

FOREWORD

As part of its shameless demagoguery about being the leader of the "free world" the United States government is trying to propagate the hoax that it is an anti-colonial power. Its callous refusal to permit the cases of Morocco and Tunisia to be discussed in the United Nations, its crass acts of imperialist intervention in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, its barbarous war of aggression in Korea are sufficient to expose these "anti-colonial" pretensions.

But nowhere is this sham laid bare so clearly and directly as in the treatment of the outright U.S. colony, Puerto Rico. After more than fifty years of U.S. rule, the Puerto Rican people are still denied the right to determine their own destiny, their sons are conscripted to fight in the oppressor's wars, and hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans are forced to emigrate because the one-crop economy imposed by the U.S. trusts prevents them from earning even a miserable livelihood.

Now the Wall Street government is engaged in perpetrating a new fraud: the so-called "Commonwealth" and new constitution that are supposed to spell self-government for Puerto Rico. This is the latest wrinkle in the demagoguery by which the State Department is trying to throw dust in the eyes of the Puerto Rican people, our own people, and the peoples of the world. The Eisenhower administration has also informed the UN that, with the establishment of the fake "Commonwealth," Puerto Rico has ceased to be a "non-self-governing territory" and the U.S. will no longer submit reports on this colony.

The Communist Party of Puerto Rico has submitted a memorandum to the UN protesting against this outrageous falsification of Puerto Rico's true status and demanding that the UN reject the claims of the U.S. government. The present pamphlet contains the text of this memorandum. Other Puerto Rican political parties have sent similar petitions to the UN. The working class and people of the United States, whose own liberties are threatened by the same reactionary big business government that enslaves Puerto Rico, have

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every reason to support these petitions. It is especially important that the trade unions begin to understand the need to stand together with the working people of Puerto Rico, where colonial rule has imposed scandalously low wages—in many cases paid by U.S. runaway shops—that threaten the wage scales of U.S. workers.

Needless to say, this whole struggle is closely related to the question of peace. As this pamphlet points out, Puerto Rico has been converted into a U.S. war base and its manpower figures in Washington's war plans. To oppose this bogus "self-government" and to fight for real independence for Puerto Rico is therefore to strengthen the fight to prevent the Wall Street gang from launching a new world slaughter.

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