

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In case you've been wondering what happened to WINTER SOLDIER and "Inside/Out" last month, they didn't exist. The last issue of both publications that you should have received from us is dated "March, 1975." The issue now being sent to you is a combined April/May issue. As the crisis of imperialism continues to deepen, it is getting harder and harder for people to survive, and that goes for peoples' organizations as well. Because of financial problems, we were unable to print WINTER SOLDIER last month. We are now on the road to dragging ourselves out of debt, and we hope that our publications will resume regular publication in the future. We thank you for your patience and concern for our money problems and we hope that you will enjoy this month's issues.

In Solidarity,

VVAW/WSO National Collective

LIBERATION!

In the whole history of the world, there has been no greater month for liberation struggles than April, 1975. The victories--first in Cambodia and not quite two weeks later in South Vietnam--are first and foremost the victories of the heroic people of those countries who have been fighting against colonialism and then imperialism for decades. They are also victories for all the people of the world, because these defeats suggered by US imperialism have gone one step further toward weakening that monster which oppresses people in every land.

VVAW/WSO and all of its members have played a real part in that victory, one we are and should be proud of. The days of liberation have been moments that many of us have dreamed of for years, but our contribution to those victories came not from dreams, but from the consistent work we, as an organization and as individuals have done around Indochina since we began in 1967. It is now a time for joy--for the Indochinese and for us.

In our meetings with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and the United Front of Cambodia in the past several years, they have always stated their appreciation for the support they have been receiving from the people of the US. At the same time, however, they kept point out to us the need for carrying on the struggle against imperialism here in the US--and that is what we will continue to do. We have developed into an organization working around the struggles of vets and GIs, and focusing our attacks on the system of imperialism. The end of the war in Indochina means that we can celebrate with our comrades in Indochina and then go out to continue our building and growing struggle here at home.

The people of Indochina have been prisoners of imperialism for years; only through constant struggle, through the unity which comes from knowing who the enemy is, and through political leadership have they freed themselves. The 200, 000 political prisoners being held in Theiu's prisons have been freed along with the rest of the people of that country. Many of these brave men and women were imprisoned as a direct result of their work for the people of their country whom they now can join in freedom and independence. For all the Indochinese people, however, the victory means much more than just being free from the grip of US imperialism--it means freedom for building their country, freedom for improving the lives of all the people.

In the name of VVAW/WSO, the National Office sent the following telegram to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (both in Peking and in Paris) on April 16th: Comrades: With great job and revolutionary admiration we salute and join with you in celebrating the final liberation of Cambodia from the traitorous clique and the clutches of US imperialism. From your magnificent victory, which is a victory for all the people of the world, we draw unbounded inspiration and resolution to heighten our common struggle against imperialism. Fraternally, VVAW/WSO.

On April 29th, we sent the following telegram to the PRG: Comrades: Our joyful and revolutionary salutations on your glorious victory. To each and all of the heroic fighters for freedom and independence we send our comradely and deep admistration. From your magnificent example we draw renewed strength and inspiration to continue our common struggle to smash U. S. imperialism. In Fraternal Joy, VVAW/WSO.

On May 5th, we received the following telegram from Hanoi: Warmest Greetings from Vietnamese People. Great historical victory of independence and freedom scored by our people can by no means be separated from tremendous and precious support of whole mankind among them American people, organizations, and personalities. Hence, our gratitude and greetings of peace and friendship. Let our solidarity prevail and assure more success.

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The American ruling class--the people who need the wars like Vietnam in order to keep their profits growing--is clearly confused about how to talk about the defeat they have suffered. Despite their constant efforts to stand the truth on its head, they cannot say anything but the end of the war is a defeat. About the best they can try is either to sweep the whole last 20 years under the rug of history (Ford is already trying to do that) or they can try to come up with some kind of smokescreen (the orphans, the refugees, most of whom are the Vietnamese ruling class, financially well-off, and clearly enemies of the Vietnamese people). Neither of these tactics is going to work, just as all the garbage they have been feeding the people of the US over the past 20 years didn't work.



They are going to tell us about the "bloodbath," never making a distinction about who are, and who are not the enemies of the people. Clearly, the leaders of the government and the military in both Cambodia and South Vietnam have been working in direct opposition to the interests of the people of those countries for years--execution is too good for them. But, because the liberation forces are working in the interests of all the people, there will be no bloodbath. In the interests of giving people a chance to see the guidelines under which the PRG in South Vietnam is operating, we are reprinting two items--codes of conduct for the liberation forces in South Vietnam. Both of them were published on April 1st, while the peoples' army was moving toward final liberation.

