

# RABBLE-ROUSER #3

Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

MAY 1995

## LONG LIVE RED MAY 1ST SYMBOL OF WORLD PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

*May 1st*—the day when the class-conscious workers, oppressed and revolutionary people of all nationalities, races and sexes reach across continents and lock hands, raising clenched fists and shouting battle slogans, under the glorious red banner of proletarian internationalism.

*May 1st*—the day that symbolises the struggle of the communists to lead the masses in waging revolutionary war to seize power where that is possible, or stepping up preparations where the conditions for People's War are not yet ripe.

*May 1st*—the day that symbolises the red might of the revolutionary masses who, under the guidance of the international communist movement, shall emancipate themselves and all humanity, putting an end to every form of oppression and exploitation by advancing to communism!

It is for these reasons that the open and masked enemies of the international proletariat blur and tarnish this historical meaning of May 1st, to disorient the workers and to minimise the role May 1st can play in the struggle for world proletarian revolution or to render it obsolete.

Certainly, this is so in Australia where on the Sunday after the 1st of May, official May Day is held as a platform for reformism and phoney 'socialism'. Instead of proletarian internationalism and revolutionary communism there is a pitiful mixture of 'celebrate the 8 hour day', 'jobs and peace' and 'Elect a Labor Government'. In the recent past it has been a tradition amongst the revolutionary-minded in Australia to attend official May Day, more or less in the role of left-wing critics.

This contrasts with the late 1960s to early 1970s and again in the mid 1980s when class-conscious workers, oppressed and revolutionary people, inspired by the revolutionary communism of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao, seriously struggled

for militant days of action around May 1st. Many turned out not for a Sunday picnic—but to fight.

The revolutionary internationalist spirit which must be unleashed around May 1st is nothing less than, "working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in *one's own* country, and supporting (by propaganda, sympathy and material aid) *this struggle*, this, and *only this*, line in every country without exception" V.I. Lenin, "The Tasks of the Proletariat in Our Revolution", *Collected Works*, Vol.24, p75.

**The militant spirit of Red May 1st in Australia must be rekindled! No communist, no revolutionary, no class-conscious proletarian should work for less in these desperate times for the people on the bottom of society.**

The drive to make Australia more 'competitive' has meant a lot of hurt for the oppressed in Australia: unemployment, cutbacks in health, education and welfare, more police and longer prison sentences, crackdowns on so-called 'illegal' immigrants, vicious male supremacy and, the ongoing all-round national oppression of the indigenous peoples.

The disintegration of privileged trading relationships, which until recently have tended to obscure Australia's underlying imperialism, has been one potent force in generating economic crisis and driving the Australian imperialists (governments and businesses alike) into systematic attacks at home — and more open domination of oppressed countries around the world.

Australia uses the Papua New Guinea military to suppress the revolutionary aspirations of the Bougainville people. For the same reason Australia supports the Indonesian occupation of East Timor: the Australian imperialists fear the destabilising

effect that an independent Bougainville or East Timor might generate in the region and at home.

In Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines and China, workers in Australian factories are paid as little as \$40 per month. In Sri Lanka's Katanayaka 'free trade zone', women working in Pacific Dunlop factories sleep 12 to a room on concrete floored dormitories. Trade unions are banned, and their families must send money to supplement their wages.

Because the Australian imperialists oppress our class here, and our class brothers and sisters overseas, we must rise up in struggle, and we must forge the ways to rise up together to vanquish our common enemy.

There are times and occasions when it is especially important for our class to claim our revolutionary communist and proletarian internationalist banner. May 1st is such a day.

Connecting May 1st as a *revolutionary* day for our class around the world means going up against the official labour movement view of May Day as some kind of show of numbers of workers—and which is aimed at winning concessions (like the 8 hour day) from the Australian bourgeoisie.

Our aim isn't a big May Day march. Our aim isn't a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Hastening the development of the world proletarian revolution is the reason for being of all real communists. The central task and highest form of proletarian revolution is the seizure of power through armed struggle.

The masses rising up, seizing power through revolutionary war, and radically changing all of society to serve the revolution worldwide — this is what Red May 1st symbolises — and this what May Day must come to stand for in Australia.

## SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU, MAKE REVOLUTION IN AUSTRALIA!

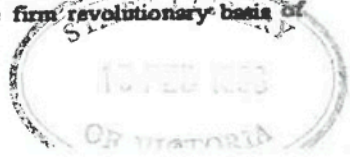
Fifteen years ago, May 17th 1980, the Communist Party of Peru (PCP by its Spanish initials) launched the People's War which has placed the revolution in Peru at the very forefront of the world proletarian revolution. The PCP has won the support of millions in Peru, and the world, and brought the reactionary Peruvian regime to the brink of collapse.

The People's War has continued to advance, even in the face of the difficulties brought about by the capture of Presidente Gonzalo (Abimael Guzman) and other PCP leaders in 1992.

The Peruvian regime, nominally headed by Alberto Fujimori, notorious for its murders, lies, manipulation and torture of prisoners—falsely claimed in October 1993 that Comrade Gonzalo had issued a call for 'peace negotiations'.

The Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia thereafter analysed the situation and joined with the PCP, and the genuine supporters of the People's War in Peru in denouncing and rejecting the call for a 'peace accord' as a counter-revolutionary hoax. Support for the 'peace accord' comes from outside the PCP from former 'supporters' of the People's War who have been exposed as counter-revolutionary agents of US imperialism and Peruvian reaction.

Comrade Gonzalo has said that the best way to support the People's War in Peru is to make revolution in our own countries—that is why the CRCPA is struggling to build again the Communist Party of Australia, this time on the firm revolutionary basis of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.



# WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP TARGETS AUSTRALIAN IMPERIALISM AND SUPPORTS THE BOUGAINVILLE LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Backed by Australia, the Papua New Guinea government has enforced a total blockade of Bougainville for 5 years to combat the Bougainville Revolutionary Army's secessionist struggle.

In what they described as a symbolic breaking of the Bougainville blockade, more than twenty women bypassed security and gained access to the Australian Defence Industries (ADI) munitions factory in Benalla, a rural city NE of Melbourne, shortly after noon on Easter Sunday.

This was the last action of the National Women's Peace Camp held at Benalla over the Easter break. The camp—which targeted resurgent Australian militarism attracted more than 250 women. The ADI munitions factory was singled out because of its role in arming the Australian military who then supply weapons to the PNG military.

Most of the women who made it into the grounds of the ADI factory were arrested on trespass charges. We salute our courageous anti-imperialist sisters whose timely exposure of Australian imperialism is sure to broaden and deepen support for the liberation struggle on Bougainville.

## A STRUGGLE AGAINST AUSTRALIAN DOMINATION

The history of struggle against Australian imperialist domination on Bougainville goes back to the 1960s when Conzinc Riotinto Australia (CRA), 53% owner of Bougainville Copper Ltd, began prospecting on Bougainville for copper. The Bougainville people weren't consulted over the Panguna mine. Their demands were ignored. In 1969 when land was compulsorily acquired by the Australian imperialists for the mining town and port facilities, the Bougainville people resisted so the Australian administration brought in the riot police who bashed, arrested and drove off the people, precipitating international outrage. This was nothing unusual for indigenous peoples under the boot of Australian imperialism, as the Aboriginal people of Australia can testify in the face of their continuing genocide.

Through the 1970s Bougainville resistance to Australian domination of the island produced a militant secessionist movement.

By 1983, 390 million tonnes of

waste, rock, silt and toxic chemical residues from the Panguna mine had been flushed into the Karewong and Jaba Rivers. Hundreds of hectares of forest were poisoned, felled and burnt, and then bulldozed directly down into the river, along with tonnes of rich organic topsoil. Without recourse to subsistence farming or cash crops and having been driven off their land with no support, many people were forced to live on the fringe of neo-colonial administered towns and mining camps

## FROM SABOTAGE TO GUERRILLA WAR

The guerrilla war being waged by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, began as isolated acts of sabotage and escalated rapidly from late 1988, to the point where the Panguna mine has been closed since May 15, 1989. The BRA flag flies over many towns and villages. This just war of liberation has raged over the entire island of Bougainville. Its potential to spread to the Papua New Guinea mainland and threaten to rid PNG of Australian imperialism altogether, has not been lost on the Australian imperialists who have engineered a bloody and ruthless counter-insurgency.

The Australian imperialists through their Labor government, then headed by Bob Hawke, in 1989 sent its own troops to the Irian Jaya border in PNG, claiming it would take no part in events on Bougainville. The effect was to release crack PNG troops from patrols along the Indonesian border, so they could go to Bougainville to strengthen forces already there!

By September 1989 more than 4000 villagers had been rounded up in punitive raids and held under military guard in strategic hamlets. The Australian government in overseeing the establishment of 'strategic hamlets' has supplied tents to the PNG government, claiming they are to house 'displaced people'. It is the Australian imperialists, through their comprador Papua New Guinea government, who are ultimately responsible for causing the death, destruction and displacement. Thinly disguised PNG government troops roam the island as death squads.

To back-up this counter-insurgency, the Australian Labor government supplied to the PNG

Defence Forces four Iroquois helicopters with Australian crews to give aerial support to ground-based security forces. These helicopter gunships, so the Australian government claimed, were to only serve as logistic support, yet throughout 1989, Australian television showed these 'transport' helicopters firing M-16 machine-guns into the Bougainville jungle.

The 1989 'Operation Blueprint', with 700 PNG security forces, failed to extinguish the popular uprising. The 1990 counter-revolutionary offensive 'Operation Footloose' was launched in January 1990, but it too failed.

Since then the imperialist Australian government has made every effort to strengthen the shaky PNG government and simultaneously smother the rebellion on Bougainville. Increased funding to the PNG military has been coupled with a scheme to bring the Bougainville rebels to heel at the negotiations table.

When the huge Australian controlled Ok Tedi gold and copper mine near the Irian Jaya border was blockaded by villagers in support of the rebellion on Bougainville, negotiations took on heightened urgency. One of the first acts of the new PNG government headed by Julius Chan, installed in 1994 after a PNG Supreme Court decision, was a (failed) ceasefire deal with the BRA designed to clear the way to reopen the Panguna copper mine.

## THE DANGER OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION

The Australia-PNG regime is alternatively attempting to get the mine reopened by counter-revolutionary violence or through 'peace talks'.

During the 1994 'peace-talks' PNG troops took advantage of the cease-fire to reinforce their positions in Panguna, near the mine-site. Prior to the cease-fire, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army had the PNG army on the run. The phoney 'peace talks' collapsed when the PNG Army shot at Bougainvilleans arriving to attend the negotiations. For some months now a tense stalemate has held across the island of Bougainville. A very real danger exists of Australian military intervention — probably under the guise of a 'peacekeeping force'. *All who recognise and support the right of oppressed peoples to throw off their oppressors must stand with the just liberation struggle of the people of Bougainville against Australian imperialist domination.*

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The Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia (CRCPA) publishes RABBLE-ROUSER to support every outbreak of popular protest and rebellion and, to fan the sparks of the class struggle and the people's resistance to oppression into a blazing inferno of revolutionary struggle. CRCPA holds that only People's War—the armed struggle of the masses in their millions, led by an authentic Communist Party guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism—can sweep away the old order and open the door to the profoundly liberating communist future. This Communist Party of Australia will be reconstituted in the flames of revolutionary struggle.

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