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MAY 1st 1980: REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS STORM HISTORY'S STAGE

DETROIT MAY 1ST 1980



May 1st, 1980—a mighty twister tore through the political landscape of the U.S. transforming it forever. From New York, Washington D.C. and Atlanta to Portland, Seattle, Oakland and L.A., and cities in between—from coast to coast people saw a new force emerging — class conscious, revolutionary workers, taking to the streets in unity with their brothers and sisters world wide. Hundreds of thousands perhaps even millions were watching, waiting to see if May Day 1980 would happen here, and it did. As one man sitting in a restaurant in L.A. said, jumping up as the demonstration went by, "It's the workers! They said they would march and they did! They did! They did!"

For analysis of the importance of May Day 1980 see "A Great Leap on May 1st" on page 3

Statement by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee, RCP

What lessons can we draw from the great, history making May First 1980? And now what do we do?

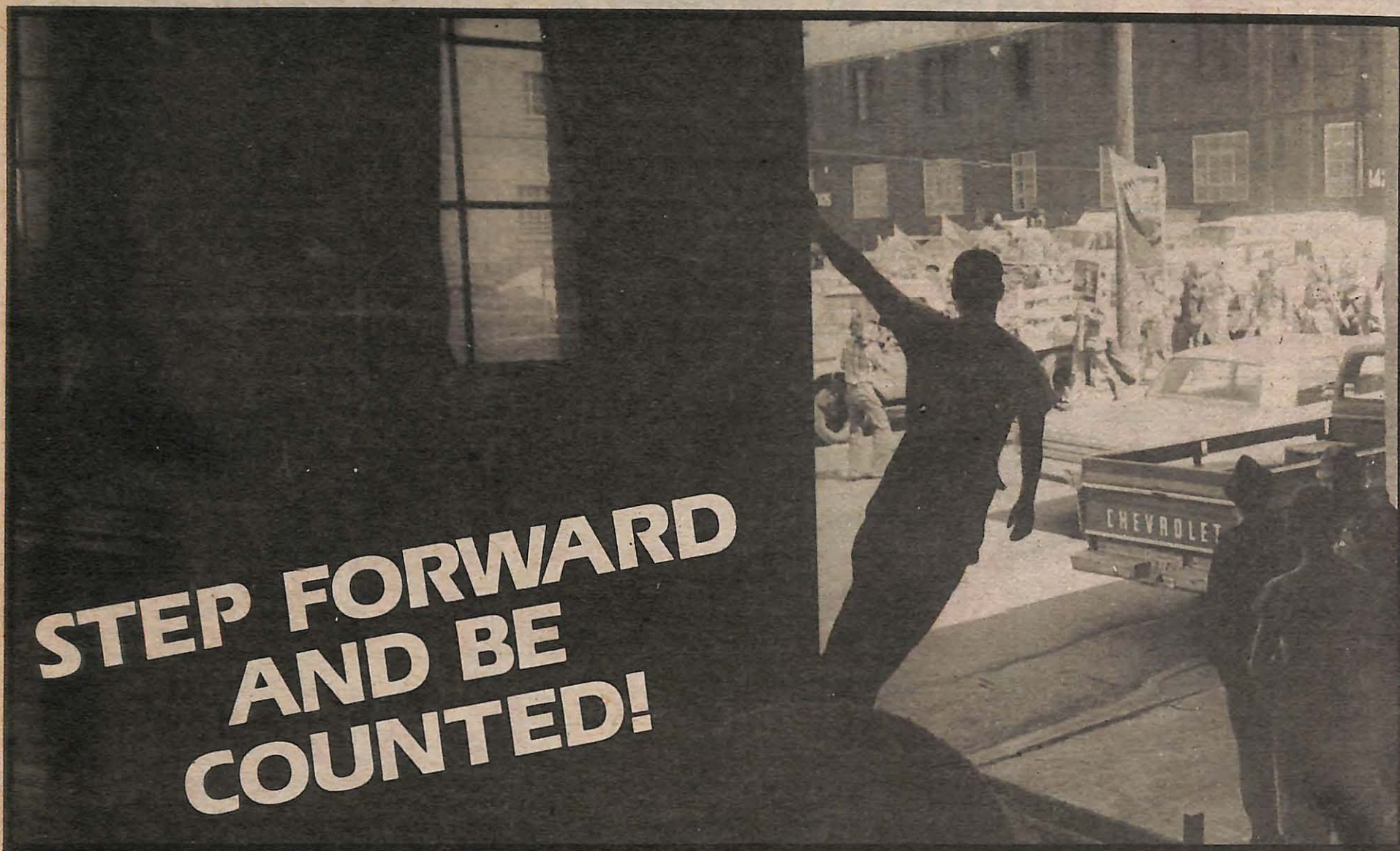
First we must see clearly what happened. On that day a qualitative leap forward was taken in the development of a revolutionary proletarian movement in this country—taking its place in the ranks of class

conscious workers international-ly. A force of revolutionary workers, determined to see the battle through, has arisen at a time when this imperialist system is in big trouble, and is preparing for war and when unprecedented revolutionary opportunities lie ahead. With May First our ability to seize these opportunities has jumped ahead.

The aftermath of this event —the excited, inspired and

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DISTRIBUTE 150,000 RWs



Revolutionary Worker

STEP FORWARD AND BE COUNTED!

This week, hot on the heels of May 1st, 1980, the time is now to seize the time, and take another leap forward with the distribution of 150,000 copies of the special, double, Red Flag Edition of the Revolutionary Worker. This newspaper, the voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party is the main weapon of the class-conscious revolutionaries today in preparing for the armed seizure of power when a revolutionary situation ripens. And as Chairman Bob Avakian pointed out in the statement in the RW, No. 49, May 1st--Dare to Join Those Forging the Future, "What we do from now forward, focused immediately on May 1st will be of tremendous importance in deciding whether we are able to seize this opportunity when it arises." At this time, the distribution of the 150,000 RW's is key to building off the great leap taken on May 1st, and waging the fierce battle against the bourgeoisie on the summation of May 1st, 1980, it's significance and where do we go from here. The revolutionary forces have to muster our strength and go into the streets armed with this newspaper and get into the hands of all people who are hungry to read the truth about May 1st, 1980. The Revolutionary Worker has been the main weapon in waging the battle for May 1st itself and all those who stepped forward to pick up the Red Flag, who marched in the streets, who defended May 1st 1980 from attack, who "wanted to do something" and did it, must now take up the task of getting this paper into the hands of many, many thousands more. Literally millions of people have had their heads turned by May 1st 1980 and the revolutionary hopes and thoughts of many have been stirred. There is a basis for greatly expanding the regular distribution of the RW--This 150,000 effort is a special effort but it's not just a one-shot deal!

In the aftermath of May 1st, what has been revealed is that there were literally thousands of people beyond the numbers who took to the streets, who "wanted to do something on May Day" and did. And there were many thousands more who watched and waited anxiously for the news, looking to see what the revolutionary workers would do. Now it is crucial for all those who acted in solidarity with May 1st 1980 to step forward and be counted, to write to the Revolutionary Worker and tell us what you did and why. This is very necessary so that an assessment can be made

SEATTLE--MAY DAY MARCH PASSES SHEET METAL SHOP.

of the breadth and depth of the revolutionary movement it is necessary so that the class-conscious forces can better assess their strength, their allies and prepare for revolution. Each issue in the weeks ahead we'll be printing these other reports on May Day.

We have already received some reports and from these we know that the current information is only the tip of the iceberg. But the reports that we have received reveal the profound effect of May 1st on revolutionary-minded workers and revolutionary elements throughout society. One woman in Cincinnati put it like this, "There is something strange about your organization. It makes you want to do things that you don't want to. I would have had to fight them (referring to reactionary counter-demonstrators on May Day) and I would have risked it all, to prevent those people from doing anything to you." And what people have to grasp is what is making them do things and who is knocking at the door. As Bob Avakian said, "In the period ahead, someone is gonna come knocking on your door. You're not gonna be able to stick your head under your pillow and pretend it's not there, you're not gonna be able to escape with dope or alcohol or tranquilizers or any of this stuff people try to use to get through the day one way or another. They are gonna come knocking on your door, the capitalists are gonna come knocking. The class-conscious among the proletariat--the class in this country that doesn't have a stake in this system, no real interest except to rise up and overthrow it--it's class conscious forces are gonna be there knocking on your door. And we're not gonna quit knocking until you, until millions and millions like you, come out from the confines that the capitalists try to force us all into and march onto the stage of history to stay."

Now is the time for all those who heard May 1st 1980 knocking on their door and stepped outside to take a stand to start knocking on some other people's doors and wake them up to what class of people is going down, and what class is rising up. Seize the day, get 150,000 Revolutionary Workers into every pocket of resistance in this imperialist rat trap. Become a Co-conspirator right now.

MAY 1st ERUPTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The following reports from some cities around the country about the dramatic and historic Revolutionary May Day events held on May First itself and in the days immediately following it are based on still only partial knowledge of all that went down and the far reaching effects these bold actions had. Nevertheless, these initial reports not only vividly show the profound impact of the revolutionary blows delivered on May 1st, 1980 as the working class took the political stage as never before in this country. They also indicate the inexhaustible revolutionary potential of the masses of working class and oppressed people in this country, the very heart of the U.S. imperialist empire.

Thousands of workers and others oppressed by the U.S. bourgeoisie in 16 cities across the country chanted as one, clearly declaring their intentions and uncompromising stand:

Red, White and Blue
We spit on you
You stand for plunder
You'll go under!

