

IRAN: REACTION vs. REACTION

DENOUNCE THE REACTIONARY PLOTS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM AND THE KHOMEINI ISLAMIC COUNTER-REVOLUTION!

The very real and very dangerous threat of war, the threat of U.S. invasion of Iran, possibly leading to world war, make it urgent for the U.S. working class to *oppose* in every way any threat of such an invasion and any steps to initiate such a war. The working class has no stake in such a war.

What would be the purpose of such a war? Who would benefit from it? In whose interest would it be carried out? It would be for the benefit of those very oil companies that only a week or two ago reported the highest profits in their history. Such huge monopolies as Exxon with a 120% increase in profits (in other words, they more than doubled), Mobil reporting 130%, Sohio reported 191% (almost triple its profits), and Texaco 211%, more than triple the past years profits! This while people have frozen to death in their homes because they could not afford to pay their heating bills, and while all gas and oil prices have gone sky high. These oil companies have to admit that the main part of their profits are gained outside the U.S., in other words based on the superprofits gained through plunder of colonies and semi-colonies.

Exxon, the Rockefeller-owned company, biggest oil

company in the world, swelled its profits immensely from this plunder. It is the \$22 billions brought in by the Iranian oil industry under the Shah, flowing into the hands of the Rockefellers and other U.S. monopolies that is at stake. It is the \$13.9 billion of exports by the U.S. to Iran, that is at stake. It is to regain and protect these billion of dollars in superprofits that the U.S. government is threatening invasion of Iran. The proletariat of the U.S. has nothing to gain by such a war, because these superprofits fatten the very monopolies that exploit the working class in the U.S. Anything that strengthens them aids them in increasing the exploitation of the proletariat. It makes the burden of living under the yoke of this decaying imperialist system even heavier.

While the oil companies are not the only section of the U.S. bourgeoisie that has extensive interests to protect in Iran, they do have the lion's share, and are representing all the other monopolies who share in the superprofits, including construction companies, the Telephone Co. (American Bell International), and monopoly bourgeoisie of Japan, West Germany, France, and Great Britain, who also have billions of dollars of

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investments in Iran. So the purpose of an invasion of Iran, would be to recapture it and make it secure for the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie.

The bourgeoisie always calls on the proletariat of its nation to go to war to slaughter the workers and peasants of another nation, so that the bourgeoisie can grow fatter. It whips up frenzies of patriotism, stages "incidents" to justify retaliation, and spreads lies to try to win the support of the working class for these wars of plunder. The working class is railroaded into murdering workers of other lands in wars to decide which great imperialist power will receive the greatest share of the take. It is essential for the working class to know the truth about the events in Iran. It is essential to cut through the lies of the bourgeois media as well as the opportunist distortions of the so-called "communists".

The labor aristocrats, the officials of labor unions and the highly skilled, highly paid workers, such as construction workers in trades like electrician, iron workers, skilled trades such as welders, and other specialized skills, also have a stake in maintaining U.S. imperialism in Iran. They receive crumbs from the superprofits in the form of high salaries and privileges, and when they go to a colony or semi-colony they are able to receive at times double what they make here in the U.S. For example one of the largest defense contractors in Iran was the Bell Operations Co., with huge contracts for a helicopter plant in Iran. A share of the \$575 million for this contract would go to the construction workers brought from the U.S. to build this plant, as well as to the skilled welders, specialized mechanics, and technicians to build and service the helicopters. When this contract was suspended last December, this represented a loss in the crumbs available for the bribery of this strata of the working class. For the sake of regaining these crumbs, for regaining telephone company contracts to lay down cable for a nationwide telephone system, to build the helicopter plant, to build nuclear plants, these labor aristocrats promote the call of the bourgeoisie to invade Iran. The interests of this bribed strata are opposed to the interests of the mass of the working class, which seeks to put an end to exploitation and plunder, and which is suffering under imperialism.

