

PERUVIAN TROTSKYIST CALL UNITY CONGRESS

by Pedro Camejo

Nine groups considering themselves supporters of the Fourth International in Peru have called a congress to unify the ~~the~~ fragmented trotskyist forces in Peru. A commission to organize the unity congress has been established with one representative from each group. Hugo Blanco is the acting <sup>general secretary of the Unity Commission</sup> ~~general secretary~~ and ~~the acting organizational secretary~~ editor of the new united paper Revolution.

The October 8th congress will open a new chapter in the history of Peruvian trotskyism which began in 1947. Throughout the ~~the~~ fifties and sixties it remained a very small movement. It is only in ~~the~~ the last few years that the movement has begun to grow.

In the early sixties the trotskyist in Peru became widely known due to Hugo Blanco's leadership of a massive peasant movement. Blanco was arrested and imprisoned for eight years. Other trotskyist were arrested, tortured and imprisoned for long years. The ~~movement~~ trotskyist movement suffered an important set back due to the repression.

In the mid-1960s a small group revived the

trotskyist movement. However before they were able to get off the ground the movement was hit by internal difficulties. Differences over strategy and tactics both at the national and international level divided the movement. Several groups appeared all claiming loyalty to the Fourth International.

For a period discussion centered on evaluation of guerrilla warfare and the perspectives for the Latin American revolution.

By 1975 it had become evident that guerrilla warfare, ~~as promoted by Guevara, was a dead end.~~

~~Algeria~~ The main task for trotskyist in Latin America is to build ~~trotskyist~~ parties along Leninist lines based on the method of party building as outlined in the transitional program of the Fourth International.

The ending of the differences over guerrilla warfare brought about the dissolving of international factions in the Fourth International and has led to increasing unity in the Trotskyist movement throughout the world. This process is being reflected in Latin America and in Peru in particular.

However this process has been combined in Peru with a sharp rise in the class struggle. A rising struggle in which the trotskyist are able to play an

important role in part due to the enormous popularity of trotskyist leader Hugo Blanco.

The rapidly changing situation has forced each trotskyist group to take a new look at the unfolding events and the existing cleavages of the trotskyist movement.

The need for a strong unified trotskyist party in Peru is a crying necessity. Thousands of workers are being drawn towards the ~~trotskyist~~ <sup>1957</sup> trotskyist movement. The trotskyist are in the fore front ~~are~~ leading the FOCEF ~~which~~ the largest and most popular front on the left in Peru. The central task before the Peruvian trotskyist movement is to integrate and educate these new layers of revolutionary workers.

The existing fragmentation of the trotskyist cadres needs to be over come as soon as possible. In order to facilitate this process ~~in~~ <sup>subject</sup> trotskyist currents with the support of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International formed a Comission for Trotskyist Unity (CUT) with Hugo Blanco as chairperson.

The groups represented in the CUT included FIR  
 FIR IV, Combate Socialista, Circulo Natalie Sedova,  
 PST (Bolshevik Tendency) <sup>[B+]</sup> PST (Pro\_Unity Tendency), <sup>-TPO</sup>  
 PST <sup>(OLT)</sup> (Leninist-Trotskyist Opposition), and the FIR-POC.

A conference to permit each group to present their general views on the question of unification was organized on August 20, 1978.

The representatives of the FIR-POC and the PST (BT) felt that a major problem in achieving unity was the fact that the FIR IV and FIR were participating in the Maoist led UDP rather than the FOCEP.

The FIR-POC and PST (TB) urged the comrades of the ~~FIR~~ FIR IV and FIR to leave the UDP and join the FOCEP. They feel this step is not only of tactical importance since the FOCEP offers the best situation for the growth of Trotskyism in Peru but involves an important political judgement. The UDS<sup>F</sup> being dominated by Maoist currents does not call for a workers and peasant government but instead a class-collaborationist government of one sort or another with so-called progressive bourgeois forces. The comrades of the PST (TB) and FIR-POC point out that the FIR IV and FIR are ~~compromising~~ compromising themselves before a popular front program of the Maoist currents by not leaving the UDP. ~~They~~

~~They~~

The PST (TB) and FIR-POC believe the FIR IV and FIR should leave the UDP denounce its popular front line and draw a critical balance sheet of their

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participation in the UDP. ~~Having taken such a step~~

If the FIR IV and FIR will take the above steps and work within the FOCEP for a period of 6 months the PST (TB) and FIR-POV believe unity will then be possible.

