Revolted Generation

THE PRESENT ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY A SPECIALIST ON THESE PROBLEMS, DEALS WITH THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE YOUTH AND STUDENT MOVEMENT OF THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, ITS TENDENCIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND OBJECTIVES

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Today you can easily feel the pulse of the capitalist system by means of two significant indicators: the class struggle of the working people against capital and its power and the economic crises. Certainly, these two aspects are closely connected with one another and are supplemented by other aspects such as the national liberation struggles of the peoples and those for the defence of national independence against imperialist aggression, colonialism and neocolonialism, and the political struggle of various social strata for democratic freedoms and rights, in which an ever more important place is being occupied by youth and students.

However, the present-day laws of the development of society have brought to the fore a new significant aspect. Unlike the pre-imperialist period, when the labour movement was not yet well organized on a world scale, today the class struggle of the working people has a stable priority with regard to the economic crises of the capitalist system. While the economic crises have known between them also periods of temporary stability, the class struggle has constantly been in the rise, irrespective of the oscillations it has had from time to time due to the betrayal of social democracy, of opportunism and modern revisionism. In the pre-imperialist period the economic crises, as expressions of more savage forms of capitalist exploitation and oppression, constituted the decisive stimulating factor in organizing the class struggle of the proletariat. In the imperialist period the class struggle of
singing day an aspiration of the peoples of the world. Speaking about these problems at the 6th Congress of the PLA, Enver Hoxha said: "The class struggle of the proletariat and of the other exploited social strata has assumed such proportions, both as regards the number of the participants and its sharpness, that the present-day period could be compared with the most critical periods which the bourgeoisie of the capitalist countries has gone through." And further on, dealing with the younger generation of these countries, he pointed out: "Another particularity of the class struggle against the capitalist exploiting system and the imperialist policy is the outbreak everywhere of the youth and student movement which is changing into a powerful revolutionary force of our times... It is now in search of the truth and the truth is leading and will lead it for certain towards the union with the working class, towards the revolution."

This objective appraisal of the youth and student movement appears before us clear and complete as soon as we cast a glance on our globe.

One of the most important gains registered in these recent years by the youth and student movement in the capitalist world is, no doubt, the growth of political consciousness in the ranks of the rising generation. This was achieved thanks to a protracted, toilsome, sanguinary struggle. It is interesting to consider one of the most fiery stages of the student struggle, that of the year 1968. This struggle (from the outside aspect, for within it seethed with general indignation) began with simple demands relating to the decadent educational system and trade union rights, but soon it passed over to political demands. Then the revolted students began to take the real road and this began to lead them to the Working class. Although the struggle of the students in the capitalist countries during the year 1968 was suppressed by the state apparatus of the bourgeoisie through fire and betrayal, the feeling of the demand for a clear ideological and political platform began to take root in the student movement.

In these last four years the political struggle of the students in the imperialist metropolises themselves has shaken the power of capital. It has stretched even to the countries included in the framework of the influence of the imperialists and modern revisionists, encompassing the five continents of the terrestrial globe. At the same time the worker youth which makes up the most vivid and exploited stratum of the working class goes on strike from time to time, has the initiative in its hands and takes part in political manifestations playing an important role in trade union and political re-organisation, especially in the period following the revisionist betrayal. Likewise, the peasant youth, particularly that of the countries of typical feudal-bourgeois exploitation, as in Latin America, Africa and Asia, clashes with the imperialist forces and with the local reactionaries.

In many countries of the world, where the peoples are fighting arms in hand for national liberation or for the defence of their national independence, as in Indochina, Thailand, Burma, Malaya, the Philippines, in the Portuguese colonies of Africa, in the Arab countries, in Ireland or Columbia and elsewhere, the younger generation makes up the main force of the national liberation armies or of the guerrilla units. Not only that. In the areas occupied by the aggressors or in those which are under the control of the mercenary forces, the youth and students are in the front-ranks of the political demonstrations and manifestations of various social strata. The alliance of youth and of the other broad popular masses and its role in the strengthening of the anti-imperialist unity is clearly expressed in them.

An important aspect of the struggle of the rising generation is the political struggle against the imperialist and revisionist aggression which is expressed in the internationalist solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Indochina, with that of the Palestinian people, with the struggle of the Czechoslovak people, with the struggle for civil rights against racial discrimination in the United States of America, South Africa, etc., and finally with the struggle of the students in various countries of the world for freedom, progress and democratic rights. These facts speak of the existence of the feeling of protest, of general opposition to the existing capitalist order, that has gripped the younger generation to such a degree that it has compelled the very ideologists of the bourgeoisie to call it the "insurgent generation."

