



Bulletin

1/00

Information for revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist forces of all countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" – Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: January–March 2000

☆ Appears quarterly in Turkish, French, ENGLISH, Spanish, Italian and Russian ☆

The January leaflet of "Gegen die Strömung" carried the title:

What Do the Militant Mass Struggles in Ecuador Show?

In the introduction is said:

"For several weeks, the workers, peasants and students of Ecuador carried out on a huge scale very courageous and partly militant actions of protest, strike and resistance against the regime in Ecuador. On January 21, they even succeeded in occupying the parliament building and the government palace in the capital Quito for several hours, despite state of emergency and military blockade. Meanwhile, the fighters have retreated in order to discuss, to evaluate experiences and to gain new strength.

The events of the past few weeks display that in Ecuador the struggle of the Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian population against national oppression and discrimination combine with the anti-imperialist struggle against the oppression and exploitation by the imperialist countries (in Ecuador, especially against US imperialism), and with the social class struggle of the workers and peasants against the local reaction dependent on imperialism. The mass struggles in Ecuador show once again that the imperialists only appear to have everything under control, that behind this façade, there is seething unrest time and again because the imperialist system is unable to solve its contradictions on its own. They show that, because of the accelerating exploitation and oppression, the wretched of the earth will time and again rise in powerful struggles until the destruction of the criminal imperialist world system."

● **The struggles of the workers and peasants in Ecuador – an encouragement for the revolutionary workers and peasants of the whole world!**

Then, in a box stretching over two pages, some highlights of the militant mass struggles are presented in chronological order. The leaflet then further comments on the imperialist overlords of the ruling classes of Ecuador

"... The 'top brass' – in Ecuador, these are not only the big landlords and the comprador bourgeoisie, but most of all, also their imperialist overlords. Dominating at present as imperialist exploiter and oppressor is certainly US imperialism ... But certainly also German imperialism will use the opportunity to try to sell itself as the supposedly 'better' alternative to US imperialism, in order to strengthen its own influence there in its rivalry with US imperialism and the other imperialist powers."

● **Lessons from the struggles in Ecuador**

"The struggles of the workers and peasants in Ecuador have clearly shown that the question of state power and its instruments of power, especially of the army, is the central question of every victorious revolution ... In order to really put the question of power, the whole reactionary state apparatus (the reactionary army, police, administrative apparatus, the courts and the parliaments) must be smashed and replaced by new, revolutionary organs of the dictatorship of the workers in the cities and the countryside, in alliance with the exploited and working masses, a dictatorship which is first of all to serve the suppression of

the former exploiters and the defence against imperialist intervention.

The struggles in Ecuador have also shown with perfect clarity the necessity of a truly revolutionary Communist Party guided by scientific Communism and the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, a party which intervenes in the class struggles and step by step takes the lead, which evaluates and propagates the magnificent successes, but also criticises and fights the half-measures and weaknesses of these struggles and which, in the struggle against the different varieties of revisionism and right-wing opportunism, un-masks and destroys the false friends of the working masses and their bourgeois reformism and pacifism. This is the decisive lever in order to

successfully guide the developing mass struggles and to equip them with the revolutionary perspective of the violent destruction of the state apparatus of the big landlords and compradors of the imperialist powers, and the establishment of a democratic dictatorship of the workers and peasants of Ecuador, with the long-termed aim of the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

The leaflet also contains a topical contribution with the title "**60 days of hunger- and thirst-strike and international solidarity actions force prison administration of German imperialism to lift solitary confinement**", as well as an overview of the *Roter Presse-spiegel* of November/December 99 with facsimiles from the bourgeois, the democratic/anti-fascist and the opportunist press.



The February/March leaflet of "Gegen die Strömung" dealt with the matter of forced labour under Nazi fascism. In the introduction, the following statement was printed:

Statement of "Gegen die Strömung" on the just demands of those who were persecuted by Nazi fascism

1. "*Gegen die Strömung*" supports without reservation the demand of those who were persecuted by Nazi fascism for maximum, at least material, reparation and refers in first place to the unique dimension in the history of the world of the non-'reparable' murder crimes that German imperialism committed on a racist basis and systematically against the Jewish population and the Sinti and Roma, and on a racist-nationalist basis against the peoples assaulted by German imperialism, especially against the peoples of the Soviet Union and the population of Poland, but also and expressly against all other peoples assaulted by it.

2. In addition, it is important to point to the, as of yet largely unpunished, crimes committed against the survivors of the persecution, crimes of torture, torment, robbing them their freedom and murdering their family.

3. The Nazi fascist regime of German imperialism was not only a murderous regime, but

was also marked by robbery and murder and rapacious exploitation. Apart from the damages going into the billions which German imperialism inflicted on other countries by material destruction, there was direct plundering, robbery and the squeezing of the working power of millions of deported people which even the term "slave labour" hardly covers appropriately, used for the war of Nazi fascism as well as for the accumulation of riches.

4. The policy of annihilation and oppression of Nazi fascism employed the method of "divide and rule." The graded methods for the plundering of the human working power, methods which must be distinguished into various temporal stages, start from the so-called "voluntary" foreign workers attracted by mendacious promises, to the deported forced labourers in the countryside who were imprisoned and tormented by a sort of socage, to the slave labour in the KZs by prisoners of war and KZ prisoners, to the systematic annihilation by

work of large parts of the deported Jewish population as well as of the Sinti and Roma, whose labour power was squeezed for several weeks and months before they were tormented to death and murdered.