"10-Point Code of Conduct for Cadres and Personnel in Newly-Liberated Areas of South Vietnam.

1. Firmly defend the revolutionary power, always remain vigilant, be ready to smash all schemes of sabotage and opposition of the enemy.

2. Strictly implement all policies of the National Front for Liberation and all regulations issued by the revolutionary administration.

3. Strengthen solidarity among various strata of the population, among the cadres, combatants and the people. Actively mobilize the people to carry out all policies and undertakings of the Front and the revolutionary administration in order to promote confidence and public enthusiasm. Step up production and fighting and consolidate the newly-liberated areas in all fields.

4. Respect and protect the lives and property of the people. Do not take even a needle and thread from the people and do not use the people's property without permission. Anyone who damages the people's property will be fined.

5. Ensure the democratic liberties of the people, respect the freedom of belief and the customs and habits of the people.

6. Protect public property, historical relics, cultural and art works and scientific research projects.

7. All documents, papers, weapons, property, money and other items captured from the enemy must be handed over to the revolutionary administration. It is forbidden to destroy or appropriate them or to give them to others.

8. Be exemplary in observing public order, actively take part in checking and undoing all espionage activities, and psychological warfare manipulation of the enemy, fully observe the regulations concerning defence against enemy spies, keep the secrets of the revolution, mobilize the people to check and sweep away all kinds of depraved and reactionary culture.

9. It is forbidden to make arrests and to search persons or houses without warrants from the competent authorities. In case a person is caught in the act of opposing the revolutionary administration and the people by committing such acts as sabotage, robbery, murder, rape, or causing disturbances to public security and order, he or she must be arrested and handed over immediately to the responsible authorities for trial.

10. Preserve the revolutionary virtues: industry, thrift, integrity, and publicmindedness. Strict forbiddance of all behavior harmful to the prestige of the revolution.

During contact with the people, the revolutionary cadres must observe politeness, modesty and solidarity. It is strictly forbidden to behave arrogantly or to use coercion.

All cadres and personnel in the newly-liberated areas must strictly implement the 10-point code of conduct mentioned above. The officers and combatants of the armed forces implement their own 10-point code of conduct. Whoever violates it will be severely punished.

The people should assist the cadres and personnel in the correct implementation of the 10-point code of conduct.

South Viet Nam, April 1st, 1975.

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"10-Point Policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam Regarding Newly-Liberated Areas."

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To preserve and promote the gains of the revolution, normalize the life of the people, actively safeguard and implement the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, and bring the South Viet Nam revolution to new and yet greater victories, the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam declares the following 10-point policy concerning the areas recently liberated:

1. The complete abolition of the regime and administration machinery, armed forces, all organizations, all regulations and all forms of repression and coercion of the puppet administration. The speedy establishment of the people's revolutionary administration at all levels in the newly-liberated areas.

All the offices of the former puppet administration will be taken over by the revolutionary administration. Functionaries under the puppet administration must seriously observe all the lines and policies of the PRG.

All reactionary parties and other political organizations which collaborated with the enemy will be dissolved.

2. The achievement of democratic freedoms for the people, and of equality between the sexes.

The guarantees of freedom of belief and of unity and equality of religions. The people's freedom for religious worship shall be respected; pagodas and churches, holy sees and temples, shall be protected.

3. The implementation of a policy of great national unity, national reconciliation and concord, and opposition to the aggressive imperialism. The strict prohibition of all actions likely to give rise to discord, hatred or mistruct among the people or among the various ethnic groups.

All people, rich or poor, and irrespective of nationality, religion, or political tendency, must unite in mutual affection and assistance for the building of the liberated zone and for a new life in happiness.

Minority nationals are equal in all respects to their fellow-countrymen of the majority ethnic group. Devoted assistance will be provided to them to develop their economy and culture and improve their living conditions.



4. All people living in the liberated zone are free to carry on their occupations. They are duty-bound to help maintain law and order, and to support the revolution.

The people's revolutionary administration shall firmly and in good time deal with all schemes or actions of sabotage, or counter-attacks by the enemy. Severe punishment will be given to elements engaged in activities against the revolutionary administration, against law and order, against the lives, property or honor of the people, or against public property in the custody of the revolutionary administration.