Join with the workers of other
lands.
Let's take history into our hands
May Day 1980

Revolution-Right on Time
Bob Avakian's got the line
Wake Up, Break Out
May Day 1980

National Oppression and all the
system's trash
Is what the working class must
stand up and smash
May Day 1980

In the face of over 70 arrests in L.A. alone, in the face of beatings, tortures, and the planned police execution of Comrade Damian Garcia--and in the face of open threats of more of the same from the ruling class's mouthpiece and hit-men--May First, 1980 burst forth defiantly and joyously on the streets of L.A. By the start of the brief rally at MacArthur Park there could be no doubt that neither the party of the proletariat nor its advanced section would allow May Day to be stopped. Chants rang

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Great Leap on May 1st

A great and historic step was taken on May 1st 1980. Powerful political demonstrations exploded onto the scene to mark May Day in the major cities of the United States. Who would have expected it from a working class that was supposed to be so infatuated with what's in front of its nose that the best it was capable of was perhaps to run a little faster after a piece of cheese in a maze. This was indeed something new and different. In Los Angeles, hundreds of workers, Black, white and Chicano braving police attacks and arrests, marching through the downtown area and garment district to the cheers of thousands of bystanders. In Detroit a similar situation in which the march was broken up only to be reconstituted with 6 people forming a new leadership core, 4 of whom had never been involved in any kind of demonstration like this before. People rose to the occasion because the working class was rising to new heights. In Oakland, California, a Black worker brought friends out to act as a security squad when he learned that the KKK might attack. The youth were inspired as well--and inspired others. School breakouts in the San Francisco Bay Area and Detroit. In Portland a 14 year old youth proudly marching, red banner in hand, at the head of the demonstration, swearing that no one was going to stop it. "I guess," he said, "I'm one of those who all through my life have had a vision of a better world."

The ruling class, though they tried to discredit it, couldn't ignore it. Even where these marches were painted as "small and insignificant," such "irrelevant" demonstrations somehow made it onto the front page and the 6:00 news. No doubt, the newscasters gulped hard, maybe choking a bit, when they recited the list of countries where revolutionary May Day demonstrations were held: Turkey, Iran, El Salvador, Chile, reports of armed clashes with the authorities. But then came the unexpected: "May day demonstrations erupt in violence in the United States." Wait was that right, the United States? To quote the dean of anchor-lackeys, "That's the way it is." And that's the way it's going to be. Because the class conscious section of the working class has climbed into the political ring and is going to stay there; the ante has been upped and it's a fight to the end, to the overthrow of this decaying system and the complete abolition of classes.

That such political demonstrations took place in the United States, right here in the belly of the beast, is a momentous event. There can be little question that millions throughout the world who have resisted the jackboot of U.S. imperialism in Bolivia or peasants in Kurdistan will derive great inspiration and assistance from these actions. But the urgency of welding together the advanced in this country to become a force to influence millions is only a reflection of what invests May Day with importance throughout the world. May Day actions here and throughout the world have taken place at a critical juncture. A period of unprecedented tumult and upheaval lies ahead of us. As the Chairman of our Central Committee, Bob Avakian, explained in his New Years article: "We are about to enter the '80s. When we emerge on the other side, we and the whole world will be drastically changed. For we are headed into a decade different from the past, a decade where all the basic contradictions in the world will be increasing with piercing intensity. War--world war--and revolution are not distant words but looming realities." May Day 1980 was exactly what the Chairman of our Party said it would be "...an event of historic significance...the greatest political event in this country since years and decades." The deepening economic crisis and the intensifying rivalry between the two superpowers propels them to redivide the world, to pump new life into their dying system. And if revolution doesn't prevent them from launching such a war, then such a war and the dislocations it wreaks will create unparalleled opportunities to strike crushing and perhaps decisive blows to the rule to the U.S. imperialists and reactionaries elsewhere. But whether such a possibility is turned into actuality depends on the subjective forces--on the leadership of the Party and the actions of the advanced. The capitalists are perfectly aware of their growing vulnerability. They are by no means comfortable with their "consensus." Their ability to toss out crumbs and cushions is being undercut rapidly. The shrillness and hysteria of their patriotic appeals only reveals their underlying weakness and desperation. And right in the midst of these howls is a thundering force of revolutionary workers and their allies saying fuck this flag, declaring that they will not go off to slaughter fellow workers to defend

this madness they call "the best of all worlds."

It was this force of class conscious workers that was being developed and steeled on May Day. From start to finish the advanced were put to a severe test. It was veritable guerrilla warfare in the plants. Revolutionary Workers were infiltrated into plants, bathroom walls littered with graffiti and counter-graffiti. Fights broke out, suspensions and firings were now the order of the day. Foremen were reduced to slobbering and laughable cheerleaders for U.S. imperialism as they peddled American flags like dope. The initiative was taken and retaken. And it was like this in every nook and cranny of society that May Day penetrated--into high schools, health clinics, among artists, in the prisons and military. Tens of thousands were wrestling with a decision--whether to throw their lot in with a doomed system or whether to lay hold of the revolutionary possibilities of the coming decade. And everywhere a core emerging to carry this struggle out, to draw the lines more sharply.

The ruling class recognized the threat represented by May Day. Hundreds were arrested, peoples lives threatened. And when Comrade Damian Garcia scaled the walls of the Alamo, symbolizing this revolutionary threat, it was as though the gauntlet had been thrown down. The red flag, flying over this sacred and crumbling shrine to U.S. imperialism; shock waves were sent to millions throughout the world. This Party and the force that it represented had to be stopped. Comrade Garcia was brutally murdered. This was to serve as a warning to those who had rallied to the banner of their Party; it was a brazen attempt to bring this Party to its knees.

But every attempt to isolate and frighten away May Day activists backfired. Comrade Garcia's murder only fired more with determination to take up May Day. Out of the prisons and high schools burst forth messages of solidarity; many who had never heard of Damian wept when they learned of his heroic act and resolved to honor his memory through May Day. And what more fitting tribute than the outpouring of red flags in cities across the country on May Day. The capitalists were lifting a rock to drop it on their feet. How secure can the capitalists feel when they tell residents in a rat-infested housing project that they will be evicted if they attend May Day rallies? What effect can this possibly have

on people who have virtually nothing? What about those who still swallow the lie that this is a free country, as police surround their plants on the morning of May Day to prevent walkouts.

INTENSE BATTLE

It became more intense throughout the day. Thousands had to brave police phalanxes and defy the taunts and provocations of organized reactionaries just to join up with these marches. In Los Angeles, a leaflet was distributed by the police threatening anyone who marched with immediate arrest. So powerful was the effect of this May Day that thousands who did not directly participate observed it--haltingly, perhaps, sometimes following the marches, yet with pride burning in their hearts. This was a May Day so revolutionary that thousands came out to oppose it as well. But why should this be a surprise? It only revealed the depth and breadth of what was happening. It wasn't enough that loyal workers showed up for work. They, too, had to be politically activated. A big play was made in the media about how workers opposed May Day. Suddenly the ruling class became so eager to acknowledge--almost patronizingly--the existence of the working class. The irony, though, could scarcely be concealed. In Portland they trotted out "unemployed machinists" to take a stand against May Day. "Now that will show them how loyal, dedicated and intelligent our workers are." In Boston, workers in one plant were given time off to demonstrate against May Day. Not enough showed up, however, and some outsiders had to be imported. Students were let out of school so that some could be whipped up by cops to attack demonstrations. In Cincinnati, jury duty was suspended so all would have the opportunity to demonstrate their patriotism.

Yet and still, it was precisely when the lines were sharply drawn that May Day took on its greatest significance. It was during these moments that the initiative and heroism of the masses was most in evidence. New forces marching to the fore to lead chants in the face of police attacks. Pitched battles, dispersal, regrouping, banners held high, more joining in. When the enemy lashed out and issued its most hollow and craven appeals, people stepped forward to defend May Day. One Gray Panther (revolutionary "senior citizen") demanded to have a poster of Bob Avakian in one march and at one point put down his sign demanding a bigger stick and charged through the middle of some reactionaries to make way for the demonstration. It wasn't a question of guts or a mere war of nerves. What motivated people was an understanding of the situation developing in this country and their role. They were making common cause with the oppressed throughout the world. They understood that something new was coming into being in this country and that they had to blaze a path to inspire and assist others. It wasn't evenly or perfectly grasped, but it was in this highly charged atmosphere that it became clear just who was afraid of whom. Something new and irresistible was arising, as the demonstrators chanted in the face of police attacks, "Your pigs in blue, are nothing new." It was embodied in the

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STUDY:

THE SCIENCE OF REVOLUTION

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MAY DAY WORLDWIDE

Proletarian Internationalism

The demonstrations and actions carried out by workers and oppressed people which shook imperialism and reactionary rulers in many countries around the world this May 1, 1980 reflect a critical point in world history, a point in which all the basic contradictions of the world are rapidly sharpening and a new situation can be seen coming into being. As the two superpowers rush to line up countries and whole continents behind them in preparation for what is their only possible response to deepening economic and political crisis, at the same time opportunities for revolution are also developing rapidly in many countries. The ferocity of the repression against May Day demonstrations this year and the stubbornness and determination with which they were carried out despite this is a sign of the weakening and desperate situation into which the rulers are headed and of the increasingly excellent situation faced by the worldwide working class, a situation marked by tremendous possibilities for dramatic advances.

Clearly the May 1 actions in Iran were among the most significant, since at this time this is where revolution has hit hardest at the grip of imperialism. In turn, Iran has been a great inspiration to revolutionary struggles all over the world, which was also reflected in this May Day. Turkey, where imperialism's hold is in serious crisis, was also the scene of extremely significant and powerful May Day actions. Immigrant workers from Turkey who have been forced to work throughout Europe because of imperialism's squeeze on their country played a very important role in imparting revolutionary fervor to May Day activities in France and Germany and elsewhere. This in itself is an example of the fact that the working class is one single class worldwide with common revolutionary interests along with those oppressed by imperialism everywhere. (See separate articles on May Day in Iran and in Turkey.)

In fact, this year saw the first May Day rioting in Western Europe in many years, especially in Northern European countries

until now considered stable as granite. Over 2000 people, mainly youths, took the coronation of Holland's new Queen Beatrix as the occasion for militant street fighting. This action was spearheaded by squatters and others protesting the fact that in this wealthy country many lack adequate or even any housing—over 55,000 people are on the waiting list in Amsterdam alone and the government has vetoed public housing plans because of the costs.

