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RABBLE-ROUSER

Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

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youth homelessness and poverty soars... reactionaries froth over 'youth crime wave'

WHO ARE THE REAL CRIMINALS?

"No child would live in poverty by 1990," the former Prime Minister Bob Hawke told the people of Australia in 1987. His remark made headlines everywhere. Eight years later, young people are still in the headlines.

At all levels of government there are reactionary calls for greater penalties and increased police powers to counter the so-called 'youth crime wave'. A recent study shows that one in 10 young people in Australia—more than 400,000—live in poverty.

The words of rebel reggae musician Peter Tosh in his song *Equal Rights* is called to mind, "Everybody's talking about crime, But tell me, who are the criminals?"

The recent study, *Profile of Young Australians—Facts, Figures and Issues* conservatively estimates: there are at least 20,000 homeless children in Australia; more than 500,000 children under 12 with no access to formal childcare; the unemployment rate for 15-19 year olds was on average three times the overall average at nearly 30%; youth were enduring high rates of suicide, mental health disorders and alcohol and other drug abuse. Children and youth from indigenous and non-English speaking families were even worse off.

At the study's launch in Melbourne on 3 May, the former Human Rights Commissioner Brian Burdekin described the study's findings as "appalling".

Three weeks later Mr Burdekin was again highlighting the continuing suffering of homeless children and

youth: 6 years after his inquiry into youth homelessness a new study by the Salvation Army highlights there has been no change for the better.

The Burdekin Report was an embarrassment to the system. It found that, "homeless children and young people are dying in some cases, and suffering horrific abuses of their rights."

Burdekin's proposals to reform housing, health, legal and employment practices was well intentioned but naive without state power in the hands of the proletariat and oppressed masses, all schemes to reform away injustices are illusions!

Many young witnesses told the Burdekin Inquiry they left violent homes to encounter and commit violence on the streets. After many months of hearings the picture that emerged was that, intolerable family conflict, violence, eviction, rejection and physical and sexual abuse are some of the serious and complex reasons causing children to leave home for a life on the streets.

Judges, politicians and reactionary moralists compete with solutions as to how to contain and discipline the 'problem' of young people who are out of work and out of home. The class instincts of the imperialists and their running dogs tells them that without the discipline and rigour of wage slavery other means of containment become necessary.

There is more than a whiff of fascism in the reactionaries belch for night curfews on children and youth. Along

with the rest of the police state programme the ruling class is trying to ram down the oppressed's throat this jackboot measure must be exposed and vigorously opposed.

Recent news from the NSW coastal city of Taree is indicative of what is going down around the country. In sentencing two 13 year old Koori boys to 3 months in a juvenile detention centre on theft and assault charges the magistrate issued a message to the rest of the so-called gang the boys hung out with. What really troubles the powers-that-be about youth like this is that they are fearless. As the Taree chief pig observed, some of these youth clock up 40 or more charges by the time they are 12. Jail does not scare them. In broad daylight, some as young as 8 years, throw stones at the police, abuse them and then run off. Good on 'em!

In the middle of last month Taree cops arrested two 14 year old Koori boys for stealing biscuits worth \$2.40. They were hungry and there was no food at home. Who got the blame? The system that creates unemployment of 98% amongst Koories in Taree? To ask the question is to answer it.

This system will never stop dominating and oppressing people, until the proletariat, the exploited class of all races and nationalities, unites all the have-nots and leads all the oppressed to overthrow capitalism and sweep away all forms of oppression. Let the young people be out in front and the older people not far behind!

DOWN WITH THE BLOOD-SOAKED CAPITALIST REGIME IN CHINA! COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL AVENGE THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE!

June 4 is the sixth anniversary of the new Chinese bourgeoisie's savage repression of the more than a million students, workers, and other residents of Peking who demanded political rights and dared to expose and rebel against the stifling climate of corruption and economic crisis under the capitalist-roaders led by Deng Xiaoping.

After the death of Mao Tsetung our class lost power in China. Led by brave fighters for communism like Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao, the revolutionary proletariat lost the last great battle against the phony communists inside the Communist Party who opposed Mao's line and China was taken down the capitalist road.

Mao taught revolutionaries everywhere that the revolution doesn't end with but must continue after the seizure of power. Mao

pointed out that, whilst an advance for the people, socialism contains the conditions from which a new bourgeoisie can emerge. Mao called for and led the Cultural Revolution, against these capitalist-roaders and, to restrict the conditions which could engender a bourgeoisie under socialism. In his later years, Mao repeatedly warned of the dangers of capitalist restoration. The Cultural Revolution didn't fail it was defeated by those who rule China today.

We are confident the genuine revolutionaries in China will make great strides in their struggle to overthrow capitalist rule and put China once again on Mao's communist road. May the world proletarian revolution speak in Chinese once again!

MAO TSETUNG DIDNT FAIL! REVOLUTION WILL PREVAIL!

a breath of fresh air...

MAY 1ST IN MELBOURNE

Hurrah! A new break has been made with the stifling 'loyal oppositionism' that marks official May Day in Melbourne.