Lenin the great teacher of the international proletariat, teaches:

"Imperialism is the epoch of the constantly increasing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of 'great' powers and, therefore, it is impossible to fight for the socialist international revolution against imperialism unless the right of nations to self-determination is recognized. 'No nation can be free if it oppresses other nations'. (Marx and Engels) A proletariat that tolerates the slightest violence by 'its' nation against other nations cannot be a socialist proletariat." (*Lenin on War and Peace*, FLP, p. 27)

U.S. GOVERNMENT WHIPS UP WAR HYSTERIA

These past days have seen the whipping up of rabid reactionary American patriotism, portraying America as a "victim," the "aggrieved", etc. and the unleashing of a wave of demands for armed invasion of Iran to "free the hostages", to an extent that has not been seen in the U.S. since the Vietnam War. An extensive preparation of mass sentiment to support war is taking place. News programs have been devoted to the situation in Iran, with commentators threatening the use of U.S. military might to show "that these little countries can't push the U.S. around". Debates are taking place speculating on the relative pros and cons of the use of different types of invasion forces, such as the 82nd Airborne Division, or the U.S. fleet based in the Indian Ocean. This fleet was strengthened recently at the time of the phony hysteria whipped up about Russian troops in Cuba. This fleet includes a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser, a guided missile destroyer, and an aircraft carrier, the Midway, which carries 75 bombers with a bombing range only hours away from Iran. It becomes clear why Carter, in the midst of announcing the Rapid Development Force for the Caribbean, said, by the way, we are also beefing up our naval force in the Indian Ocean! This obviously had nothing to do with Cuba, but in fact shows how preparations for war in the Middle East have been going on for some time. There is also talk about the use of the Rapid Development Force in Iran. This is a special force consisting of units from all of the armed services, which was developed to be moved quickly to suppress any revolutionary uprising which threatens the interests of U.S. imperialism. They have already been publicly announced as existing in such strategically important areas as the Middle East and the Caribbean, where the U.S. dominates colonies and semi-colonies vital to its world wide interests.

The aristocracy of labor have been leading in the defense of the U.S. bourgeoisie, refusing to load ships or service planes for Iran. The postal workers union has stated it will refuse to process mail for Iran. Uniting with some of the most reactionary forces, such as the Zionist Jewish Defense League (JDL), they have led demonstrations around the country that have been displays of the most disgusting chauvinism, and reactionary patriotism. They have used racist epithets against Iranians, have called for deportation of all Iranians, and have viciously beaten Iranians, including the brutal killing of an Iranian student.

These demonstrators have carried signs demanding, "Send in the Marines", and signs showing their support of the Shah, the vicious butcher of the Iranian people. The police have clearly supported these demonstrations, have stood by while these beatings have taken place, and then arrested the Iranians. Two of the most vicious displays, in Houston and Beverly Hills, were wide-

ly publicized through the bourgeois media, offering encouragement to other reactionary elements to carry out similar actions. As if to show that he is responding to overwhelming popular demand, Carter on Nov. 10 ordered all Iranian students to report to Immigration for investigation and possible deportation. Carter has also utilized this situation to prohibit the Iranian students the right to demonstrate.

INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE TO BRING DOWN KHOMEINI

There are a number of indications that this whole "crisis" is part of a plan of sections of the U.S. bourgeoisie to get rid of Khomeini through the instigation of an international incident, in order to install a regime more in harmony with U.S. interests. Before the Shah was overthrown, the U.S. told him to take a "vacation". First the Shah went to Egypt, and eventually ended up in Mexico. Then out of "humanitarian" reasons this butcher was let into the U.S. under the pretext of needing medical treatment. The U.S. was well aware that bringing the Shah to the U.S. would result in sharp protest in Iran, most likely involving the U.S. embassy. Yet the U.S. did this anyway, provoking the embassy takeover in Iran. This resulted, as planned, in creating instability for the Khomeini regime and developing world-wide sympathy for itself. The stage is being set to prepare for military invasion, through creating a tremendous "popular demand" for intervention to free the hostages and show that the U.S. is still powerful. It is quite possible that the next step might even be the killing of the hostages to provide the justification for military invasion. It would not be the first time that such an "incident" has been provoked by the U.S. It would be a continuation of the traditions of the battleship *Maine*, the Tonkin Gulf incident, the *Mayaguez* incident in Kampuchea, the *Pueblo* in Korea, etc.

Who are these hostages, whose safety has become a concern to such diverse supporters of U.S. imperialism as the Pope and Muhammed Ali? They are the remnants of the embassy staff that used to consist of about 1,000. This number has been cut down to 73 as of last week.