5. The property left by the puppet administration will be managed by the PRG.

6. All industrial establishments, all handicraft shops, all establishment of trade, transport and communications, and all other public facilities must continue to operate to serve the national economy and the people in their everyday life.

Attention will be paid to the restoration of the production and to the normalization of the life of the people. Jobs will be provided to the unemployed and to other people capable of working.

Business associations are guaranteed to keep their ownership, and are allowed to continue to operate their businesses in the interests of the nation and the people. Devoted care will be given to orphans, the disabled, and the aged.

7. Encouragement will be given to farmers to rehabilitate and develop agricultural production, and to fishing, salt-making and forestry enterprises. Encouragement will be given to the owners of industrial plantations and orchards to continue is to do business.

8. All cultural, scientific and technical establishments, schools and hospitals will open again to serve the people. All agencies in service of the reactionary, decadent, enslaving culture of the U.S. imperialism and the puppet administration will be strictly banned.

9. The strict implementation of this policy adopted on March 25, 1975, by the PRG: all puppet officers and soldiers, policemen, disabled soldiers, veterans and civil servants who leave the enemy ranks and come to the liberated zone, or who stay in the liberated areas and report themselves to the revolutionary administration in strict conformity with the regulations of the revolutionary administration, will receive assistance to earn their living, to go home, or, if they wish, to serve in the new regime according to their capabilities. Their meritorious actions will be rewarded, but those who work against the revolution will be severely punished. Criminals who have sincerely repented will be pardoned.

10. The lives and property or foreign residents will be protected. All foreign residents must respect the independence, and sovereignty of Viet Nam, and must strictly observe all regulations and policies of the revolutionary administration.

Foreign residents who wish to contribute to the South Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, freedom and national construction are welcomed.

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The wheel of nature turns without pause, After the rain, good weather. In the wink of an eye, The universe throws off its muddy clothes. For ten thousand miles, The landscape spreads out like a beautiful brocade.

Light breezes Smiling flowers, High in the trees Amidst the sparkling leaves All the birds sing at once. People and animals rise up reborn. What could be more natural? After sorrow, comes joy.



South Viet Nam, April 1st, 1975

Why Are There Prisons? -- "The Corrupt System that Succeeds on Failure"

The following article is being re-printed from the Prisoner's Free Press, a newsletter printed in Philadelphia for and about prisoners. If you're interested in contacting these people, write to PFP, Box 4731, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

The American prison system is the most corrupt and dehumanizing in the world. On top of that it is a total failure. Even the thieving bureaucrats in charge of the prisons admit this. On April 11, 1974, the US Justice Department released a report that said one of every three federal prisoners commits a new crime within two years after release. In a foolish attempt to explain this fail-rate, Attorney General William Saxbe said: "In the past 10 years, the prison population has gotten tougher." Not only is this the lamest excuse we have heard but it also wins the bureaucratic bull shit award of the year. Saxbe attempts to shift the blame from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to the prisoner population. Instead of admitting that the system is at fault he deviously accuses the victims of that system for being the cause of the high rate of recidivism. He would have us believe the lie that prisoners are supposed to return to society and act like normal persons after being confined in human warehouses for 5, 10, 20 or more years, where they have been exploited like slaves, where they have been tortured, beaten, stripped of all human rights and dignity, fed garbage not fit for pigs, held incommunicado from their attorneys and the courts, denied contact with their loved ones, and treated like they are less than human.

The prison systems in the individual states are worse than the federal system. A correctional official in Pennsylvania revealed to us that 80% of all prisoners commit new crimes and return to prison. Those who manage to stay out after being released do so in spite of -- not because of -- the fraudulent "rehabilitative" and "correctional" programs that they are exposed to during their imprisonment.

