

The Disarmament
and Peace Demands
and Pending Imperialist
World War III

Organization for a Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party—U.S.A.

THE DISARMAMENT AND PEACE DEMANDS AND PENDING IMPERIALIST WORLD WAR III

With the rapid rise of militarism among the hostile imperialist blocs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact has come the demand for disarmament among many forces and in many nations. The demand for disarmament and for peace in general has increased greatly with all the recent talk about the prospects of various forms of nuclear war. But can disarmament and peace be achieved under imperialism and thus prevent the third—and surely the most destructive—imperialist world war that is brewing? This, and many interrelated questions must be answered in a scientific way, and with working class action, if humanity and the world as we know it is to be saved from possible extinction. Let us begin to answer these questions.

I. Imperialist Armaments

Imperialist armaments are utilized by the imperialists—monopoly capitalists—in various murderous ways in order to protect and expand “their” riches. One of the most prominent examples of this is imperialist world war. Before each imperialist world war there has been a tremendous increase of armaments and soldiers—workers and toilers—readied for the slaughter. These wars have been fought and will be fought fundamentally to defend and extend the profits and super-profits of the imperialists.

Prior to imperialist World War I between the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy, U.S.) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey), there was an enormous buildup in armaments and the armed forces. Long before the war started, all the major powers, except Great Britain and the U.S., were conscripting for short service, then reserve duty. By the time war broke out (1914) France and Germany each had about 800,000 men in uniform and millions of trained reservists. Armaments were built up correspondingly. And what for? In starting, immediately joining, or holding out for some time, each imperialist country, great and small, had visions of obtaining some imperialist aim. All were after control of markets, colonies and semi-colonies, i.e., profits and super-profits. Germany wanted colonies in Africa that were possessed by Britain, France and Belgium. The holders of African colonies wanted to keep what they had stolen. The U.S. entered the war to protect the very profitable war loans it had made to Britain and France, and to extend its sphere of influence in the Pacific. Another imperialist aim was to disorganize the growing revolutionary workers movement. In a war objectively fought to determine who would be the biggest group of world plunders, over 10 million workers and toilers were killed, and over 20 million were crippled.

Imperialist World War II was preceded by an over decade long buildup of armaments on all sides, led by the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan). The German and Italian bourgeoisies had already enlisted the services of fascism to try to stabilize their crisis ladden economies and shut down a threatening working-class movement. German and Italian imperialism were out to get what they failed to achieve in WWI: colonies. They also wanted some territory in Europe. Especially Britain and France stood in the way, because these two imperialist powers possessed vast colonies and semi-colonies. In the Pacific it was obvious that Japanese militarist-imperialism was conflicting with U.S. imperialism. During the early 1920's V. I. Lenin—one of the greatest working class leaders—had pointed to an eventual war between Japan and the U.S. over colonial possessions in the Pacific region. Meanwhile, by the mid 1930's imperialist rule was replacing working class rule in the Soviet Union. The bourgeoisie there—the fake communists—wanted to expand into Eastern Europe, where it colluded, then collided with German imperialism. Imperialist armaments were built up at a frantic pace to try to pull out of the great capitalist depression and achieve and defend predatory imperialist aims and interests. The stage was then set through tons of chauvinist demagoguery about “defending democracy,” “defending socialism,” etc. The cities and countrysides of Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia were set ablaze in defense of imperialist profits and super-profits. Again, millions of workers and toilers were killed and injured in another unjust imperialist world war.

Picking up a newspaper today, or turning on the radio or T.V., one is bound to hear about the tremendous increase in armaments among the hostile imperialist powers, grouped principally in the NATO and Warsaw Pact blocs. Nuclear weapons and talk of nuclear war are repeatedly in the news. Especially U.S. imperialism and “Soviet socialist”-imperialism are competing intensely, and more openly, over the semi-colonies. Profits and super-profits are at the end of the bloody imperialist rainbow. As part of the preparation for imperialist World War III, U.S. imperialism and “Soviet” imperialism are trying to gain an edge here or there on each other. In this connection, each imperialism advances nuclear arms “reduction” proposals designed to obtain nuclear superiority over the other. Any talks they have about disarmament are designed as a smokescreen to mask the feverish armament preparations for nuclear, imperialist World War III.