Dissatisfied with the Trades and Labour Council backed sectarianism of the phoney 'Maoists' that run the official May Day Committee, *Rank and File News* called for a rally on May 1st

Protesters gathered from noon on May 1st outside the Melbourne offices of Price Waterhouse, the Australian agents of the International Monetary Fund, to join with others around the world in protesting the IMF's role in the imperialist exploitation of workers around the world.

A *RABBLE-ROUSER* correspondent writes that upon arriving 15 minutes before the protest was due to start, busloads of cops were visible in the sidestreets and two fire engines were circling the area. A contingent of baton-toting cops eyed off the protesters gathering in the drizzling rain.

Rabble-Rouser #3 was handed out to protesters and passers-by. There was a lot of positive response to *RR's* revolutionary internationalist May 1st message. Public transport workers asked for extra copies to take back to distribute at work. Questions of strategy and tactics—how to build for a real Red May 1st—were discussed. The debate going on in the pages of *Rank and File News* on the People's War in Peru was discussed.

Lots of people joined in on discussions about the problems facing

BOUTROS-GHALI & GARETH EVANS TARGETED IN EAST TIMOR PROTEST

A *RABBLE-ROUSER* correspondent writes that 500 supporters of the East Timor struggle for freedom from Indonesian annexation, protested on 27 April outside a Melbourne University function attended by the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans

Many protesters carried lighted candles to symbolise the flame of struggle kept alive by the East Timorese resistance fighters in the face of the savagery of the Indonesian fascist regime. The inability of the US and Australian backed Suharto regime to 'pacify' East Timor concerns the imperialists, who understand the threat to 'stability' posed by the East Timor struggle for self-determination.

The rally condemned Australian collusion with the Indonesian regime in exploiting the Timor Gap oil resources and oppressing the East Timorese people. Chants of "No Blood for Oil—Free East Timor Now", "Suharto is a Butcher", "Hands Off Timor Gap" and calls for the release of jailed resistance leader Xanana Gusmao drove home the internationalist, anti-imperialist message of the rally to the New World Order's running dogs holed up inside the function room.

Our correspondent adds, that the heavy police presence (armed and mounted police, the Special Operations Group and the secret political police) was a sign not of ruling class strength, but of weakness. It reflects the imperialists fear of the masses' struggle in turn igniting broader struggle in society. It illustrates Mao Tseung's point that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers.

the people and how to solve them.

RR: How do you think we can get rid of the IMF and Price Waterhouse?

A. I don't know. Keep coming back to protest here?

RR: You will have to fight them?

A. Surely it can be done without violence.

RR: Violence is already on the agenda. Look, this building is surrounded by cops. and you've seen Melbourne cops in action: pressure points, mace, baton charges on students, parents and teachers who only wanted to reopen a school the government had closed down. What about all the police shootings—isn't that violence?

A. I hadn't looked at it like that.

RR: The class enemy will have to be defeated on the battlefield.

This May 1st protest was a small start, a necessary start, to rekindling the Red tradition of May 1st in Melbourne.

RABBLE-ROUSER supports all efforts towards marking May 1st with militant, mass outpourings of revolutionary sentiment. This means going broader, deeper and fiercer in building for May 1st.

Our view is that at this time it would be appropriate to build the campaign for a Red May 1st in a way that would rely on different forces and individuals who can come to agree upon some minimum principles of unity, and draw in as well other revolutionary-minded people who can be won to supporting powerful, revolutionary internationalist demonstrations and meetings on May 1st.

RABBLE-ROUSER n.

1. a troublemaker;
2. one who arouses the political discontent of the people;
3. Maoist agit-prop newsheet from the Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

For centuries the exploiters have denounced the downtrodden who rise up to throw off their oppressors as 'the rabble'. The ruling class use their TV, radio and press to insult and attack the struggles of the oppressed and lecture us about the 'horrors' of revolutionary communism. The bourgeoisie say it is wrong to rebel.

The imperialists' hatred is focussed on the revolutionary communism of Marx, Lenin and Mao, of the Paris Commune, the storming of the Winter Palace and the building and defence of the first socialist state led by Lenin and Stalin, the Long March and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, led by Mao Tseung and the People's War in Peru led by the Communist Party of Peru.

This is because in the revolutionary communism of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, it is the masses who make history—the countless multitudes of the exploited and oppressed all over the world. It is because Marxism-Leninism-Maoism boils down to a simple truth, which for the bourgeoisie is like daylight to a vampire. That simple truth is: **It Is Right To Rebel!**

RABBLE-ROUSER supports every outbreak of popular protest and rebellion and, despite its limitations, aims to fan the sparks of the class struggle and the people's resistance to oppression into a blazing inferno of revolutionary struggle.

Only People's War—the armed struggle of the masses in their millions, led by a revolutionary Communist Party guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism—can sweep away the old order and open the door to the profoundly liberating communist future.

Contact us and help build networks of *RABBLE-ROUSER* readers and supporters. Get hold of CRCPA literature and the publications we have from Maoist comrades from all over the world, from Peru to Italy, Iran to the USA. Send us stamps and SEND US ANY MONEY YOU CAN. We rely completely upon the workers and the oppressed and revolutionary people for support.

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