



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, U.S.A.

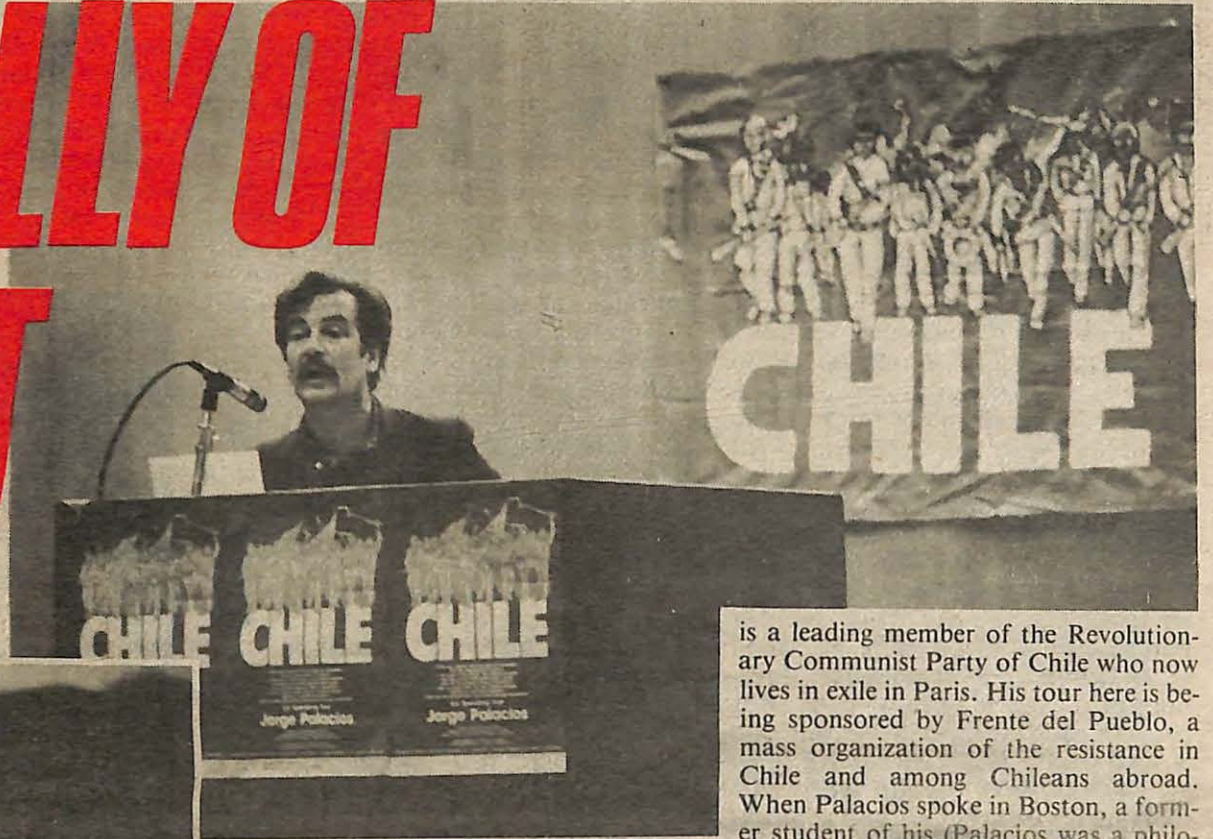
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CHILEAN REVOLUTIONARY IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

Revolutionary Worker

Jorge Palacios Arrives to Speak in U.S.

Revolutionary Worker



The U.S. tour of Jorge Palacios, a Chilean revolutionary leader, has finally begun. It is not to be missed. Wherever Comrade Palacios has spoken, his sharp and stinging analysis of the Chilean experience has been received with tremendous enthusiasm and has generated great discussion of key political principles. For those who do not know, Palacios

is a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile who now lives in exile in Paris. His tour here is being sponsored by Frente del Pueblo, a mass organization of the resistance in Chile and among Chileans abroad. When Palacios spoke in Boston, a former student of his (Palacios was a philosophy professor), who had not seen him for many years, came to greet him. There was an embrace—and jubilation that Palacios had escaped death at the hands of the generals who put him on their hit list when they took power in Chile in the fascist coup of 1973. In New York City another student told of how

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Chinese Revisionists Announce Trial of Mao

Tsetung.

