

EDITORIAL**ON THE XXIII ANNIVERSARY-
END THE BLOCKADE !**

In Cuban history, this July 26 marks the 23rd anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks. This act gave rise to the founding of the July 26th movement and the eventual defeat of the criminal Batista regime and the forces of U.S. imperialism.

On July 17th, EL COMITE-M.I.N.P. and a group of friends of the Cuban Revolution will salute the Cuban Revolution for its victories and for its success in establishing the first socialist republic in the Americas. The activity will give emphasis to the Cuban Revolution's victory and its influential impact on the developing revolutionary movement in Latin America. Furthermore, the activity will help to provide funds and support for the annual July 26th celebration which this year assumes the character of a cultural exchange with Cuba under the title of "In Concert with Cuba".

The activities for July 26 take particular meaning for us in these historical moments. The U. S. Government continues to intensify its acts of aggression - political and economic - against Cuba. Through its economic blockade and embargo, the U.S. has for over a decade prohibited all forms of trade with Cuba-while itself trading with Socialist countries (including the Soviet Union and China)-while, through its political and economic control of most Latin American countries, it has pressured the Organization of American States, (OAS) to exclude Cuba from the affairs that concern Latin America. This has been done in an attempt to isolate Cuba from the rest of Latin America. This policy has for over a decade been coupled by direct armed intervention, such as the invasion of Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs) in April of 1961, and the continuous subversive activities by the U.S. intelligence apparatus and U.S. supported Cuban exiles. These efforts have all ended in failure. Indeed, the failure of these acts of aggression by U.S. have resulted in the first defeat of U.S. imperialism in the Americas.

CUBA-ANGOLA

Ever since the victory of the MPLA and the peoples of Angola against the forces of Imperialism and neo-colonialism in Africa, with the concrete support of Revolutionary Cuba, the U.S. through its Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has intensified its attacks on Cuba. Failing to intimidate Cuba into not meeting its responsibilities toward the peoples of Angola, the U.S. has unleashed a wave of propaganda against Cuba's role in Angola. This campaign, with clear threats against Cuba's sovereignty, have been accompanied by distortions and hysterical statements in this election year in the United States. Incapable of deviating Cuba from its principled stand on Angola, the U. S. government has gone as far as using the traitor Eldrige Cleaver as a mouth piece for their politics in a ridiculous charge of racism in Cuba (this from a government who is infamous for its support of the Apartheid regime in South Africa, its support of the Zionist State of Israel, and for its historical deprivation of the most basic rights to Blacks within its own borders). The bankruptcy of this hysterical campaign reaches its peak with the U.S. government attempting to link Cuba with its own internal political crimes and by calling in the United Nations and other international forums for the removal of Cuban support troops from Angola. The United States, whose armies, navies, and air force presently have military bases throughout most countries of the world, including Cuba, attempts to justify its attacks on Cuba because of the presence of a few thousands soldiers in Angola, presence requested by the duly constituted Peoples Republic of Angola.

In characteristic cynicism and arrogance, the U.S. government, through its Secretary of State Kissinger, carried its hysterical campaign against Cuba to the Organization of American States during its recently held meeting held in Chile under the auspices of the Fascist Junta of General Augusto Pinochet. There, in the home of terror and modern witch hunts, Kissinger besides raising the issue of Angola would denounce Cuba for maltreatment of its "political prisoners". This outrageous statement was made as a guest of a military regime which, with direct U.S. support, has murdered and tortured hundreds of thousands of Chileans and held countless others in dungeons and concentration camps.

The cynical attitude of Kissinger led to the embarrassment of various Latin American foreign ministers present at the OAS meeting whose silence reflected true character of the OAS as the U.S. ministry of Colonies.

U.S. REVOLUTIONARIES UNITE WITH KISSINGER

The increased attacks against Cuba by the U.S. government come at a moment in which elements within its own Congress have begun to recognize the futility and absurdity of the U.S. present foreign policy toward Cuba. But within sectors of the "left" these attacks are being given legitimacy by the sad and ridiculous positions of so-called revolutionaries who in their frenzied hatred toward "Soviet Social-imperialism" echo the positions of Kissinger and the U.S. government. In so doing, these so-called revolutionaries take a stand in unity with the ruling class and its loyal servants in government-Ford, Kissinger, Rumsfeld etc. and objectively support their imperialist efforts. In effect, these would be revolutionaries are themselves social-chauvinists and true social imperialists. They are no different than the Gompers, Kaustkys, Plekhanous which Lenin so ruthlessly criticized for supporting the imperialist efforts of their own bourgeoisie.

