

# Hail the Second Anniversary of the Iranian Revolution!

February 1981 marks the second anniversary of the powerful revolution of the Iranian people which overthrew the U.S.-backed fascist dictatorship of the Shah. This revolution overthrew the Shah's regime which was one of the most barbaric and bloody governments of recent times. The overthrow of the Shah inspired the oppressed masses the world over, giving them confidence that if the Shah could go then any other fascist could be overthrown as well.

The Iranian revolution shook the positions of world imperialism and in particular was a big defeat for U.S. imperialism and its multinational oil corporations. For 25 years U.S. imperialism had propped up this despotic regime which it had brought into power in 1953 through a criminal CIA-organized coup d'etat. The Shah's fascist rule had given free rein to the imperialist monopolies to plunder the land, resources and labor of the Iranian people. It had served as the "policeman" for U.S. imperialism's oil interests throughout the Persian Gulf region.

Two years ago, this "island of stability" in the Middle East was toppled by the mighty upsurge of the Iranian masses. For more than a year the heroic Iranian people rose up in powerful storms of mass revolutionary struggle against the fascist dictatorship, shaking the country from one corner to the other. Then in January-February 1979, after driving the Shah out of the country with their revolt, the Iranian workers, peasants, youth and broad masses in their tens of thousands took up arms against the fascist armed forces of the Shah's government. The troops were unable to stand up to the insurrectionary force of the people. The Shah's military machine crumbled like a giant with feet of clay. In the forefront of this powerful upsurge stood the proletariat which, especially through the protracted strikes of the oil workers, paralyzed the fascist regime and greatly contributed to its surrender.

The Iranian revolution was a genuine people's revolution. The struggle was not some mere palace coup or the activity of a handful but a fight that brought into motion the working masses in their millions. Amidst the storms of popular struggle, the working masses were schooled, tempered and steeled. Through this struggle, the masses seized many rights and positions which they had been denied under the Shah. The Iranian revolution overthrew the monarchy and forced the Shah and his lackey Bakhtiar to flee the country. It meted out revolutionary justice to many of the SAVAK and other murdering hoodlums of the Shah's regime. It powerfully shook imperialism's positions in Iran. At the same time, it is true that while the workers, peasants and broad masses did the fighting, with immense courage and sacrifice, they have still not brought the anti-imperialist democratic revolution to completion.

## Defend the Iranian Revolution!

World imperialism itself recognizes the serious setback it suffered in Iran and has not reconciled itself to it. It is trying with all its power to reverse the revolutionary process and restore its lost paradise. This is providing further impetus to the continuation of the revolutionary struggle in Iran. Today the Iranian revolution continues in the face of the fierce attempts by imperialism and internal reaction to strangle it. Hence it is the responsibility of all progressive, anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces to remain steadfast in defense of the Iranian revolution.

U.S. imperialism has unleashed a series of brutal measures to force the Iranian people into submission. It has mounted an economic blockade and imposed severe political pressure against Iran. It has surrounded Iran with a huge military encirclement in the Persian Gulf, poised for carrying out open military aggression. In April 1980, the Carter government ordered its infamous armed raid into Iran, which ended in a fiasco. Since the early days of September 1980, world imperialism has instigated a full-scale armed invasion of Iran through the reactionary Iraqi government in order to force the Iranian people to their knees. Today, after the release of the U.S. embassy personnel from Iran, the U.S. imperialists are screaming for "revenge" and hatching up new plots against the Iranian people.

In its plots to strangle the Iranian revolution, imperialism is assisted by the forces of domestic reaction in Iran. It uses the fact that the structures of the Shah's regime were not thoroughly smashed in order to use the loyalists of the old regime to plot to restore the monarchy. Hence it keeps the elements of the SAVAK network active inside Iran. It is also assisted in this by the nests of pro-Shah elements in Iraq,



Picture shows the heroic Iranian masses in struggle against U.S. imperialism. The Iranian revolution which overthrew the Shah hit powerful blows against world imperialism which had propped up the hated monarchy.

