism.

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REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRICA

Hammer & Steel has appealed to readers to support the Republic of New Africa's demand for independence of the Afro-American nation in the Black Belt. We have urged readers to contribute to the defense of the eleven RNA leaders framed in Mississippi. The Southern Conference Educational Fund, whose views we do not completely endorse, has printed a four-page flyer outlining the RNA leaders' arrest and their program. If you would like to receive more information on the RNA, write H&S for a copy of this flyer.

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