THE SOCIALIST IMPERATIVE

- a may day manifesto

Events in France this time last year showed that revolution in advanced capitalist countries remains possible. But what is essential is that the working class adopt a strategy which will exploit suchruptures to the full, so that they will result in a transfer of power. Such a strategy must be seen now, in times when revolution is not on the immediate agenda.

A revolutionary socialist strategy in Australia today adopts policies which point up the reality of Imperialism and which establish the practical basis for its overthrow. Three examples will illustrate this.

1. ABORTION VERSUS THE SHOP COMMITTEE

The Abortion System is the greatest obstacle to working-class advance in Australia today. By its very nature it forbids rank-and-file activity. It reinforces the power of officials and suppresses class participation. It must be replaced by a Shop Committee System which fights the bosses directly. This would obviously mean an entirely new form of union organisation. From the shop committees would come the basis for the control of factories by workers. This would be a vital step in the direction of socialism.

2. CONSCRIPTION FOR WAR AND FOR WORK

The fight against conscription must never be reduced to a fight for conscientious objection to particular wars. The draft must be ended in its entirety and the relationship between conscription and capitalism made clear. Conservation is not exceptional in our democratic society. It is the law of capitalist production applied to destruction. In times of relative peace it is useful for tapping the spirits of young workers who have not succumbed to the discipline of schools.

3. READING, ROARING, RUTHLESS

Students and teachers throughout Australia are not striking to achieve "more of the same". Basic to all the protests in the schools and universities is a demand for a new purpose in education, that is, for an end to "education for industry". Schools must be run democratically and the content of courses freed from the confines of capitalist thinking.

The task for revolutionaries is to establish organizational and ideological forms which unite those fighting imperialism in the factories and the schools.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
THE INTERNATIONAL

Arise ye workers from your slumbers,
Arise ye prisoners of want,
For reason in revolt now thunders.
And at last the signal of cast.
Now away with all superstitions,
Serve ye masters, arise, arise,
We'll change the conditions of the old conditions
And bend the dust to win the battle.

Then comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face.
The International
Unites the human race.

Solidarity forever.

When the Union's inspiration thought the workers' blood has run
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.
Yet what force on earth is greater than the needle strength of one?
But the Union makes us strong.

Solidarity for every,
Solidarity forever,
For the Union makes us strong.

If there should we hold in common with the greedy parasite,
Who will lash us into servitude and mold us with his might?
Is there anything left for us but to organize and fight?
While the Union makes us strong.

All the world that is owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.
We have laid the wide foundations, built it stone by stone.
It is ours, and not to slave in, but to master and to own.
While the Union makes us strong.

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.
We can break their heavy power, gain our freedom while we learn
That the Union makes us strong.

It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade.
Ours the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid.
Now we stand outcast and starving, and the owners we have made,
But the Union makes us strong.

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater than the might of armies mustered a thousand fold.
We can bring to birth the new world from the ashes of the old,
For the Union makes us strong.

BANDIERA ROSSA

Avanti popolo, alla ricossa,
Bandiera rossa, bandiera rossa;
Avanti popolo alla ricossa,
Bandiera rossa, bandiera rossa.

BANDIERA ROSSA TRAGUERA;
Bandiera rossa, bandiera rossa;
Bandiera rossa TRAGUERA;
Eviva socialismo e libertà!

THE RED FLAG

The People's Flag is deepest red;
It showed off our martyred dead,
And here their lives were sweet and cold,
Their hearts' blood over its every fold.

Then raise the scarlet standard high,
Within its shade we'll love and die-
Though comrades plough and toilers weep,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

Look round, the friendship Issue its blade;
The sturdy German chants its praise.
In Moscow's halls its mystery are sung:
Churchill knows the burning thighs.

It swayed above our infant heart,
When all around seemed dark as night;
It witnessed many a deed and won—
We must not change its color now!

It well recalls the trumpet past,
It gives the hope of peace at last.
The banner bright, the symbol plain
Of human right and human gain.

It suits today the poor and base,
Whose minds are fixed on hell and place,
To strike before the rich man's home,
And hail the sacred emblem down.

With heads unshaken, hear me all,
To bear it onward till we fall.
Come dungeon dark, or gallant grin,
This song shall be our parting hymn.

THE TRUMAN COLUMN

Spanish heavens spread their brilliant starlight
High above our trophies in the plains;
From the distance flashing come to greet us,
Calling us to battle once again.

Far off is our land,
Yet ready we stand
We're fighting and working for you,
Freedom!

We'll not yield a foot to Franco's fascists,
Even though the bullets fall like sleet.
With us stand these fearless men, our comrades,
And for us there can be no retreat.

Die Heimat ist Macht,
Doch wer sind die, die ihnen für dich freien?

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