Oslo, Norway was hit by the worst rioting since WW2, as 2000 youths broke shop windows and threw molotov cocktails and stones at police. In Sweden, for 90 years considered the world's most perfect model of harmony between workers and capitalists (due, to a large part, to the success with which Swedish imperialism maneuvered its way among bigger imperialists), the country was rocked by a national general strike which began the day after May Day (May 1 is a legal holiday) when nearly every major industry shut down in response to an employers' lockout of over 770,000 workers. Even Switzerland was hit by rioting youths on May 1. All these actions reflect not so much the work of conscious revolutionary forces as the fact that even in these countries, where the masses were once said to be comfortable in their slavery, conditions are becoming intolerable for a very significant number of people as the crisis which is centered in the U.S. hits harder and harder at its whole bloc.

In France, for the first time in a generation the pro-Soviet revisionists and the pro-U.S. social democratic forces who have largely kept the French working class in a stranglehold were not able to pull off unified May Day demonstrations, mainly because of a sharp and growing conflict over which superpower to stand with. These objective circumstances provided a loosening of the revisionists' hold. Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist forces took part in the various May Day actions involving tens of thousands of workers in order to carry out revolutionary agitation and help create the conditions for a different situation.

In West Germany, too, where there were official actions sponsored by the reactionary union federations, there was a significant revolutionary current. In Berlin, a prominent union hack who called for support for the American hostages in Iran was pelted with eggs and stinkballs from among the crowd of 20,000 workers. In Frankfurt, as well, the May Day demonstration took on a more revolutionary aspect because of the influence of the 5,000 workers from Turkey among the 20,000 workers. Especially significant was the demonstration of 600-700 people in Rüsselsheim, West Germany, the home of the Opel car manufacturing company. For years revolutionary workers from Turkey have fought in the streets with the "grey wolves," fascist paramilitary organizations linked to the Turkish government. The West German government tried to use this as an excuse to outlaw May Day marches this year, but it was forced to back down when it became clear that people would march anyway. This action was organized by a coalition including ATÖF and ATIF (the federations of workers and of students from Turkey), the American GI movement Fight Back, the Afghanistan organization GUAF and the Latin America Committee, along with the participation of Iranians. The enthusiastic marches took to the streets to raise slogans against U.S. and Soviet imperialism in Iran and Afghanistan, and against W. German imperialism in Turkey and the repression being unleashed against revolutionaries. Other May Day actions involving 500 people each took place in Munich and Hamburg.

Striking close to the heart of U.S. imperialism's plans and truly pointing to the future, a broad coalition including the U.S. GI movement Fight Back planned a May 3 march to U.S. Army European Headquarters in Heidelberg with the slogans "U.S. Imperialism Hands Off Iran, Send the Shah Back, No U.S. Military Intervention in Iran." GI's in West Germany have been responding to the news of the building of revolutionary May Day in the U.S. Overpasses have been sprayed with slogans such as "Down With U.S.-Soviet War Moves" and "U.S. Imperialism Out of Iran." May Day posters and stickers have appeared on walls inside U.S. Army bases in a number of cities, and GI's have been taking piles of leaflets.

In Kabul, Afghanistan, 60 people were killed in May Day marches directed against the Soviet occupiers. There were some reports that many Afghani puppet soldiers refused to shoot

at demonstrators. In Ethiopia, freedom fighters from the province of Tigre marked May Day by a successful assault on the Soviet-backed and Cuban-assisted Ethiopian armed forces. Palestinian demonstrators in Jerusalem fought Israeli occupation forces as the struggle heated up there. Thousands of students clashed with government security forces in South Korea, as opposition to martial law erupted. And in South Africa, where over 100,000 "colored" (non-white or black) students along with some black students have been on strike for several weeks against discrimination in education, the government formally banned (with prison terms for possession of) the Pink Floyd album, "The Wall," whose title song with its words "Teacher, leave those kids alone" has become the anthem of the militant student movement. But 1200 teachers announced they would join the student boycott.

This year's May Day actions in the revisionist-ruled countries were also significant in many aspects. In China, where the government has all but completely come out against Mao Tsetung and everything that was once revolutionary in this country, May Day was promoted as a spring festival, a time for picnics, Labor Day U.S.-style. In the Soviet Union, the usual formal government May Day parades were marked by a boycott of the ambassadors of virtually the entire U.S. bloc for the first time, supposedly to protest the Afghanistan invasion but in effect as a show of political strength by U.S. imperialism to rattle in the Soviets' faces, a move just as aggressive as the usual Soviet May Day display of military hardware, and just as explicitly leading towards a violent confrontation.

Also important was the way the U.S. press handled May Day this year. As usual, it focused on the events in the revisionist countries, particularly the debacle of the exodus from Cuba, to proclaim that May Day represented no alternative. In fact, a Chicago columnist explicitly linked the flight from what he called slavery in Cuba with the RCP, USA's May Day actions to ridicule the call for the arousal of the slaves in the U.S. But in fact, in the world as well as in this country, the events and situation on May Day clearly brought out the trouble the imperialists are heading into and the more and more apparent possibilities that the world's working class will be able to blast tremendous holes in the imperialist chain in the near future.

"United Nations 2"

Statement from Stephen Yip

Our action at the UN Security Council was a political blow aimed at the two superpowers—the U.S. and the Soviet Union—who piously and cynically talk about world peace while preparing feverishly toward their armed contest for world domination. It was also a call to all oppressed and working class people in the U.S. particularly, and in the world generally, that the class conscious section of the U.S. working class is mounting the political stage on May Day 1980. We boldly proclaim to our rulers: Your gravediggers—the working class—have arrived and will not be herded like sheep to kill other slaves or be content to be cremated in a nuclear holocaust for an imperialist world power. We will prepare for your overthrow.

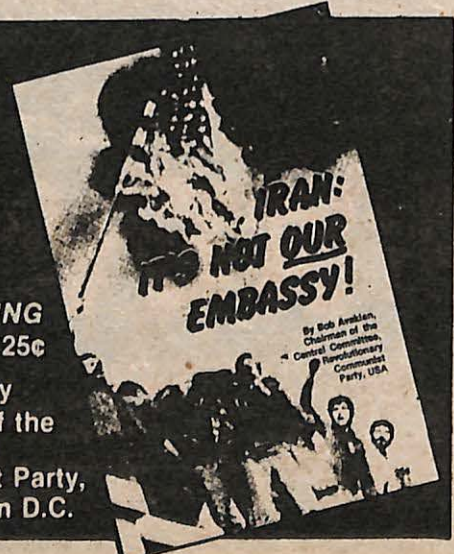
Statement from Glenn Gan

Even though we were unable to be on the streets with all of you on May 1, our minds and spirits were with you and all those who marched throughout this country and the world. Our actions spoke for millions here and around the world. We proudly held high the red flag, in that den of superpower intrigue, for the proletariat worldwide and in memory of Comrade Damian Garcia. Let our rulers tremble for in their midst a growing revolutionary section of workers, their gravediggers, are proudly casting off their chains and looking to the bright future. Long live May Day. Long live the RCP. On to proletarian revolution.

Pamphlet from the
Revolutionary Worker

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Excerpts from a speech by
Bob Avakian, Chairman of the
Central Committee of the
Revolutionary Communist Party,
November 18, Washington D.C.



Direct from Tehran

"The Hands Of The Worker Are The Pillar Of The Revolution"

One year has passed since May Day demonstrations swept through the streets of Tehran, Iran in 1979--demonstrations which jolted the U.S. imperialists who were already reeling from the earthshaking blows they had received only two months earlier as a result of the armed overthrow of their lackey Shah. Even at that time, it was clear that the Iranian revolution, like any revolution, would be a protracted process, but at the same time one which would draw forth the best of the masses of people, one which would call forth unrestrained heroism and boldness of literally millions.

This was revolution--the initiative and energy of the masses of people would peak and swell and with each crest, would drive the U.S. imperialists into a wilder and wilder frenzy. It

is a frenzy from which they have not, and will not recover. They can react only as all dying classes have reacted when confronted with the forward march of history--lashing out in deadly and desperate fury.

And this has been the case. The U.S. plotting continued. The maneuvers mushroomed as the imperialists moved into position to once again sink their fangs into the Iranian people. But boom! The actions of the U.S. imperialists were torn to shreds, again and again exposed through the militant and determined struggle of their enemies--the people of Iran. From the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November to the outpouring of anti-imperialist anger (and joy) after the aborted U.S. "raid" two weeks ago, the Iranian people have gone straight up in the

face of the so-called "most powerful nation on earth."

At the May Day rally in Chicago an Iranian speaker spoke to the importance of showing the rest of the world that there are revolutionaries here in the U.S. He said that people here had taken a bold step. That they'd done what they set out to do on May 1. He also spoke of the people marching in Iran at the same time and of the twists and turns of the struggle there today.

The following report is from a RW correspondent who was in Iran during the recent U.S. "raid" and for the May Day demonstrations in Tehran today.

Tehran, Iran. Very significant on this May Day is the role of the politically conscious workers. Contradictions exist on the left--with some forces

seeking to cave into imperialism, both of the U.S. and the Soviets. Worker's Councils--mass political organizations of workers--had demanded that the left unite on May Day and further that the central focus be around the continuing struggle over the U.S. Embassy. About 12,000 people took part in this action, although two organizations, the Fedayeen and the Mujahadeen, pulled out at the last minute.

A leaflet issued by the Union of Iranian Communists hit the key battle lines now in Iran: It demanded that all ties to the U.S. be severed; that the Worker's Councils be defended and the peasant's struggles be safeguarded, and the right to self-determination of nationalities in Iran. The UIC condemned all compromise with im-

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Celebration In Streets Of Santiago, Chile

Chile's fascist General Augusto Pinochet had a particularly grotesque way to celebrate May Day--a dinner with "workers' representatives," the government-appointed head of the government-run trade unions, no doubt in honor of the fact that they have been able to continue gorging themselves on blood as U.S. imperialism feasts on Chilean workers and peasants.

This dinner represented part of Pinochet's plans to return the country to "institutionalization"--that is, to create institutions which disguise the fact that Chile's ruling junta takes orders from Washington and its authority rests on tanks and torture chambers. The government-created trade unions, which, by law, are supposed to concern themselves only with economic matters, are an important aspect of those efforts. These unions were allowed to hold events May 1 in local union halls while street demonstrations were completely forbidden.