The hostages are Marine guards, military attaches (as has been shown on TV and in the press), and undoubtedly include CIA and other intelligence officials, as well as a few embassy employees. In other words, mercenaries on a suicide mission. It is such military and CIA agents as these that have been the trainers of the torturers of SAVAK, the secret police of the Shah. If workers went on strike or spoke out against the Shah's regime, or demanded better wages, they would be arrested and killed, or taken to prison, where they would be subjected to such tortures as being placed on an

electrified grid, heated like a toaster, or such barbaric sadistic tortures as having a Coca Cola bottle shoved into the rectum. Intellectuals who were critical of the Shah's regime were also subjected to such notorious tortures. In fact, no opposition was tolerated. These sadistic butchers were admittedly set up, trained, and directed by the CIA, ever since the Shah was put on his throne by the CIA in 1953. It is for these torturers and spies, who carry out their dirty work in other countries, such as Brazil and Chile, as well as in Iran, that the Pope sends his emissary to "investigate". It is to "save" such mercenaries that a military intervention is being plotted and called for.

Where was the Pope when 60,000 people were killed by the Shah's regime? Did he visit the torture chambers of SAVAK? But he has rushed to the defense of U.S. imperialism's mercenaries.

The chauvinism whipped up has been so great, that only American hostages have been spoken of. In fact, there are 30 to 40 citizens of other countries also in the embassy - from Pakistan, India, and Italy. They have not been mentioned, in the midst of this campaign to whip up reactionary patriotism.

COUNT SHAH--BLOODSUCKER BY BIRTH



- 17 Banks and insurance companies*
- 25 Metal industries
- 8 Mining companies
- 10 Building materials companies**
- 45 Construction companies
- 43 Food companies
- 26 Trade or commerce enterprises***

*Includes ownership of 80% of the nation's third-largest insurance company.

**Includes 25% of the largest cement company.

***Includes 70% of the hotel capacity in Iran

Many elements of the imperialist plot in operation today are similar to the CIA plot that put the Shah back on his throne in 1953. In an article called "How Our Man in Tehran Brought Down a Demagogue", that appeared in the June, 1975 issue of *Fortune*, many features of this plot were revealed, to brag about how "The CIA exercised power in Iran in 1953". It describes a plot to have the Army seize Tehran, arrest Mossadegh, who was a spokesman for more democratic bourgeois forces, and put in another Premier. This plan failed, and the Shah was forced to flee. Working behind the scenes, the CIA agents in Iran, together with Iranian intelligence agents, paid off the Palace Guard for their support, and were "... whipping up sentiment against Mossadegh in the press, among the merchants, and in the bazaars. Once the army moved, Mossadegh's strength melted away. The Shah returned to his palace, triumphant." The CIA agent in charge, Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of Teddy Roosevelt, quietly left Iran. The conclusion was, "The Iran operation supplied the CIA with a useful model. 'The lesson was,' as one official recently put it, 'that a clandestine outfit need not take open command of a coup, or revolution. The intelligent way to control events is to recruit the right people, drill them carefully, and maneuver them into the right spots.'"

Many facts point to the hand of the Trilateral Commission*, in which the Rockefeller family plays a dominant role, in this entire incident. It is well-known that the pressure for admission of the Shah into the U.S. came from David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger, two leading members of the Trilateral Commission. Carter himself was the picked presidential candidate of the Trilateral Commission, with Brzezinski, the national security advisor, heading the committee that selected him. As the *New York Times* describes recent events: "For most of the last year, the Shah was prevented from entering, but early last month, the Shah's doctors, acting through David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, asked that the Shah be allowed to come to the United States from his asylum in Mexico. American physicians confirmed that the Shah was in grave condition. The decision to admit him involved officials for about a week and the State Department pointed out the risks. But Secretary of State Cyrus

*The Trilateral Commission is an international organization set up in 1973. Its members are from the monopoly bourgeoisie, high government officials, and top trade union officials, as well as selected bourgeois intellectuals from the U.S., Japan, Canada and Western Europe. The Rockefeller interests are dominant in the Trilateral Commission, as they are in the Council on Foreign Relations, which was the U.S. predecessor of the Trilateral Commission. In these organizations, plans are made and carried out for the domination of the world by the particular imperialists represented there. The Council on Foreign Relations has determined the foreign policy of the U.S. government, with few exceptions, since the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration in 1933.

Vance [Ed. — another member of the Trilateral Commission] and President Carter decided that he could not be turned away because of his health." (Nov. 10, 1979) And further on in the same article: "A factor in stirring emotions that led to the attack [Ed. — the seizure of the embassy] was the meeting in Algiers two days earlier between Prime Minister Bazargan and Foreign Minister Yazdi with Zbigniew Brzezinski, the White House national security advisor, without the knowledge of Ayatollah Khomeini."

