



Women workers confront Portuguese cop.

day, will eventually be forced to accede to the offers of the PCI. Once that is done, the greatest opportunity in more than a quarter of a century will be open for the revolutionary elements to lead the masses in the absolutely inevitable revolutionary upsurge.

The Italian proletariat has twice during the century allowed a genuinely revolutionary crisis of the capitalist system to elude it. The first was during the 1919-1923 period, when the reformists were far stronger than the revolutionary elements led by the communists. And the communists were immature at the time. And second, when following the defeat of the fascist regime, the PCI willingly liquidated the partisan movement and traded it in for a ministerial post a la Millerand.

Every progressive, every class-conscious worker, every communist and genuine socialist must hope that this time around the proletariat will emerge victorious.

True and false historical compromise

On the Italian CP

May 7, 1976

Every worker, every militant who has ever participated in negotiations with the bosses, from the grievance level all the way up to industry-wide bargaining, knows that certain compromises with the employers are sometimes not only necessary but inevitable.

The broad membership of the Communist Party of Italy (PCI), where Lenin's classic on this subject of compromises with the bourgeoisie (Left-Wing Communism) is probably more widely known than anywhere else in Western Europe, scarcely needs an introduction on the matter.

What the Italian CP leaders, however, have been preaching for a considerable period now is not just another compromise on one or two specific measures with the ruling Christian Democrats. In the view of the PCI leaders, they have presented a wholly new historical concept called the "historical compromise."

PCI VIEW OF "HISTORICAL COMPROMISE"

This view holds that it is possible to achieve a compromise between the two basic contending classes in Italy on the deepest social,