

4th Anniversary of the Founding of the R.C.P.

WE ARE THE PARTY OF THE FUTURE

October marks the fourth anniversary of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. The formation of the RCP, USA was a giant and decisive advance for the working class and oppressed people in this country. For since that day there exists a political party totally dedicated to and capable of leading the masses of people in breaking the chains of slavery, to burst free from the degradation, exploitation and oppression that is life under capitalism. The working class has produced its own political party, its political vanguard, capable of leading it forward amidst the twists and turns of the class struggle to the seizure of power and, together with the proletariat of every country, working to remake a world that embodies the highest and most noble interests and aspirations of mankind—communism.

A successful revolution requires more than the ripening of the objective situation, more than militancy and sacrifice of the masses. Without a political vanguard guided by the science of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung thought even the most favorable opportunities will be thrown away and the heroism of the masses will not be crowned by victory.

Such a political party does not appear as if by magic at the decisive moment. It is itself a product of the class struggle and is tempered and matures amidst the storms of battle. The RCP, USA is the product of the struggle of the U.S. working class and based upon the science of Marxism-Leninism which concentrates the experience of the whole world proletariat. Its birth and development are, in particular, the outcome of a series of vital struggles in the political and ideological realm which have taken place in the U.S. over the past ten years. The Party and its leadership have been born and tempered in these struggles. None of these struggles have been esoteric debates among leftists, as cynics and the ruling class would paint them, but rather reflec-

tions of the class forces shaping society. And the outcome of each of these battles has been decisive in laying the basis for the further advance of the movement.

The roots of the RCP, USA trace most directly back to the period of the 1960s and the tremendous turmoil, ferment, and revolutionary battles which swept the U.S. The Black people's struggle, especially as it developed into the revolutionary Black liberation movement of the mid and late 1960s, served as a clarion call rekindling revolutionary activity among the working class and the masses of all nationalities. The struggle against the Vietnam War, unprecedented in U.S. history, awoke further millions to political activity. Increasingly the ugly features of the imperialist enemy came to be recognized by broad sections of the population. Through all this a new generation of U.S. revolutionaries emerged.

But the revolutionaries of the 1960s were cut off from the working class and the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism. This was due especially to the fact that the old Communist Party held a white flag, not a red one. It had degenerated, leaving the U.S. working class with no vanguard and at the political and ideological mercy of the ruling class' propaganda machine. Many revolutionaries rejected Marxism-Leninism as a sterile dogma of a bygone era and saw no revolutionary potential in the U.S. working class which, in the main, was still dormant and had not awakened to political life. Others paid passing lip service to Marxism, but also negated the revolutionary role of the working class. Such people fell into the view that revolution would be made by a handful of "heroes" and saw terrorism as the revolutionary strategy. The Weathermen were the most notorious of these groups. But even within the ranks of the Revolutionary Union

(RU), the organization which played the central role in forming the RCP, there were people who promoted such a line.

The first major struggle within the RU was a battle to rid its ranks of this kind of poisonous line which led away from the necessary task for the new generation of revolutionaries to carry out revolutionary work among and link themselves to the proletariat. This struggle was led by Comrade Bob Avakian who had emerged as the most far-sighted revolutionary leader of the period, capable of leading the process of integrating the general principles of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of making revolution in the U.S.

Although the RU was a small organization then, and was dismissed in most quarters as a tiny sect, the waging of that struggle was vital to the further advance of the revolutionary struggle. Within a few years, the would-be "guerrilla groups" met early disaster, or, more commonly, fell into "safe" pathetic reformism.

The next major question that faced the revolutionary movement was correctly solving the political question of the relationship between the struggle of Black people and other oppressed nationalities and that of the U.S. working class made up of all nationalities. For several years the struggle of Black people had grown and developed at a time when the working class overall was not taking up struggle. Revolutionary organizations were formed basing themselves on the struggle of the oppressed nationalities—the most notable of which was the Black Panther Party. But despite the heroism of the members of the BPP, it, too, collapsed under the terror of the bourgeoisie and—what really guaranteed their destruction as a revolutionary organization—the influence of ruling class ideology, because the Panther Party was never able to base itself on Marxism-Leninism.

