—China crisis

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of production and the expropriation of the former property owners and landlords.

For lack of a more accurate terminology, Lenin defined the Soviet state as one based upon the workers and peasants and he called it a "workers' state with bureaucratic deformations." Although 60 years have gone by and the Soviet state has become enormously strengthened from the point of view of the growth of the productive forces, the well-being of the people, and its tremendous military, industrial, and technological prowess, there is no question that the USSR has still not gone beyond the stage of a workers' state with bureaucratic deformations.

There are concrete historical circumstances both of an internal and especially of an external character which have enforced this sociological definition on the USSR and for other reasons on other socialist states.

China without the Cultural Revolution, China with the New Right as its ruling group, is a workers' state in the sense that Lenin used that term. It's a workers' state not merely with bureaucratic deformations but with a weakened social system and more in danger of a relapse than at the height of the struggle between the Right and the Left during the critical days of the Cultural Revolution.

There are those who see the Teng leadership as a continuation of Maoism. But the truth of the matter is that the new leaders, the New Right that is, who it must be remembered are hampered by centrist and leftist elements within the coalition, regard Maoism as an albatross around their neck and are only precluded from chucking it all overboard by the fear of the many millions who still adhere to Maoism, even as it is proclaimed by the current leaders.

The broad historical context in which these events in China must be understood is that of the great world transition period between the capitalist and socialist systems. This is much more profound and decisive for the future of humanity than was the transition from feudalism to capitalism.

Furthermore, the parameters in understanding the crisis in Chinese politics should be viewed in the light that no new progressive social system arises from the old without bearing birthmarks—that is, some of the characteristics of the old system from which it issued. Nor will the new social system yield to destructive, reactionary forces unless its potentialities have become exhausted or incapable of taking up the torch of progress, the torch of the working class and the peasantry.

This cannot be viewed as a uniquely Chinese phenomenon, but rather as a general one affecting all the countries of the socialist camp which, in spite of everything, are all bound by common ties of a class character.

DON'T THROW OUT THE REVOLUTION!

There are those who are so justifiably enraged by the reactionary alignment with imperialism to which the PRC leaders are gravitating so rapidly that, seeing the current leaders as a mere continuation of Maoist doctrinairism, they would chuck overboard all of Maoist ideology and the entire course Mao pursued, which for almost all purposes covers virtually the entire Chinese Revolution. That would be throwing the baby out with the bath water. It would lay the foundation for compounding Mao's error on the false sociological characterization of the USSR as a capitalist or imperialist state by repeating it in regard to China.

If the revolutionary working class and oppressed people are to find a way out of the abyss toward which the contemporary leaders of China are pushing, it is necessary to have an objective evaluation of the current state of affairs in China. Above all it is necessary not to read China out of the socialist camp, not to disqualify it as a socialist state in the sense that it is popularly understood and currently used throughout the world, and to remember that although the socialist foundations and the progressive social structure of China have been weakened, basically what prevails in China is a new mode of production that is progressive as against the old bourgeois system.

All preceding history in the imperialist era attests to the speed with which political reaction can be superseded and swept away by the revolutionary action of the masses. This applies to the socialist countries as well as to the imperialist system. The Soviet Union itself has to a large degree overcome periods of political reaction, especially in its foreign policy with relation to the national liberation movements, although the struggle in the USSR against political reaction is by no means over.

Political reaction is now having its day in China. But the creative initiative, the revolutionary energy of the masses is sure to assert itself in one form or another and rescue the socialist revolution in China from the hands of reaction.

Nevertheless, it is incumbent upon all progressives, all workers, all oppressed people, to unmask the reactionary character of the present Teng-Hua leadership and point out that their alliance with the most unbridled militarist and reactionary imperialist forces in the world poses the greatest danger to the whole working class. Its role as a tool of U.S.-NATO imperialism must be fought with uncompromising vigor to the end.

—RCA

(Continued from p. 4)

locals in the international telecommunications industry. Local 111 of the Western Union International (which is a main competitor of RCA) has sent two full-time people to help, and has donated office space. Their members regularly walk the picket line—thirty of them turning out in the rain last week.

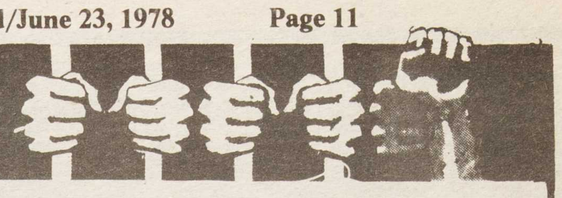
The workers from ITT, another main RCA competitor, took up a collection for the RCA workers, and gave tremendous moral support to the line on their lunch breaks.

Not one truck has crossed the picket line and the Joint Council of Teamsters has contributed substantial money to the strike fund. The International in D.C. helped to contact the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the beginning of the dispute, because it is supposed to have jurisdiction over the closing of any facility. RCA had avoided even asking the FCC for permission.

In fact, as yesterday's leaflet stated, it was the union's efforts to force RCA to uphold the law that resulted in the lockout.

As the weeks wear on, the Local 10 members continue to be creative in their efforts to regain their jobs along with union recognition. As their leaflet said, "We will use every means and enlist all support for our survival. RCA is not going to turn the clock of labor history back 50 years."

POLITICAL PRISONERS



July 4 march in Carter's 'backyard'

Demand Dessie Woods' freedom!