Behind all the claptrap about the Shah's health, and the love and friendship felt by Rockefeller and Kissinger for him, lies the much cruder truth of the billions of dollars of oil profits of Exxon, and the lion's share of \$2.2 billion of bank loans in Iran owed to Chase Manhattan Bank, the collection of which Rockefeller wants to secure, at any cost in lives and suffering. As a *New York Times* article stated, on the eve of the Shah's fall from power, "... the banks with the greatest exposure in Iran, including Citibank and Chase Manhattan ... could be in grave trouble in the payments of letters of credit and other debts owed them. As one bourgeois spokesman put it, 'If there were a governmental vacuum for a time, who would pay them off?'" (Dec. 28, 1978)

Obviously, Rockefeller and the other members of the Trilateral Commission are taking no chances.

Clearly a deal was made in the Algiers meeting. The Khomeini regime would have to be "destabilized" and thrown out. It could be replaced by Bazargan, but he would first have to resign and cut the connections with Khomeini's rule. He could be brought back later as a "voice of moderation". As a compromise, the U.S. might have to move the Shah to another country, possibly Egypt. So Sadat obligingly comes forward with an invitation. In case events do not work out according to this plot, and the U.S. has to invade to secure its interests, certain steps have to be prepared. One is to move to isolate Khomeini internationally. So the U.N. Security Council is mobilized to vote a condemnation of the seizure of the embassy, and Khomeini is portrayed as a raving fanatic, instead of a "saint", as Andrew Young had called him before. The right provocation would have to be provided, also, since the U.S. cannot convincingly portray itself as in the past, as a defender of democracy, or recently in its campaign as defender of human rights. It has to use the pretext of being directly attacked, so any retaliation is "self-defense".

Thus the stage is set, and the embassy is seized, with all the military personnel inside, without a shot, without a weapon in sight, apparently without any resistance.

The web of international bourgeois intrigue reveals how important Iran is to the imperialists of the U.S., and that they suffered a blow as a result of the revolu-

tionary upsurge of the Iranian masses that overthrew the Shah. Although he had been given every weapon he requested from the U.S. and despite the repression and torture under his hated regime, this loyal partner of the U.S. was overthrown.

The Iranian revolution, although it was defeated because of the fact that the mullahs came to power, was nevertheless a blow against U.S. imperialism. Losses were suffered in the cancelling of millions of dollars of contracts with U.S. companies, thousands of U.S. technicians and labor aristocrats had to leave the country, the U.S. no longer has the type of control over the oil resources as before, the regime has become quite unstable. Iran has great importance to the U.S. also due to its location on the Persian Gulf, through which passes all Middle East oil. It is vital to U.S. imperialist interests to have a pro-U.S., stable regime in control of the Gulf. Iran is also located on the border with the USSR, and has long served as a post for intelligence monitoring of USSR, and a base from which to launch missiles, etc.

The U.S. imperialists would face a very serious loss if the Russian Imperialists could gain control of Iran. The USSR is badly in need of oil — in fact recent reports have stated that they will no longer be able to export oil to the Eastern European countries after 1980. Thus if the Russian imperialists were to gain control of Iran's oil they would be strengthened in their rivalry with the U.S. In addition, the U.S. would lose the military advantages it has gained by being able to use Iran as a military outpost on the Russian border. Preventing the USSR from gaining control of Iran has been one of the major goals of the U.S. imperialists.

REACTIONARY NATURE OF KHOMEINI REGIME— THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION HAS BEEN DEFEATED

The Khomeini regime, up till its desertion in this last week by the Bazargan, National Front, forces has represented a coalition. One grouping is the most rabid advocates of an Islamic Republic, living by the medieval regulations of the Koran, seeking to strengthen the grip of reactionary religious ideas on the masses to keep them from struggling for their real interests, the completion of the revolution, the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the U.S. and other imperialists. Another part of the coalition is those sections of the Iranian bourgeoisie which were in opposition to the Shah. Bazargan himself comes from one sector, the bazaar merchants, who are threatened by competition from the imperialists. There is a large bazaar economy in Iran, in which various goods are sold in a public market. These merchants can be squeezed out very easily by large chain stores, such as Sears, Roebuck. So it is in their economic interest as a section of the Iranian bourgeoisie to seek to hold back economic development and try to maintain competitive capitalism. They

are ardent supporters of the Islamic Republic for this reason. Bazargan was also at one time the head of the national oil company, and represents the interests of sections of the Iranian bourgeoisie that want to negotiate a better deal for themselves with the imperialists, particularly for oil, Iran's most valuable resource.