That it is Mao who will be on trial has been made extra clear in recent weeks by the new official attacks launched on Mao's line and leadership. As we reported in last week's *RW*, leading Chinese official Yeh Chien-ying gave a major speech on September 29 summing up thirty years of history since China was liberated back in 1949. In it he described the 1966-1976 decade of the Cultural Revolution as "an appalling catastrophe suffered by all our people." The Cultural Revolution was personally initiated and led by Mao, and in fact concentrated Mao's greatest contributions to the theory and practice of continuing revolution after the working class seizes power—and of combatting the kind of reversion to capitalism that happened in the Soviet Union and has now happened in China.

In fact, if you strip the "polite" veneer off Yeh's speech given on behalf of the Party's Central Committee, it is clear that its view is identical to the more concise slogan now reportedly being circulated in China to sum up Mao's life, "Before liberation, great merit; after liberation, great mistakes; during the Cultural Revolution, crimes." Even

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HOW NOW DOW JONES?

The Stock market plunged downward last week day after day, with hundreds of millions of shares changing hands in some of the busiest days in Wall Street history, sustaining the worst drop in almost six years. Prices of stocks dropped across the board, adding up to one of the broadest declines in the history of the New York Stock Exchange. This plunge may be only momentary, but it is the latest sign of a crisis which is anything but momentary, and which goes very deep.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the 1929 crash, and this steep plunge has provoked many comparisons with that of 50 years ago which signaled the Great Depression. It is true, as bourgeois analysts hasten to point out, that there are many differences between the stock market of

1929 and that of 1979. One of the chief differences is that today corporations raise most of their capital (money invested in them) through loans rather than through the stock market, where shares in the companies are bought and sold. But nonetheless the stock market does remain an important financial market, and this fall in stock prices is certainly significant.

It is significant because it is a barometer, a sign of the underlying and deep crisis which grips U.S. imperialism. This particular stock market crisis may pass, but the underlying crisis of which it is just one more sign will not. Although this plunge is not as bad as that of 50 years ago, the economic crisis which underlies this one is even worse than that underlying the crash of

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Regional Conferences on Mao Defendants, May Day

See Centerfold

Jorge Palacios

Appearing in Los Angeles, Sat. Oct. 13, 3 p.m.
Fritchman Auditorium, 2936 W. 8th St.
For information on other appearances in
Southern California, call: Liberation Books, (213) 384-3856

Appearing Next in San Francisco, Fri. Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Mission United Presbyterian Church, 3261 23rd St.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.

La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berkeley

For information about other programs in the S.F. Bay Area, call:
Revolution Books, (415) 841-8314

Palacios

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he had heard of the RCP of Chile and Palacios while he was living in South America. Because he knew Palacios to be a genuine revolutionary leader, this youth came forward to offer to help protect Comrade Palacios while he was touring New York City.

The first leg of the tour began on the East Coast, with speeches in community centers and quite a few university campuses. In both Boston and New York City, the tour committee made headphones available at the key addresses, providing a simultaneous English translation of Palacios' speech. His incisive summation of the Chilean revolution acted as a compelling magnet, drawing vital questions from revolutionaries and other people from Chile, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Eritrea, and other countries, as well as native born from this country. In New York City, one hour had been allotted for questions and answers but it was expanded to two and a half hours. A reception followed.

Jorge Palacios was quickly crowded by people eager to share their experiences and to learn more. The reception turned into an informal question and answer session and continued for many hours more.

Palacios and those present locked in a critical exchange on how to make revolution, discussing experiences the world over—for example, the lessons of Chile for the Iranian revolution—and country by country. There was heated debate on how to apply Marxism to the specific conditions of Latin America, and if and how Mao's contributions to the theory of revolution in colonial and semi-colonial countries apply there.

Palacios drew out deeply the application of Marxism-Leninism and the thought of Mao Tsetung to Chile and its significance for the world.

It is beyond the scope of this article to report the many hours and depth of discussion but some key questions stood out. How does the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile actually work to unite the people to overthrow the junta? Why does the RCP of Chile say that some of the well-to-do middle sections, who were strong supporters of the coup at first, can and should be won over by the working class in the fight against fascism? What does it think about Allende, who died at the hands of the very generals he had called "neutral protectors of the Constitution"? What is the role of pro-Castro groups like the MIR?

Is there really a non-aligned countries movement in the world today? What is the RCP of Chile's position on the "three worlds" theory? Is a two stage revolution still necessary in the countries of Latin America? Many people were especially fascinated by Palacios' story of the 1964 meeting between Mao Tsetung and a delegation from the Chilean organization Spartacus, which had split off from the old CP and later went on to form the RCP of Chile.

