

IRANIAN STUDENTS BOYCOTT CLASSES TO PROTEST another Vietnam

Iran, one of the oil-richest countries of the world, is in flames!

In the last few months Iran's political situation has been in the headlines of the world's news media, with daily reports regarding Iran erupting in rebellion, people battling the Shah's police and army in every city of Iran. Millions of people -- women, children, shopkeepers, workers, progressive religious leaders, peasants, students, teachers, civil servants, lawyers and judges, progressive writers and poets -- have taken to the streets demonstrating against the dictatorial regime of the Shah with their thundering chants: 'Death to the Shah! End the U.S. domination of Iran.' People have set fire to government buildings, banks, police and army stations, and attacked the U.S. Embassy and everything they can get their hands on that symbolizes the regime of the Shah and his masters.

The rising protests have been spurred on by recent walkouts of the Iranian working class, particularly the oil industry workers, whose strike has squeezed shut the life-blood of the Shah's regime -- oil. The fierce determination of the Iranian people, their refusal to yield to bullets or bribes, has backed the Shah up against the wall. Worry, even fear, is gripping the U.S. high and mighty, for the Shah's regime has long been a loyal watchdog over the oil-rich Persian Gulf area for Exxon, Texaco, Mobil, and the other monopoly corporations.

Now, as the Shah is reeling from the hammer blows of the people's struggle, the U.S. politicians and media have leaped to the regime's defense. They picture him as a 'liberal modernizer who is being unjustly attacked by reactionary Moslem fanatics determined to hold back the clock in Iran.' Would millions of people take to the streets of Iran, risking their lives, so that they and their children can live a worse life, with more poverty and oppression and backwardness? No -- the people are fighting exactly to do away with all this, to free the 100,000 political prisoners, to end the torture chambers, the poverty, and the plunder of Iran by the U.S. military, big business, and the Shah, the so-called 'modernizer' who calls himself 'King of Kings, Lord of Lords, The Shadow of God.'

For the justification of the Shah's barbaric rule and paving the way for U.S. military intervention in Iran, the U.S. government and the news media have started a campaign to mislead the American public by raising 'the menace of a Soviet takeover if the Shah falls.' But is this the only choice for the Iranian people, to live under the domination of other countries when the U.S. is out? Are thousands giving their lives to throw out one master, only to welcome another? No! First of all the Iranian people do not consider the Soviet Union as their ally. Secondly, the Iranian people are fighting to run their own country, to be free of the U.S. and all masters and all foreign domination. The people of Iran are the ones who will decide.

The news media then waxes patriotic and tries to seduce the American people with talk of 'our interest in Iran' and 'our oil.' Since when is it in the interests of the American people to support vicious dictators like the Shah, to massacre thousands who are fighting for a decent life for their people? As the Chicago Sun-Times put it, 'the Shah may be a despot, but he's our despot.' The Shah

is their (U.S. monopolies') despot, protecting their billions in oil profits and murdering our brothers and sisters -- the Iranian people who break their backs working all their lives, just like the American people, only to make some rich man richer.

The Iranian people's struggle has reached new dimensions since last year. Each attack from the Shah's regime has only enraged more people and made new enemies. On September 8, 1978, faced with demonstrations of millions of people, the Shah in desperation ordered a bloodbath. By nightfall, thousands lay dead in the streets, and many more were wounded. The people called it Black Friday. Jimmy Carter telephoned the Shah and offered his 'personal support.' By the next morning the grief and tears had turned to fury and determination: funeral marches were turned into demonstrations and rallies against the regime.

After two more months of continuous demonstrations and bloodshed by the Shah's U.S.-backed army, President Carter again telephoned the Shah with his support and told the press: "We wish the Shah our best and hope the present disturbances can soon be resolved. We're thankful for his move toward democracy. We know it's opposed by some who resist democratic principles. But his progressive administration is very valuable, I think, to the entire Western world." (November 1, 1978). At the time of Crown Prince Reza's visit to the White House, Carter said, "the Shah is for progress in Iran." Does imposing martial law throughout Iran, sending his troops equipped with U.S.-made weapons to the streets, massacring thousands in a single day (September 8), killing and injuring hundreds more every day, and finally declaring military government mean progress? No. The people of the world do not take this as progress. This is Jimmy Carter and his "human rights" definition of progress, and this is why Jimmy Carter and his administration are giving full approval and support to the Shah's regime.

Along with the stick, the regime held out the carrot, too, promising a little more money, getting rid of a few particularly hated officials here and there. It didn't work. One group of workers rejected a 100% pay raise, calling it a bribe, and instead demanded freedom for all political prisoners. The people want an end to the whole system -- not a face-life for the same old oppression.

The Iranian people will not cease their struggle. In Iran today billions go into the bank accounts of oil executives and their puppets like the Shah, while the people are hungry and live in shanty towns. Workers get an average of \$3-\$4 a day in wages - 120 of every 1000 babies dies before age one.

A U.S.-sponsored coup brought the Shah back to power in 1953. Hundreds of U.S. corporations rushed to Iran, plundering natural and human resources. The U.S. government created and trained SAVAK, and the U.S. has sold over \$18 billion worth of the most sophisticated weapons to the Shah and stationed over 40,000 military advisors. Today the threat of direct U.S. military intervention grows. The day may come when they call on the American people to fight and die to support the empire and gun down freedom-loving people of Iran. But, in the days of the Vietnam War, Americans showed they will not support such a war. In view of this, on Thursday, December 7, all patriotic Iranian students and their American supporters will boycott their classes in support of the heroic struggle of Iranians to overthrow the Shah's regime and put an end to U.S. government involvement in Iran. -- IRANIAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Phone 294-7242

Memorial Union, Room #2

SUPPORT THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE
IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL AGAINST THE SHAH'S REGIME