It is exactly as Lenin said in speaking at the Second Congress of the Comintern: "There has been a certain rapprochement between the bourgeoisie of the exploiting countries and that of the colonies, so that very often — perhaps even in most cases — the bourgeoisie of the oppressed countries, while it does support the national movement, is in full accord with the imperialist bourgeoisie, i.e., joins forces with it against all revolutionary movements and revolutionary classes. This was irrefutably proved in the commission, and we decided that the only correct attitude was to take this distinction into account and, in nearly all cases, substitute the term 'national-revolutionary' for the term 'bourgeois-democratic'. The significance of this change is that we, as Communists, should and will support bourgeois-liberation movements in the colonies only when they are genuinely revolutionary, and when their exponents do not hinder our work of educating and organizing in a revolutionary spirit the peasantry and masses of the exploited. If these conditions do not exist, the Communists in these countries must combat the reformist bourgeoisie. . ." (Report of the Commission on the National and Colonial Question, July 26, 1920, *LCW*, Vol. 31, p. 242)

Bazargan, and the section of the Iranian bourgeoisie represented by him, clearly fit the picture drawn by Comrade Lenin. They united with Khomeini to bring the revolution to an end, to disarm the masses, and to institute an Islamic Republic. Under this republic, which has been praised as a "revolutionary model" by all the phony communists of the USSR, of China, and of Albania, medieval and barbaric measures have been instituted against the people. Floggings for adultery, shooting of a pregnant woman for adultery, stoning, cutting off the hands of anyone who refuses to give up arms and who rebels against the Islamic Republic; even demands for basic democratic rights are labeled as "communist" and are severely repressed. The Khomeini regime is one of the most rabidly anti-communist in the world.

However, it is not possible to speak of a communist movement in Iran today. All the left forces represent one or another faction of the revisionists internationally, whether Russian, Chinese, or Albanian. The Party of Labor of Albania went so far as to state that the proletariat had hegemony in Iran and that the Iranian revolution was a "model". They denied the Islamic nature of the movement, calling it bourgeois propaganda! These phony communists sought to cover up the profoundly reactionary nature of the Islamic Republic

that has been set up, under which not even democratic tasks of the revolution have been able to be carried out. All these left forces have also been repressed by Khomeini. They all sought to compromise with Islam, trying to reconcile it with Marxism. This is impossible, for as Marx pointed out, religion is the opium of the people. **“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of the heartless world, just as it is the spirit of the spiritless condition. It is the opium of the people. To abolish religion as the illusory happiness of the people is to demand their real happiness.”**

(“Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Law. Introduction.” *Marx, Engels, Collected Works*, Vol. 13, p. 175)

Because of the grip of this backward religion on the masses, the mullahs and ayatollahs have been able to come to power. One reactionary force, the Shah, has been replaced by another, Khomeini and the mullahs. This represents counter-revolution, in spite of all the rhetoric of “revolutionary councils”, etc. More vicious repression has been launched against the workers and peasants, as well as against sections of the intelligencia and urban petty bourgeoisie. One example is in the national oppression carried out against the Kurds, who have been massacred under the Khomeini-Bazargan regime. Objectively the Iranian revolution struck a blow against U.S. imperialism, but for the masses of Iran, nothing has changed. No progress has been achieved.

The mullahs, many of whom were landlords whose holdings were nationalized by the Shah, had their own contradictions with his regime. What Khomeini and the mullahs have done is to advance the interests of Pan-Islamism, taking advantage of the grip of this religion on the masses, capitalizing on their hatred for the Shah’s regime, in order to bring reaction to power.

