



Members of Southwide contingent rally at Free Tyler March in New Orleans, July 1976.

Introduction

This issue of *Class Struggle* focuses on the national question. It is being published at an important period in our movement, a time when the first battles in a new upsurge in the Black liberation movement are taking place. The relative ebb in the struggle that has been evident over the past few years is clearly drawing to a close.

The signs of these changing conditions are widespread. The most dramatic spark has been

the mass demonstrations and armed self-defense movement growing in the Black Belt of Mississippi, led by the United League. But the struggle is being spread through the North as well, with the actions of the Black United Front in New York City, the anti-Rizzo movement in Philadelphia and the Terrence Johnson defense struggle in Washington, D.C.

This situation poses serious tasks for Marxist-Leninists and

other revolutionaries. What should be our basic political perspective guiding our work? How do we build the Party in the course of the struggle and strengthen it against revisionist deviations on the national question? And how do we carry out work with the white workers, so we can unite the entire working class with the national movements? These are just a few of the questions this issue will try to answer.

HAYWOOD CONTRIBUTES

Our lead article is a new, special contribution by Harry Haywood, veteran Black communist and author of *Black Bolshevik*. This piece is based on the text of a recent speech Haywood delivered at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It covers a wide range of topics, summing up the history of the communist movement and the Black liberation movement. But most importantly, it describes the contours of today's struggle, with emphasis on the meaning of the slogans for Black political power, self-determination and socialism. As such, it is an exposition of the basic program of the CPML for Black liberation.

Also of special importance is our second article, written by Michael Klonsky, chairman of the CPML. It is based on the premise that the struggle in society is reflected in the Party as well, as expressed in the fight

between Marxism and revisionism. In fact, in order to lead the class struggle, the Party must consolidate and raise the level of its own ranks internally as well. Klonsky thus focuses on deviations on the national question and the correct methods the Party must employ in combating them.

ON WHITE WORKERS

Our third main feature is addressed to a question that is always asked in regard to the national question—What about the white workers? Only here it is handled in a unique way. *Class Struggle* had a leading CPML activist, Margie Winbourne, take this question to the white workers themselves. In an extensive series of interviews, she posed a number of questions to white workers at different political levels and in varying social situations. She asked them how they got involved in the struggle, how their views on minority workers had changed, and what they thought were the best ways to win over other workers like themselves. The answers contain a wealth of experience and will be of great assistance to many organizers.

The fourth article touches on a subject that is not well known to U.S. Marxist-Leninists: the national question in the Hawaiian Islands. It is based on a speech prepared for a recent CPML conference on nationalities work by D. Kiyomura of the

Communist League of Hawaii. Soon after the conference, the League achieved unity with the CPML and the two organizations merged.

Another interview makes up our fifth installment. This is a talk with Dr. Howard Gunn, a leader of the United League in north Mississippi. Gunn answers a number of questions about the League's program, organizational methods and activities in the Black Belt South, giving greater clarity as to the nature of this important struggle.

The sixth and final element in our focus on the national question is by Shedrach Harris. It sums up the lessons of communist work in the Gary Tyler defense campaign carried out by the CPML and the October League before it. Harris mainly deals with the question of the united front, and how to avoid both right and "left" errors.

In December 1978 the Vietnamese armed forces, backed and instigated by Soviet social-imperialism, launched an all-out military invasion against the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea. Comrade Pol Pot, Chairman of the Communist

Party of Kampuchea, and other leaders of the Kampuchean revolution, are presently leading the resistance struggle of the people to drive out the Vietnamese aggressors from their country. In Comrade Pol Pot's statement of January 5 he calls upon the people to rise up in defense of their socialist homeland. His statement is also a rallying call for anti-imperialists everywhere to defend the cause of Democratic Kampuchea in its struggle for national independence and socialism, against hegemonism, expansionism and Soviet social-imperialism.

Class Struggle is a theoretical weapon of our movement and it should be used as such, not as dogma but a guide to action. We think this is especially true of this issue, with its timely discussions of the issues right at hand. Also, we have tried some new formats, such as the interviews with white workers, in order to make our style more flexible and popular. We appreciate all criticisms, suggestions and contributions from our readers. Use *Class Struggle* to wage class struggle!

The Editors