There are always enormous buildups in imperialist armaments prior to unjust imperialist wars. These wars, which cause such massive death and destruction, are fought over markets and foreign territory, especially over colonies and semi-colonies. Such spheres of influence enable the imperialists to expand markets and extract super-profits, which they greatly enrich themselves on. Thus, imperialism means the monopoly position of a handful of imperialist nations and the domination and oppression of weaker, less developed nations. To perpetuate this national oppression, imper-

ialism must also wage unjust wars against national-revolutionary movements in the colonies and semi-colonies.

The nation of Vietnam was recently unified (1975) after 30 years of armed struggle against French colonialism and U.S. imperialism. In spite of U.S. backing, France basically suffered military defeat (1954) by the Vietnamese national liberation forces, led by the Vietnamese bourgeoisie (who masquerade as communists). After sabotaging democratic elections, U.S. imperialism hoped to prop up a puppet state in the southern part of Vietnam, the same way it had done in Korea. This would have ensured, if successful, super-profits for U.S. big business. However, the unpopular, repressive state created by the U.S. imperialist Central Intelligence Agency was in serious danger of being overthrown. So, U.S. imperialism intervened in a massive way (1965). The Vietnam War ensued. U.S. imperialism was defeated (1975). While this defeat was a significant advance for the Vietnamese workers and toilers, the class in power is the Vietnamese “communist” bourgeoisie, which has been reducing Vietnam to a semi-colony of “Soviet socialist” imperialism and an oppressor of other nations.

Since U.S. imperialism “lost” Nicaragua also (to the “Soviet” Union), this time by not intervening with massive military action, it has gone back to a get tough approach wherever “necessary” to protect “vital” imperialist super-profits. This is manifested prominently in El Salvador, where U.S. imperialism vigorously supports the *slaughter* of workers and peasants by the local semi-feudal ruling class. This is being done in an effort to suppress the national-revolutionary movement against feudalism and imperialism, to insure super-profits for U.S. big business. It is also being done to try and stem the advance in Central America of “Soviet” imperialism. On the other hand, “Soviet” imperialism would like to replace U.S. imperialism, and is channeling military support through the Cuban and Nicaraguan bourgeoisies to the liberation forces in El Salvador. Unfortunately for the workers and peasants of El Salvador, the leadership of *their* revolutionary struggle is part of the Salvadorean bourgeoisie, which is pro-“Soviet” imperialism or pro-West European imperialism.

A recent example of “Soviet” imperialism's use of armaments to perpetuate national oppression is to be found in Afghanistan. “Soviet socialist”-imperialism has invaded this country to protect a supply of cheap natural resources and cheap labor. Control over Afghanistan also enables “Soviet” imperialism to project its power in the region as it drives toward the Persian Gulf.

Further, the ruling bourgeoisie utilizes its military in an unjust manner at “home.” The bourgeoisie utilizes its military and police against the just class struggles of “its” workers and toilers. The class struggles of workers and toilers eventually threatens, not only individual bourgeois profits as with strikes, but the entire profit-making system, the capitalist and imperialist system, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. When this happens or seems about to happen, the bourgeoisie unleashes its military and police to

whatever degree it deems necessary to secure its rule.

The state-capitalist class in Poland, the Polish bourgeoisie, which falsely decks itself out as communist, returned to the forcible suppression of the Polish worker's movement when it instituted martial law in December, 1981. Although the Polish working class lacked its necessary vanguard Marxist-Leninist party to lead the overthrow of the Polish bourgeoisie and the seizure of political and economic power, the Polish bourgeoisie felt it necessary to institute martial law to *attempt* to stem the severe economic deterioration, and to disorganize the Polish workers and keep them that way. In this situation an additional military concern is the imperialist greed for and competition over Poland. A fundamental concern of the NATO imperialists is the \$28 billion in predatory loans owed by the Polish bourgeoisie. Especially U.S. imperialism would like to pry Poland out of "Soviet" imperialism's sphere of influence and into their own. "Soviet" imperialism will never consent to this peacefully.