Despite ferocious repression and the fact that the mass movement is only beginning to be rebuilt after being almost completely wiped out when 30,000 were killed during the first few months of the 1973 U.S.-orchestrated coup, May Day was definitely celebrated this year in Chile. Army patrols in the streets of Santiago made large centralized demonstrations impossible, but 300 people marched through a working class neighborhood in the capital city. Thirty of them were arrested. There were other actions across the city, with about 50 more arrests for disorderly conduct and endangering state security. Three medical workers were charged with attempting to subvert the military and obtain arms--and the government must have been worried about the troops, since aside from the street patrols the army was confined to the barracks. Even a bishop and two vicars returning from a revolutionary workers meeting were arrested and held at gunpoint.

In fact, the government was so worried about the threat to imperialist security represented by May Day that it even banned all May 1 church masses fearing that any gathering of

people could turn into a May Day demonstration. A curfew was imposed in Santiago and the port city of Valparaiso. In the months before May 1, a bank robbery, a bomb blast and the killing of a cop guarding a monument to the 1973 fascist coup were used to create a crescendo of hysteria in the press in an attempt to convince Chile's middle class that the total loss of political rights was a small price to pay for peace and stability. This was accompanied by a round of terror, especially in the weeks before May Day in which a revolutionary was killed. Then, on April 29, 347 people were dragged out of their homes and arrested, a move which did damage the revolutionary May 1 events.

In the last several years May Day has become a test of strength between the U.S.-backed military junta and the mass movement which is once again gathering strength after seven years of fascism. May 1 two years ago saw the first street demonstrations since the CIA brought Pinochet to power, as demonstrators surging out of Santiago's main cathedral caught police unaware, and last year, too, police were not able to prevent a march by several hundred demonstrators, although they arrested many of them. This year the junta was particularly anxious to prove to its American backers, especially those forces in the U.S. ruling class who seem to think that the junta has become an embarrassment and a liability, that it has indeed brought "social peace"--the peace of the tomb--after the politically tumultuous years of the Allende government. This is why it was so important to the junta to nip May Day in the bud.

But although different in form this year, May Day could not be stopped. More, the government revealed more than it prevented, because despite all the talk about "institutionalization," the width and severity of the repression directed against May Day showed very clearly the isolation and desperation of the junta and its masters, and the fact that really there is no institution which can save them.

May Day Defies Tanks And Troops In Turkey

Economic chaos, political crisis and the increasing subordination of the Turkish government to the dictates of the U.S. in the contest of moves toward world war set the stage for extremely sharp May Day battles in Turkey this year. The banning of May Day marches and a 24 hour curfew clamped down on most major cities did not prevent May Day actions that at times included direct combat against the armed forces.

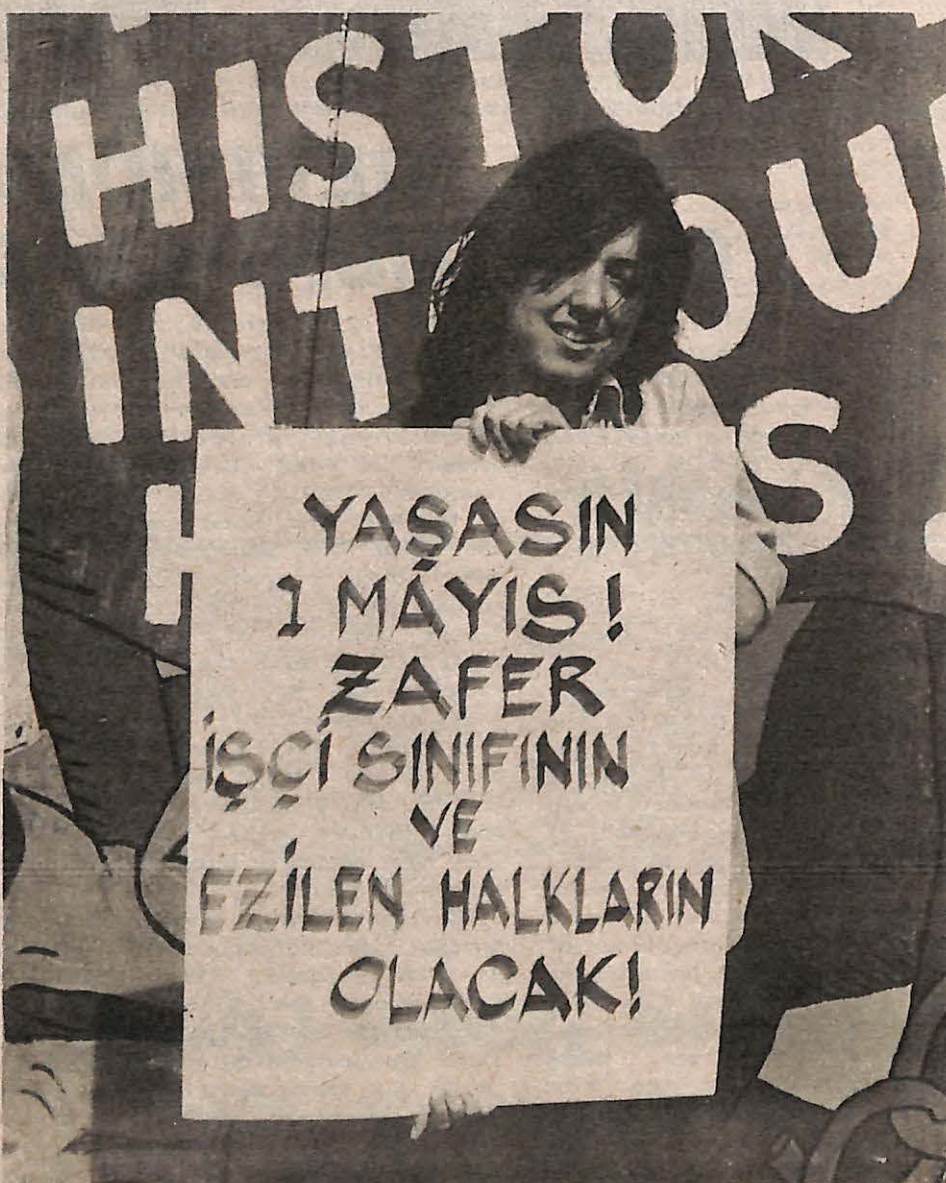
Helicopters and tanks attempted to keep everyone in their houses in Istanbul. Police and army troops searched all vehicles coming into the city. Similar measures were taken in nearly every other major city in the country. In these major

cities there were what Turkish revolutionaries call "pirate" demonstrations--that is, hit-and-run actions where people appear by the thousands at intersections, demonstrate briefly, disperse and then reappear elsewhere.

On the eve of May 1, 50 people were attacked and three killed by the military in Istanbul while putting up May Day posters. On the day itself, when people arrived at the traditional May Day march site in that city, they found it occupied by troops playing martial music. The demonstrators were forced to disperse, but they met in vacant lots throughout Istanbul to continue revolutionary action.

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MAY 1st, 1980 PORTLAND, ORE. TURKISH STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON HOLDS SIGN WHICH READS "LONG LIVE THE FIRST OF MAY-WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE!"



Revolutionary Worker

This poem was written by a 40 year old Black man in the Atlanta city jail. It was written on a brown paper bag, just after he received the special supplement of the Revolutionary Worker on the murder of Damian Garcia. The poem was the first poem he had written in 5 years. It was read at May 1st rallies in cities across the country:

Damian Garcia is Dead But in His Death I Came Alive

Damian Garcia is dead
But in his death I came alive

Every day we are murdered bit by bit
I am 40 years old
A veteran, and a Black man
My brother has been murdered
Cold-blooded, gangster scum death
I'm running out of patience

Damian Garcia is dead
But in his death I came alive

He held the blood--red flag as his own blood flowed
I never knew I had a flag
Until Damian Garcia died
Rage is nothing new to me
And I've seen death before
But I'm 40 years old and running out of patience

Damian Garcia is dead
What you gonna do?

I'm gonna take his place, motherfuckers
And if you slit my throat and open my belly
I was dying anyway bit by bit
I lost an eye in the army, got shot in the back by a pig
I'm 40 years old, run out of patience
Ready for Revolution

Damian Garcia is dead
But in his death I came alive

Pass me a red flag
Hand me a gun
And when the time comes and we' all ready
I'll be one with the millions
And I'll whisper to myself
This one's for you, Damian
'Cause in your death I came alive



DAMIAN GARCIA, SECOND FROM RIGHT, AND OTHER MAY DAY BRIGADE MEMBERS TALK TO PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS IN L.A.

REVISIONISTS CAW OVER MURDER OF COMMUNIST

What is revisionism? While not having exclusive rights to it, the CPML has been practicing it for some time. But now they have stooped to new depths of depravity to provide us with yet another example of their endless ability to teach genuine revolutionaries by their negative example.

In The Call, May 5, 1980, they join the crows' chorus of the bourgeoisie's press, the L.A. Police Department, every opportunist group in the country, not to mention the KKK and the Nazis, in declaring that Comrade Damian Garcia was "killed by the residents" of the Pico-Aliso housing project.

This should in no way be a surprise to anyone who is aware of the line and practice of the CPML. What is astonishing is the fact that this time they have so thoroughly and callously exposed themselves. They, scurvey lapdogs of the rich that they aspire to be, hypocritically described Comrade Damian Garcia "as an individual who

was deeply committed to the working class struggle", while from beginning to end they painted this heroic martyr of the international proletariat, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, as a "dupe" of the RCP. They went even further than the bourgeois press when they characterized his murder as a just reaction of "local people", of "community youths fed up with their (referring to the May Day Brigade--RW) harassment."

In their futile attempt to buttress up this attack of theirs, the CPML resort to the most thinly veiled demagoguery. They have actually outdone themselves this time.