The truth is that the reason why the prison system is a failure when it comes to rehabilitating prisoners is because it is meant to fail. It is deliberately designed to achieve recidivism. And it succeeds in its purpose. It is the only system that succeeds on failure. The politicians, bureaucrats and their bosses -- the capitalist ruling class -- want and need prisons and prisoners. Prisons are used as a threat to intimidate the people, to keep them in line so they will continue to be good slaves for the plutocrats who rule the country. Prisons are used to imprison those enemies of the American dictatorship who dissent too militantly against the tyranny we live under, for example, the Berrigans. Prisons are used to warehouse those members of the lower class who refuse to live in poverty and deprivation. Prisons are used to torture and murder revolutionaries such as George Jackson, Sam Melville, and the legions of other politicized prisoners from Attica to San Quentin. And above all, prisons are used to make money for the dictatorship government in Amerika. Prisons are a business. A big, dirty, rotten business where merchants in human misery get rich by exploiting prisoners. Prisons are a business monopoly controlled exclusively by the politicians and their parasite bureaucrats in the prison system. Prisons make use of legalized slavery. Prisoners are forced to work at hard labor in penitentiary sweat shops where they manufacture everything from shoes to expensive furniture. They are driven like slaves on prison farms. They are paid from . 15¢ to . 75¢ per day. In Pennsylvania alone, the profits from these prison industries amounts to over \$90 million dollars per year! The western

penitentiary at Pittsburgh manufactures all the license plates for the entire state. Prisoners working at dangerously obsolete and faulty presses stamp out the plates. The prisoners at Camp Hill work in a coffee roasting plant that makes coffee for every state and county institution in Pennsylvania. Camp Hill also has a furniture factory that manufactures furniture for every institution in the state. Even the offices of the political hacks in Harrisburg, at the state Capitol building, are furnished with furniture made at Camp Hill. The farms at the state prisons at Rockview, Camp Hill, Huntingdon, Graterford, and Dallas produce millions of dollars worth of milk, fruit, vegetables, livestock, meats and other farm produce yearly. The clothing plant, weave shop, and shoe shop at Graterford prison manufactures suits, shoes, and other clothing that brings millions of dollars of revenue to the state every year. These are a few of the industries operated by the prison system of Pennsylvania.

On top of this the payroll for the guards, staff workers, wardens, and other drones who have positions in the Pennsylvania prison system amounts to over \$20 million per year. The prison system is an integral part of the economy. It not only provides employment for thousands of unskilled workers who become guards, but it also creates a source of income for the state. It increases the political power of the state by giving it thousands of employees who can be counted on to support the dictatorial regime and its policies. An example is the recent endorsement by the guards' union in Pennsylvania of Governor Shapp for re-election.

No governmental agency seeks to decrease its power. This is especially true of the state and federal prison systems. Their constant cry is: "We are understaffed! We need more guards, more prisons, more administrative staff, more guns, gas, security equipment, etc." What they are really saying is "We want more money and a bigger payroll, more power, more votes that we can depend on, more hired killers for our army of oppression."



These are the reasons why prisons not only fail to rehabilitate but are deliberately designed to create and perpetuate an ever increasing crime rate. The higher the crime rate, the more people in prison, and the more people in prison the more money in the pockets of the thieving bureaucrats in charge of the prisons, the more votes the corrupt politicians can steal, the more power the state can weild, and the more control the capitalistic dictatorship can exercise over the working class.

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Though this article is dealing primarily with facts from Pennsylvania prisons, this kind of economic exploitation goes on in prisons in every state in this country. Imperialism is a system that must either expand or die; it must increase its profits or go under. And where does that system get its profits? Out of the labor and sweat of working people everywhere. Though you might think that the capitalists could get enough profits out of the working class as a whole -- out of their factories, mines, plants, transportation, etc., these blood-suckers are always looking for other places to exploit. It is not a coincidence that they happened to figure out that prisons was also a good and profitable "investment" for their money. Prisons and prison labor produce only a small part of the profits of the capitalist class as a whole because it is the working class that bears the primary brunt of this economic exploitation. However, prisons are a real part of the capitalist system -- particularly when considering who it is that prisons serve. When we understand that prisons are integrally tied into the imperialist system as a whole, we can see that it is that entire system of exploitation that needs to be done away with. We can't get rid of the prison system asit is now constituted without dealing the death blow to the ruling class and overall system of imperialism which prisons are a part of.

VA Prison Service?

A study done by the General Accounting Office on the way the Veterans Administration (VA) works in prisons showed that it doesn't work at all. This isn't much of a surprise. Anyone who has been reading Winter Soldier, or who has tried to get any of the many benefits which are administered by the VA knows that the VA system does very little to meet the needs of the people it is supposed to be serving. Any VA office is clogged up by miles of red tape and endless forms (all of which must be filled out correctly and in quadruplicate, of course). Almost any VA hospital facility gives the worst possible care to its patients--if it bothers to care for them at all.