In general, *all* capitalist and imperialist ruling classes use the might of *their* military and police against the working-class movement as a whole whenever they believe there is a serious threat to their system and rule. In addition, the police are used against workers in individual strikes when the strikers do not behave like good wage-slaves. In the case of more encompassing strikes and demonstrations, the bourgeois military is brought in to forcibly put the workers back in "their" place. For example, in the U.S. during the union organizing drives in basic industries in the 1930's, many workers were shot or beaten to death by the regular bourgeois police or the bourgeoisie's private police thugs. In the Republic Steel Strike Memorial Day Massacre of 1937, police murdered seventeen workers and wounded close to two hundred. Individual instances of crackdowns by the imperialist police, and even the imperialist military are bound to increase as the economic depression of world capitalism develops and deepens and a revolutionary working-class movement reemerges.

To sum up this section, the imperialists have historically used and must use armaments in periodic, unjust imperialist wars, which are fought to expand markets, spheres of influence, to annex foreign territory, especially colonies and semi-colonies. The imperialists must also use imperialist armaments in unjust wars of national oppression against the colonies and semi-colonies, the latter, in general, wage just wars against imperialism. And the ruling imperialists and capitalists must use their military and police—unjustly—against the just class struggles of "their" workers and toilers for socialism. Why *must* the imperialists do these things? Profits and super-profits.

II. The Disarmament Slogan and Pacifism

Imperialism will *never voluntarily disarm*. Nor can there be *lasting peace* under this system. Imperialism *must have armaments and war* to defend and extend "its" profits and super-profits. *To actually disarm and end wars requires the forcible overthrow and disarmament of the world bourgeoisie*. This will be achieved when the international working class and toilers world-wide, after carrying out a whole series of successful revolutions, and instituting socialism in a number of countries, goes on to world communism. World communism will mean the end to wars among nations and peoples, and thus the end to armaments. It will do this because society will no longer be in the control of exploiters and oppressors, society will no longer be exploitive and oppressive—such classes will have been eliminated. Society will be under the control of and run by the masses of working people.

In the meantime, and in order to get to such a peaceful society, wars will be necessary. Pacifism—opposition to wars in general—and the related call for disarmament, will not end the unjust imperialist wars and national and class oppression. Only through wars to overthrow the international bourgeoisie will we achieve a peaceful society. We must examine some of these just wars.

One type of just war is a civil war waged by the proletariat and working people in the imperialist countries against "their own" ruling bourgeoisie. For example, when the imperialist bourgeoisie is involved in an imperialist war against its rivals, there is a tendency for the imperialist war to be transformed into a civil war. The class conscious proletariat in the imperialist countries strives to turn imperialist war into a civil war against "its own" bourgeoisie. If successful, as with other civil wars against the ruling bourgeoisie, the result is the replacement of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie with the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the building of socialism takes place.

At first, socialist revolutions take place in one or a few countries. The victorious proletariat and working people are surrounded by hostile imperialist and capitalist countries, with "their own" defeated bourgeoisie(s) plotting how to reestablish "their" lost paradise. Imperialism, especially, wages unjust war against victorious socialism. Therefore, another just war waged by the proletariat and toilers is a war to defend working-class rule, to defend socialism. A war in defense of socialist countries is a second type of just war. For example, after the victorious October (1917) Socialist Revolution in Russia, British, French, and U.S. imperialism invaded Russia militarily and sought to restore the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and Russian imperialism. The Russian proletariat and toilers fought a just war of defense of socialism and the imperialists were forced to withdraw. At present though, there are no socialist countries in the world, only fake socialist countries where the reactionary imperialist and capitalist bourgeoisies rule under a "communist" or "socialist" disguise. Yet socialism is

6. bound to triumph in the near future, and this is likely to give rise to just wars in defense of working-class rule and socialism.

A third type of just war is a national-revolutionary war waged by the colonies and semi-colonies against foreign imperialism, and domestic feudalism. If successful, this advance leads to a bourgeois republic, a workers' and peasants' republic, or goes on to a worker's state, dependent on the conditions and whether the bourgeoisie or the proletariat is in leadership of the national-revolutionary movement and how revolutionary the peasantry is. As we demonstrated in the previous section, national oppression can only be eliminated when the proletariat leads a successful national-democratic revolution. In this case, the socialist revolution follows.