Lenin taught the correct way to fight such elements: “. . . the need for a struggle against the clergy and other influential reactionary and medieval elements in backward countries; third, the need to combat Pan-Islamism and similar trends, which strive to combine the liberation movement against European and American imperialism with an attempt to strengthen the positions of the Khans, landowners, mullahs, etc.” (*LCW*, Vol. 31, p. 149)

To oppose the decadence of imperialism, the Islamic Republic offers a return to the Dark Ages. It seeks to maintain the masses subjugated under the yoke of ignorance, the better to exploit them. The economic policy of this regime has been to nationalize much of Iran’s industry, trying to give a “progressive” appearance through the use of revolutionary-sounding decrees about corporations that do not exploit workers and insurance companies that are in the hands of the people. However, there is no way that either private ownership of the means of production nor exploitation of the working class can be abolished by decrees. As long as the bourgeoisie is the class in power, as it is in Iran, exploitation and oppression will continue.

Iran cannot escape the contradictions of capitalism, despite all the prayers of Khomeini – unemployment is growing, the regime is becoming more unstable every day. Contradictions between the fanatic followers of Khomeini and the forces represented by Bazargan have sharpened to the point that the entire Bazargan government resigned, to disassociate itself from the seizure of the U.S. embassy, and preserve its good relations with the U.S. In the midst of this severe crisis, it served Khomeini well to have the Shah as a target again. It is a convenient target to divert the masses from the contradictions that are boiling over, to whip up religious fanaticism, to capitalize on the justifiable hatred of the masses toward the Shah, the perpetrator of torture and butchery, and toward U.S. imperialism that propped him up. At the same time it can serve to cover the deals of the Khomeini regime with U.S. imperialism. But this unholy hidden alliance is falling apart. Khomeini himself is provoking an invasion – he has even stated: “Many of us want to be martyrs.”

In striving to retain and go back to feudal forms and customs, Khomeini’s Islamic republic is attempting to roll back the wheels of history, to restrain the forward motion of development. It aims to stunt the growth and development of the proletariat, which grows and develops along with modern capitalism. Similarly, the Islamic Republic is in contradiction with imperialism, seeking to return to the feudal era, to pre-capitalist forms, to negate the developments of society in the economic, technological, and social spheres. Therefore, it has apparently become time for the U.S. imperialists and Khomeini to part company.

Was this the message brought to Iran by Arafat and the PLO? Arafat was the first well-known foreign visitor to come to see Khomeini when he came to power. This was interpreted as a sign of “revolutionary Islamic” unity. As recent events have shown (for example, the events around the meetings of Andrew Young with the PLO, and the visit of Jesse Jackson to the Middle East to support a role of “reconciliation” for the U.S. between Israel and the PLO) Arafat and others in the PLO have moved closer to the U.S. They came to Iran to offer themselves as mediators for the U.S., on a “mission of mercy” to save the mercenaries. So the web of bourgeois intrigue extends still further.

The U.S. imperialists, the Shah, and Khomeini are all part of the counter-revolution. Their common interest is in preserving the system of private ownership of the means of production, continuing the exploitation and oppression of the working class and imperialist plunder of colonies and semi-colonies. They unite to violently repress the working class and its class-conscious representatives, squash even the most basic of bourgeois democratic rights for the Iranian masses, in order to protect their own economic interests. The class conscious proletarians, the communists, oppose Islam and all religions, while defending the right of people to practice their religious beliefs. What cannot be supported is any

form of (religious government, whether it be an Islamic Republic, Zionist or any other religious state. Communists recognize that religious ideas have a grip on the masses, particularly in the backward countries, and must carry out a process of education as to their true nature. Engels pointed out the reactionary nature of Islam, describing the cyclical conflicts within it.

“The townspeople grow rich, luxurious and lax in the observation of the ‘law’. The Bedouins, poor and hence of strict morals, contemplate with envy and covetousness these riches and pleasures. Then they unite under a prophet, a Mahdi, to chastise the apostates and restore the observation of the ritual and the true faith and to appropriate in recompense the treasures of the renegades.” Engels describes how these cycles recur, as in a hundred years they become rich and a “new purge” is needed. But no fundamental change is won. **“So the old situation remains unchanged and the collision recurs periodically. In the popular risings of the Christian West, on the contrary, the religious disguise is only a flag and a mask for attacks on an economic order which is becoming antiquated. This is finally overthrown, a new one arises and the world progresses.”** (“On the History of Early Christianity”, in Marx and Engels *On Religion*, Progress Publishers, p. 276)

Another reactionary force in Iran is the army, which took a retreat at the time of the Shah’s defeat, and has been kept intact ever since. This was a deal worked out with the U.S., Bazargan and Khomeini, to keep the U.S.-trained and equipped army, which showed that its loyalty was not to serve the Shah when it failed to follow his instructions to carry out a civil war after he fled. It has not played an open role in the recent crisis, but it is certain that numerous generals and other officers loyalites remain with the U.S.

