

the struggle and in some measure setting back the racist hysteria.

LENIN'S VIEW ON SELF-DETERMINATION

It might seem inconceivable that more than 70 years since Lenin first began his celebrated polemics against Rosa Luxemburg and others on the right of nations to self-determination and the struggle against chauvinism, there would be Marxist-Leninist groupings in this country who, while sounding the tocsins for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and imperialism, find themselves on the same side objectively as the racists.

Yet a year ago, one of these groupings, the Revolutionary Union (RU), opened a violent tirade against busing in its paper "Revolution" with the utterly incredible and fantastic headline, "Smash Busing." Except for the verbiage contained in a long and confused article, it seemed a clarion call to line up with the racists.

This year, October League (OL), which shares the same general political line as RU (both are for Mao and also for Stalin), proclaimed the necessity for boycotting the NAACP rally. The basis for the boycott, they claim, is that the rally was organized by "assimilationist leadership." OL had previously attacked RU for its racist line and stood firm on the right of Black children to go to any schools that white children can.

This present position on the NAACP rally is, in reality, a capitulation to the same forces of reaction

and racism which gripped RU and which earlier had also caught Progressive Labor, the Labor Committee, and several other groupings, all of whom are opposed to self-determination. OL's boycott of the NAACP rally shows that it is gravitating in the same direction, although from the opposite point of view.

Let us examine the issue of assimilation as expounded by Lenin.

SEPARATION OR ASSIMILATION—IT'S UP TO THE OPPRESSED

It is the right of every oppressed people to demand and obtain self-determination, including the right of separation. Marxist-Leninists in the oppressing nation must firmly uphold this right, which includes the right of the oppressed nation to secede and set up a separate state.

But Marxist-Leninists must not advocate it or foist any kind of separatism upon an oppressed nation. It is up to the oppressed nation to decide its own destiny. The business of Marxist-Leninists, of Communists, is to firmly and resolutely prosecute the class war and fight for class solidarity between workers of the oppressing and oppressed nationalities.

From the point of view of the socialist future of humanity, the victory of socialism based on the solidarity of the working classes of the world will ultimately lead to an amalgamation of all the nations of the world. Unquestionably, it will also lead, on the