

HAMMER AND STEEL NEWSLETTER

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On February 4, the leader of the first Socialist country in the American continent, Fidel Castro, addressed a rally of one million people in Havana, Cuba. On February 4, Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., who identified himself as a Marxist-Leninist leader, addressed the Jewish Peoples Forum in Boston.

On February 4, Castro attacked Kennedy as one who had committed "felony compounded by hypocrisy" against the toiling people of South America. Castro identified the acts of the Kennedy administration as fascist and war-like.

On February 4, Davis praised Kennedy and described him as "a potential ally" of the workers in the struggle for peace and democracy.

Which one is the real Marxist-Leninist - whose views are correct? Castro was not speaking for himself - he spoke for the anti-imperialists of Latin America. Nor was Davis speaking as an individual; his colleagues, James Jackson and Arnold Johnson had put forth an identical line in recent Boston speeches - The Gus Hall concept of Kennedy as a bulwark against the ultra-right.

Kennedy has often stated that he has the same objectives as the ultra-right, both foreign and domestic. He objects only to their terminology and political characterizations. This objection is demagogic since he has used the same language as they do against James Hoffa and Harry Bridges.

As a U. S. Senator, Kennedy voted with Goldwater on every major issue - pro-armaments, anti-labor legislation, anti-civil liberties. As a presidential candidate, he shared the ballot with and received support from Talmadge, Patterson and Barnett.

The rise in membership of the Birchers and other fascist organizations did not take place until Kennedy sponsored the Cuban invasion, made his pro-facist speech to the editors and brazenly stated his determination to smash all colonial revolutions.

In the Boston Globe of January 31, 1962, Joseph Alsop reports on the January 18 meeting in the White House of the National Security Council addressed by President Kennedy. Alsop's column has the strange heading: "Kennedy's Blueprint for Peace."

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE "he (Kennedy) stated was the continued maintenance of a nuclear deterrent more powerful than the Soviet nuclear striking force by a comfortably wider margin."

The SECOND PRINCIPLE was "to raise the threshold of conventional warfare by maintenance of larger and more modern ground and other conventional forces."

THE THIRD PRINCIPLE was "to develop and improve the special forces for suppressing a 'war of liberation'".

The Alsop column substantiates Liao Cheng-Chih, head of the Chinese delegation, when he told the Stockholm session of the World Peace Council that "U. S. imperialism is the most ferocious and most cunning enemy of the peace-loving peoples of the world, and that the Kennedy administration can only be worse and not better than the Eisenhower administration. No peace partisan, no righteous person will harbor any illusions about such a ferocious enemy of peace."

HAMMER AND STEEL draws the following conclusions:

(1) That the pro-fascist, militaristic policies of Kennedy have created the conditions for the rapid growth of fascist membership organizations.

(2) That Kennedy is not a bulwark against the ultra-right, but works closely with them. They write the McCarran Act -- he implements it. They slander Cuba - he organizes an invasion. They assault Robert Williams, Afro-American leader in North Carolina -- Kennedy's government seeks to indict him.

(3) That the struggle against war and fascism has to be waged in the first place against the Kennedy administration because it has the power.

(4) That the modern revisionists who ally with Kennedy are on the side of Wall Street's exploitation, blackmail and threats against Cuba and all of Latin America.

(5) That the most important issue facing the people of the U. S. is the creation of a Marxist-Leninist policy which urges U. S. workers and Negro people to unite with, to fight with, and if necessary to die with their brothers and sisters in the lands exploited by Wall Street against their common enemy - U. S. imperialism.

IMPORTANT COMMENTS BY BLAS ROCA

Blas Roca, Cuban Marxist-Leninist leader in an editorial in HOY, November 22, 1961, notes that "U. S. imperialists enact the McCarran Act and Smith Act to eliminate the DAILY WORKER as a daily; they leave it shrunken to a weekly circulation of 15,000 copies (for a population of 170 million) and they force it not to take up this subject, not to take up the other subject and not to discuss openly these or other matters in order to 'preserve their legality'". . . .

The modern revisionists -- those who accommodate to U. S. imperialism -- also tell us that our main reliance should be on the courts and test cases; that since Kennedy is opposed to the ultra-right, all we have to do is continue pressure in the right direction. They do not warn the people about fascist danger of Kennedy's policies.

Blas Roca, in the editorial cited above, evaluates conditions in the U. S. under the McCarran Act in a different fashion. He says:

"When people find themselves facing such conditions, generally they refuse to submit to reactionary laws; they do not allow themselves to be led ~~away~~ to jails, but escape from them in order to work for liberty; they say the truth without permission and in defiance of all proscriptions; they create their own press without submitting to the limitations of the fascists; they form their own groups in the trade unions outside the control of the traitors.

"At the same time, they do not neglect taking advantage of all the possibilities of legal activity which the fascist laws still permit and for the defense of the rights and principles consecrated in the Constitution."

All Marxist-Leninists in the United States will hail the critical article by a representative of the fraternal party in Cuba. Those who seriously strive for greater unity of Latin American peoples and the U. S. workers and Afro-Americans will respect the thoughts of Latin American Marxist-Leninists.

The response to the January issue of HAMMER AND STEEL was encouraging. We would like to do more. If you think we are making a contribution, why don't you do the same -- we welcome either criticism or funds or both.

The Editor.

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