

LETTERS :

From W.R. Editors To Our Readers

While the overall response to Volume 1, Number 1 of WORLD REVOLUTION was quite favorable—more enthusiastic, actually, than we had dared to hope for—one question raised by several readers was, “Why so much on China?” or its variant, “Why such a heavy reliance on China news sources?”

The answer is, of course, quite simple. China is the center of the world revolutionary movement. Its news sources are the most comprehensive, accurate and reliable that are available. Of course, as WR extends its contacts with revolutionary movements in various parts of the world, we hope to be able to present our readers with basic policy statements and key articles reprinted directly from the official organs of these groups and parties. In this regard, we think that this issue of WR represents a step forward. However, our exchanges and contacts are still somewhat limited, although improving, and even so our small but zealous corps of voluntary translators are already overtaxed. (Additional volunteers are needed!)

Finally, it's necessary to state that we strive to select the best material available to us. By “best” we mean those articles which will help most to enlighten the revolutionary forces here in the United States on the ideas and activities developing in the world revolutionary move-

ment. Needless to say, that our reprinting of these articles does not mean that we agree with every aspect of every article.

With this issue we open our pages to our readers for their comments and criticisms. It is beyond the purpose of WR to get into specific polemics with every question that is raised. However, we hope that polemics will develop in our letters to the editor pages. For the position of PLP on questions of policy we refer our readers to our main national organ, PROGRESSIVE LABOR.

A Request for Copies of Vol. I, No. 1

We wish to thank our readers for helping to distribute WR, calling it to the attention of their friends and sending in subscriptions. In view of the hearty response, our stock of Vol. I, No. 1, is exhausted and since we need a reserve stock on hand from which to meet requests from overseas movements and their organs for complete file sets, we would appreciate help from our readers in obtaining extra copies of our first issues, “Winter 1967—Vol. I, No. 1.” Please send your spare copies to P.O. Box 208, Church St. Station, New York, N.Y. 10008.

From W.R. Readers To Our Editors

Critizes W.R. and Chou Tien-chih Articles on Mid-East

Dear Editor:

In your roundup on the Mid-East situation, “Israel's Role in Plundering Arabs of Oil” and in the article by Chou Tien-chih, “Lessons of the Arab War Against Aggression” (Vol. I No. 1) a confusing and misleading view is put forth concerning the nature and role of the Arab ruling class.

W.R. states that “if the Arab rulers persist in putting their trust in the Soviet revisionists rather than relying on their own people, they

must expect another and more monstrous betrayal.”

And Chou Tien-chih states: “With the exception of the bureaucrat-comprador class, the bourgeoisie in the Arab countries has a dual character. On the one hand, it suffers from imperialist oppression and has contradictions with the imperialists. In a given stage and to a certain extent it can take part in the anti-imperialist struggle. But on the other hand being economically and politically flabby, it vaci-

lates and is prone to conciliation with the enemy."

While it is correct to point out the dual character of the national bourgeoisie, it is a most serious and fundamental error to fail to state what is the main aspect. All phenomena have dual and contradictory aspects—merely to state them in general or to use the words "if" or "but" provides no specific analysis, provides no real guide to action; on the contrary, it only feeds illusions and false hopes.

In light of the wealth of all the experiences with the Nehrus, the Sukarnos, the Nkrumahs, the Ne Wins, the Nassers and their ilk can we not state forthrightly that the main aspect of the national bourgeoisie is its own narrow bourgeois class interests? As such, the main aspect determining the direction of the national bourgeoisie is indeed "its being prone to vacillate and conciliate with the enemy"! Because this is true, the national bourgeoisie is completely unreliable; it cannot lead the anti-imperialist struggle to victory—i.e. genuine liberation; it will not persist in the struggle against U.S. imperialism; it will not resist the deceptions and pressures of the Soviet revisionists. And there are no "ifs" or "buts" about this!

A correct strategy for victory in the anti-imperialist struggle requires the leadership of the revolutionary vanguard party of the proletariat (a Marxist-Leninist Party that is guided by the Thought of Mao) which must rely on and develop the alliance of the workers and peasants, develop the broadest possible anti-imperialist front, and a people's liberation army.

One of the central lessons of the entire anti-imperialist liberation struggle of the post World War II era is the necessity for Marxist-Leninists to adopt a correct understanding of the fundamentally treacherous role of the national bourgeoisie, and to recognize the fact that as long as the bourgeoisie is in the leadership in the Mid-East (or elsewhere in Africa, Asia, or Latin America) we can be sure that the oppressed and exploited masses will be sold down the river again and again.

What is lacking in many of the articles on the Mid-East situation is a correct class analysis of not only the Arab nations but of Israel as well.

Comradely,
M.S.

Letter From India

Dear Sir:

I, on behalf of our Discussion Group send our heartfelt thanks for sending us a copy of W.R. Vol. I No. 1. It was extremely useful for us. Nowadays, I receive your other journal

PL and Challenge regularly.