Other organizations developed among the oppressed nationalities which did profess to base themselves on Marxism. But these groups also were never able to break free of a nationalist outlook and adopt the international outlook of the working class. Their leaders made a principle of the divisions in the working class, refused to recognize any revolutionary potential among white workers, and demanded that Black communists (by which they meant themselves) should be guaranteed a "special place" in the still yet to be founded vanguard Party.

Again it was the Revolutionary Union that took the lead in fighting this deviation. And again it was temporarily isolated from much of the Left in the U.S. who denounced it as "racist" for daring to go up against this bourgeois nationalist line. But like the struggle against the petty-bourgeois terrorists, this struggle was key in laying the foundations for a new political party of the working class and opened the way forward to great advances.

Indeed, it was shortly after the struggle against nationalism disguised as Marxism that the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA was formed in 1975. It meant that the working class in the U.S. now had a force determined and capable of leading it forward to making revolution. The formation of the Party was a declaration of war against the ruling class of the U.S. and represented the Party taking responsibility for the fate of the working class in the country.

But the formation of the Party also paved the way for the sharpest struggle yet to face the genuine communists in the U.S. Within the Party were forces who saw revolution as a far-off impossible dream, something to give occasional reference to, but with no real meaning for today's activities. They sought to turn the Party into a collection of trade union caucuses and rob it

of its revolutionary tasks.

The struggle against this tendency was already underway when the counter-revolutionary coup in China of October 1976 following the death of Mao brought things to a head. Mao Tsetung, the towering figure of our times who represented revolution, Marxism-Leninism and the further advance of the working class toward communism, came under attack from the new capitalist elements in China. Many around the world, including some within the RCP, USA, saw this as the time to jump out and demand that the red flag be dropped, just as it had been by the new Chinese leadership.

In this life and death battle Comrade Avakian played an indispensable and decisive role. He made a penetrating analysis of the reactionary nature of the usurpers in power, an analysis that has been proven accurate with every passing day. He led the Central Committee in a decisive battle to prevent the revisionists within the Party from capturing its leadership, and when they continued to try to wreck the Party, in thoroughly routing this revisionist headquarters and driving it from the Party.

Since that momentous struggle to uphold the revolutionary line of Mao Tsetung the work and the influence of the RCP, USA has developed with leaps and bounds. The *Revolutionary Worker*, a weekly newspaper capable of exposing the face of the enemy to increasing numbers of workers in this country, is one major fruit of this battle.

Today the situation in the U.S. is one of a gathering hurricane. All the signs of a giant storm of struggle among the masses are on the horizon. The past ten-year fight to build and safeguard and develop the Revolutionary Communist Party stand in many ways as a period of preparation which will enable the Party to fulfill its duty of leading the working class in making revolution.

It is because of these very factors that the U.S. ruling class has launched its most vicious and direct attack on the Party today, with the heart of their target being Bob Avakian, the Chairman of the Central Committee. They hope to cripple the Party by imprisoning Comrade Avakian, and in so doing deliver a crushing blow to the hopes of the workers for revolution in this country.

This current attack is the most serious attack launched by the U.S. ruling class against revolutionaries in a decade. It is also the greatest test yet faced by our Party. But like the previous struggles the Party has confronted before, this one can be won and can lay the basis for an even greater leap toward the revolutionary goal. But it will not happen automatically, but only through the persistent and conscious efforts of thousands and many from all walks of life can and will make a contribution. But for revolutionaries, and those who aspire to be revolutionaries, this holds special meaning. The battle to free Bob Avakian and the other Mao Tsetung Defendants is a fight to defend the Party; more than that it is a battle to make this necessary giant leap forward. All those who want to see an end to the misery of capitalism and are determined to fight for the future classless society of communism must take their place in the ranks of the struggle now.

This battle must be won. This Party must be strengthened to wage all the trials of strength that lie ahead. This Party of the future must be fought for today.

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