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WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO FREE HUGO BLANCO

New York

A demonstration has been called in New York City for July 27 to demand the release of the Peruvian peasant leader Hugo Blanco, who organized and led peasant unions in south Peru in the struggle for land reform. Blanco was arrested May 30 and is being held incommunicado, although he is said to be ill, reports the American Trotskyist weekly newspaper The Militant in its July 22 issue.

The journal says: "The demonstration will be held before the Peruvian Consulate at 10 Rockefeller Plaza. . . The action, called by the Young Socialist Alliance, is being supported by the Movimiento Pro-Independencia, the Puerto Rican independence movement. Demonstrators will also demand Blanco be transferred to a hospital and be allowed to see family, friends and defense counsel."

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Ottawa, Canada

A picket line protesting the arrest and imprisonment of Hugo Blanco, the peasant leader of Peru, appeared before the Peruvian Embassy in Ottawa on June 27. Many passersby on the main traffic artery in the fashionable district where the embassy is located stopped to read their signs demanding the immediate release of Blanco, protesting that he was guilty of no crime but of liberating the peasants from servitude and exploitation.

When embassy officials were approached with a letter for the ambassador, they said he was not in. But as the picket continued and a policeman appeared threatening arrest on the charge of vagrancy and demanding everyone's address, the ambassador appeared to protest against the picket. Shortly after the first secretary appeared to take movie pictures of the action.

Vernel Olson, national chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, in an open letter to the Ambassador of Peru ridiculed the charge of murder that has been laid against Blanco. He quoted an interview carried by a Lima paper last fall in which Blanco is quoted as saying: "We want to kill the system of big estates, we don't want to kill landlords. We don't feed on the blood but on the products of the soil." Olson stated that Blanco, "leading peasants in the destruction of the medieval land system," could only be considered a criminal by "the landlords of Southern Peru," and demanded his unconditional release. Ross Dowson, national secretary of the League for Socialist Action, also sent a formal protest to the Peruvian Embassy in the name of the League.

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Tokyo

Protest meetings have been organized in different cities of Japan to demand the unconditional release of the Peruvian peasant leader Hugo Blanco, who has been imprisoned by the reactionary government of Peru.

A meeting of students' organizations in the Kinki district known as "Left," with branches in Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe, decided to send a memorandum to the Peruvian Embassy in Tokyo protesting against the continued detention of Blanco. The supporters of "Left" in Kyoto held a public meeting recently at which a demand was made for the immediate release of Blanco.

A committee with prominent political workers, trade-union and student leaders is being set up to campaign for the release of Hugo Blanco. Prominent among the sponsors of the committee are Shiro Oya, a Marxist student leader; Setsurei Tsurushima, professor at the Kansai University; Eiichi Yamanish, Kohei Takahara, and Osamu Nomura, assistant professors at the Kyoto University, as well as representatives of various trade unions.

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Ceylon

Members of Ceylon Parliament are sending a memorandum to the government of Peru urging the immediate release of the revolutionary peasant leader Hugo Blanco, according to a message received from Colombo.

TERROR REGIME CONTINUES IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to The Times of London, Colonel van den Bergh, the police chief of South Africa, has announced that security police "have detained a dozen coloureds and Africans alleged to belong to the Yu Chiu Chan Club, a subversive organization allegedly financed from China." A Reuter dispatch carried by The Times said that "the police considered the Yu Chiu Chan Club to be as dangerous as the banned African National Congress and the Pogo terrorist organization."

It is thus obvious that the racist regime in South Africa is taking advantage of every situation to round up all progressive elements fighting for democratic rights under one pretext or another. Democratic and working-class opinion throughout the world must protest against this terror campaign launched by the Verwerd regime and demand the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa.

AUSTRALIAN "SPIES FOR PEACE" GET ACTIVE

(Report based on comments in The Bulletin, July 6, a Tory weekly magazine published in Sydney.)

The much publicized Sydney branch of the Committee for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was launched in March 1962. Branches were later established in Queensland, Victoria and West Australia. The Sydney group, says the Sydney Bulletin in its July 6 number, has as its secretary and guiding star R. Gould, the young and energetic secretary of the West Darlinghurst branch of the Australian Labour Party.

Recently the Sydney CND received a copy of the "Spies for Peace" document. Realizing its propaganda value, they decided to distribute mimeographed copies throughout Australia. The first copies to appear covered seven foolscap pages and were issued with copies of CND Newsletter No. 5, June, 1963. It was circulated in about 750 copies to various organizations and individuals. But at the same time another 500 copies were issued under the name of "Spies for Peace (Australia) Inc." and citizens were urged to seek out official secrets about Australian preparations for nuclear war and to make them public.

