

Letter to the History Commission

By Alberto Moreau, New York, N.Y.

The course-outline of the Communist Party USA, published in the October issue of Party Affairs, is an outstanding contribution to the Party. Coming as it does in this period of mounting battles against depression and its dire consequences for the laboring masses and the poor, the course-outline will serve as a guide to absorb the lessons of the past and apply them to the new qualitative conditions of today. This study will teach, especially the young cadres, to avoid mistakes and shortcomings, will equip them ideologically to better fight and overcome opportunism and sectarianism.

The study of the Party history is of special importance today in the training of new members and young cadres to build the vanguard as the struggles against monopoly develop in breadth and depth. In this process, the perspective of socialism in our country will be better understood in the course of uniting the working class and its allies in a mighty anti-monopoly coalition.

I wish to point out a serious omission in the course-outline which, if not corrected, will obliterate one of the fundamental pillars of the Communist Party, i.e., its proletarian internationalism expressed in support of the liberation movements. The history of the Party is chock-full of mass actions ever since its inception in behalf of freedom and national independence. A bird's eye view of the Party's struggles against colonialism would indicate how the CPUSA courageously discharged and is discharging its responsibilities by supporting the national liberation movements.

The anti-imperialist forces, in joint actions with the CP, unhesitatingly came to the support of Sandino, the Nicaraguan patriot who opposed the US marine invasion during the latter 20's. History records the extension of mass opposition to US imperialist policies in Latin America, military interventions under the camouflage of Pan-Americanism. It was called gun diplomacy, dollar diplomacy. The struggles for the Second Independence of Latin America (the first independence was from Spain) met and is meeting with the support of important sections of North American society: Brazil in the 30's, Colombia (the great banana strike drowned in blood), Venezuela, etc. We can go on enumerating here from decades ago to the present, the movements of solidarity, at this moment, the solidarity with the Chilean people suffering under the yoke of the CIA-engineered fascist Junta. Special mention could be made of the support extended to Puerto Rican independence.

The revolutionary process in Latin America is crowned by Cuba's victory over imperialism, achieving complete economic and political independence. Socialist Cuba is a beacon light that illuminates the high road to national and social liberation. It can be said with modesty that the progressive forces and the Communist Party has unreservedly opposed US monopoly control of the beautiful island 90 miles from our shores. Today the demand is the lifting of the blockade and the ceding of the Guantanamo base held illegally by the US in violation of the sovereign rights of the Cuban nation.

The CPUSA forged a broad united front which included a number of trade unions represented in the Anti-Imperialist League. Unrelentingly it demanded the freedom of the Philippines, independence of India then under British domination and support of the national liberation movement in China. And today there are gigantic struggles for liberation of Africa and the Arab world.

Since World War II, the CPUSA together with other forces has discharged the responsibility of unconditionally supporting movements for African liberation which today have reached a qualitative change in the role of the African people in world politics.

Never to be forgotten is the movement built in the USA against Franco's counter-revolution in Spain and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on the battlefields in the land of Cervantes, Unamuno and many illustrious democrats.

Some of the glorious pages of the Party's history are the militant opposition to the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in united actions with millions of North Americans.

These are some of the militant actions initiated and participated in by the Communist Party. They are an integral part of US and CP history.