

EDITORIAL**HAVANA
CONFERENCE**

This September, the International Conference of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico will be convened in Havana. This activity (sponsored by the World Peace Council and supported by the Cuban Revolutionary Government) will be attended, by among others, representatives of Third World Governments and organizations; national liberation movements and organizations, such as the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and representatives of revolutionary governments, such as the PRG of Vietnam and the government of the Democratic Republic of Korea.

In Puerto Rico in order to obtain and guarantee a broad representation of the patriotic and revolutionary forces, there was created a committee in support to the conference in solidarity with the independence of Puerto Rico. This committee, composed of 19 organizations — with the exception of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) — is representative of all the ideological tendencies in the Puerto Rican left.

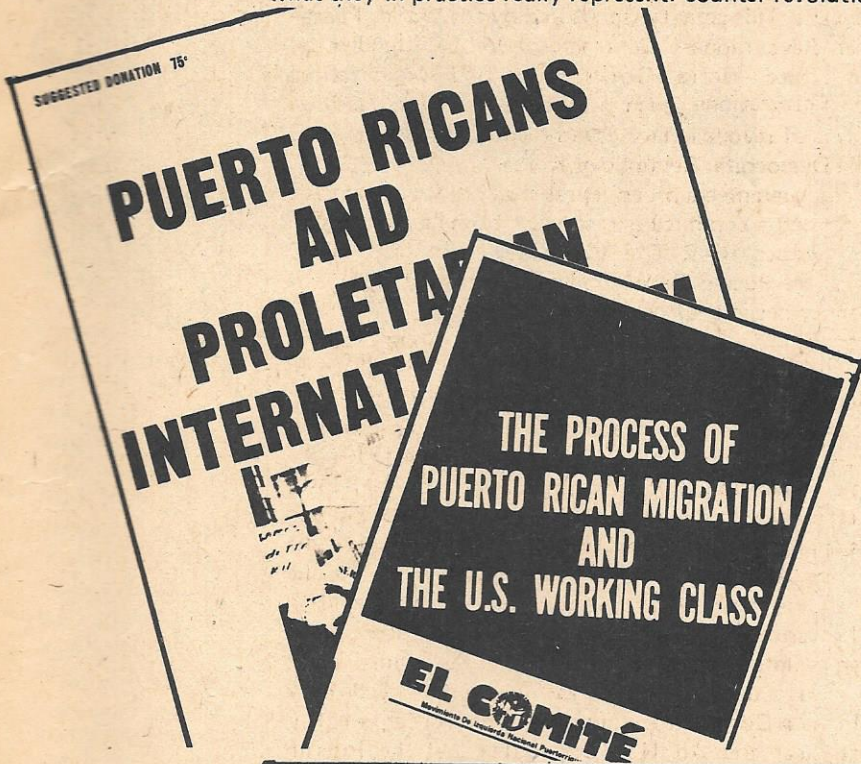
This past March was celebrated the founding conference of the Committee in Solidarity with Puerto Rico in the United States. At that activity, the Committee in Support to the Conference in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico recommended to this newly created organization that it accept as one of its 5 principal areas of work the conference to be celebrated in Havana, and that there be created an Ad Hoc Committee which would assume responsibility for the organization of the North American representation at the Havana conference. This recommendation was accepted in the conference at Newark and it was approved that this Ad Hoc Committee would be the only organism that would have the task of organizing the U.S. delegation attending the Havana Conference. On March 30 an international preparatory meeting was held in Havana among representatives of the various organisms in support of the conference. Participating in this meeting were representatives of the Ad Hoc Committee formed in the United States and also present was a delegation from the Communist Party USA who were representing a so-called Interim Committee in support of the conference. For reasons which to this day are not clear the Ad Hoc Committee and the Interim Committee (CP) united, as consequence of this fusion the CPUSA who is not a member of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee is now part of the body that will select the U.S. delegation to Havana.

El Comité—MINP, recognizing the importance that the Havana Conference could have, as well as other such international forums, for the independence and national liberation of Puerto Rico, has supported the same. But we have made it clear, both publicly and within the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, that the committee should go with an independent political line and in denunciation of "detente"; as we understand that the strategical and tactical conceptions for the struggle for independence and national liberation of Puerto Rico are the sole responsibility of the Puerto Rican people and their leading organizations. Moreover, that it is extremely obvious the contradiction inherent between the politics of "detente" and the struggles for national liberation of oppressed peoples and nations.

Another point which we have clarified is our position in respect to revisionism and the Conference. As revolutionaries we believe in ideological struggle and are not afraid to debate with the revisionists. Furthermore, it is our position that not to participate in the conference is to leave the field open to the revisionists. We believe it is our duty to do the utmost to assure the revolutionary principles agreed upon for this conference be implemented as well as combatting and denouncing any attempt or maneuver by revisionists and opportunists of all types to change the tone of the conference. This should be done at the conference and everywhere else.

As an organization, El Comité—MINP is characterized by its revolutionary principles, it is precisely these principles that determine our support to the Havana Conference. Similarly, these same principles determine that in supporting the conference and being prepared to participate in it we are rejecting all forms of political coercion. Within this

context it is our duty to denounce the vulgar cowardice, opportunism and lack of revolutionary morals shown by "progressive" elements who surreptitiously have dedicated themselves to distort our positions on the Havana conference, and have tried to sabotage and block our participation in the same by attempting to convince friends of El Comit -MINP as well as other organizations that "we don't support the conference", that we "are Maoists and will be going to the conference only to cause problems and obstaculize the same." To these cowards and opportunists that refuse to carry on principled political debates and ideological struggle and instead rely on gossip, "behind the scene negotiations" and betrayal as "revolutionary" practice, we warn that they will be unable to hide our true political line and ideological positions, they will be exposed for what they in practice really represent: counter revolutionaries.



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