Egypt, Europe, the USA, and elsewhere.

Furthermore, in Iran the Khomeini government rode in on the crest of the people's revolution. This is a government which is committed to stopping the revolution halfway. This government is neither the same as that of the Shah nor is it a government of the toiling masses. It is not a regime like the Shah, because the monarchy was indeed overthrown in Iran, and the present regime has not been able to consolidate a reactionary state power and do away with the revolutionary situation which persists in the Iranian society. The revolution continues in Iran. On the other hand, this regime is not a government of the working masses because it takes measures against the masses. It seeks to prevent the fulfillment of the aspirations for which the people have fought and died. It attacks the democratic rights of the masses, carries out repression of the revolutionary forces, opposes the achievement of the economic rights of the toilers, and ruthlessly attacks the oppressed nationalities. This regime is frightened of the upsurge of the people. It is based on the bourgeoisie of town and country and has antagonistic contradictions with the masses.

At the same time, this regime has a complex relationship with imperialism. On the one hand, imperialism seeks to overthrow it altogether and restore an utterly reactionary regime in order to crush the revolution. On the other hand, imperialism has also shown its interest in coming to an accommodation with the Khomeini regime against the revolution.

Since such a government rules in the main by presenting itself as a government of the revolution, it faces the party of the proletariat with the complexities of dealing with such issues as the people's faith in the government and the twists and turns of the actual policies of the government. In the face of the complicated situation, the revolution continues in Iran. This is manifested in the struggles of the workers, peasants, oppressed nationalities and so forth. The masses are holding aloft the banner of struggle against imperialism and the reactionary Iraqi aggression. As well, the fight for the defense and extension of the various democratic rights, and for the improvement of their economic conditions goes on.

Only the aroused workers, peasants and broad toiling masses can carry the revolution forward. History has placed the task of leading the revolution to victory on the shoulders of the working masses led by the party of the proletariat, the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran. This Party holds high the struggle against imperialism's plots to strangle the Iranian revolution. It closely links this struggle to the struggle of the working class and other toilers for their democratic and economic rights. The Party works for the independent revolutionary organization of the working masses who are the real motive force of the revolution.

Hence, on the second anniversary of the overthrow of the Shah, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the USA calls upon the American proletariat and all progressive people to staunchly defend the Iranian revolution! Denounce the hysteria campaign against Iran and the imperialist plots to strangle the Iranian people! As well, consistent support for the Iranian revolution means support for the motive force of the revolution, the working masses. The MLP, USA reaffirms its support for the voice and leadership of the toiling masses of Iran, the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran.

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The importance of the task of remaining steadfast in defense of the Iranian revolution is underscored by the activities of opportunism which stand opposed to the mobilization of the people against the attempts of imperialism to strangle the Iranian revolution. Friends of our Party in the solidarity movement with the Iranian revolution in the U.S. have asked us to



Photo: Anti-draft demonstration organized by the MLP in New York City on January 10, 1981. The Party vigorously defends the Iranian revolution against the attacks of U.S. imperialism.

comment on the stand of one such opportunist trend which is represented by the supporters and conciliators of PEYKAR (Organization of Struggle in the Path to Emancipate the Working Class).

This is an important question because PEYKAR has betrayed the struggle against imperialism in Iran. Today they are openly opposing the struggle against the attempts to strangle the Iranian revolution such as the Iraqi aggression. This stand of PEYKAR and its conciliators is based on the fact that they deny the role of imperialism in oppressing the people of Iran and Iraq, and they deny the revolution in Iran altogether. This of course is not a new stand on the part of PEYKAR: today it denounces the whole Iranian revolution with the excuse that the Iranian regime is reactionary, while only yesterday PEYKAR denounced the struggle of the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party against the attacks of the regime by characterizing the shock troops of the Islamic Republican Party as "revolutionary" elements of the "petit bourgeoisie," etc. All along, PEYKAR has had nothing but the worst abuse for the revolutionary party of the Iranian proletariat, the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran.