So *under imperialism* the demand for disarmament and peace cannot be achieved. The imperialist bourgeoisie and ruling capitalist bourgeoisie must have armaments to wage unjust wars of exploitation and oppression. On the other hand, the international proletariat, and toilers generally, must have armaments to wage just wars to eliminate the exploitation and oppression of class society. The demand for disarmament and against war in general is certainly *not the demand* of class conscious workers and toilers, as this would commit them to be slaves for the exploiters and oppressors, to a living death on their knees. The masses of workers and toilers will never submit to such a shameful existence!

The disarmament slogan and pacifism are out of sync with objective reality and not in the class interests of the masses of workers and toilers of the world. How then did these recent demands originate, and what class forces advance them?

The disarmament demand and pacifism are growing with the rapid rise in militarism in the hostile imperialist blocs of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. A special impetus to the disarmament and pacifist movement has been the massive buildup of armaments, especially nuclear weapons, capable of destroying the entire world several times over; the vulgar talk from the imperialist politicians (e.g., President Reagan) and military strategists about actually engaging in and even "winning" various forms of nuclear world war; and the widely publicized calamities that nuclear war would cause, including the possible or probable or certain (depending on the author) annihilation of all human life on the planet. Obviously the problem is grave. Only people who are dishonest, ignorant, or mentally akin to ostriches would say otherwise. The danger is real.

While the danger is real, the demands for disarmament and peace aren't the solution. The popularity of these demands is not because they are correct, but because they suit the outlook of the imperialist-privileged "middle class." The "middle class" includes small proprietors, administrators, professionals, college professors, teachers, etc., and the upper stratum of the working class. Although the "middle class" of petty bourgeois and aristocracy of labor has certain differences with big capital, life is fairly comfortable under imperialism. This comfortable life has been due primarily to imperialist super-profits from the exploitation of the oppres-

7. sed nations. Thus, the demand for disarmament and peace under imperialism corresponds with the current privileged position of those in the "middle class" and their failure to feel the need to get rid of imperialism altogether.

The economic and political crisis of world capitalism, of imperialism, is bound to affect the objective position of all classes, including the petty bourgeoisie and the labor aristocratic section of the working class. For many in these strata, as the economic depression has begun to set in, their favorable lifestyle has slipped, with some being thrown into the working class mass. As the economic depression deepens and widens in scope, this phenomena will become much more pronounced. Then there are the unjust wars that imperialism will be carrying out, U.S. imperialism and "Soviet socialist"-imperialism even more so. This will cause further problems in the economy, some will be killed in unjust wars, and many people's lives will be negatively affected. For example, the situation in El Salvador is looking similar in many ways to the situation in Vietnam in the early 1960's. *And there is no escape from the nuclear, imperialist World War III that is building as long as imperialism exists in the major imperialist powers.* The impossible, reformist demands for disarmament and peace under imperialism are a dream, a narcotic dream, a dead end. Many of these strata will come to see that the only solution is the overthrow of imperialism through the socialist revolution.

The bourgeoisie is also behind the disarmament and peace movements. Here we are referring to the political line of the leadership of these movements. This leadership of upper petty bourgeoisie, labor leaders, bourgeois politicians, "socialists," "communists," consciously and unconsciously, strives to insure that the concern, frustration, and anger that exists among the people does not spill outside the inherently impossible, reformist character of the disarmament and peace demands and movements. To spill outside—which is inevitable—is for the most downtrodden workers and toilers to see through this and to work for the revolutionary overthrow of imperialism, and for some in the "middle class" to abandon these bourgeois and petty-bourgeois demands and join the workers and toilers. This is precisely what the "leadership" of the disarmament and peace movements are fundamentally opposed to, and why this leadership represents the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie actually promotes these movements because they are keenly aware that, if these movements can be contained, they are harmless activities which keep the aroused people "struggling" up a blind alley.

The United Nations (U.N.) Disarmament Commission is a superb example of how the world bourgeoisie promotes the disarmament and peace demands and movements. What is the U.N.? The U.N. is an international body of representatives of imperialist and capitalist governments, representatives of the ruling imperialist and capitalist bourgeoisies. Everyone at the U.N. knows that all their commissions and talks will fail to bring about disarmament, will

fail to bring about disarmament, will fail to do anything about the buildup for nuclear, imperialist World War III. Nicely worded resolutions with the best of deceiving intentions is what the U.N. "Disarmament" Commission is all about. This Commission was created to give the illusion that something is being done, in order to dupe the concerned, frustrated, and angry people.

