Batista, have no immediate relationship to the overriding need of getting rid of the system itself (capitalism, in whatever form) that breeds new totalitarian states and continual new crises.

NO TIME FOR "PROGRESSIVISM"

It is often argued that the revolutions that have been sweeping Africa, Asia and now Cuba are, in the historical sense, progressive and as such, should be supported by socialists — especially because of the aggressive policies of the Great Powers toward these new regimes whenever and wherever they threaten vested interests. But applying our tool of Marxism, we understand that the social forces that exploit us who live in the United States, for example, exist even if on a smaller scale, in Cuba. The Cuban workers can see their own future by looking at the United States or Russia, or any other capitalist nation — providing that Cuban "independence" is able to survive.

We also know that this is 1961 and that the time is short. World capitalism is pushing the nations into a mad armaments race. It will be only a matter of a few years until the membership of the A Bomb club will be greatly expanded. Can we afford the luxury of demanding that the U. S. get out of Guantanamo Bay? That Russia get out of Hungary? Can we use precious time in demanding that Castro institute "free" elections in Cuba, that America enhance its democracy in the South, that a Soviet stooge or an American stooge be permitted to rule in the Congo?

We think not. Returning to our tool of Marxism, we realize that the troubles which are tearing the world apart are basically due to capitalism. Goods and services are produced for sale on the market with a view to profit rather than for use. Nations, like businesses within nations, must continuously scramble and claw one another for markets. It is idle to imagine that changing the label is all that is needed.

HARMO

Spoken By A Marine

(REPRINTED BY REQUEST)

"There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" (to point out enemies), its "muscle men" (to destroy enemies), its 'brain guys' (to plan war preparations), and a 'Big Boss' (supernationalistic capitalism).

"It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to do so. I spent 33 years and 4 months in active military service as a member of our country's most agile military force — the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

"I suspected I was just a part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession, I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental facilities remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

"Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that the Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

"During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals and promotions. Looking back on it, I feel that I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. I operated on three continents."

Major Gen. Smedley D. Butler, USMC.

THE NEED FOR SOCIALISTS

Socialism is not an idle dream. This is a world where goods can be produced in almost unlimited quantities. Is it really impractical to organize distribution on a basis where all people shall have access to these goods? What is there to prevent such reorganization except the knowledge and will to do so? Are we so contemptuous of the capacity for social conduct of our fellow men and ourselves that we believe it impossible? Of course not — all we ask is that the world population seek the means whereby they can live and work without threat of poverty, insecurity and war.

What practical alternative is there to the reorganization of society, except by the means which we advocate? And what we advocate offers possibilities of life for all of us such as the world has never known.

As the condition of the present world becomes more and more chaotic, insecure and critical, men will find it necessary to eventually support our position for socialism — this we know — because the history of one hundred years of protest and reform still leaves us with the major problems of society unsolved. The only reasonable solution is socialism.

The road to socialism is the road of persuasion through the democratic organization of a socialist political party, internationally organized. As yet we are small in numbers. The numbers who have still to learn the full meaning of socialism are vast. But WE, the Companion Parties of Socialism, are here. Socialism can only be realized by organizing for it — and the time to organize is now. The best reason for organization is obvious: a number of people united are better able to accomplish an objective than the same people working in isolated orbits.

The object that is aimed at determines the quality of an organization. We are a political party with a definite objective and with definite principles. Since capitalism will not grow into socialism by itself, we, by and with the consent and demand of the great majority will have to win the state apparatus to make socialism a reality. Casual organization, like casual interest in socialism is not enough.

It is a fact that the measure of a socialist is determined by the extent to which he supports his organization; the measure of a local is determined by the extent to which it carries on the work of socialist education. The record of the Companion Parties of Socialism in bringing socialist education to our fellow workers is one in which we need not feel ashamed. Anything less than genuine socialist activity is inadequate.

What are our immediate needs? Speakers and writers, people who can do clerical work, sell literature etc. The more help, the more efficient we become and the closer is our destination. The final remunerations for those efforts is a life of peace and a world worth while. And money is also needed. Lots of it. Money to meet the costly and necessary expenses. Of all the contributions to socialism, money is probably the easiest for most to give.

Today, the capitalist powers, both East and West, futilely promise peace but build for war. This is an insidiously destructive process that threatens human extinction. What a grisly prospect! It is high time the world was organized on a sensible basis, that decisions of war or "peace," poverty with employment or poverty with unemployment were no longer permitted. Become enlightened — shed your apathy and cynicism. SUPPORT — JOIN — and ORGANIZE for SOCIALISM TODAY. Tomorrow may be too late.

J. F. AHRENS, Vancouver Local

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