## PEYKAR's Reactionary Stand on the Iran-Iraq War

With the Iraqi invasion of Iran, PEYKAR has come out openly with its treacherous stand. Today it shamelessly stands in a position of open betrayal of the Iranian revolution.

PEYKAR and its conciliators take the position that both sides in the Iran-Iraq war are equally reactionary. Thus they oppose the struggle of the Iranian revolution against the imperialist efforts to strangle it. But the fact remains that in this war which has pit fraternal peoples against one another, the counter-revolutionary objectives of the Iraqi government are very well known. For instance, it is no secret that Bakhtiar and General Oveissi, the notorious "Butcher of Tehran," enjoy the support of the Iraqi regime, and that the Iraqi government itself is organizing several thousands of the ex-Shah's monarchist officers. Indeed the Iraqi regime's objectives are no less than the restoration of reaction and to serve up a broken and weakened Iran to the imperialist vultures. In this nefarious task, the Iraqi regime has been instigated by both Western imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. As well, it has the full backing of the medieval and reactionary forces in the region, such as that of the Saudi Arabian feudal monarchy and the Jordanian regime of fascist cutthroats.

By refusing to take a stand against this invasion which is yet another of imperialism's plots against the revolution, PEYKAR has adopted the position of standing aside and allowing the Iranian revolution to be crushed with fire and sword. PEYKAR of course dresses this up in all kinds of "revolutionary" phrases and pretends that this is opposition to domestic reaction in Iran. What hogwash! It is clear that domestic reaction wishes to eliminate the situation of a halfway government and crush the revolution altogether. In fact, domestic reaction wishes to utilize the Iraqi aggression and seeks to use it to crush the people and teach them a lesson. It is well known in this respect that the reactionary generals in the Iranian army have, to a certain extent, kept the Iranian army from fighting the aggression so that the brunt of the fighting has fallen on the shoulders of the irregular forces and the people.

At the same time, the Khomeini government is trying to use the Iran-Iraq war to strengthen itself against the masses. Right from the outset, our Party pointed to the attempts of the Khomeini government to utilize the war in its own favor. But our Party also pointed out that this should not stand in the way of fighting imperialism's attempts to strangle the Iranian revolution. As well, the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran has

commented on the stand of one such opportunist trend which is represented by the supporters and conciliators of PEYKAR (Organization of Struggle in the Path to Emancipate the Working Class). This is an important question because PEYKAR has betrayed the struggle against imperialism in Iran. Today they are openly opposing the struggle against the attempts to strangle the Iranian revolution such as the Iraqi aggression. This stand of PEYKAR and its conciliators is based on the fact that they deny the role of imperialism in oppressing the people of Iran and Iraq, and they deny the revolution in Iran altogether. This of course is not a new stand on the part of PEYKAR: today it denounces the whole Iranian revolution with the excuse that the Iranian regime is reactionary, while only yesterday PEYKAR denounced the struggle of the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party against the attacks of the regime by characterizing the shock troops of the Islamic Republican Party as "revolutionary" elements of the "petit bourgeoisie," etc. All along, PEYKAR has had nothing but the worst abuse for the revolutionary party of the Iranian proletariat, the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran.

## PEYKAR and Its Conciliators Deny the Imperialist-Inspired Nature of the Iraqi Invasion

In order to justify its traitorous position, PEYKAR makes mincemeat out of all the facts concerning the situation facing the Iranian people. As apologists for imperialism, PEYKAR spends its time denying that imperialism instigated the Iraqi aggression against Iran. This is nothing but to give a "left" cover to Carter's claims to "neutrality" in the Iran-Iraq war.

