



THE WILL TO WIN

by Don Juan Antonio Corretjer

The mass media is full of similar situations occurring throughout the world: bank robberies, armed robberies, kidnapping; ambushes, struggles in the streets and guerilla warfare. These actions are all placed in the same category: terrorism.

Let us take this in parts. Revolutionaries in all countries, and even history, for more than 200 years of anti-colonial struggle have called these economic collections by another name. In general, they are called expropriations. The national bourgeoisie of all countries who became independent within the course of the last two centuries, and with the United States setting the example, were nourished by appropriating through force of arms, the property of colonialists both foreign and domestic alike. The overthrow of the monarchy in France, the "great revolution," was designed to destroy the landholding nobility, by liquidating the large landed estates. The Jacobin dictatorship, the reign of revolutionary terror, passed on its glorious name and necessary example to all future revolutionaries: if the enemy in power profits by instilling fear in the people with its entire repressive apparatus, then the time is now, in which we exercise the right to instill terror in the hearts of our oppressors. It is said, "to each in their own time. . . ."

What imperialism, reaction, and counterrevolutionary propaganda in general term as "terrorism" is in fact the life or death struggle for the independence and socialism of Puerto Rico. The form it actually acquires is due to similar conditions in all countries. In general terms, the so-called "terrorism" of the revolutionaries of the Red Brigades, or the patriots of ETA, and other European armed clandestine organizations, corresponds to the betrayal of the great bourgeoisie, of the national interests and historical necessities; specifically the Basques. While the political military actions of the Red Brigades in Italy represent the answer that the necessities of the working class and people of Italy give to the degeneration of the syndicalist movement and the reformist parties at the Italian, European, and international level.

The appearance in Puerto Rico of an armed clandestine movement in struggle for independence and socialism is the manifestation of this same phenomena in the Puerto Rican dimension. The FALN, Macheteros, FARP, OVRP, (and also in this particular case, the CRP) is the answer that history gives to imperialism and the betrayal committed a long time ago by those who could have composed the Puerto Rican national bourgeoisie. But that incipient national bourgeoisie, that at the end of the past century

allowed the plunder and ravage of 40 percent of the Puerto Rican people's wealth, with the conversion of currency and the prohibition of access to its domestic market, renounced at the same time the possibility of governing Puerto Rico. Similarly, the transformation of the syndicalist movement into an instrument for the stabilization of yanqui capitalism in our country is converted, in turn, into an impediment to the massive development of the struggle for independence and socialism.

It is from that historical experience distinguished by Albizuism, that the armed revolutionary movement arrives at its own conclusions. Which is to say: develops its thought process, its strategy, its tactics, and consequently, its forms of struggle. The liberation struggles of colonized people after World War II is its second source of learning. The great strategic slogan of Albizuism—"The Fatherland is courage and sacrifice"—which from its mystic essence has produced the most heroic actions of our history—finds a practical following in a will of victory that can be stated in a few words: "Let us struggle with the desire to win!" Thereby simply complying with one of the most respectable laws of war: even when it involves a war with the same motives and objectives as one waged previously, the new war must obey a new strategy, as has just been demonstrated in Nicaragua, and as will be proven again in El Salvador. The lesson is derived from Clausewitz and is equally well known in the Pentagon, as in Sabana Seca, Muniz Air Force base, Montebello and the armory in Hato Rey.

The change of strategy eliminates the tactic of decisive concluding blows of the glorious Albizuists, by the systematic prolongation of the blows. The effect is extraordinarily instructive: during various years the armed clandestine forces have given Puerto Rico its only experience of successive victories.

I write this on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the death of Elias Beauchamp and Hiram Rosado, his comrade in that immortal heroic deed. (The killing of the colonial chief of police, Col. Riggs, on February 23, 1936—eds.) Tomorrow morning I will visit their tombs and I will tell them through the respectful silence of my thoughts, that truly, their triumphal sacrifice was not in vain. It was an example.

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