They quote a high school youth saying, in reference to the May Day Brigade, "They would talk about the Alamo, world war, and the stealing of Mexican land. They played on our Chicano pride. But there must be another way." We plead GUILTY! with two exceptions. First, we do not play, and we think it is

a fine thing if the national pride that exists among the Chicano people is unleashed against the chauvinism the bourgeoisie unleashes on the oppressed nationalities. Second, there is no other way. And while this sister is thinking this question over, the CPML has already answered it. It is an historic feature of revisionism to answer this question with the lie that the slaves can easily, painlessly and slowly rid themselves of oppression.

And what should "communists" be doing, according to the CPML they should be "...linking their ideas to the demands of the community." Of course, these demands, according to the CPML then, must have nothing to do with world war, the stealing of Mexican land, the Alamo, or Chicano pride.

And then, they quote a 10 year old saying "Everytime they come, the police come." It is evidently a great source of pride to the CPML that the pigs don't give a damn what CPML

is doing. According to these scum sucking pigs calling themselves revolutionaries, this is proof of "ultra-left antics" on the part of the RCP. Evidently the CPML thinks that calling on the masses to overthrow their oppressors, unleashing the masses to struggle for the emancipation of all mankind, should be possible without incurring the wrath of these oppressors. Perhaps they do not realize in their frenzy to assist (or hide behind) every social democrat and reformist in their task of trying to keep the anger of the people safely bottled up in pie-in-the-sky schemes, that the pigs are out here in the streets, including in Pico-Aliso, shooting the masses down every day. Or perhaps they realize it all too well and they want to stay as far away from it as they can.

Of course the CPML does not want any talk of world war, and certainly not in places

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out: Damian did not die in vain; We have nothing to lose and a world to gain; pick up the Red Flag. A Chicano youth in his 20's: "I came here knowing there would be a lot of police and no permit, but sometimes you got to put your ass on the line...it's history we're making now." A Salvadorean worker: "It's a big day because Yankee imperialism is going down. There are demonstrations all over the world. This demonstration was organized by the RCP. It's very good." The march whose ranks swelled to 500 at its height had a large turnout of Chicano, Latino and Black people.

The bourgeoisie was determined to prevent this march from happening or bust it up after it got underway. Above all they wanted to keep the masses of people away from and out of the march. Hundreds of riot-clad pigs were on hand from the beginning. They made no bones about their intentions which were openly declared from the beginning. "Don't dare march or we will beat you, arrest you, or kill you like we did to Damian Garcia. One of these thugs was placed on the street corner at the rally site, passing out leaflets in English and Spanish to those who had come, warning them of the dire consequences to be faced by anyone caught marching in the street, or failing to obey all traffic signals. By the time everyone had left the rally site, a joyous sea of red proudly filled the street with many more following along the route and lining the sidewalk on the other side of the street.

By the time the march had reached within two blocks of the bridge leading to downtown L.A., it was obvious to everyone, including the ruling class, that if it made it all the way, it was sure to take a leap in both size and internationalist character, linking up with the workers in garment shops, most of whom are Spanish speaking women. At this point, the L.A.P.D. Metro Squad, the bourgeoisie's trained experts in smashing demonstrations, blocked the street and sidewalk from three sides. Absurdly claiming "flagrant violations of traffic laws" the chief ordered his jackboots to "break their ranks so we can make arrests." But the march continued right up to the end of the police lines, still chanting loudly. Red flags were staring these stormtroopers right in the face. Many began to pull back, clearly freaked out by the determination of the marchers to carry through to victory, while their commander pushed them back for the attack. They finally waded into the march slinging their billy clubs, beating and arresting all those they could get. Reporters on the scene said the police had told them they were going to arrest everyone in the march. 28 were actually arrested on fabricated charges ranging from "failure to disperse" to "assault" on a pig with a deadly weapon. 9 revolutionaries were sent to the hospital from the beatings--naturally, they were the ones facing the heaviest trumped up charges.

But the vicious lashing out only served to bring more people forward, including a number who joined the march during the attack. Some new-born agitators were created as people who had been watching the march jumped in to defend May Day and fight the police; one of these got arrested. Others began chanting, "The whole world is watching," and when some reporters tried to interview the head pig they were besieged by people demanding that they put them on the air to tell the real story.

Those arrested, many of them covered with blood, continued to sing the Internationale and loudly proclaimed the working class's arrival. When they finally got them all into a large police bus, the officer-in-charge began to gloat, "looks like we smashed your march didn't we?" Suddenly the police radio began to blare with a frantic message--"It looks like the march is now heading up for Grand Central Market" (in the heart of downtown L.A. where many Latino workers shop). The pigs in the police bus quickly shut up as it became clear what happened--the majority of the march had regrouped during the attack taking various maneuvers, and continued on towards its destination.

How had this happened? How had the march been able to withstand a planned police charge, suffer some casualties, yet continue on to prove to the world that capitalism's gravediggers had arrived, right in the heart of downtown L.A.? Many people who only weeks ago had never heard of the Revolutionary May Day Brigade or had just recently began reading the Revolutionary Worker, moved up from the rear to the forefront of the march. Youth struggled with those older workers who were tiring to keep going. Another young marcher declared, "This is the most powerful uplifting thing to the spirit that has ever happened in my whole life...because we know that there is a force that's gonna stand up and be men--no, be men and women--and that's gonna carry this all the way through."

That was the message that made it through to the downtown area. Thousands were there watching and had obviously been anticipating this day. A large number of these stepped forward to cross in front of rows of pig cars to take bundles of the RW to distribute. Two taxicabs filled with 8 Latino workers each, pulled over and the passengers jumped out and into the march. There was cheering on the sidewalk of the garment district as the march approached, with fists and red pieces of material flying out of the windows of many garment factories. At the end of the march in downtown L.A., there was a short militant rally. Pigs swarmed all over the place during the rally threatening to attack. But no one could see the speaker of the rally, they could hear him. The march then "vanished" as those who had taken the streets to march on May 1st, 1980, melted into the mass of people. They fanned out throughout the city taking out the message of the victorious arrival of the proletariat onto the political stage.

Everywhere they went, the marchers found people buzzing about May Day, and running up to talk to them. In Nickerson Gardens, a housing project of the Black ghetto, people rushed out of their houses, telling the revolutionaries they had called the jail to demand the release of the marchers. Twenty five more red flags and 200 copies of the special edition of the RW was grabbed up on the spot. At Roosevelt High School, near the projects of East L.A. where Damian Garcia was murdered, it seemed that everyone had snapped wide awake. Those who came to May Day were jubilant about the victory, while others were running up saying, "We saw you. We stayed home from school that day."

All over L.A., the May Day march was being discussed and debated. Perhaps the impact of this march on tens and hundreds

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of thousands throughout the area was best summed up by one worker who was sitting in a restaurant as the march went downtown. He immediately jumped up and yelled out, "Its the workers! They said they would march and they did! They did! They did!"

New York.

In the wake of the dramatic and powerful action at the United Nations the night before that dominated the front pages of the May 1 issues of the New York newspapers, two hundred people including many Black and Puerto Rican people and many foreign-born workers rallied in Union Square. These workers and more like them around the country, were showing by their actions the international stand of the proletariat--members of an International class no matter where they were. A significant number of garment workers attended and many more took the day off.

A Dominican worker gives the following account:

"On May Day I went to the garment center in New York City to meet with a friend and to struggle with fellow workers not to go to work that day. I think a big section of the workers didn't go to work," he said, stating that roughly 300 to his knowledge stayed away for all or part of the work day. A large group of workers (at one point exceeding 100) "gathered at 35th St. and 8th Avenue (the heart of NY's garment district--RW) on the morning of May 1st, and struggled over May Day and the need to take a stand by staying off the job." This went on for 3 hours, in the morning.

At the rally statements were given by a revolutionary student from Turkey, the Committee for Direct Action at Seabrook, The Movimiento Popular Dominicano (MPD), the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico (PNP), and the RCP. Then the march began as 80 people marched toward the lower East side picking up people as they went. The cops virtually surrounded the march which grew to 150 attempting to prevent people joining. Pigs on motorcycles, on horseback, and in squad cars surrounded the march attacking it several times and dragging people into cop cars and beating them up. Despite this, significant numbers continued to join the march. Red flags were left flying from lampposts, windows and rooftops. At the court where the UN 2 were being arraigned the cops blocked the path of the march and called for reinforcements. A busload of pigs preceded the march from this point to its destination on Wall Street.

But for all their threats and vicious intimidation tactics the pigs had failed to stop the march or dull its impact, only helping to sharpen up the battle. On Saturday, following May 1, May Day activists went into the lower East Side. Numerous small rallies were held, one reaching 100 people as the masses gathered to debate the significance of the demonstration and why the police were so bent on keeping people from joining. Shock waves continue to reverberate through New York and New Jersey.

San Francisco.

"Come out, break free, into your hands take history." -- 1,000 people, chants resounding through the streets of Oakland, drawn together by the strength of the revolutionary working class, on May 1st.

For the whole week before May Day, the rulers in the Bay Area used their power trying to pull people away. Two people were viciously beaten by the Oakland cops on their way to the memorial meeting for Damian Garcia. In the Mission District, after hundreds gathered to eulogize Damian, cops cruised the area, driving up sidewalks, slamming people up against the wall, ripping red flags off light poles and storefronts.

But that week, and especially on May 1st, the question of just who is isolated and in enemy territory was very clear. In the factories a virtual guerrilla war over the red flags was being waged. In one shop two workers (who had never been active before) got suspended for flying the red flags. New ways were quickly invented. Every time a foreman would walk by, out would come red flags to wipe their sweating brows--once again, in your face, bourgeoisie.

San Francisco Bus company inspectors were instructed to visit the homes of every Muni driver who called in sick on May 1st, and dismissals were prepared for drivers who flew red flags on their buses. Still, more than a few Muni drivers marched proudly in the ranks of the march May 1.

Over 100 Latino workers from the San Francisco Mission District, where the struggle had been especially sharp, stepped onto the May 1st stage. Other foreign-born workers from garment and other sweatshops were there. One worker organized six co-workers from Standard Oil as well as his family to the march after getting a May Day manifesto.

Workers and students from Iran, the Middle East, Ethiopia and more joined with their class brothers and sisters on the streets of Oakland.