5. The historically important Potsdam Agreement obliged those guilty of all these crimes to maximum reparation as far as the material damage was concerned and stressed that not only the German state, but also the German population must not evade these demands. The survival and rising again of German imperialism after the defeat in World War II, the history of the violation of the Potsdam Agreement, the rejection of a peace treaty that would also settle the question of reparations – all this is also the history of the largely rejected just demands of the survivors for material reparation. For more than 50 years, German imperialism proved, by a mixture of denials, direct lies, distortions, juridical finesses and provocative justifications of Nazi fascist crimes, that it is preserving a true continuity between Nazi fascism and the state FRG.

6. "Gegen die Strömung" supports without reservation the just democratic demands for material reparation for all groups of people persecuted by Nazi fascism and sets itself the task of unmasking today's multifaceted manoeuvres of German imperialism which aim to "buy itself freedom" for ridiculous sums that must be seen as advertising costs for an alleged credibility. The most important thing in this is enlightenment about the extent of the crimes of Nazi fascism and the extent of the denial, covering up, playing down and relativisation of these crimes until today.

7. "Gegen die Strömung" stresses that it corresponds with the unshakeable principles of scientific Communism since Marx and Engels that

a) the large working masses share in the guilt unless they don't fight the crimes of the ruling class,

b) before the overthrow of the ruling class, the Communist forces lead the struggle against the ruling class for material reparations for the peoples exploited and mistreated by their "own" state

"The blame for the perfidies carried out in other countries with the help of Germany must be burdened, not only on the governments, but also on a large part of the German people. Without its blindness, its slavish cast of mind, its servility as lansquerent and 'good-natured' henchmen and tools of the masters 'by Grace of God,' the name of Germany would be less hated, condemned and despised abroad..."

(Engels, "German Foreign Policy", "Neue Rheinische Zeitung" no 33, July 3, 1848, Marx/Engels Works [German], vol. 5, p. 155)

"But now behind official Germany, socialist Germany is waiting in the wings, the party to which the future, the near future of the country belongs. As soon as this party takes power, it can neither execute nor even keep this power without making reparations because of the injustices committed by its predecessors in office against other nations."

(Engels, "Socialism in Germany," 1892, Marx/Engels Works [German], vol. 22, p. 253)

c) after the overthrow of the ruling class, the newly established power of the dictatorship of the working class and its socialist government has the duty to make reparations because of the crimes of the predecessor state and the predecessor government – as far as this is possible at all.

These programmatic basic thoughts of Marx and Engels have a special priority for the Communist forces within the big imperialist countries. "Gegen die Strömung," as a force for the building of the Communist Party in a country such as Germany, with its history of crimes committed with a far-reaching complicity of the masses of the working people, among them especially the crimes of Nazi fascism, commits itself to the struggle on this basis side by side with the working class of all countries, especially side by side with all those who were persecuted by Nazi fascism.

Direction of "Gegen die Strömung",
February 2000

In the opening paragraph of the leaflet is said:

"After reports interspersed with anti-Semitic overtones for months, at the end of last year the press announced that a solution had

finally been found and DM 10 thousands of millions would now be made available for the forced labourers who were persecuted by the Nazi regime. Apart from the baseness of this agreement of German imperialism with a huge variety of representatives of the associations of the persecuted, the democratic and Communist forces in Germany face large basic questions: before our eyes, historical injustice turns into today's injustice, and the complicity of the German working class and the other working people in the crimes of Nazi fascism turns into the complicity in tolerating today's actions of German imperialism. And behind this, there is the basic ideological question for the Communist forces in every imperialist state, especially in the big imperialist powers and first of all, in imperialist Germany, of how the Communist-oriented worker's movement and its allies confront the crimes of their "own" ruling class and the complicity in and toleration of these crimes by the working masses."

● **Development and breaks in the application of the Nazi fascist slave worker programme**

Following the marked historical incisions (the time before the start of World War II, from the beginning of World War II to 1941, and finally from the attack on the socialist Soviet Union), the leaflet describes in detail and with numerous facts the application of the graded Nazi fascist slave worker programme: the treatment of the so-called "foreign workers" in Nazi Germany, the deportation and enslavement of the forced labourers from the occupied Western countries, from Poland and the socialist Soviet Union, and finally the slave work of the KZ prisoners.

● **Slave work as part of the Nazi fascist annihilation programme: Jewish prisoners and Sinti and Roma in the Nazi KZs**

In a separate section, actions of resistance by forced labourers, prisoners of war and KZ prisoners are emphasized. Other matters treated further down are:

● **"... perhaps the biggest and most terrible slave enterprise in history..." (from the judgement of the Nuremberg trials)**

● **The complicity of the German workers and the rest of the working masses in the Nazi slave worker system**

"... The thousands of millions in profit that German financial capital squeezed out of the exploitation of the forced labourers in Nazi fascism have largely contributed to the renewed rise of German imperialism after the military destruction of Nazi Germany in 1945, and still form an important reason for the leading role of German criminal corporations like DaimlerChrysler, VW, BASF, Deutsche Bank etc. in the imperialist world market..."

But it was not only the corporations of German imperialism that made – and still make – profits from the enslavement of millions of people, but the whole German population profited from the enslavement, and does so to this very day ... The Communist Party in Germany must create a consciousness in the working class about its complicity in and responsibility for the crimes of German imperialism and must stand up within the working class for maximum future reparations which will be made by the German workers for these crimes of German imperialism..."

Also reprinted in the leaflet are *two justified criticisms that readers made* concerning publications of "Gegen die Strömung" during the last months.

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