Speaking about the reformist politics of various Latin American Communist Parties, Fidel once made a statement which so well applies to many of these so called revolutionaries who living under the comfort that their class background provides and their misconception of Marxism-Leninism are quick to criticize those who have not only carried forth their own revolution but moreover have raised Proletarian Internationalism beyond a slogan to be repeated or written about on Mayday,

"...We don't want to involve ourselves in any other problems which are already large enough, of those of other revolutionary organizations in other countries such as those of Europe. We are addressing Latin America. And of course, if they only confine their mistakes to themselves... but no...they try to encourage the same mistakes in those who are already mistaken in this continent. And to such an extent that part of the so-called revolutionary press has made attacks against Cuba for our revolutionary stand in Latin America. That is a fine thing! They don't know how to be revolutionaries over there, yet they want to teach us how to be revolutionaries over here..."

Closing remarks-First Conference of OLAS -1967

The revolutionary principles that determined Cuba's support to Angola have their roots in the finest of the 26 of July Movement and the revolutionary tradition instilled in it by the historical deeds of Maximo Gomez in the First War of Independence against the Spanish colonizers and in the heroic figure of Ernesto Guevara. These ideas take deeper meaning and significance as clear expression of the highest form of international solidarity, Proletarian Internationalism. Moreover, and as we have commented in previous

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JULY 26 (cont.)

editions of OEM, the Cuban support to Angola is not the first time in which revolutionary Cuba has concretely raised the Leninist banners of Proletarian Internationalism. The liberation forces of Mozambique and Guinea Bissau can attest to this reality as well as Heroic Vietnam who in Cuba had one of its staunchest supporters in its valiant struggle against U.S. imperialism. Those North Americans that today irresponsibly criticize Cuba for its actions and who attempt in the process to present Cuba as a Soviet satellite are either ignorant of Cuba's historical development or worse yet are ignorant of the true meaning of internationalism as well as their responsibility toward nations under the yoke of U.S. Imperialism.

EL COMITE-M.I.N.P. AND CUBA

In discussing the Conference in Solidarity with Puerto Rico in previous edition of OEM, we stated "Cuba, in keeping with its historical commitment of unconditional support for the cause of Puerto Rican Independence, once again expressed that the independence of Puerto Rico was not negotiable nor a point of discussion within the context of U.S.-Cuban relations. In this manner, Cuba once more expresses what has consistently been the practice of the Cuban people." (OEM VOL. I NO. II)

In recognizing Cuba's firm position on the question of Puerto Rico as well as recognizing and saluting its internationalist practice, this does not mean we renounce our revolutionary principles nor should it be interpreted as an attempt at presenting or agreement with everything about the Cuban revolution. That attitude is just as absurd and incorrect as the irresponsibilities we criticize in others. The fundamentals of historical materialism, cornerstone in the study of the development of societies and of the science of Marxism-Leninism, teach us about the uneven development of societies, nations, peoples and, as consequence, revolutions, in this context to contemplatively wait for the perfect social revolution is pure idealism. The Cuban revolution has committed errors, particularly in its relations with Latin America, it has committed errors in relations to the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement and the forces that compose that movement. Yet this critical position we assume is guided by revolutionary principles and integrity not charlatanism. In this regard, we will not parrot the positions of other international revolutionary movements who themselves have committed serious errors in relations to Latin America and Puerto Rico.

CUBA AND LATIN AMERICA

In these historical moments characterized by the imperialist crisis, caused by the internal contradictions of U.S. imperialism and its defeats in Indochina as well as its defeats at the hands of revolutionary forces in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the imperialists and the forces of reaction are attempting to ruthlessly maintain their control and domination over those nations and peoples still under their imperialist yoke. The thin veil of "democracy" is being replaced by overt repression and violations of basic human rights. This is particularly the case in Latin America where in recent years we have seen the establishments of Fascist Juntas and military governments in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay. While old dictatorships continue to rule in such countries as Brazil, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic etc.

Directly supported by the U.S. government, these military regimes and dictatorships desperately attempt to crush growing social discontent among the masses and the organized resistance and unity of its leading organizations. This growing popular resistance and the unity of its revolutionary forces, whose highest expression is today represented by the REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING COUNCIL-Argentinean ERP, Bolivian ELN, Chilean MIR, and Uruguayan MLN— who follow and concretize the slogan "The Examples of Vietnam", as well as the inspiration provided by the victories and accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution.

The inspiration and influence of the Cuban Revolution in the developing Latin American revolutionary forces is a reality. Yet this ideological influence, which not always has been positive, is far from the accusation and distortion made by the U.S. government that Cuba "exports" its revolution as if social revolutions could be exported and the march of history could be detained. These distortions and defamatory remarks against Cuba are made evident by the recent remarks made by President Ford in relation to the Summit meeting in Puerto Rico. Recognizing the importance of Latin America to U.S. Monopoly capitalism's privileged position, the U.S. government will utilize all

mechanisms at its disposal in order to avoid the inevitable, the ultimate defeat of imperialism in Latin America.

