

# TERRORISM: a False Road to Socialism

There are many false roads to revolution that are presented to the working class, and one of those is anarchism. Anarchists often claim that capitalism will be brought to its knees through endless acts of terror by a band of revolutionaries. These terrorist activities are virtually the only form of struggle of the anarchists, who rarely engage in any work among the masses.

Recently there has been an increase of terrorist activities, including the skyjacking of the Lufthansa jet from Germany, and the kidnapping of Hans Schleyer in Germany. The bourgeoisie has done all it can to promote the claim that these acts of terrorism are acts of revolutionaries trying to make socialist revolution.

However, anarchism is not the road to socialist revolution. In fact, long ago, it was shown to be anti-working class in its very essence. While the anarchists speak of the destruction of capitalism, their understanding of revolution has nothing in common with the Marxist-Leninist understanding of revolution.

In place of the working class as the motive force of revolution, the anarchists place small bands of "revolutionaries", usually from the petty bourgeoisie. Anarchists say that by carrying out "revolutionary" acts such as assassinations, kidnappings, skyjackings, and bombings, they will overthrow capitalism. However, as V.I. Lenin, the great leader of the Russian revolution, pointed out, "... the terrorists bow to the spontaneity of the passionate indignation of intellectuals, who lack the ability or opportunity to link up the revolutionary struggle with the working-class movement, to form an integral whole. It is difficult indeed for those who have lost their belief, or who have never believed that this

is possible, to find some outlet for their indignation and revolutionary energy other than terror." (*What Is To Be Done?*, FLP, 1973, p. 93).

Also inherent in this viewpoint is the negation of the role of the party of the working class. Anarchists do not think that a revolutionary communist party is needed, instead they stress "self-organization" and the individual.

This viewpoint is nothing new to the class struggle. Back in the 1890's, Lenin waged a struggle against the Narodniks who held these kinds of views. In the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolshevik), the Narodnik's activity was summed up: "The method of combating Tsardom chosen by the Narodniks, namely, by the assassinations of individuals, by individual terrorism, was wrong and detrimental to the revolution. The policy of individual terrorism was based on the erroneous Narodnik theory of active 'heroes' and a passive 'mob', which awaited the exploits from the 'heroes'. This false theory maintained that it is only outstanding individuals who make history, while the masses, the people, the class, the 'mob' as the Narodniks contemptuously called them, are incapable of conscious, organized activity and can only blindly follow the 'heroes'." (HCPSU[B], p. 11).

The revival of anarchism in recent years has been aided by the betrayal of the revisionist parties and the restoration of capitalism in the U.S.S.R. The anarchists have been able to make headway, especially among youth and intellectuals, because the revisionist parties offer no genuine leadership to the revolutionary movement, and offer instead, class collaboration. In the face of the treachery of these parties, the

anarchists again reared their heads to sow confusion among the masses.

Not only do the anarchists serve the bourgeoisie by trying to divert the revolutionary struggle of the masses down the road of "revolutionary heroes"; but they also provide the bourgeoisie with an excuse to bring about greater repression on the masses and their parties.

In every capitalist country, the bourgeoisie is developing many so-called "anti-terrorist" measures. Here in the U.S., the Commerce Department has an overseas terrorist unit, assisting various capitalists going overseas. The FBI is beefing up its apparatus and keeping surveillance on more than 100 organizations. Congress has before it a new bill, "The Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977" which would give the state extremely broad powers to act in an "emergency" situation.

In Germany, the bourgeoisie is passing legislation to outlaw all communist organizations. Under the cover of anti-terrorist measures, the bourgeoisie ushers in fascism.

Anarchism is a product of bourgeois ideology. Its nature and its practice serve the class interests of the bourgeoisie. Through the denial of the leading role of the vanguard party and its worship of isolated acts of terror, the anarchists completely turn revolution on its head.

Anarchism, through its activities and its theory, leads to demoralization and defeat. It is a counter-revolutionary trend that must be soundly defeated.

As has been proven by all of the victorious socialist revolutions, the working class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie only through armed struggle led by a vanguard communist party. Unlike the "armed strug-



Revolutionary class warfare as depicted above has nothing in common with individual acts of terror.

gle" of the anarchists, this revolutionary armed struggle will be waged by the masses of working and oppressed people, not by a small band of individuals. The working class must meet the reactionary violence of the bourgeoisie with the revolutionary violence of the masses. This is the only road to socialism for the working class. ★