The FIR, FIR IV, Combate Socialista, Circulo Natalie Sedova, and the two other PST tendencies drew a somewhat different balance sheet at the August 20 conference from that of the PST (TB) and FIR-POC.

These groups felt that even though there were differences between the various trotskyist organizations that all of them could exist within a single party on the basis of a democratic centralist structure. All groups made it clear they agreed the FOCEP had an independent class struggle orientation or at least was rapidly becoming a socialist pole. All agreed the UDP was dominated by the Maoist and has a class-collaborationist ~~popular~~ popular front orientation. The FIR IV made it clear they were already working in the FOCEP and would withdraw from the UDP. They did so at a public press conference a few days later.

At the press conference not only the FIR IV left the UDP and joined the FOCEP but <sup>also</sup> a centrist tendency of the MIR and Ricardo Gadea, a one time guerrilla leader.

Still remaining in the UDP are important trade union forces of workers and peasants and centrist formations as well as the major Maoist formations. One important union in the UDP is the miners union which has been in the forefront of the class struggle in Peru.

At present it is the trend for forces to pass over from the UDP to the FOCEP. This process reflects what is occurring among the rank and file. It is the hope of the trotskyist that further clarification of the differences between the trotskyist class struggle program and the maoist class collaborationist line <sup>(will)</sup> the Miners Union and other class struggle oriented forces ~~will~~ join the FOCEP.

The FIR has also stated its agreement to leave the ~~UDP~~ UDP and join the FOCEP. They wish to time their departure so as to facilitate taking other forces they have been working with in the UDP into the FOCEP. They have set October 8 as a target date to complete this process.

The passage of the FIR and FIR IV from the UDP to the ~~FOCEP~~ FOCEP removes one important barrier for ~~unity~~ unity among the trotskyist groups.

At the August 20 conference another issue that was discussed was differences over slogans in relation

to the Constituent Assembly.

The PST (TB) and FIR-POC support a motion presented by FOCEP deputies and a few others calling on the Constituent Assembly to declare the military dictatorship dissolved and to assume legislative and executive powers. This motion was signed by Hugo Blanco.

The other trotskyist groups, including Blanco, feel there was a mistake in the FOCEP's motion. They feel the first part of the motion urging the Assembly to call for an end to the military dictatorship is correct. But they feel the worker's movement should not call for the Constituent Assembly to become the government. They argue that since the assembly is controlled by the APRA and PPC, two bourgeois parties, to call for a Constituent Assembly government is concretely to call for a bourgeois government. They feel it is essential to make clear that a workers and peasant government is the only government trotskyist call for and favor.

Inspite of this difference with the PST (BT) and FIR-POC the other groups believe all can unite now into one party. Therefore after the August 20th conference a commission to organize a unification

congress October 8th was established. This new step towards unity is based on a 14-point statement. The groups supporting the unity commission include FIR IV, FIR, PST(OLT), PST(TPU), Combate Socialista and Natalie Sedova. The PST (BT) and FIR-POC have indicated they plan to fuse but do not feel a sufficient basis has been established for unity with the FIR and FIR IV.

It is hoped that after a period of time and the departure of the FIR and FIR IV from the UDP that the main objection of the PST (BT) and FIR-POC for unity will be overcome and all groups belonging to the Fourth International (United ~~Secrets~~ Secretariat) will form one single party.

Since its formation the new unity commission has been joined by three additional groups. These are the United Workers Committee (Comite Unitario Obrero) its youth affiliate the Union of Young Socialist (Union Juvenila Socialista) and the Socialist Block (Bloque Socialista).

The unity commission has begun to integrate the work of its component parts and is publishing a new common paper called Revolution.

There is one other major trotskyist group in Peru the POMR. The POMR has not been involved in the discussions on unity because it is not affiliated to the United Secretariat of the Fourth International but to the OCRFI. The POMR works within the FOCEP and in its public pronouncements has avoided a factional stance towards the other trotskyist groups. Recently it has been active in promoting the FOCEP motion regarding the Constituent Assembly which is being debated ~~with~~ by the other trotskyist groups.

Attachments needed along with the above are:

1. 14 point statement of unity
2. Public statement of FIR IV leaving the UDP