

# ADULTERY, CRIME AND GAMBLING IN CAPITALIST SOVIET UNION

While the Soviet propagandists are busy churning out myths about the USSR being a "state of the whole people" and enjoying "highly developed socialism," the facts of everyday life tell a completely different story.

Capitalism has been restored in the once-socialist USSR. In addition to the exploitation and repression faced by Soviet workers and peasants, all the other evils of capitalist society are once again flourishing, including gambling, pornography, alcoholism, drugs and a major crime wave.

A number of recent articles in U.S. newspapers and magazines have documented these trends. They show Soviet capitalism, like U.S. capitalism, is in an all-round crisis, producing ever-deepening contradictions and widespread social decay.

A June 8 article in the Chicago Tribune provided a good example of this degeneracy, detailing the "sexual revolution" in the Soviet Union. The article began by pointing out that "premarital sex, adultery and illegitimate births are on the rise in Russia. Each year about 400,000 babies are born out of wedlock."

The Tribune then went on to cite authoritative Soviet opinion on these matters. The Literary Gazette, for example, a widely-circulated Soviet newspaper,

openly calls on men to take mistresses in order to solve the problem of a proportionally higher number of women than men in the population.

The Gazette attributes this degradation of Soviet women, not to the growth of capitalism and male supremacist ideology, but simply to what it calls "demographic problems."

Like the capitalists in this country, the Soviet ruling circles try to fill the people's minds with a lot of garbage about "free love" and "happiness" to obscure the realities of oppression and the sharp class struggle taking place in society. Reflecting this thinking, the Gazette tries to cover up the growing attacks on women and the family, saying, "Morals should not stand in the way of human happiness. Life is not bitter without a husband. Life is bitter without love."

Another growing phenomenon in the USSR is crime. A May 2 article in U.S. News and World Report states, "Behind Soviet crime, experts say, are the same problems found in the West—family crises, disruptive social change, poverty and a desire for an easy life."

Although Soviet officials publicly try to dismiss all this as the work of a "handful of hooligans," the growing proportions of the crime wave cannot be

covered up. Even the official newspaper, Izvestia, recently had to admit that "We need to reduce the crime rate in fact and not merely on paper."

The U.S. News and World Report article went on to show that juvenile delinquency and drunkenness are contributing heavily to the crime wave. But the biggest crimes are being perpetrated by people in high places.

"One of the most pervasive crimes is swindling," says the article. "A factory accountant juggles figures to claim an unearned bonus, or a store manager profits by inflating his prices. One massive swindle in 1975, headed by the Communist Party's boss in Baku, Azerbaijan, is said to have cost the state the equivalent of \$40 million."

Still another indication of the degeneracy that pervades Soviet society today is the growth of gambling. In all capitalist countries, gambling is used to soak money out of the working people, holding aloft the myth of "instant riches and happiness." In the USSR, lotteries run by the state have become widespread, with people waiting in long lines just to buy tickets.

A big television promotion for the lottery claims that the winners will achieve "complete happiness." This is all just a



*RUSSIAN WOMAN, a victim of capitalist exploitation in the USSR, scavenges at a garbage dump in Moscow.*

thin cosmetic, the purpose of which is to cover up the misery of daily life. For every winner of the lottery, there are a million workers toiling and sweating, yet barely able to put food on the table.

All these experiences taken from the lives of the masses of people in the USSR reveal the truth behind the lie that "socialism is flourishing." Soviet society has nothing in common with genuine socialist countries where such incidents of degeneracy and social decay are virtually unknown. The Soviet system is in fact a system in deep crisis like its U.S. counterpart.