In its "Manifesto" "on the War between Iran and Iraq," PEYKAR thinks that the imperialist-inspired nature of the Iraqi aggression is so slight that it writes: "...the American imperialism at present is subject to many contradictions which cannot be discussed here, including those between it and

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## Thousand React



Above: A scene from the demonstration on January 24 which denounced Reagan. Right: Picture shows the Party's contingent demonstration in downtown Chicago.

Ronald Reagan is already hated as a rabid warmonger, racist and transparent front man for the capitalist monopolies. He was just taking the oath of office when in a number of cities across the country mass protests took place against him. In Washington, D.C., Chicago, Seattle and other cities thousands of people joined the marches and rallies against Reagan on the January 20 inauguration day. As well, in Boston on January 24 over 1,000 people came out in a militant demonstration to denounce this new chieftain of capitalist reaction. These demonstrations reflect the outrage against him that is boiling up among the broad masses of working and oppressed people.

The Marxist-Leninist Party vigorously took part in many of the anti-Reagan demonstrations. In Boston the contingent of the MLP carried out a variety of activities.

As the demonstration in Boston was assembling, a cultural group of the MLP began singing songs against Reaganite reaction and performed a skit which denounced the draft and war preparations of the U.S. imperialists. About 300 people gathered around to watch the performance and many joined in the singing of the songs.

The MLP leaflet was well received. It denounced Reagan's program of starvation, fascism and war. This leaflet emphasized that the Democratic Party is no opposition to Reagan, but in fact has the same capitalist program. The leaflet explained that the real force against Reagan is the work-

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the ruling elite in Iran." (pp. 10-11, PEYKAR pamphlet No. 10, issued in English by the UISUS, emphasis ours) Thus, according to PEYKAR, the Iranian revolution has disappeared, replaced by the "ruling elite" in Iran. Furthermore, just imagine, in a manifesto on the war between Iran and Iraq, the role of U.S. imperialism "cannot be discussed"! The shamelessness of PEYKAR is simply astonishing!

But they cannot completely hide the facts, so they are forced to briefly mention that "the policies of American imperialism and those of the Iraqi regime (have drawn) together for the present war." (*Ibid.*, p. 11) But not only this, PEYKAR even admits that "American imperialism (is) using Iraqi military invasion to encourage counter-revolution and destroy revolution." (*Ibid.*, p. 11) But PEYKAR is so determined to take a reactionary position that even facts like these do "not change even slightly the unjust character of the war waged by the two regimes." (*Ibid.*, p. 11) What incredible bootlickers of imperialism!

Further whitewashing imperialism, PEYKAR writes that "Iranian and Iraqi regimes cannot be regarded as the complete puppets of any imperialist." (*Ibid.*, p. 9) Why, for PEYKAR, imperialism has simply vanished from the Persian Gulf. The reactionary regime in Iraq is not propped up by world imperialism. Oh no, it only "has very close links with Russian social-imperialism," and "during recent years...has also moved towards the European and U.S. imperialists, making different treaties with them." (*Ibid.*, pp. 9-10) But despite all these self-acknowledged facts, and even

while calling it "the fascist Ba'ath regime" (*Ibid.*, p. 5) PEYKAR paints the fairy tale that the situation in Iraq, ruled by a fascist regime dependent on imperialism, is the same as the situation in Iran where a revolution exists that is fighting imperialism. In other words, PEYKAR will go to any length to cover up the hand of imperialism that stands behind the Iraqi aggression against Iran.

#### PEYKAR and Its Conciliators Deny the Iranian Revolution

In its statement on the Iran-Iraq war, PEYKAR makes it abundantly clear what its fundamental premise is concerning the situation in Iran. Behind PEYKAR's condemnation of the struggle against the attempts to strangle the Iranian revolution stands its assessment that the Iranian revolution is over. According to them, there is nothing but the ruling regime. Thus the only contradiction with American imperialism which PEYKAR recognizes in Iran is that with the "ruling elite."

PEYKAR shows that it is simply unable to deal with the particularity of the present situation in Iran since the February 1979 revolution, which is that a government committed to stopping the revolution halfway has come to power in Iran. Instead, PEYKAR presents the situation today as if the Shah's regime had been restored.