The current round of nuclear arms "reduction" proposals by the bourgeois representatives of U.S. imperialism and "Soviet" imperialism are a complete fraud. The same holds true for any "agreements" (e.g., SALT II, START) they may come to. Soon there will be "serious," "business-like" negotiating sessions that drag on for, how many years? Any "reduction" agreements here are bound to include buildups there. Arms "agreements" between the predatory, antagonistic imperialist powers are designed to create the *illusion* that matters are "under control." Meanwhile, we can be sure that the massive buildup of weapons—conventional, chemical, biological, and nuclear—and cannon fodder for nuclear imperialist World War III will continue at a desperate pace.

The disarmament and peace demands reflect a certain concern, frustration, and anger at pending, nuclear, imperialist World War III. The privileged are especially prone to these futile demands because of their illusions of continuing a good life under imperialism. Even the mass of workers and toilers may fall prey to such illusions for a period of time. The bourgeoisie promotes the illusion of possible disarmament and peace under imperialism, through bourgeois politicians, U.N. politics, imperialist arms "reduction" talks, fake "socialists" and "communists," and the reformist "leadership" of the disarmament and peace movement. The disarmament and peace movement is a *disarmed movement*. This is no reason to despair. There is no time for despair. Abandon the impossible, reformist disarmament and peace demands and movements and take up the class struggle of the international working class for the overthrow of all imperialism, for the socialist revolution. Provide revolutionary assistance to the national-revolutionary movement of workers and toilers in the colonies and semi-colonies against imperialism, and feudalism. That is what must be done to concretely struggle against the pending, nuclear, imperialist World War III. Only the socialist revolution in all the major imperialist powers could prevent imperialist World War III. In the event that the proletariat and toilers lack sufficient class-conscious leadership and class consciousness to carry out these socialist revolutions in time to prevent nuclear, imperialist World War III, then we must work to transform this unjust imperialist war into a civil war for socialism. In any war waged by U.S. imperialism—which must be an unjust war—we in the U.S. must work for the defeat of "our own" government, for a civil war against the dictatorship of the U.S. bourgeoisie, for the socialist revolution and working-class rule. Nuclear, imperialist World War III is objectively on the agenda. Working class socialist revolution is objectively on the agenda. This is how matters stand. What should be your action?

III. What We Must Do

With the continued imperialist oppression of other nations, with the class struggle at "home," with the imperialist world war looming, what are the important tasks which will weaken imperialism, strengthen the working-class movement, and take us a step closer to our goal of socialist revolution? We must look at what will really help develop the class consciousness and organization of the working class so that we can take up our leadership of the fight to overthrow capital, and what will help other strata to take the side of the working class in this struggle. We must find ways to disrupt and weaken imperialism and give new strength to the working-class struggle against imperialism.

We thus, from the beginning, make a distinction between reformism and the struggle for certain reforms and demands in a revolutionary way. Reformism *in practice only works for a never-ending series of reforms of imperialism*, and refuses to carry out the revolutionary work necessary to lead to the overthrow of imperialism. The actual *aim* of reformism is imperialism, only utopian imperialism. The trade union leaders are open about this. But the actual aim—as determined by practice—of nearly all "socialists" and "communists," from the "C" PUSA, the "Socialist Workers" Party, the "Revolutionary Communist" Party to the "Bolshevik" League, is also utopian imperialism, although they frequently claim their aim is socialism and communism. The reason why reformism is so strong in the imperialist countries is because in the decades following imperialist World War II, life in the imperialist countries improved to various and sometimes significant degrees. Although the relatively prosperous period, based on the super-profits, is *finished for good*, most workers and toilers, especially the labor aristocracy, and petty bourgeoisie, think that important and lasting reforms can be won from imperialism. What workers need, however, are struggles which increase our class consciousness and organization. We need to know the limited nature of reforms under imperialism, and how the struggle itself will lead to even more intense class struggle. We must see the reforms as by-products of revolutionary struggle.