The Bay Area May Day action drew in broad social forces as well. The power of the revolutionary political line and the material force of workers which gathered around this line had a profound impact on people from all walks of life.

All but one of the clinics in the Fruitvale area of Oakland closed for May 1st. A contingent of clergy marched with their stated purpose, "to prevent a police riot." The Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center marched with t-shirts proclaiming, "We are the Masses/We intend to kick asses." A very sizeable contingent of cultural workers filled out the ranks.

A 13-year-old student from Roosevelt Junior High School, had gone to school earlier that morning and walked out with some friends. Most of the school had left because of May Day, she said, as she pointed out more of her classmates. In the face of warnings from the teachers, truant officers at the rally site, and police, she now stood with a red flag in hand at San Antonio Park. In fact one-third of the march was youth from the oppressed nationalities. So frightened of the impact of May Day on these "fuck authority" youth, they told kids at Fremont High School (where the May Day Brigades had been) that they could have May 1st off--because they were "afraid of the May Day people were going to bomb the schools." Continued on page 8

Erupts

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A group of Latino youth, inspired by the February visit of the May Day Brigade, marched as they are known to hundreds in the Bay Area, the Cholo brigade. An entire low rider club joined. "The red is bold. How do I feel about the red, white and blue? I don't," he said echoing the sentiments of his 30 friends.

As the march moved out, along its flanks blocking both car and foot traffic from nearing the march, squads of riot equipped pigs hovered--in the air, on motorcycles and on foot. As the march grew rapidly, the radio reports continued to put out that "only 200 had showed up." Faced with 1,000 marchers jamming the streets of Oakland, they finally acquiesced to a figure of 400; again, hoping to keep people from coming to join--this time by demoralizing them by a picture of a small turnout. But again failure. Dozens of people displaying red flags bought early that week along the route.

The final stop on the march was the Oakland Induction Center (Draft Center). The sight of pitched battles during the 1960s it was now the attention of the working class that was being turned towards it. Changing the route suddenly, and pushing through demoralized tac squads, the march stopped at the door. As an on-the-spot rally was being held, the walls were quickly decorated with proletarian art. How fitting that, along with the righteous action taken against the war-mongering superpowers in the UN Security Council the night before, that the working class would put its mark on their war preparations. In the streets of Oakland, a significant section of revolutionary workers, along with their allies, seized history into their hands on May Day, and took another step closer to revolution.

Chicago, 3:00 p.m.: Three hundred in the street battling with the cops for State Street, the main downtown mall, as hundreds looked on. Throngs had been on the sidewalk watching, many supporting the march. Significant numbers of them--marchers and some onlookers--had taken off work. The marchers dispersed, regrouped in two groups, joined together and marched again on State. They were heading for an assembly point, soon to head back in groups to the city's plants, housing projects, schools, to continue the day's battle. Meanwhile, the ruling class, even as they were using their press to spread the line that all this was "not significant" was showing by its actions that they knew what was going on was very significant indeed. May Day had been put squarely on the map in Chicago, hundreds of thousands were listening and those that were taking it up were not backing down.

This was the march that the pigs had bragged for weeks was not going to happen. "You ain't gonna be marching on May Day" was tauntingly hurled at many of the 60 organizers arrested here in the weeks leading up to the First of May. Only the day before pigs told 4 revolutionaries they arrested, "We have our own May Day Brigade. We're gonna deal with you." Forced to back down on their scheme to bust most of the organizers for "crimes" like selling the Revolutionary Worker newspaper on a sidewalk and then giving them May 1st court dates (16 people were given May 1 dates before the authorities were forced to change them), the pigs took to direct intimidation of those people coming forward to build for May Day. At Robert Taylor Homes, the largest housing project in the country, an apartment where a meeting of residents to discuss May Day was to be held was taken over by a roomful of not-so-undercover cops. A few hours later the head of these projects personally went door-to-door reading an official statement that anyone who went to the Daley Plaza or took up the Revolutionary Worker would be evicted.

At Brach's candy plant on April 30, company hacks had provided American flags for the workers, but only 30 workers agreed to wear them in a plant of over 2700 workers. Today, May 1 since 6 a.m., the company literally surrounded the plant with security guards. A number of workers from Brach's came to the march. According to the pigs who busted people on the march, police had been stationed in the plant the night before in preparation for any possible trouble on May Day itself. It was learned the next day that eight workers at the plant had attempted to organize a breakout on the morning of May 1st as they walked out to join hands with their class brothers and sisters worldwide on this historic day.

May Day was here and the march was definitely happening. At five minutes after 11 a.m. a group of about 50 demonstrators had arrived at the plaza holding high their red flags and chanting. Already the bourgeois press was attempting to sum it up as a failure. They were out to discourage people from coming. Throughout the city, struggle continued to rage for those still wavering to pick up the gauntlet, shake off their cynicism and finally do it. The crowd at Daley Plaza continued to grow steadily as people joined in ones and twos. A busload of foreign-born and Black people unloaded several blocks away formed up, unfurled red flags and marched to the site.

250-300 people had joined the picket line as the rally began. Several hundred others stopped to listen to the RCP spokesman. A member of the Iranian Student Association also spoke at the rally.

As the march began to move out, fired with a sense of history in the making, the struggle to openly join the revolutionary section who had taken the stage, continued for those who stood by. A young office worker who had refused to go to work today, stood visibly debating which road to step onto: "I don't quite fit in but I'll stand by and I guess I'm participating in my own way, I didn't go to work and people at work have been talking about it and I guess they know how I feel about it."

Those whose feet had taken to the streets on this day knew why they had come. "I'm a revolutionary. I cut school and my job to come down from Zion (30 miles away)," said a young white woman. "I gave up \$3 an hour today so other people would do it too." "It's time for a change, a Black worker said. "I got an RW and came off it. This is gonna open up a lot of people's eyes to what's going on." "It's us against them." screamed a Black youth as he ran to catch up. He pointed to a group of flag-wavers standing next to the pigs.

The march surged down Michigan Avenue and around the Loop, many who had taken the day off marching along on the sidewalk. As the demonstrators turned to march down State Street they were blocked by police who moved in busting seven and brutally beating a white youth. The crowd was temporarily dispersed but the determination of the marchers did not stop after mounting history's stage led them to stand firm. They re-formed their ranks and continued to march down State Street, took the Daley Plaza again for another rousing rally and headed back to the factories, neighborhoods and streets to continue the May Day battle.

Washington D.C.

Where Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants still face a possible new trial on charges totaling 241 years.

The march, starting with 100 people, quickly picked up steam as it passed through the 14th Street area, home of the righteous rebellion of 1968. Even as motorcycle cops hemmed in both sides of the demonstration, people broke through to double the size of the march. The sidewalks were crowded with people, many who took an active stand with May Day. An older worker, a Korean vet and prisoner of war, explained "When I saw that demonstration I was with it. Some guys on the corner were talking about stopping you guys. I told them they'd have to go through me first... What I learned from the POW camp and when I came back was that my enemy was right here.... Another think I learned is that freedom has got to be fought for--it don't come bloodless. That's what I knew was going on in that demonstration. Working people here have got to grab their freedom and can't let no fool motherfuckers stop them."

Two Latin workers who joined the march said their boss, a plumbing contractor was ranting and raving about May Day. "What do you have to gain from marching?" he asked them. "The liberation of all mankind and our self respect," they replied.

In the few days since May 1st, it, quickly become apparent what a powerful influence the demonstration had broadly among the masses of people and especially in the working class. In work places, housing projects and schools there had been fierce debate on May First over whether to join the march. A telephone worker had come to the assembly point on the morning of May Day, but then went to work: "I couldn't not go on to work," he said, "I just wasn't ready. I've been thinking about it, I've been following it. I saw Bob Avakian on TV--he was on time. I even watched the news about it. Everybody at work knew about it. Some were for it, some were against it. We all thought and talked about it all day. By the end of the day all of us that were for it were kicking ourselves in the ass. If we had gone we could have, if everybody who felt like us had come, we could have swelled our ranks to a hundred thousand."

Dozens of others who appeared to just be a random crowd on the sidewalk were workers who had made a conscious decision to come. Seven workers from one federal agency walked for blocks on the sidewalk beside the march. "We took off work," one told the RW on Saturday: "We've been talking about it for a while, we have read all your literature. We knew we had to do it. We joined the march for a while and when the pigs tried to break it up, we thought it was over so we left. But I waited and waited to hear the news on TV that night. We had to know. Everybody in my department feels the same."

Detroit.

First thing in the morning, May Day agitators went from machine to machine calling on the workers at the Ford River Rouge plant to bust out. Later 150 people marched down Woodward Avenue in Detroit. A recently fired River Rouge worker drove his car at the front of the march. The march had a tremendous effect. It was a battle every inch of the way as the pigs surrounded the march. At one point, they charged, swooping down on horseback, beating and arresting twenty. These swine thought

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Statement

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further awakened response of many, many thousands shows that we could have even done better. And this means that we have to sum up the lessons of this event, especially how serious its impact really was, how serious the class conscious workers took it, how sharply it was taken by the enemy.

Resorting to murder is taking it seriously. Stationing pigs--armed government enforcers--inside a plant is taking it seriously. They took it that way because they realize the trouble they are in and that they are heading toward a lot more. With their actions our ruling class and its enforcers raised the stakes and, it is true, held some people back, for a time, who would have stepped forward. But on the other hand and far more importantly for the future, the many who did step forward in the face of all this--their steps became all the more significant and revolutionary.

These moves by our rulers are like giant rocks they have dropped on their own feet, a self-exposure of their class rule and of their nature. But

beyond this, the seriousness with which they took May First is teaching material about the situation and real potential that exists today.

On May First, we grasped and acted on this potential and the ruling class' serious response, but we could have grasped and acted on it even more. Because of this we were not able to break through as much as we need to in leading people that day to break out of work, break out of school--which is how we knew we'd have to do it in order to fully meet the quantitative requirement we set for these May First actions. We will be more prepared in the future--more resolute, more energetic, more aggressive.