**To defend the Iranian revolution or define it out of existence. To fight for the defense and continuation of the revolution against imperialism and reaction or to capitulate to imperialism and domestic reaction while throwing one's hands up in despair and incomprehension at the difficulty caused by the Khomeini government dedicated to stopping the revolution halfway.**

This is the key question raised by PEYKAR's denial of the revolution.

Actually, PEYKAR has not yet taken a consistent stand on any question of the Iranian revolution. Today it renounces the Iranian revolution in the face of the attempts to strangle it, under the pretext that the revolution has already been stamped out by Khomeini. But only yesterday, this same PEYKAR flirted with the shock troops of reaction in the Islamic Republican Party and promoted this reaction as "anti-imperialist." PEYKAR used the thin excuse that this was necessary in order to oppose the machinations of the "liberal" Bani-Sadr faction of the regime. At the same time, they opposed the struggle led by the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party for the democratic rights of the people against the repression of the regime, labeling it as "premature," "trotskyite," "economist" and a negation of the anti-imperialist movement! Today, PEYKAR appears to have taken a 180 degree turn and denounces the whole regime. But this is nothing but a ruse. None of PEYKAR's stands follow from a consistent attitude towards the revolution and the regime. PEYKAR's only consistency lies in the fact that whatever the attacks on the people, PEYKAR has been able to come up with a reason to support these attacks, whether they come from the imperialists or the ruling regime.

#### PEYKAR Stands for Unity With Revisionism and Opportunism

PEYKAR's stand shows the sorry effects of opportunism. Opportunism dresses up its rotten positions in revolutionary or even "Marxist-Leninist" phraseology, but it ends up capitulating to imperialism just the same. However, PEYKAR's treachery is not limit-

ed to such matters as the Iran-Iraq war. It also stands for unity of the revisionist and opportunist forces while it seeks to liquidate the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party.

PEYKAR expresses this with its opposition to the Party and by calling for "unity of all Marxist-Leninists." But how can an organization like PEYKAR, which takes the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party as its worst enemy, call for unity of the Marxist-Leninists?

In fact, PEYKAR is simply using the old neo-revisionist trick of denouncing the Party as premature and instead calling for unity of all kinds of revisionist forces. Its appeals are addressed to those forces which are conciliators of Soviet and Chinese revisionism. These forces PEYKAR dresses up as allegedly Marxist-Leninist forces. Thus PEYKAR seeks to replace the Party with an unprincipled bloc of opportunist forces.

PEYKAR has the same unprincipled attitude towards the international Marxist-Leninist communist movement. It seeks to find middle ground between Chinese revisionism and Marxism-Leninism. PEYKAR defended Maoism from the criticism of the Marxist-Leninists. But when the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party punctured PEYKAR's support for Maoism, PEYKAR then "criticized" Maoism a little. But still, it continues to praise "Comrade Mao." At the same time, PEYKAR seeks to balance its ever so timid criticism of Maoism with attacks on the Party of Labor of Albania. According to this group, which flails around in the marsh of opportunism, Mao is still great but maybe deserved a little "criticism." But then PEYKAR rushes to compensate it with attacks on the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist forces such as the

PLA.

The Workers' And Peasants' Communist Party of Iran has boldly defended the party principle and refuted PEYKAR's call for a united bloc of opportunist forces. The Party of the Iranian proletariat was reestablished after decades of torturous struggle against revisionism. Costly sacrifices have been made in the course of this struggle and in the fight against reaction.

These victories and sacrifices cannot be abandoned in the face of the opportunist maneuvers of PEYKAR and those who seek to conciliate with it.

*Defend the Iranian revolution from imperialism's efforts to strangle it!*

*Support the Workers' and Peasants' Communist Party of Iran!*

*Away with opportunism!*

*Victory to the struggle of the toiling masses of Iran!* □

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