Confronting the attacks of the imperialist forces, revolutionary forces in Latin America have begun to develop and implement the strategy which will mark the end of imperialism in Latin America. Ideologically influenced by the Cuban Revolution and the struggles of Heroic Vietnam, Latin American revolutionaries are translating these ideas, concepts, and lessons into revolutionary practice based and determined by their own concrete conditions. The unity among revolutionary forces, their self reliance, the struggle against the common enemy, and against the disease of reformism are valuable lessons which are perhaps best expressed in the Second Declaration of Havana a valuable document for all revolutionaries and whose validity in general terms still applies today and gives an insight into the characteristics of the Latin American revolution. In saluting Cuba and the living spirit of the 26th of July we quote the end of that Declaration made in the year 1962 at the height of U.S. imperialist aggression against Cuba:

"The duty of every revolutionary is to make the revolution. It is known that the revolution will triumph in America and throughout the world, but it is not for revolutionaries to sit in the doorways of their houses waiting for the corpse of imperialism to pass by. The role of Job doesn't suit a revolutionary. Each year that the liberation of America is speeded up will mean the lives of millions of children saved, millions of intelligences saved for culture, an infinite quantity of pain spared the people. Even if the Yankee imperialists prepare a bloody drama for America, they will not succeed in crushing the peoples struggles, they will only arouse universal hatred against themselves. And such a drama will also mark the death of their greedy and carnivorous system.

No nation in Latin America is weak — because each forms part of a family of 200 million brothers, who suffer the same miseries, who harbor the same sentiments, who have the same enemy, who dream about the same better future and who count upon the solidarity of all honest men and women throughout the world.

Great as was the epic of Latin American Independence, heroic as was that struggle, today's generation of Latin Americans is called upon to engage in an epic which is even greater and more decisive for humanity. For that struggle was for liberation from Spanish colonial power, from a decadent Spain invaded by the armies of Napoleon. Today the call for struggle is for liberation from the most powerful world imperialist center, from the strongest force of world imperialism and to render humanity a greater service than that rendered by our predecessors.

But this struggle, to a greater extent than the earlier one, will be waged by the masses, will be carried out by the people; the people are going to play a much more important role now than then, the leaders are less important and will be less important in this struggle than in the one before.

This epic before us is going to be written by the hungry Indian masses, the peasants without land, the exploited workers. It is going to be written by the progressive masses, the honest and brilliant intellectuals, who so greatly abound in our suffering Latin American countries. Struggles of masses and ideas. An epic which will be carried forward by our people, despised and maltreated by imperialism, our people, unreckoned with till today, who are now beginning to shake off their slumber. Imperialism considered us a weak and submissive flock; and now it begins to be terrified of that flock; a gigantic flock of 200 million Latin Americans in whom Yankee monopoly capitalism now sees its gravediggers.

This toiling humanity, inhumanly exploited, these paupers, controlled by the whip and overseer, have not been reckoned with or have been little reckoned with. From the dawn of independence their fate has been the same: Indians, gauchos, mestizos, zambos, quadroons, whites without property or income, all this human mass which formed the ranks of the "nation," which never reaped any benefits, which fell by the millions, which was cut into bits, which won independence from



JULY 26 (cont.)



the mother country for the bourgeoisie, which was shut out from its share of the rewards, which continued to occupy the lowest step on the ladder of social benefits, which continued to die of hunger, curable diseases and neglect, because for them there were never enough essentials of life — ordinary bread, a hospital bed, the medicine which cures, the hand which aids — their fate has been all the same.

But now from one end of the continent to the other they are signaling with clarity that the hour has come — the hour of their redemption. Now this anonymous mass, this America of color, somber, taciturn America, which all over the continent signs with the same sadness and disillusionment, now this mass is beginning to enter conclusively into its own history, is beginning to write it with its own blood, is beginning to suffer and die for it....

Because now in the fields and mountains of America, on its slopes and prairies and in its jungles, in the wilderness or in the traffic of cities, this world is beginning with full cause to erupt. Anxious hands are stretched forth, ready to die for what is theirs, to win those rights which were laughed at by one and all for 500 years. Yes, now history will have to take the poor of America into account, the exploited and spurned of Latin America, who have decided to begin writing history for themselves for all time. Already they can be seen on the roads, on foot, day after day, in endless marches of hundreds of kilometers to the governmental "eminences," to obtain their rights.

Already they can be seen armed with stones, sticks, machetes, in one direction and another, each day, occupying lands, sinking hooks into the land which belongs to them and defending it with their lives. They can be seen carrying signs, slogans, flags; letting them flap in the mountain or prairie winds. And the wave of anger, of demands for justice, of claims for rights, which is beginning to sweep the lands of Latin America, will not stop. That wave will swell with every passing day. For that wave is composed of the greatest number, the majorities in every respect, those whose labor amasses the wealth and turns the wheels of history. Now, they are awakening from the long, brutalizing sleep to which they had been subjected.

For this great humanity has said, "Enough!" and has begun to march. And their giant march will not be halted until they conquer true independence — for which they have vainly died more than once. Today, however, those who die will die like the Cubans at Playa Giron. They will die for their own true and never-to-be-surrendered independence.

Patria o Muerte! Venceremos!

THE PEOPLE OF CUBA Havana, Cuba Free Territory of America
February 4, 1962