By ELEANOR RIGGS

ATLANTA, June 19—The National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods has announced plans for a march and rally on July 4 in Plains, Ga., to demand freedom for Dessie Woods, a Black woman who was unjustly convicted Feb. 2, 1976, on charges arising from her successful defense of herself and a friend, Cheryl Todd, against a rape attack by an armed racist.

Woods is now serving a 22-year sentence in the Women's Institute of Corrections in Hardwick, Ga. Here drugs have been forced upon her, she has been subjected to beatings, extended periods of isolation, she has been stripped of her clothing, and denied proper medical care.

In Dessie Woods' words, "This is a racial issue. See, the United States government says that Black women do not have the right to self-defense. And this is not true. Every woman has the right to protect herself. We must stand up and fight and bring this out to the world, that injustice has been brought to many a Black person. And by freeing Dessie Woods, we will free the entire Black race."

"HUMAN RIGHTS" RHETORIC EXPOSED

The National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods sees the case of this brave Black Georgia woman as clear evidence of the phony and hypocritical character of Jimmy Carter's "human rights" rhetoric. The Committee has said, "As James Earl Carter and his representatives travel around the globe admonishing people and governments for violations of human rights, African people in the U.S. are fighting for our very lives!"

Citing massive unemployment among Black people, the ever-escalating crisis of food, housing, and other necessities, the continued deterioration of minority communities, and the attempts by the courts and legislatures to turn back many of the hard-fought-for victories of the past decade in education, job opportunities, etc., the Committee has said, "Indeed, if there is a human rights problem in the world today, it is within the U.S. that Black people are confronted with the problem most sharply."

Under the slogan of Independence in our Lifetime, the National Committee calls on all progressive people of all nationalities to demand freedom for Dessie Woods and an end to colonial violence against Black women, as well as the release of all political prisoners, an end to the brutal conditions present in all the jails and prisons in this country, and jobs, housing, and education for all.

MARCH IN PLAINS

The Plains city government attempted to deny the National Committee a permit to march and rally there, claiming that all the land there was owned by Jimmy Carter and two other people and there wasn't any public property to march on.(!) Once it became clear to the city officials that their tactic had not discouraged march organizers, and that the demonstration would go on as planned, with or without their permission, a permit was granted.

Activities are scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in Plains on Tuesday, July 4. Buses will be leaving from Atlanta. A support demonstration has also been called for the Bay Area of California on July 4. Financial contributions for this effort are greatly needed.

For more information, contact the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods, P.O. Box 92084, Morris Brown Station, Atlanta, Ga., (404) 758-1577.

JoAnne Little whisked to North Carolina

JoAnne Little

June 18—JoAnne Little was indicted in North Carolina today in connection with her escape last October from a prison in that state. Conviction on the escape could add from six months to two years to her sentence.

Above, Little, on the right, is taken to the plane in which she was flown under shotgun-toting guard from New York's Rikers Island to North Carolina Correctional Center for Women in Raleigh on June 9.

Little was denied her right to a hearing by courts all the way up to the Supreme Court, which recently refused to postpone her extradition from New York State. She had been fighting in the courts for a hearing where witnesses could testify that her life would be in danger if she is returned to North Carolina.

JoAnne Little has been harassed and threatened almost daily by North Carolina's ruling powers since a jury acquitted her in 1975 of any wrong-doing for killing a prison guard as an act of self-defense during a racist rape attack. She has been imprisoned since then on other charges, but managed to escape last fall after being denied parole several times by a vindictive parole board.

In North Carolina, prison officals have put Little under "close custody" in the maximum security section supposedly for her "safety." Only vigilance by her supporters can protect an isolated JoAnne Little from harm.

Norfolk public meeting raises support for Brother Imani

By MEGAN McKEWAN

NORFOLK, June 10—"Martin Luther King, George Jackson, and Fred Hampton all were executed because they were leaders in the Black freedom movement, and they were executed in a way that they couldn't do anything about. But this time, we can fight to stop an execution before it happens."

The speaker was Tom Gardner, a leader in the Atlanta-based Committee to Defend Imani (Johnny Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty. He was speaking here today at a public meeting sponsored by the Norfolk chapter of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

Gardner was in Norfolk to discuss the case of Imani, a Black man on death row in Alabama. One of the purposes of today's meeting was to inform people in the Norfolk area of Imani's case and build support for him in his fight against the death penalty. Imani is facing execution because of his participation in a prison rebellion in 1974 at Atmore prison in which a guard was killed. Imani was already serving five life sentences, for crimes he did not commit. A Confederacy-era statue dictates execution for any prisoner convicted of first-degree murder while serving a life sentence.

The Committee to Defend Imani has been fighting to stop his execution. Thousands of telegrams to the Alabama Attorney General's office resulted in a stay of execution only 59 hours before Imani was to be put to death. Currently he is still under sentence of death but no new execution date has been set.

The audience of some 40 Black and white people also heard reports on the cases of JoAnne Little, the Wilmington 10, Black Liberation Army member Safiya Bukhari, and Vernon Lee Jo, a young Black man from Suffolk, Va. serving a life sentence as a result of a frame-up rape case.

Lonnie Jo of the Vernon Lee Jo Defense Committee expressed the feeling of the meeting when he said "We are willing to go to North Carolina to help free JoAnne Little, and if we have to kick down some prison walls we're willing to do that too."