"Who caused the second batch to be distributed is not known," comments The Bulletin. The member of Sydney CND executive who authorized the CND copy of the "Spies for Peace" leaflet denied all knowledge of the second batch, and commented that "It was possible ours (the CND) has breached the Crimes Act, but as far as I can see it is almost certain the other circular has breached it."

Both Miss McIntyre, who authorized the pamphlet for CND, and Gould have been interviewed by Commonwealth police. Meanwhile, the chairman of the West Australian CND has stated that his group is organizing the printing and distribution of a leaflet on U.S. Navy Radio Communication Center to be set up in the desolate far north of West Australia to act as a tracking

station for U.S. Polaris submarines. He also stated that if any secrets about the base come to light, the CND will do all it can to publish them. It should be noted that the Australian government's decision to establish the base has been the subject for long and heated debate in the press, and particularly in the Australian Labour Party. The Federal Executive of the Australian Labour Party only decided, after several days' debate and after several votes by the margin of only one vote, to agree to a compromise right-wing motion which means the ALP supports the establishment of the base, subject to joint control by Australia, and consultation if it is to be used to launch the Polaris rockets.

The Bulletin ends with the following statement: "In any event CND has received more publicity in a week than it would normally have got in a decade; and the Commonwealth Police are still investigating every avenue in its search for the distributors of the second batch of the SPIES FOR PEACE pamphlet. The Attorney-General, Sir Garfield Barwick, is expected to comment when the facts are assembled."

AN ANTI-STRIKE LAW IN FRANCE

The de Gaulle government is using the discontent aroused recently by a "surprise strike" of the Paris metro, to pass a law which is a first attack on the right to strike of civil servants and workers employed in public services. The government is arguing that it is not attacking the right to strike but only wants strikes to be announced five days in advance. It is of course only the first step toward a long-term policy which the government has decided to take since the miners' strike last March, which gave a tremendous blow to the law enabling the government to proceed by "requisition" of workers engaged in vital services or industries.

The present antistrike law has been strongly denounced by all trade-union organizations, including CGT, FO, CFMTC, FEN (Federation de l'Education Nationale), Union des Etudiants de France as well as by the CP and the Socialist Party.

The trade unions have organized various demonstrations during the discussion of the bill in Parliament. There have been very important stoppages of work, first by the workers directly concerned by the measure: electricity, gas, railways, metro, bus, etc. On July 17 the traffic was stopped all over France for at least one hour, in many places for many hours. The workers in private industry also demonstrated against the law by stopping work and holding meetings and demonstrations. Though many workers are already on vacation, the workers' demonstrations were well attended.

The bill has been passed by the National Assembly and is now being debated at the Senate. Though there is no doubt that the bill will be voted by the Gaullist majority, many bourgeois MP's have expressed doubts about the "wisdom" behind this law, which they say can only worsen things when workers would strike. But the Gaullist regime is now engaged in a long and devious

battle in which it will try to corrupt a part of the trade-union movement and to break the other part. Its main difficulty is the fact that the workers and civil servants affected by the present bill have very genuine wage grievances. They are paid less than workers doing the same work in private industry. And full employment still exists. In addition, the cost of living has gone up in the last few months, and new demands for wage increases are to be expected before the end of the year.

THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN ALGERIA

Though Ben Bella's policy toward a socialist Algeria has the overwhelming support of the poor masses in the countryside and in the towns, the pro-bourgeois elements and currents are still carrying on their opposition.

The most recent vocal manifestation has been a statement by Krim Belkacem, made in Paris after his return from Cairo. The former member of the Provisional Government of Algerian Republic (GPRA) has expressed himself both with violent threats and with vicious and reactionary attacks against the Bureau in charge of the socialized sector. Ben Bella immediately denounced Belkacem, suggesting that he was involved in certain crimes during his tenure of office in the Provisional Government.

Belkacem Krim will certainly not return to Algeria. But in Krim's absence Ferhat Abbas acts as the political brain of the bourgeoisie. He does not openly oppose socialism but criticizes the "tempo," "methods" of socialist reconstruction, and so on.

While supporting the mass movement toward socialism, Ben Bella has not broken with Ferhat Abbas. The old coalition still continues. A month ago Ben Bella spoke of building a socialist revolutionary party, but he has recently expressed himself against the formation of a party and has suggested the need to create a "front," i.e., an organization in which the coalition may still continue.