POSITION OF THE U.S. WORKING CLASS – UNITY WITH THE IRANIAN PROLETARIAT

What is the position of the working class of the U.S. when the U.S. government, and its loyal agents, the labor aristocrats, are calling the proletariat to support a war? The trade union officials will be calling meetings and demonstrations, trying to rally the workers behind the bourgeoisie. Workers cannot go along with this. The working class must refuse to be used again as the hangman for the U.S. bourgeoisie. The working men have no country. The trade union bureaucrats must be denounced and their interests exposed for what they are. They are an angry because they have lost some of the crumbs from the imperialist plunder of Iran. They are angry at losing the fat salaries and extra privileges they get for working under such contracts as the \$10 million to Honeywell for detonators. They are angry at losing the crumbs from a \$3 million Navy contract, and other lucrative military contracts that have been suspended in Iran. They want to go to war to help the U.S. bourgeois-

ie recapture control of Iran, to again rip out superprofits, so the crumbs can fall to them. The masses of workers have to refuse to go along with this. When the union bureaucrats start fund drives, as they have in the past for Israel, workers must refuse, and denounce them. Not a penny for this war! Not a penny will be collected from the workers pockets!

When they call demonstrations and rallies to support imperialist war, for the U.S. to plunder a colony or semi-colony, the workers must refuse, and instead demonstrate opposition against our “own” bourgeois government’s plots and intrigue to launch a war which would result in the slaughter of millions. The slogan of the working class is –

Workers of All Countries Unite!

IRAN AND U.S. STRATEGY FOR WORLD WAR THREE

U.S. military strategy for a new world war very heavily involves Iran. Since the early 1970’s, U.S. imperialism has had a war plan called “one and one-half wars”. This envisions “one” world war fought in the Middle East, all against, of course, the Russian-led bloc. Iran is located right in the heart of this and therefore has prime strategic value for the U.S. led imperialist bloc, which includes the NATO countries, Israel, and their junior partners Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and other countries. Now that the U.S. puppet, the Shah, is out of power in Iran, they want to install a new puppet regime that will faithfully carry out the aggressive designs of U.S. imperialism.

While the bulk of the actual fighting of a new world war between the U.S.-led bloc and the Russian-led bloc is currently planned for Europe and the Middle East, this does not mean that the actual seizure and annexation of these areas are the real focus of this war. Similar to world war 1, the imperialist go to war to divide the entire world, and especially the colonies, semi-colonies, and dependent countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This is because from these countries the imperialists can extract superprofits by plundering the rich natural resources and by exploiting cheap labor. The entire world is divided up into spheres of influence of the various imperialists. New spheres of influence can be gotten only through means of war. So, besides threatening imperialist aggression against Iran, U.S. imperialism is fortifying itself militarily in preparation for World War III. The international proletariat can prevent this new imperialist world war only by overthrowing the imperialist system and replacing it with socialism.

OIL COMPANIES HOLD WORKERS HOSTAGE

The economic motives behind U.S. imperialism’s fomenting the crisis in Iran have become increasingly clear in the past few days. Carter announced the U.S. would pull an oil embargo on itself and stop taking Iranian oil. Only about three percent of U.S. oil consumption comes from Iranian oil, and oil company executives said that this cut off would have little or no effect on oil supplies to the U.S. However, the bourgeoisie has already said that the cutoff of Iranian oil will substantially drive up gasoline prices by December, and odd-even rationing has been reinstated in some areas. This will even further increase the fantastic profits for the oil monopolies. And by whipping up a vicious ugly chauvinist hysteria against Iranians, the bourgeoisie has succeeded in reversing the wide unpopularity of the oil companies and gaining popular support for increased gasoline and heating fuel prices. The U.S. also declared that Iran cannot remove any of its billions of dollars deposited in U.S. banks. The banks use these deposits to make loans and investments that yield them great profits. So this is what this crisis is all about – to protect the profits of the oil companies and the banks, which are a key part of the financial oligarchy dominated by the Rockefeller group. This is why the U.S. imperialists want to send U.S. working people to slaughter the working people of Iran. It is not in the interests of the working class and oppressed people to fight and die for their imperialist masters, but instead to unite with the workers and oppressed peoples of all countries to rid the world of the predatory system of imperialism once and for all.

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