The study, which was requested by Representative Charles B. Rangel, shows that vets in prison get almost no attention from the VA at all. Yet, there are a whole lot of ways in which vets in prison could in fact use some of the benefits they earned while undergoing the repression and racism which is part of being in the US military. There is, in fact, a section of the VA called the Veterans Outreach Services Program which is supposed to provide assistance in applying for benefits and services. Vets in prison do not lose their benefits--but most vets aren't even told that these benefits in fact exist. Correspondence courses, other educational courses not part of the prison "rehabilitation" program, and apprenticeship programs all are covered by the GI Education Bill.

The study sent interviewers to several prisons; they found that prison officials don't talk about VA benefits though they say they are open to visits from VA counselors in response to a specific request from a prisoner. Many vets thought they had lost their rights to benefits because of being in prison. Almost all welcomed the idea that VA counselors would at least be available to discuss benefits. Many State and Federal Prisons, the study said, were not being served by the VA in any way; in others, it was only in response to specific questions from vets in prison.

As a result of the study, and the stink it made, the VA said it would change its policy and make sure that VA representatives made regular prison visits. Of course, this would not be the first time that the VA has promised something that it didn't then produce--that happens all the time. We see this happening every day when we work around the VA facilities. In fact, because of the system under which the VA exists, it will never serve the real needs of the people--it is built to pacify the veterans, not to help them. The VA will, like the prisons, always serve the system of imperialism first and help the individual second (or third or even further down the line).



In short, we know we can't reform the VA system to make it do what it should; high quality, free medical care for all people; and high quality, free education for all people will come through long struggle and through changing the present system. At the same time, however, we know that mass action and united struggle against specific parts of the VA system will make it live up to some of the promises it has made to the veterans. And we feel that is a good thing. In the same way that fighting for no mail censorship isn't going to really change the prison system, we think that any "reform" which is going make life a little better for the prisoners is a step in the right direction--the same holds true for the VA.

Individual veterans should get together and demand that the prison provide information about VA benefits, and should demand that the VA should get representatives to the prison to help out with applications. This is, of course, only a first step toward education benefits for all people and toward all the other changes which are needed--and which will come when the people unite in the struggle against the imperialist system which exploits us all, vets and non-vets, prisoners both inside and outside the prison walls.

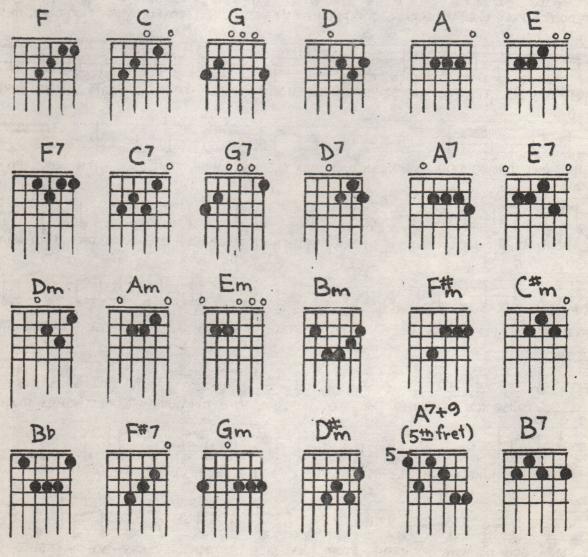
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* DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS

Revolutionary Culture

In the enclosed issue of WINTER SOLDIER, there is an article on a revolutionary singing group called Prairie Fire. (For general information purposes, this couple has no relationship to the Weather Underground Organization and their recent publication). Culture which serves the masses of people is an important thing for the revolutionary movement to develop and we have received requests for examples of revolutionary culture, i.e. songs, poetry, etc. Because of the importance: of trying to fill these requests, and because we think Prairie Fire is one of the finest revolutionary singing groups around these days, we are printing one of their songs on the following pages. We are printing the music as well as the lyrics so that people can get the full essence of what this kind of music is all about. We know that many of you play the guitar, and if you don't, perhaps you have a friend there who does. Also, printed below is a basic fingering sheet for guitar to go along with the chords listed in the song. We hope that people can enjoy this music -- at least the lyrics if not the music. Also, we encourage people to learn from the example of Prairie Fire as to what revolutionary music and culture can be like, and we hope that other brothers and sisters can further develop other forms of cultural expression. We hope to be printing other songs by Prairie Fire in the future, so let us know what you think about this kind of thing.