What we must sum up and sum up clearly from all this is exactly how important all this has been--the seriousness of the situation our rulers are in, the great revolutionary opportunities that lie before us. We must learn this and apply it right now and thereby really take yet another leap forward from here.

Bob Avakian
Chairman of the
Central Committee
Revolutionary Communist Party,
USA

May 1st, 1980

SPECIAL REVOLUTIONARY WORKER PHOTO SECTION

PARTICIPANT IN LOS ANGELES MAY 1ST DEMONSTRATION DEFIANTLY HOLDS UP DAMIAN GARCIA PLACARD TOWARDS COPS AS THEY ATTACK THE REAR OF THE MARCH.



PARTICIPANTE EN MANIFESTACION DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO EN LOS ANGELES DESAFIANTEMENTE MANTIENE EN ALTO UN CARTEL DE DAMIAN GARCIA FRENTE A LOS POLICIAS QUIENES ATACAN LA RETAGUARDIA DE LA MARCHA.

1° de mayo, 1980

SECCION FOTOGRAFICA ESPECIAL DEL OBRAERO REVOLUCIONARIO



Revolutionary Worker

CLEVELAND—MAY DAY PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SQUARE.

CLEVELAND—PROGRAMA DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO EN PLAZA PUBLICA



Revolutionary Worker

SEATTLE—DEBATE AT GARFIELD HIGH, SHORTLY BEFORE MAY DAY MARCH BEGAN.

SEATTLE—DEBATE EN LA ESCUELA SECUNDARIA GARFIELD, POCO ANTES DE COMENZAR LA MARCHA DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO



OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Revolutionary Worker



Jay Dahl

CHICAGO POLICE ATTACK WAS UNABLE TO CRUSH
THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF MAY DAY '80.

EL ATAQUE POLICIACO EN CHICAGO FUE INCAPAZ DE APLASTAR
EL ESPIRITU REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO 1980



Revolutionary Worker

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

LEAP

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character and spirit of these demonstrations. A small but significant section of the working class along with its allies was emboldened to act consciously and decisively. The rules, authority and teeth of the enemy were no longer so sacred or ferocious. Can we make revolution in this country? To those who participated in May Day, it not only became more realistic, but more urgent. Not because they would do it by themselves, but because they saw, at least in a beginning kind of way, the impact their force could have on others. Why else would a striking worker in Cleveland stand sentry to protect a red flag planted on a company fence while doing picket duty on May Day or an unemployed worker from the Northwest stuff mailboxes with Revolutionary Workers until 2:00 a.m. when he was arrested? Why did so many show up for May Day with homemade red flags?

What effect did all this have on broader sections of the working class and others? To be sure the returns are hardly in and the impact will be felt for a long time to come. But, quite obviously, May Day raised the question of revolution in a powerful way—proletarian revolution. A truck driver from Cincinnati jumped into the march: "The reason I joined the march is I'm tired of being a closet case, because everything this revolution stands for I've been thinking for years." For untold millions, the real cause of their problems and the only way out of this nightmare was driven home, almost with a vengeance. Here some of their fellow workers were not going to work, not looking for a job, not looking for some peace of mind or escape, but looking to the future. Youth faced with a life-time of unemployment, drugs or army fatigues carrying red flags. Wake up! Wake up! A Black worker from L.A. put it this way: "I see this as a statement from the class conscious proletariat speaking in our own interests. The working class is waking up, strengthening and building a new society." It became apparent what this working class was made of (the bourgeois media had to admit that these were workers—even if they were "half-crazed"); workers of the oppressed nationalities, veterans, immigrant workers and with them youth, foreign students, professionals. The different strengths of the U.S. working class came into sharper relief. Here were immigrant workers, for example, driven from their homelands by imperialism, typically subjected to the most grinding conditions of exploitation in this country, hounded, and yet dedicated to building a class conscious movement in a country where many workers are poisoned with chauvinist ideology. The fact that the San Francisco Mime Troupe, several noted Black poets, and William Kunstler to name a few, endorsed May Day indicated not total agreement with May Day but a recognition of the emerging strength of the working class and that it was the force to be reckoned with, along with its party, if one were serious about revolution. And by the same token the involvement of these forces lent strength to May Day.

May Day was held under the banner of the international working class, thousands declaring their support for the Iranian revolution, declaring their

hatred for inequality, discrimination and all oppression, opposing the two superpowers and their war preparations. And marching at the head of all this was a Party which did not flinch, did not compromise, did not back down in the face of difficulty and threats.

Many no doubt looked on with astonishment and some trepidation, but their respect and confidence grew. It was one reason that people held back but couldn't ignore it. They wanted May Day to succeed, but weren't sure, weren't quite convinced, weren't willing to take that step. In the days following the march, the heat was still on, arrests continued, but in many communities and plants people approached May Day organizers to congratulate them, regretting not being there and asking for red flags. It was as though they were saying apologetically "how much longer can we let these backward push us around." If they didn't come out into the streets, they started coming off the fence.

Another question remains to be answered. May Day was powerfully and profoundly reclaimed—put on the map—by the class conscious section of the proletariat. So why is it that despite this great leap and qualitative step forward, May Day did not fully achieve its quantitative goals? We had called for 10,000 in the streets nationwide and the total fell short. Simply put, the bourgeoisie realized the potential impact of May Day in the present situation of crisis and impending war. It turned out that the stakes were a lot higher than even we recognized, and only a relatively smaller number were ready to pay that price now. Of course all along we knew and we said that there would be repression, even murder. But even still we underestimated the degree to which the bourgeoisie would sum up the May Day threat and act—upping the ante. Even under these circumstances, the goals were not unattainable, but to achieve them would have meant doing things extremely well—both tactically and politically.

Arrests were routine in unemployment offices, youth were paid—even given candy and bubble gum cards by cops in the neighborhoods, the Nazis were bellowing, and beyond this the wall of social pressure, which is felt acutely in the shops, was fortified by the bourgeoisie. And to drive the point home, in a city like Youngstown (read: ghosttown) the mayor threatens to call out the national guard while sensationalistic stories of the "violence-prone" RCP are splashed across the pages of newspapers in Oakland and Atlanta. The bourgeoisie was so determined to quash this that at one plant in Chicago, Brach, police were stationed inside as of 4:00 a.m. on the morning of May Day to prevent a walk-out. Now this is not the ordinary precaution taken by such a plant. But this was an extraordinary battle. What did the murder of Damjan represent if not that the stakes had been raised. Given the situation, then, the turnout for May Day, though quantitatively below our target, marked an important leap forward. In fact, the stand taken by those who did come forward in the face of this onslaught becomes all the more significant. In other words, there were real objective factors which influenced the numbers who participated in May Day—there was more involved than simply not showing

IRAN

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perialism and condemned Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

During the march, Islamic forces attempted to drive a wedge between the workers and the revolutionary students. They attempted to play on backward sentiments telling the workers, for example, that the students are "godless" and should be opposed. But this little plot flopped; in general, the workers only closed ranks further. The Tehran march could not reach its destination due to disruption. A rally was held midway in the street and a statement was issued which was signed by 32 Worker's Councils in factories in Tehran and throughout Northern Iran.

This statement was a declaration of the workers' plans to deepen and broaden the struggle against imperialism. In particular, it sharply denounced the recent U.S. "raid" stating that this act of aggression exposes U.S. agents inside Iran. The statement by the Worker's Councils also called for a cessation

up for work or going to school.

Was the goal therefore unrealistic? No it was not. Exactly because the situation was extremely serious, the necessity for even bolder, more creative, skillful and decisive tactics and leadership grew. Were significantly larger numbers of workers to come out to May Day, more "breakouts" would have had to materialize—in the schools and plants. Most of the workers who came out to May Day did so, in the main, as individuals, although some did walk out while others mobilized fellow workers to come to the marches. There was tremendous anticipation and tension in the plants that had been targeted by the May Day brigades. It was not uncommon for workers to be waiting outside, trying to decide what to do. In several plants abortive attempts were made to organize walkouts, but the effect was electrifying nonetheless in many instances.

In other situations, an initially unfavorable balance of forces tended to overwhelm the conscious forces. In some cases, the advanced wanted to break through some of these obstacles, but the means to do this under temporarily adverse conditions were not developed and persevered in by Party forces. More determined action, paying closer political and tactical attention to the developing situation could have swung the outcome in certain instances in favor of the advanced on May Day. This is a lesson to be more deeply summed up, but still there were major obstacles that would have been necessary to overcome even had the approach been more intune with the seriousness of the situation.

For every plant where actions were planned out but did not fully succeed, there were others where people on their own took action, took a stand for May Day, if only by staying home from work or struggling with others to do the same. There are, undoubtedly, many such actions of which the Party is unaware and will learn about in the coming weeks. What May Day demonstrated, therefore, was not the absolute limit, the boundary past which anything else is impossible, but the enormous potential for revolutionary activity in this period. It demonstrated how ripe the conditions really are and how deep runs the hatred of

of attacks on the council by the government, demanding that the former SAVAK agents be cleaned out of the factories. Further, the statement demanded equality for women.

The proletarian internationalist character of the Tehran May Day march was demonstrated by a slogan raised in the statement from the Worker's Councils: "Iranian Workers and Workers of the World Unite—Victory to the Anti-imperialist Struggle!" The May 1st Message by the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA to the Union of Iranian Communists was distributed broadly by the UIC in newspapers and leaflets. (see pg.2 second sec.)

Compared to May Day last year, it was smaller numerically. But politically conscious workers made up 90% of the demonstration—a big difference from last year. Above all, May Day in Tehran illustrates the fact that through the twists and turns of the Iranian revolution, a revolutionary working class is being forged which will lead the struggle in Iran to final victory.

millions for this system. And it revealed just how seriously the bourgeoisie views the prospect of revolution in this country. The advanced can indeed be galvanized and the intermediate awakened, but, again, on the basis of bold and decisive leadership.