Palacios' main speech itself, brought to life the historic struggle he has been a part of in Chile. Of course, Palacios himself pointed out, his book, *Chile: An Attempt at Historic Compromise—The Real Story of the Allende Years* (just published in English), goes into far greater detail than his speech could. His main presentations therefore expanded on the little known or understood role of the pro-Soviet Communist Party in Chile in sabotaging the Chilean revolution.

While denouncing the U.S. ruling class for unleashing the coup in Chile,

Palacios focused on the Soviet Union's different tactics in disputing with the U.S. for world hegemony. He pointed out that in the countries of Eastern Europe, such as Czechoslovakia, the Russians used armed intervention. In Africa, the Soviets gave phony "backing" to various liberation forces. But in Chile, in the "backyard" of U.S. imperialism, the USSR preached peaceful transition to socialism. The USSR chose not to directly defy the U.S. but to try to get in on the act as junior partners of the U.S. in the domination of Chile. This was why they promoted (and still promote) the treasonous conception that revolution is not necessary, that the working class and oppressed people could peacefully secure power without smashing the power of the reactionary classes in Chile.

In another example he explained how, when the capitalists in Chile attempted to topple Allende by shutting down factories, the workers not only occupied the buildings, but demanded arms to put down this reactionary "bosses strike." At one point he said even Allende had gone to the Central Committee of the CP and urged that the workers be armed. But the CP refused. The CP had even gone so far as to go all out to support a gun control law.

What became most apparent throughout Palacios' presentation was that had the Chilean working class and masses of people been armed with a genuine revolutionary leadership they would have been able to defeat the coup instigated by the U.S. Palacios added that the CP was more afraid of the masses than of fascism. And he explained the perspectives, strategy and present state of the Chilean struggle to overthrow the junta, liberate the country and bring about socialism—a struggle in which the correct analysis made by the RCP of Chile has enabled his Party to play an increasingly important role.

Because Palacios hits so hard at the reactionary rulers of the U.S. and the USSR, exposes their schemes and crimes and offers so much that is vitally important for revolution in this country, as well as in Chile and elsewhere, his tour has naturally met with great resistance, as well as support. When the U.S. government stalled in giving Palacios a visa to enter the U.S. a number of people, including professors and academic authorities, came forward to call, write and otherwise put pressure on the State Department.

Then there was the problem of the very sectarian attitude towards the tour taken by some groups and forces that have been active around Chile in the past, forces that claimed that this tour wasn't "significant" enough to merit their attention. This attitude flies in the face of the interest and enthusiasm shown by Chileans and other Latin Americans in the U.S., and of the fact that the RCP of Chile is one of the few organizations whose line has enabled it to survive the coup and grow, greatly expanding its influence in the heat of the resistance movement.

That the really "significant" problem is that some people are threatened by what Palacios has to say about the role of pro-Soviet revisionism in Chile has become increasingly apparent as these forces in the U.S. move from a "wall of silence" strategy—which is failing—to open attacks and sabotage. In the largely Latin American Mission district of San Francisco, a meeting hall which many weeks ago had been planned as the location for next week's main event there, was suddenly pulled out from under the tour with the explanation that it was "too political" and "too controversial"—but the hall was given

over to a fundraising event for the revisionist CPUSA. When another location was arranged, this too had to be changed because of CP pressure. These cowardly behind-the-scenes attacks have helped many people better understand the significance of Palacios' tour, and made them more enthusiastic.

The RCP, USA put out a leaflet which confronted the revisionists with the fact that it was their line and influence within the Allende government which led the Chilean people into the bloody ambush of the 1973 coup. Now, in some places, people connected with the CPUSA within the "Chile movement" have taken to screaming hysterically at the mere mention of the name Palacios—a name that represents quite a threat to their cozy little business of using phony "solidarity" with Chile to push the same line that lead to slaughter there.

The CP has put the word out that Palacios is "destroying the united front against fascism"—but the fact is that the RCP of Chile has shown in word and deed that it unites with all possible forces against the fascist military junta, providing that it is a unity to fight it. The ugly fact is that the Chilean CP has taken to maneuvers designed to allow it to "participate in the new institutionalization"—to be allowed to surface as a loyal opposition to the gorilla henchmen of U.S. imperialism, in exchange for their help in putting out the flames of resistance. This is the "united front" they are so worried about—a front which demands destruction! No wonder the pro-Soviet revisionists in this country and some forces who conciliate with them are getting more and more upset about the Palacios tour.