PUT THE HEAT ON THE HEAT

Hand, angRILY RYTHMIC TA G D C - ARE KILL-ING PEO-PLE OUT ON THE STREETS OF THIS LAND -THEY RE TAK-ING THE PO-LICE_ "A D G C 0. KNOW WITH THAT GUN IN THEIR HAND aim_ on min - nor-1-TY PEO-PLE. AT A7 D D WORK SO HARD FOR & LIV-ING TO SEE MY KIDS EAT & BELL-Y FULL OF LEAD, and 1 DON'T B7 ET G AT F D D I DON'T FEEL LIKE FOR-GET-TIN' AND FOR-GIV- IN' WHEN I SEE PEO-PLE SHOT DOWN DEAD. I'M GET-TING AT ,THE HARD-EST FIGHT-IN MAD_, THE PEO-PLES BE-ING AT-TACKED. BY SY-STEM-MA-TIC PLAN_ AT D PO - LICE THE HIT ARE BROWN AND BLACK. YOU DON'T SEE NO RICH MAN. WITH A7 D D DOWN ON HIS BACK . THINK I UN-DER-STAND WHAT IS BE-HIND PO-LICE AT-TACK. THEY WANT OJ A7+9 ET D F7 6 E7 A G D KEEP THE PEO PLE DOWN _____ A - FRAID TO STAND OUR GROUND_THE COP HAS BADGE AND GUN_ - CAUSE IT'S HIS JOB TO PRO - TECT PUB-LIC EN-E- MY NUM-BER ONE: THE RICH MAN'S SY-STEM, G GD It's the whole Damn sy-stem. GOT-TA FIGHT IT, GON-NA HAVE TO WOH - WOH - WOH -07 07 A7+9 A709 D PO-LICE AT-TACKS, EV-ERY-BO-DY START, START, WON, GOD - NA HAVE TO STOP, STOP,

START FIGHT-ING BACK. (COME ON NOW) A7 C 1. The police are killing people G D A7 Out on the streets of this land. C They're taking aim on minority peoples G D A7 With that gun in their hand. D A7 I know I don't work so hard for a living D A7 To see my kids eat a belly full of lead. D A7 And I don't feel like forgetting and forgiving G **B7** E7 D F When I see people shot down dead. E7 A7 I'm getting fighting mad. The people's being attacked A7 By systematic plan. D The hardest hit are Brown and Black. A7 You don't see no rich man D With the police down on his back.

ATHA

and____ PUT THE HEAT ON THE HEAT A7 I think I understand D What is behind police attacks: G A7 D They want to keep the people down, E7 F7 E7 C Afraid to stand our ground. The cop has badge A7+9 and gun E7 'Cause it's his job to protect public enemy number 1: A7 C CHOR: The rich man's system! (ain't just a couple D crazy cops) A7 GA It's the whole damn system! Gotta fight it, D7 D gonna have to wo-wo-wo Gonna have to: A7+9 Stop! Stop! Police attacks! Everybody D7 E7 A7 Start! Start! Start fightin' back! [Sing above two lines 4 times] D And,...Put the heat on the heat!



D

cont.

2. These attacks on minority peoples They happen every day. But they're coming down, now more than ever The system's in decay. What with unemployment, runaway inflation, Gas shortage, food shortage, everything's a mess This last hired, first fired system means discrimination I don't have to tell you, we're being oppressed. And, man, we're fighting mad. We're demonstrating in the streets. There's workers striking back We are rising to our feet. The rich man cannot stand To see our victory complete, So he calls his police in And then they apply the heat. They want to keep our struggles down, So we don't gain no ground. The cop has badge and gun 'Cause it's his job to protect public enemy number 1: But that ain't gonna save public enemy number 1:

3. The ruling class wants to divide the people Wants us to fight each other. So they pit whites against minority peoples To keep their system covered. But what is good for the system Is bad for the people. What's good for us is unity. We all got to fight for the rights of people to be equal And keep on strugglin' till we're free! And we are fighting back From Atlanta to L.A. Fighting police attacks From New York to 'Cisco Bay, In a united stand People of every single race. The man no longer can Keep the people in their place! They'll never keep our struggles down. Right now we're gaining ground. The cop has badge and gun

CHORUS

CHORUS