We will always remember your valuable contribution in our movement. Because your journals help us to foster correct ideas and perspective about Marxism-Leninism and Revolution. Already few articles of W.R. has been translated into our languages and sent to our base areas for study and discussion.

Also I would make another request to you and other U.S. comrades if they can spare and contribute some books, literature and pamphlets and send it to us which they think fit.

We are passing through extreme political and economic crisis. We are forming a new revolutionary party discarding all kind of revisionist outlook and this is not very easy task which you can well imagine.

I hope you will excuse me because everything cannot be written in a letter. We note with great hope rising tide of Anti-Viet war rally and movement in your country and your contribution in it.

Please write something about the Black Power movement and the role of Stokely Carmichael, the guerrilla movement and struggles in other Latin American countries, and about Che Guevara. We want to know correct information and perspective from you.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully
Amulya Dey
West Bengal, India

Criticizes Position on "Castroism"

December 14, 1967

Dear Friends,

Your letter of December 6 encourages me to continue hoping you may provide that channel through which I can direct my meager means to support the fight for preserving human dignity and perhaps even physical survival of mankind. Thinking of excessive pressure of work and insufficient help, just bare acknowledgement of my letter would have assured me—especially after never receiving that from the GUARDIAN

Long before Marx and Hegel, the ancient Greeks observed that all things of great value are products of conflict. Like all the big principles in basic theory, this has decisive importance for the revolution. Lenin expressed it about like this: It is one of the most profound postulates of Marx that the revolution grows in strength as the ruthlessness of the counter-revolution increases. Johnson and his den of degenerates lack the slightest conception of this; basing their whole cause on exactly the contrary assumption, they face certain doom.

Anyway, that is my introduction—rather than apology—for trying to tear off some of your hide. If your accusations against Castro are
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one thing to his credit—he has converted an elemental, and voluntarist scheme of struggle into a somewhat more complex methodology. It is our belief that the dialectical and speculative subtlety of Regis Debray does not succeed in setting up a truly scientific method, singularly adept at catalyzing the forces and the dreams of a new generation of revolutionaries. Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru, Argentina, and now Bolivia, tragically demonstrate, that insurrectional focus cannot be built on the margin and in opposition to “dogmatically” objective and subjective conditions: that what has been created, on the other hand, are “focos” of blood, sorrow and defeat to the extent that elemental political norms have been challenged and real historical conditions underestimated.

The neo-revisionist treason, the lack of a revolutionary political apparatus based on M-L, the lack of knowledge, real or presumed, of the real political, economical and social conditions of Latin America has provoked among revolutionaries a tendency to para-guerrilla conspiratorialism. Cuba, with its extraordinary untypical experience, constitutes the example

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true—you have no task so important and urgent as thoroughly documenting the charges and giving them widest possible distribution. But I want evidence consisting of all specific acts and omissions that support charge that Castro's policies are tending definitely toward restoration of capitalism. Until you have provided a list—no need to be a comprehensive pamphlet—containing specific facts (not just generalized opinions), you continue to neglect your principal present obligation.

Certainly you know Lenin—and all other important genuine Marxists—well enough to be aware that neither he, nor they, laid down any “blueprints” of universal and unalterable applications; but, on the contrary, every one of them repeatedly asserted that no such “blueprints” are feasible and repeatedly warned against any effort to dogmatically define a course not yet at least partially tested by historical process in the particular place and time concerned. Let the whores of the capitalist press and broadcasting typically reveal either their ignorance or cynical reliance on ignorance of readers when they frequently deride some

which, once and again, all adherents of guerrillaism cite. But when the different guerrilla movements become aware of their existence in remote forests or in inaccessible mountains—especially suited for guerrilla warfare but very scarcely populated—they come forth with a political program which runs the gamut of national and social demands, a program which therefore differs from the liberal program put forth by the 26th of July Movement, or to say it without any kind of euphemisms—is its historical negation. Needless to say, in these cases there will be no invaluable aid, from the CIA, from any groups of the ruling classes and from the formidable propagandistic apparatus of imperialism.

As of today, the forces of the guerrilla struggles have not been transformed into the sepulcher of imperialism but the tomb of numerous revolutionaries. For this reason our response in the future will be more militant: neo-revisionism and neo-adventurism have now passed into the category of the principal factors of dispersal.

current condition as violation of “Marxist blueprints”

You say “it will take many articles plus life's experience to convince people that the Castro line is not only incorrect but extremely harmful.” It doesn't require anything of the sort. All I want to know: Does it threaten to restore capitalism? Just give me a single sheet with abridged listing of Castro's specific acts that threaten to restore capitalism. Let your readers take a hand at evaluating these specific acts. I'm not impressed by your summary definition: “Castroism (the essence of which is petty bourgeois revolutionarism).” But perhaps you can elucidate that with the list of charged violations I request. Then, if need of many articles is indicated, let them contain the alleged violations precisely defined with citation of ruling text from Lenin identified by works and page numbers.

Fraternally,
R.O.G.

Editor's note: Owing to their length, we have reprinted only the above few paragraphs from two letters by R.O.G.