Actually, facing the youth and student movement is a very important problem. It is the question of the ideological and orga-
nisational platform of this movement. This
movement itself, being a mass movement,
has advanced more in the political aspect
than in the ideological and organisational
aspects. For this reason, too the
Marxist-Leninist principle of connecting
and placing the youth and student
movement under the leadership of
the working class and of its vanguard
party (it is a question of a genuine
Marxist-Leninist party) is in our days for-
celly rising and gaining momentum with
every passing day in this movement. This
demand is becoming a necessity, a law for
the successful development of this move-
ment. The youth and students find in
the working class, in its ideological plat-
form and organisational experience a
quaranty for the success of their pro-
gramme, for the attainment of the targets
of their struggle. The youth and students are
seeing for themselves that when they are
separated from the working class, on
many occasions they have not realized
even the minimum demands of their strug-
gle which has been easily suppressed by
the power of capital. Similar examples in
Europe, on the American continent and in
other countries are already known. On the
other side in these very regions and other
countries, when the youth and student
movement has ensured unity with the re-
volutionary struggle of the working class,
creating a common anti-imperialist and
anti-monopoly front, successes and victo-
ries have been scored in the economic and
political fields, such as the struggle against
the imperialist aggression, the fascist dan-
ger (as in Italy), etc. At the same time,
the experience of the youth and student
movement in the countries where the po-
wer of capital was overthrown and which
engaged in the road of socialism, united
their struggle with that of the other labour-
ing masses under the leadership of the
working class and its party, for the de-
struction of fascism and for the victory of
the democratic and socialist revolution, is
an example of inspiration and mobiliza-
tion for the youth and student movements
in various countries, which are fighting
against aggression, colonialism and neo-
colonialism.
Under these conditions the reason for
which the bourgeoisie and its lackeys re-
sort to all forms and means to distract the
younger generation from politics, from
class struggle, is clear. These forms and
means begin with instigating and throwing
individual strata of youth into a dissipate
and aimless life, into the creation of
environments with a spiritual vacuum, the
decadent fashion, the use of narcotics and
ending with the empty public theories
and discussions on the «freedom of sex»
erotics and pornography, followed with
new» variants of the bourgeois philosophy
about the «withering away of the class
struggle», the gradual disappearance of
the bourgeoisie as a class and its substi-
tution with technocracy. There are also
such theories as «the struggle between
generations» and the losing of the van-
guard role of the working class» and the
substitution of this role by the stu-
dents and intelligentsia. All these theories
in one way or another aim at spreading
ideological confusion among the ranks of
the rising generation, especially now that
the propaganda about the «communist dan-
ger» finds no ground as one time. At
the same time the bourgeoisie, more fre-
cently using its servants, such as the modern
revisionists and social-democracy, exerts
constant pressure, blacklist and countless
divisions in order to split the youth and
student movement from the organisational
point of view, and at the most critical
moments it also resorts to police violence
and terror against this movement.
In the extent of the successes achieved by
the youth and student movement a nega-
tive role has been played by the betrayal
of the modern revisionists who resort
to all forms of propaganda and interfer-
ence, to all the means of corruption and
subversion to divide this movement, to
isolate and detach it from the working
class. The students and youth have ex-
perienced and continue to experience this
betrayal on themselves, which shows
that the modern revisionists, be they their
Soviet chiefs or the French, Italian, Span-
ish, British, American and other revisio-
nists, have objectively ranked themselves
on a par with the power of capital. More
than anything else, they fear the unity of
youth and students with the working
class, therefore they obstruct, sabotage and
rise against their joint actions. It occurred
so with the youth and student movements
during the year 1968 in France and in
other capitalist countries, it is occurring
so also in our days. The modern revision-
ists went as far as to call the revolted
students «hooligans», «adventurers». These
renegades, by means of their tools at the
leading forums of the international youth
and student organisations and of some
national organisations, while making fuss
with their demagogical slogan «We accuse
imperialism», take no concrete action for
real unity of the youth and student move-
mament with the working class. And while
they put out some general words about
this problem, sham unity is hidden behind
them in as much as the very cause of the
working class has been betrayed by the
modern revisionists.
However, the anti-imperialist and progres-
sive youth and student movement is advan-
cing. The idea of the revolution in the
ranks of youth and students is no more a
vague idea or an instigation and mobili-
zation of the fresh forces of the rising
generation for incomplete social reforms
in the frame of capital or for partial poli-
tical gains. It is becoming a clear, inspi-
rising, mobilizing idea with definite objec-
tives. Also in the least meaning of this idea,
which is expressed through the liberation
struggle of the peoples or through the
struggle for the defence of democratic
rights, the range of the revolted thought
goes beyond these limits. This is seen in
the very programmes of the struggles of
this nature which raise the problem of
continuing the revolution.