Wherever Palacios has spoken, it has had its impact on people, stirring controversy and debate over important questions of political line, providing concrete lessons, and bringing to life the worldwide nature of the working class fight for its emancipation. To hear Comrade Palacios' speaking tour is a rare experience. ■

Dow Jones

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'29. For at that time U.S. imperialism was on the ascendancy in the world, already taking over from the declining imperialism of Britain; but now it is on the defensive, past its peak. Compared to 50 years ago it is much more economically over-inflated, bloated, and parasitic. The unproductive sectors of the economy, including the vast bureaucratic apparatus of the state as well as the financial and marketing sectors, have grown enormously. Speculation by the capitalists, although more hidden than in the early part of this century, is rampant as they scramble to hedge against disaster. And all of this is balanced precariously over a tremendous chasm of ever-expanding credit and debt.

The stock plunge is a direct reaction to the measures the U.S. took last week to try to stem the fall of the dollar, which is itself another symptom of U.S. capitalism's crisis. In order to attempt to slow down inflation and halt the fall of the dollar internationally, the Federal Reserve announced several measures on October 6 to raise interest rates and generally tighten credit and the money supply. This makes it harder

Trial of Mao

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ship." Some people attack an individual in order to oppose the political line he or she stands for. The behavior of Yeh and his fellow revisionists toward Mao is a case in point.

In an article by an official "commentator" on October 3, with the up-sidedown title "A Correct Attitude Toward Marxism," these revisionists write, "It is superstitious if we consider every sentence uttered and every thesis made by a man as truth even if he is a Marxist. Lin Piao and the gang of 4 did not allow anyone to say that 'one divides into two' can be applied to Mao Tsetung Thought... We must uphold those of Comrade Mao Tsetung's theses that have been proven correct and correct those that have been proven incorrect." Translation? Mao was OK (maybe) before liberation in 1949 and to hell with him afterward. These revisionists want to chop up Mao's words into bits and pieces, tear their revolutionary heart out and maybe use a few little phrases here and there to cover their betrayal.

Maoism vs. Mao?

Nowhere is this clearer than in the way these revisionists are now defining Mao Tsetung Thought. As of now they are still using the words "Mao Tsetung Thought" to describe their ideology, but does this mean they uphold Mao and his basic teachings? Are you kidding? Instead, typically, we get a sleight of hand trick to smuggle in counter-revolution in the name of revolution. Yeh said, "Of course, Mao Tsetung Thought is not the product of Mao Tsetung's personal wisdom alone, it is also the product of the wisdom of his comrades-in-arms, the party and the revolutionary people." And what is this "collective wisdom"? Yeh is speaking of? Well, for one thing there is the "wisdom" of the Central Committee report Yeh gave which blasts Mao's line

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for corporations to raise capital and harder for consumers to get credit, and these both have the effect of "slowing down" the economy—in other words, less gets produced, more people get thrown out of work, and less gets bought—which is supposed to curb inflation. The major banks immediately raised their prime corporate interest rates a full 1% to a record 14 1/2%. It is these measures that triggered the stock plunge.

There is wide agreement within the ruling class that this restrictive program is the way to go at present, with all the most "liberal" politicians echoing Carter in backing the Federal Reserve action—for it seems to be the only option left, from a capitalist point of view. But it is certain to deepen the current recession (with unemployment being predicted to go up to 7% or 8%), and even then it is unclear whether this will really bring down the rate of inflation very much.

The bourgeoisie is caught in the same dilemmas as have faced it the entire decade of the 70's—inflation, monetary crisis, recession, either one after the other or all together. Getting out of one crisis only prepares the way for an even worse one. This current stockmarket plunge is only a crack in the surface, a crack that allows a better glimpse of the rot underneath. ■

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED

The battle to free Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants cannot be waged unless funds are raised. Legal expenses for a trial of this size and significance are enormous. But the decisive battle will take place outside the courtroom and that battle too needs money. At the end of this month 200 volunteers will be leaving their homes, families and jobs, in order to go to Washington, D.C. for the course of the trial. Your financial contributions are urgently needed to enable these frontline fighters to turn Washington, D.C. into the major political battlefield that this trial demands. They will be making tremendous personal sacrifices, and tremendous financial sacrifices by many others will be required to support them and to carry this battle to victory.