The political climate in this country will never be the same. The line of least resistance is no longer the highest that the working class can aspire to. Revolution is no longer the exclusive activity of workers in other countries. In a country like this it is not possible to make and continue making revolution without imbuing the masses with and concretely training them in internationalism. There can be no underestimating the place of the red flag in this May Day campaign and into the future. The red flag was embraced by tens of thousands of workers, and for many more it became synonymous with resistance. There was no halfstepping with this flag. It was raised in opposition to the red, white and blue. The strains of the Internationale resounded in plants, schools and communities. A display of this kind of internationalism has never been seen before in this country's history and it has left its mark. Here were thousands sympathizing not with CIA hostages, but their captors and the heroic struggle of the Iranian people!

What did May Day prove? The capabilities of the class conscious section of the working class. May Day was a concentrated expression of this strength, but it was just the tip of the iceberg. The tremors and reverberations, the explosion of political energy and awareness have transformed the lives of tens of thousands. To submit, robot-like to the ruling class is the last thing on these peoples minds. But May Day was also preparation for the future. A more solid core was forged to lead the millions forward when the conditions ripen towards revolution. May Day opened a new page of history in this country. To the millions throughout the world fighting U.S. imperialism but who have asked where are the revolutionary workers of the United States, the answer has been sounded, "We are one, part of the worldwide struggle and determined to make the most powerful contribution to it—by finishing this monster off."

Erupts

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they'd achieved of busting up May Day--but they were wrong. Although the march was temporarily dispersed forces gathered the ranks together and marched triumphantly into downtown.

At one local high school 300 youths gathered to check out the march. Some reactionary youth attacked the demonstration while others tried to break through police lines to join it. 30 students marched along on the sidewalk beside the main body of the march. The cops ran frantically in front of the students and using heavy intimidation tactics, turned them back. One Black youth was arrested for running to join the demonstration. At a junior high school a few teachers had been building for May Day and estimate that 80 students would walkout. Hundreds of office and clerical workers jammed one intersection to watch the march.

Initial reports are that a number of workers took off work. At one plant for example, a worker estimates that twenty younger workers stayed out and came down to the march. A Black woman commented on the march--"There was a lot of trouble. Oh, but it's the kind of trouble I like..."

Atlanta

Fifty people marched in Atlanta assembling at a downtown park and marching through the downtown area. 125 cops and assorted reactionaries accompanied the march intimidating people from joining and even physically prevented people from doing so. But the march was watched with keen interest by hundreds of people who gathered in the area. After the march reached its destination, it was decided to go out and do it again rather than just end it right there. At the end of the second time around the cops arrested all of the cars of people on the march, so the marchers re-formed and marched out of downtown to a bus stop.

After doing a lot of agitation people boarded a bus followed by the press and the police. The pigs discussed plans to impound the entire bus as people gathered around the bus where struggle and debate raged among 200 people until the pigs let the bus go being content to arrest people as they got off the bus near the revolutionary workers center in Atlanta. 14 were arrested.

At the Atlanta City jail, red flags were hanging out of cell-windows including a huge red tablecloth with prisoners giving the fist and chanting "May Day, May Day!" The slogan, "We won't Work That Day Will You" had a real effect on May 1st. Many who didn't join the fray at the demonstration took that step at the Southern Iron Company. There one worker who came to May Day had another worker who didn't, count the time cards in his department to see how many stayed out of work. 25 were absent with 12 to 15 who most likely stayed out for May Day.

West Virginia

In the coalfields of West Virginia the bourgeoisie made a very concentrated effort to mobilize every kind of reactionary swamp dweller available to show up in Beckley to attack the May Day march. A very large number of these flag-waving scum was able to prevent the march from getting off the ground. The concerted effort by the ruling class and their servants of all stripes to organize a large counter demonstration is an indication of just how seriously concerned they are about keeping the masses of workers away from revolutionary politics. The coal miners in this area are a tremendous potential source of great strength to the working class as a whole and a constant nightmare to the bourgeoisie that is determined to keep coal miners chained or with their sights narrowed to economic strug-

Caw

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like Pico-Aliso, because they have long ago set for themselves the task of calling on the masses to fight--and fight hard indeed--in this Soviet/U.S. slavemaster war for one of the masters--in their case the U.S. government which oppresses them and peoples around the world every single day.

They are actually so subjective, so isolated from the masses of people, that they think the quotes they mustered in their article from the masses in Pico-Aliso, such as "The RCP got some sympathy after the stabbing, but why did they return?"; and "they shouldn't come in here, there's too much killing"; and "They were known as the Red Flag people," stand as examples of the correctness of the CPML's line. Certainly there is a social base in Pico-Aliso for their line, but they didn't quote those people in their article.

There is one thing the CPML is at present afraid to do. They did not attack Comrade Damian Garcia (or his comrade Hayden Fisher who was wounded by the same hit squad) for plan-

ting the red flag of the international proletariat atop the Alamo. THEY DID NOT DARE!

But make no mistake about it. It is this red flag which the CPML fears. The red flag that was raised by thousands and thousands on May 1st, 1980 in this country, carrying forward, in defiance of murder, in the face of the armed power of the state, the spectre of the Red Flag flying permanently atop the Alamo, the spectre of the armed revolution of the masses. This, indeed is more than the CPML can bear. For the masses will put them and their kind out of the business of pimping off of their struggle.

It was for this reason that the bourgeoisie singled out Comrade Damian Garcia for murder. When it became clear that Comrade Garcia was dying his fellow comrades of the brigade stood around him and sang the Internationale. Damian Garcia raised his fist, still grasping his blood stained red flag, and died. This is the stuff the leaders of the proletariat are made of.

We hope that the CPML sells this issue of their paper especially in East L.A. All revolutionary minded people who read it there will surely come to hate them deeply.

gle only in their black pits. In spite of this show of force marchers stood up and proudly waved the red flags in the faces of these neanderthals.

A large number of the anti-May Day forces were youth let out of a downtown Catholic School. A legal observer's reaction to this was: "What are these kids going to be thinking when they're laying in the trenches, thinking about what happened today, and wondering what the hell they were carrying the red, white and blue for."

Cleveland

A pitched battle raged in the streets of Cleveland as a hundred demonstrators, marching 2 x 2 beat back 30 separate attacks by reactionaries to fly the red flag on May 1st.

The focus was definitely the red flag as the air resounded with "We're proletarians, not Americans. Our flag is red, not red white and blue". Stand with the Future Not with the Past Raise the Red Flag of the Working Class." The initially puffed-up reactionaries responded with such imaginative slogans as "Our flag is red white and blue, USA, USA." Organized by a hardcore of Nazis and union officials these hundred thugs, some wearing Teamster jackets, pretended to speak for the working class. In the face of staunch determination and sharp agitation, one of this motley crew admitted, "Look, I'm paid to be here." Some others dropped away, and towards the end of the march, several were half-way admitting defeat, with comments like "You guys got it together today but after today, well then what are you going to do? We'll get you guys eventually."

Five rabid reactionaries were physically held back by sympathetic people on the sidewalk.

One Black man, who originally was part of the caveman squad, changed sides, and, at a press conference immediately after the march, apologized, saying, "My eyes have been closed but the march opened them and I understand much more clearly the nature of the system and the working class..."

The local ruling class had mounted a major campaign to turn public opinion against the May Day action and had unleashed reactionaries for the express purpose of humiliating and crushing the marches. It boomeranged badly. As one Black worker described the victorious May Day march: "this rally here May Day showed that spirit that we have, you know, it shows the people that they can't fuck us around. You know when they started to come against us we didn't stop. We just kept fighting on, marching through the bricks and bottles, the whole works. We kept on steppin'. I believe we won a lot of believers and I believe we'll win the whole thing..."

More on these demonstrations and reports on other demonstrations we were unable to cover will follow in the next issues of the Revolutionary Worker.

Turkey

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vity. In Ankara, clashes with the armed forces left at least two dead and 10 wounded as protesters marched in defiance of the ban on May Day actions.

There were also major May Day events in the smaller cities and towns. Merchants closed down their shops in support of the actions day by day, and the police checked ID's from house to house all night long. In the town of Mersinda in the South, 50,000 marched, including a very large number of people who came here to demonstrate because it was one of the few places not yet under martial law and a May Day prohibition. In the city of Antalya in southern Turkey, according to early reports, demonstrators chased the armed units sent in against them out of town.

There were also at least four openly fascist demonstrations organized by armed forces officers and civilian reactionaries who raised slogans in defense of Turkey's national flag and against what they called "terrorism"--which was rather ironic since murder and terror is the specialty of these unofficial arms of Turkey's top flunkies for foreign imperialism. In Tazmir, where many of the Americans who serve as advisors to torturers and company executives live, the Army was called out to protect them against demonstrators.

Setting the stakes for these actions, beginning in January, Turkey's pro-U.S. Demirel government responded to imminent bankruptcy by opening the country even wider to U.S. and Western European pillage in return for a \$3 billion loan from the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund--a loan necessary to pay off previous loans and keep Turkey afloat in the finan-

cial web it is trapped in. Wages were frozen, price controls lifted, the currency devaluated and the whole economy offered up to foreign investors. In addition, as the "loss" of Iran to the U.S. and the approach of a confrontation with the Soviet Union made Turkey even more important militarily to the U.S. bloc, Demirel signed new military treaties in an attempt to replace the Shah as U.S. imperialism's Mideast blockhouse. All this was accompanied by new widespread measures against the revolutionary movement including the extension of martial law all over the country.

Although May Day has been legal in Turkey since 1976, the government announced that this year the May Day actions would not be allowed to fly the red flag. Later it tried to ban them altogether. The trade union federation DISK, backed down on its May Day plans and held only one rally, which attracted about 60,000 people. DISK, whose leadership includes the pro-Soviet revisionists has played the role of using the threat of fascism to win the workers to putting their faith in Demirel's "liberal" opposition, which is equally pro-imperialist and ruthless. Many of the actions in 10 other cities and 20 towns were led by revolutionary forces, including the Communist Party of Turkey (Marxist-Leninist) [TKP (M-L)]. This represented a very clear difference with the past several May Days where the revisionists had far tighter control. Faced with this international and national situation, military authorities have announced that if the civilian government can't stop the opposition the armed forces will do so--a statement representing the sentiments of Turkey's highest level capitalists, landlords and other forces tied to U.S. imperialism.