In looking, then, at the need to develop *revolutionary* struggle, in every country, the most *urgent* task is the building up and consolidation of the class-conscious, vanguard, political party of the working class—the genuine Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party. Certainly in the U.S. this remains the *central* task of revolutionary advanced workers and intellectuals, since there are only opportunist and revisionist parties masquerading as working-class parties, but in reality supporting the bourgeoisie and imperialism. Why is a genuine Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party so desperately needed? The class that we must overthrow in the U.S. is the bourgeoisie. Although numerically insignificant it is very class conscious and organized, commands a powerful, armed state apparatus, and possesses colossal wealth and influence. We workers and toilers are a

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sizable majority of the population, yet to vanquish our powerful class enemy we must produce an *invincible vanguard organization* capable of educating, organizing, and leading our struggles for immediate needs and socialist revolution. Unless we create a *superior*, class-conscious organization of revolutionary advanced workers and intellectuals, we will be unable to overcome the severe reaction of the bourgeoisie and seize power when the time is ripe.

At every turn, we must learn to recognize and oppose imperialist interests. Chauvinism must be opposed because it is support of imperialism. It advocates, whether openly or in a disguised form (centrism), the basic harmony of all classes in imperialist society—the “national interests”—against whatever is troubling the bourgeoisie. Here is a prominent example of open chauvinism: “We must protect our vital interests, from the Middle East, to Korea, to El Salvador, wherever threatened by communist aggression.” U.S. imperialism is threatened, or maybe threatened with loss of foreign holdings and super-profits, therefore, “we”—meaning primarily workers and toilers—must be ready to fight and die for the “old Glory” of big capital. The *leading* chauvinists are clearly the bourgeois politicians, and the “leadership” of the organized trade union movement, who are the bribed and sold-out upper stratum of the labor aristocracy—the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. Also supporting imperialism through direct or indirect chauvinism are nearly all “socialists” and “communists.” The base of support of chauvinism—sometimes rabid chauvinism—comes from among the now declining labor aristocracy of the working class and sections of the petty bourgeoisie, who lead a relatively comfortable, privileged life under imperialism. As the economic and political crisis of world imperialism deepens, imperialism is less able to provide such comfortable lifestyles on a wide scale. It is essential for those of these privileged strata to see that their future lies not in the disappearing, *never to return*, prosperous period of imperialism, but with the mass of workers and toilers in class struggle against imperialism, for a bright socialist future. It is also necessary for the mass of workers and toilers to get rid of any chauvinism that has sifted down to them, because of the influence of the labor aristocracy, and minimum benefits they may have. Working-class internationalism—doing the utmost possible in one country for the development, support and awakening of the revolution in *all countries*—must be taken up.

To oppose imperialist interests it is essential to oppose *all* imperialist-military expenditures without exception. We deliberately place imperialist and military *together* because there is no such thing as “legitimate defensive” purposes for the imperialist military as chauvinism preaches. As we demonstrated in section I, the imperialist military is used *only for unjust purposes*: localized wars and world wars between different imperialist blocs for spheres of influence, predominately colonies and semi-colonies; imperialist wars of national oppression against the oppressed nations; imperialist suppression of the class struggle of workers and

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toilers at “home.” The imperialist military is a fundamental part of the state apparatus. In imperialist society the bourgeoisie exercises *its dictatorship through its state apparatus*. The only “defensive” purpose of the imperialist military is to *defend the profits and super-profits of big capital*.

Working class opposition to *all* military expenditures is fundamentally different from pacifist, reformist “opposition.” We recognize that imperialist military expenditures will not be *actually* reduced, let alone eliminated, as long as imperialism exists. And unlike the reformists we tell the people this bitter truth. There is nothing more harmful than perpetuating illusions and false hope. Why then do we say struggle against *all* imperialist military expenditures? Because in so doing we disrupt the bourgeois plans for smooth and easy militarization, and we increase our class consciousness and organization, our fighting capacity.

In opposing imperialist interests it is important to demand the closing of all nuclear war materials plants, also known as nuclear power plants. Generation of electrical power through nuclear power plants is grossly inefficient and expensive, carries catastrophic risks, and the pollution of the environment and space for millions of years. What the imperialists are really after in “nuclear power” is the plutonium “by-product” for weapons. In carrying out the struggle to close all nuclear war materials plants it is essential to combat reformist illusions that this can be achieved in the great imperialist powers without overthrowing imperialism. An isolated success here or there is all that is possible under imperialism, with the total nuclear war materials plants increasing overall. It is essential to expose the purposes and affects of this imperialist Frankenstein, and promote the overthrow of imperialism as the only solution.

