

Marxist-Leninist movement: ***'Beginning analysis'***

A third analysis which attempts to draw lessons from recent left history is the pamphlet, "Beginning Analysis," by the Bay Area Communist Union (BACU), an independent Marxist-Leninist group. "Beginning Analysis" is an overview of the social basis and development of the new Marxist-Leninist movement in the U.S. and some of the problems it faces. Attempting the "concrete analysis of a concrete situation" that Lenin called the essence of Marxism, the BACU gives a brief history of the rise of Marxist-Leninist forces out of the antiwar movement, the Black liberation and other minority struggles, the student movement and the women's movement.

Although at times their survey tends to be

somewhat superficial, the sections of the pamphlet, "Problems of Class Struggle in the U.S." and "Analysis of Political Trends," represent a generally good attempt to apply a Marxist-Leninist analysis to some of the problems facing the U.S. left.

Without going into a detailed description of all the points the BACU raises, something of their approach can be gathered from a quote from Lenin's preface to Marx and Engels' "Letters to Americans." The BACU begins: "Lenin directed attention to Marx and Engels' ability, through their letters, to identify different problems facing the class struggle in different countries." They go on to quote Lenin's preface: "From the scientific standpoint, what we observe here is a sample of materialist dialectics, of the ability to bring out and stress different points and different sides of a question in accordance with the specific peculiarities of various political and economic conditions. From the standpoint of practical policy and tactics of the workers' party, what we see here is a sample of the way the creators of the Communist Manifesto defined the tasks of the militant proletariat in accordance with the different stages of the national labor movements in various countries."

"Beginning Analysis" is available for \$1 from the BACU, Box 15191, Station A, San Francisco, Calif. 94115. **WILLIAM GURLEY**