One should not be surprised by these oscillations. They are not the first ones, and many more may manifest themselves until the revolution finds its full development. We have explained many times the contradictory nature of the situation and the difficulties weighing on the Algerian Revolution. Therefore, it is all the more necessary to blame the attitude of so-called "leftists" like Boudiaf and the PRS (Party of Socialist Revolution) who, instead of supporting wholeheartedly the socialist measures in order to make them successful, are chewing on old grievances, hurling demagogic criticisms at the regime. Deprived of any serious alternative program, they are only playing into the hands of the reactionary elements. Boudiaf who was arrested last month has since been freed but confined to "forced residence" in a southern town of Algeria. He is permitted to receive visitors.

PERMANENT REVOLUTION NOT DEAD IN SOVIET UNION

The Literaturnaya Gazeta has recently published an attack against Trotsky's theory of the permanent revolution. The opportunity used for it was the book published in France by Martinet, editor of France Observateur, who selects crumbs here and there from the ideas of Trotsky and the Fourth International only in order to fight revolutionary Marxism. To call Martinet a Trotskyist or a "Neo-Trotskyist" as Literaturnaya Gazeta does will certainly be resented by him as an insult. But the item in the Moscow paper is notable for the fact that it mentions the "so-called Fourth International" groups in various countries, and for the manner in which it presents and discusses political positions of Trotskyism. This is something like a movie presented in reverse order. The discussions look somewhat like the debate conducted by the Stalinists in the late twenties, before the Fifteenth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and before the wild repressions and the accusations launched during the Moscow Trials.

The Literaturnaya Gazeta states:

"It is well known that V.I. Lenin, the party, and the Communist International have demonstrated in a convincing manner the incoherence of the ideological and political positions of the Trotskyists who were attacking the correct line of world communism in relation to the fundamental problems of the socialist revolution. Trotskyism was and is in profound contradiction to the Leninist orientation of the foreign policy of victorious socialism. Trotskyism approaches in an erroneous way the question of the connection between the tasks of economic construction inside the Soviet Union and the perspectives of the revolutionary movement in other countries. It is useful to remember that Trotsky, in his elaboration of the theory of permanent revolution, used many of the ideas of the Menshevik Parvus. . . . The Trotskyist conception of permanent revolution grossly distorts the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. In opposition to the Leninists, the Trotskyists maintained and still maintain an erroneous appreciation of the relationship between the internal premises of the revolution and its external premises. By deforming the Marxist-Leninist conception of the international significance and the character of the first socialist revolution, Trotsky and his supporters while hiding behind a revolutionary phraseology, were actually opposed to the Leninist conclusion on the possibility of the victory of socialism in a single country. They maintained that the proletarian revolution cannot be completed within the national framework. The victorious construction of socialism and all its new successes in building communism in the Soviet Union are testimonials to the bankruptcy of such prophecies. . . . One should not be astonished by the fact that by rejecting the Leninist theory of revolution, Trotskyism attacks also the Leninist policy of peaceful coexistence, peaceful negotiations with bourgeois governments. The neo-Trotskyists in the West repeat mainly what Trotsky had already preached, for example, in his book published abroad in 1930, "The Permanent Revolution." We hear from them again the same accusations against the CPSU and the CP's in other countries that they have degenerated from

Marxists into pacifists, and also the same laments that the Soviet communists have transformed the struggle against war into a self-exhausting task.

"The neo-Trotskyists, as can be seen in their printed organs expressing the points of view of the so-called Fourth International, start from the theory of inevitability of war between West and East. The policy of peaceful coexistence between the two systems, defended by the CPSU, is characterized by them as opportunism without any proof."

Whoever knows the past controversies in the Soviet CP will have no difficulty in knowing that these lines distort the truth in the way it was done during the years 1923-27, when the Left Opposition was prevented from presenting its views legally in the party and in the country.

Among the Russian readers of Literaturnaya Gazeta belonging to the younger generations, more than one will certainly note that it is the affirmations of this paper against Trotsky and the Trotskyists which are presented without the least proof. There are no quotations, only simple assertions that the Trotskyists were wrong. But why do the Soviet papers raise again, thirty years after Stalin launched his repressions, the "discussion" on theories which were once "proved erroneous." More than one reader in the Soviet Union will think that the proofs were after all not so convincing. And more than one Soviet citizen will demand to know what Trotsky and the Trotskyists have actually written. If it is a matter of ideological and political differences, why do the Soviet authorities still follow Stalin's methods of forbidding the publication of the so-called bankrupt views? Let the Soviet masses have the possibility to know what the differences of the twenties were by making available all the writings of Trotsky and other Bolshevik leaders who fought Stalin. Only thus will the Soviet people understand why Stalin and the cult of Stalin could emerge in the Soviet Union.