We oppose conscription or the draft, and draft registration, as a way of building class conscious opposition to imperialist war preparations, but again, it must be recognized that the imperialists will reinstitute the draft whenever they need additional military personnel. However, if faced with an induction notice from the draft, we encourage workers and toilers, and anyone who supports the struggle for socialist revolution, to enter the military and acquire military skills for later use against the bourgeoisie. In addition, it is critical that working-class organizing take place in the imperialist military during all periods, but it is absolutely crucial during imperialist war. This is another key reason for going in the imperialist military. In time of imperialist war we definitely oppose the individual or mass “boycott (of) the war.” During time of imperialist war we especially need those that oppose imperialist wars on a working-class basis, not a reformist, pacifist basis, in the imperialist military. The strategic reason for this is to patiently work for the defeat of “our own” imperialist government, to carefully organize to turn the guns around on “our own” imperialist oppressors, to turn imperialist war into civil war against “our own” imperialist bourgeoisie!

In order to aid workers in turning the guns around, there must be a persistent struggle to democratize the extremely dictatorial, imperialist military. This means agitating for the right to organize, especially into unions, and eventually into Soviets, for the enlisted ranks. The enlisted rank-and-file should elect *all* officers. There should also be a struggle for national equality and equality for women within the imperialist "service." The more democratic the imperialist military becomes—in ordinary times a task something akin to turning a stone into a flower—the more difficult it is for the bourgeoisie to wage unjust imperialist wars. During an imperialist war, the height of working class democracy in the imperialist military is when the masses of workers and toilers turn the guns around, on "their own" bourgeoisie.

To further prepare for the class war for socialism which lies ahead, we will at some point need to organize a proletarian or working-class militia. This militia must be organized *separate* from any branch (federal, state or provincial, local) of the imperialist state. Under present conditions, the primary purpose of the proletarian militia would be to provide military training to numerous workers, and toilers. We should demand the imperialist state pay for the militia, but such a concession should not be a prerequisite for organizing a working-class militia.

In opposing imperialist interests it is imperative that workers and toilers in the imperialist, oppressor nations provide revolutionary support to the national-revolutionary movements (composed predominately of workers and toilers) in the oppressed colonies and semi-colonies, in their struggle against imperialism, and feudalism. This is a key way for the working class in the oppressor nations to work for the international unity of the international proletariat, to work for the overthrow of imperialism. By revolutionary support we mean combatting all chauvinism and reformism, by independently organizing working-class financial support and sending arms, by organizing against imperialist wars of aggression and oppression.

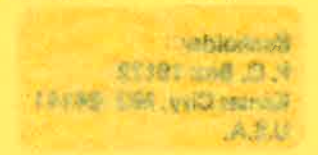
In preparation for turning the guns on "our own" imperialism, it is very important to build the class struggle at "home." We have said a number of things in this pamphlet that relate to the class struggle, but there are other fundamental components that need bringing out. The masses of workers, toilers, and all oppressed must fight for their own immediate needs, and for the extension of democratic rights of all workers, oppressed nationalities and women. We must resist the imperialists passing *their* economic and political crisis off on our backs. We must fight for our survival and cultural needs and against bourgeois attempts to limit our ability to educate, demonstrate, unionize and organize in general.

If we concentrate on building the vanguard Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party to lead all our struggles, if we learn to oppose imperialist exploitation and oppression, imperialist war preparations, if we heighten the class struggle at "home," regardless of small victories we may win along the way, or setbacks we may

suffer, our ability to struggle against imperialism will have grown, imperialism will be losing its hold on our consciousness and organization, and we will be much more prepared to carry out socialist revolution. As the imperialists drag us into the most brutal imperialist war ever, we are preparing for the great class war to overthrow them.

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June 1982



The Organization for a Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party U.S.A. (OMLWP-USA) was formed in August, 1981 with the merger of the Kansas City Marxist-Leninist Cell and the Kansas City Revolutionary Workers' Collective. Below are documents endorsed and available from our group. To order or correspond, contact us at the address below.

The Disarmament and Peace Demands and Pending Imperialist World War III, June, 1982. \$.25

Proletarian Internationalism and Imperialist World War III, April, 1982. \$.25

Internationalist Greetings of Solidarity With the Revolutionary Polish Workers! (a letter), December 23, 1981 \$.15

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