

BRUCE FRANKLIN TALKS ON REVOLUTION

Bruce Franklin, a member of the Venceremos Central Committee, talked with about 75 people at the Lucy Stern community center in Palo Alto last Thursday night.

The audience was mixed--all ages and class backgrounds were represented.

Bruce gave a short talk about the need for revolution, and revolutionaries' goals and means.

The discussion portion of the meeting began with a member of the audience declaring that the "hardhats" were typical of American workers. Bruce explained that the heart of the proletariat is not "hardhats" but industrial workers, most of whom are either Blacks or women.

Bruce pointed out that the greater the income and education of the voter, the more likely he was to cast a "white backlash" vote for Wallace in '68. A recent Gallup poll said that only 60% of college educated people opposed the Vietnam War, while an astounding 80% of people with only grade school education opposed it.

Bruce also cited workers' requests for student and communist support of strikes, most notably at the Pittsburgh Des-Moines Steel strike in Santa Clara in 1969.

One questioner pointed out the peaceful election victory of Marxist Salvador Allende in Chile and wondered why U.S. revolutionaries couldn't be voted into power in this country.

Bruce said that, first of all, Allende's position in Chile was weak and that unless he relied on and armed the people, he would inevitably be overthrown by a US-backed right-wing coup. He pointed out that similar election victories have suffered the

same fate many times before in Latin America.

In the US, he said, all of our history points out the need to be prepared to resist reactionary attacks on progressive movements and parties with armed struggle.

Bruce concluded the talk by explaining the theory that US revolutionaries are using to advance the struggle of the people. He said that various national liberation struggles of black, brown, and other oppressed nations within the US must ally with the struggles of workers and other "oppressed classes."

The goal of the revolution would be a socialist state, in which the oppressed nations would be free to decide to secede and form separate nations if they wished. He said that revolutionaries hoped that the nations would be able to remain united and together to implement control by the vast majority of the U.S. population, the poor and working people, over the affairs of the nation.

In response to a question about how this control could be possible, Bruce talked about a dictatorship of the proletariat, through the means of democratic centralism. He said that a communist party, which truly represented the interests of the people, combined with decentralization of decision making to the community level with participation by the party and the two leading mass (not party) organizations in the area would go far to ensure that the will of the people prevailed.

The discussion lasted about two hours. The atmosphere was friendly and when people left, many of their mis-conceptions about revolution were set straight.

Venceremos 12/10/70