NEGRO STRUGGLES ASSUME MASSIVE CHARACTER

Demonstrations by Negroes seeking equality in both northern and southern parts of the United States are assuming massive proportions hitherto unknown in American history and they have become a major challenge to the Kennedy administration.

Some concessions have indeed been won in some areas, but in other regions the movement is meeting stiff opposition and delaying tactics from racist officials.

The biggest ever Civil Rights March was organized in Detroit on June 23 when more than 200,000 turned out to show their solidarity with southern Negroes and to voice their demand for "Freedom Now in the North Too."

Reporting the Detroit demonstration, Harriet Talam writes in the New York radical weekly, The Militant: "The only time I have ever seen anything like downtown Detroit on June 23 was on January 2, 1961, in Havana, where I watched the mammoth celebra-

tion of the Cuban Revolution's second anniversary. The Freedom March dwarfed the biggest labor demonstrations ever held here within my memory -- which goes back to the 1940s."

There were some whites also present, a majority of them radicals. They were welcomed beyond their numbers and got more applause than their strength warranted. It was as if the Negro crowds were saying: "We appreciate your support, even if your numbers are few."

The Philadelphia movement for more jobs for Negroes also pioneered a significant experiment in demonstration technique on June 24 when a four-hour general work-stoppage by the city's Negroes was called to mourn for Mearns Evers (Negro leader slain by a white racist). The stoppage was called by Cecil Moore, local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) head, and was supported by CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and an alliance of ministers. The city's top AFL-CIO officials opposed it, but some local unions gave support. City officials at first threatened reprisals against the city employees joining the stoppage but later changed their tune. Some 4,000 people picketed city hall during the stoppage.

Mass arrests of Freedom Marchers are reported from various cities in the United States. Some 500 demonstrators were arrested in Gadsden, Alabama, in the last week of June. Some of the arrested persons were shocked by electric prod poles, both outside and inside the jail. In Danville, Virginia, police raided the church headquarters of civil-rights leaders seeking several persons indicted by a grand jury on June 21 on charges of "inciting to riot." About 100 persons were arrested in Danville demonstrations in May and June and some 40 persons were injured by the police clubs and fire hoses.

Less than a fortnight after the massive Freedom March, Detroit's Negro community was shocked by the brutal slaying of 24-year-old Cynthia Scott by a white policeman. Wayne County Prosecutor ruled the shooting "justifiable homicide" and said Negro eye-witnesses who contradicted the policeman's story were "too biased." In protest on July 13 two Negro organizations, Uhuru (meaning "freedom" in Swahili) and the Group on Advanced Leadership (GOAL) mobilized over 1,000 angry ghetto dwellers in front of the police headquarters to condemn the killing.

Some 300 persons demonstrated for civil rights on the courthouse steps in Cambridge, Maryland, and they kept order although they were pelted with eggs by white racists. While they were returning to the Negro section, one of their number, William Jackson (17), was arrested by the State police for "carrying a paring knife." Soon the word spread in the Negro locality and a large crowd, armed for defense against racist attacks, began marching on the armory where young Jackson was being held, shouting, "Freedom, Freedom." Panicked by the demonstration, the police released their prisoner before the crowd reached the armory. Forcing the police to release a Negro from a southern jail was indeed a historic event.

On another occasion, a mere threat of a mass march by Negroes in Cambridge, Maryland, on July 12 won the release of 14 Negroes jailed for allegedly violating the martial law in force there. As the aroused Negro community gathered at a local church, Reginald Robinson of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee announced at 6 pm that if the prisoners, including rights leader Gloria Richardson, were not released by 8:30 there would be an all-out march on the jail. At 8:25 a National Guard officer arrived at the church and announced release of the 14 prisoners.

The New York police arrested more than 300 demonstrators on July 22 when 1,000 white and Negro demonstrators paraded around the construction site of the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn protesting job discrimination. Police officials, according to the New York Herald Tribune (July 23), said that the number of arrests "surpassed that of the Harlem race riot in 1943 and was comparable to the draft riots during the Civil War." A policeman commented: "This is the biggest civil-rights demonstration that I know of ever held in Brooklyn and probably the entire city."

As the Negroes are intensifying their struggle for civil rights the capitalist rulers of the United States are debating how to pilot the civil-rights laws through Congress. A powerful section of the capitalist politicians is bent on sabotaging the passage of the civil-rights bill by the Congress. A massive Freedom March has been announced for August 28 to force the Congressmen to act. A number of northern liberals echoing President Kennedy, however, have advised Negro leaders to call off the August 28 March on the ground that the Congressmen won't like it. This seems another dirty trick by the Dixiecrats who control the committees to block and stall the bills in the face of growing resistance of the Negro population.

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