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X: I.C., Peter C

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PM received today issue no. 37 of La Verdad Socialista, organ of the Panama PST, which carries several noteworthy articles:

1. On Nicaragua, a line article calling for a government of the ~~MR~~ Movimiento Pueblo Unido and the FSLN, which they say would be a workers and peasants government. The MPU is a coalition of the Sandinists, the various factions of the Stalinists, centrists, unions, and so forth. The articles calls for a clear policy of class independence, and criticize the formation of the Frente Patriótico Nacional, a popular-front type formation that includes the MPU. This line is similar in many respects to that of the Costa Rican OST, which recently submitted an article to IP/I and PM calling for an MPU government in Nicaragua as a concretization of the call for ~~w~~ workers and peasants government. It is different from the line of the Nicaraguan cdes. whose material we receive through Mexico and who call for a government of the poor, concretized by them through the slogan of FSLN to power, and which they ~~XXXX~~ distinguish ~~carefully~~ from a workers and peasants government. The Nicaraguan group is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ reportedly part of the Bolshevik Faction, as is ^S the Panama PST.

2. Indochina. With a brief introductory note, they reprint the ending of MA's second IP editorial, which condemns the Chinese bureaucracy's invasion of Vietnam as an imperialist-inspired move and rejects linking the withdrawal of troops from Kampuchea to the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. This is sharply different from the line of the Bolshevik Faction's United Secretariat resolution or statement or whatever it was,

~~/~~ As well as from the line of the ~~X~~ Colombian El Socialista (organ of the PST in Colombia).

3. The Carter Torrijos treaties. In a full-page article these are condemned as pro-imperialist, and the bourgeois parties and figures who support them are castigated as traitors. The article is a careful explanation of the theory of permanent revolution, which points out that only "a government of the workers and poor peasants independent of imperialism and the national bourgeoisie" can begin to carry ~~o~~ out the tasks of national independence previously carried out in other epochs by~~n~~ the bourgeoisie^s. The line of the Bolshevik Tendency at the time the treaties were signed was much more ambiguous; on the one hand, on the other, kind of stuff, a lot of vagaries about anti imperialist united front, bonapartism & bonapartism sui generis, and so forth. I don't know what the current position of the Bolshevik Faction leadership (or rather, leader) on the treaties is.

4. Iran. Here the article is more contradictory. It ~~xxxxxxx~~ seems to be an attempt to ~~xxxx~~ straddle two different positions: that presented in El Socialista, (~~xxx~~ Colombia), which failed to even mention the rôle of the working class in the~~xxx~~ overthrow of the sha and hailed Bazargan's government and its program; and that presented in most of the rest of the Trotskyist press. This ~~off~~ article singles out the industrial workers as essential protagonists in the struggle, but ~~n~~ says Bazargan government has an "evidently democratic program". Some things the government has done (e.g. executions of hated officials and torturers, breaking off of relations with Israel and South Africa, recognition of the PLO) are praised.

others are condemned (the attempt to reimpose the veil, the call for old generals ~~to participate~~ "colaborate" in the "recomposition" of the army).

It has a five point programmatic-style summary:

1) The action of the masses toppled the sha. Only continued mass mobilizations can secure what has already been achieved and lead to new victories

2) The development of a revolutionary workers party firmly rooted in the masses is the guarantee that the masses "aspiration for power" can be realized.

The establishment of the Iran SWP is the first step; depending on how well it is able to develop a line and root itself in the masses it can become "the effective leadership of the proletarian revolution"

3) The revolution has been a terrible blow to imperialism because Iran will no longer be its dependable ally.

4) The level of organization of the masses in the factories, army and neighborhood "indicate to us their ~~the~~ willingness of the Iranian working people to continue the struggle until the seizure of power".

5) The victory of the workers of Iran is a victory for the workers of ~~the Americas~~ Panama and of the world.

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X The paper is dated second half of March, and there is material in it dated as late as March 19. Unless their mail is qualitatively slower than ours, they would have received the issues of the Colombian El Socialista with the ~~Iran~~ line on Iran ~~the~~ insurrection and China/Vietnam/Kampuchea before having published this.

--José