World Capitalist Crisis and the Rise of the Right

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It has jack boots with iron heels...

**Contemporary Marxism:**
**Target of Right-Wing U.S. Labor Party**

As we literally go to press with this issue of Contemporary Marxism, our journal, our Institute for the Study of Labor and Economic Crisis, our sister journal Crime and Social Justice, our publisher Synthesis Publications, our Editorial Board, and many of our friends and supporters are directly threatened by the "Rise of the Right."

Specifically, we have been targeted for malicious slander, red baiting and possible criminal prosecution by the National Democratic Policy Committee—also known as the U.S. Labor Party, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), the Fusion Energy Foundation and the National Anti-Drug Coalition. On February 1 and 2, 1982, the U.S. Labor Party held press conferences in Sacramento and Oakland, California, and simultaneously turned over to the California Attorney General (George Deukmejian) and the Alameda County District Attorney a "brief" and supporting documents which charge that:

- Based on a mass of new evidence, Italian government sources have stressed that international terrorism is a single entity with a single international command and control. A key part of that command is located in the U.S. at Berkeley.

- Since the late 1950's the branch of the social sciences known alternately as "criminology" and "international law" and "deviance studies" has been a thinly veiled cover for the training, recruiting and deploying of international terrorist organizations of both the red (communist) and black (neo-fascist) varieties. The "mother" through which this criminology/sociology apparatus has been organized is the London Tavistock Institute, a semi-official branch of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) which emerged out of the Psychiatric Division of the British Army.

- [At Berkeley] a group of Italian, German and British graduate students were trained in behavior modification and deviance control methods of recruiting prisoners, drug addicts and other criminal elements into revolutionary organizations. Among the students in this initial "insurgent sociology" network was Giovanni Senzani, a leader of the Red Brigades...

- Tony Platt was identified as a controller of the San Francisco area branch of the Black Panther Party and of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).

These so-called charges belong more in the realm of science fiction than political debate. They are analogous to allegations made by the U.S. Labor Party against the Institute for Policy Studies, Jean-Paul Sartre, Daniel Ellsberg, Noam Chomsky, Ralph Nader, Margaret Mead and Gunnar Myrdal. At first sight, these charges appear to be the lunatic ramblings of a paranoid
schizophrenic, to be dismissed or pitied, certainly not deserving even one paragraph of comment in a serious journal like Contemporary Marxism. But there is much more here than first meets the eye, and it would be a very serious mistake to ignore this incident or to simply analyze it according to psychological categories.

Why do we take this so seriously and why do we ask you to share our concern?

First, these ravings of an apparent madman were taken very seriously by the local and possibly national media. Without first verifying the accuracy of the “charges” or investigating the veracity of the U.S. Labor Party, the media (television, radio and press) graphically reported the story as “news” and raised the specter of Berkeley-San Francisco as the headquarters of “international terrorism” and the training ground for the Red Brigades. Radio and television stations puffed up their non-story with teasers about local connections to the kidnapping of General Dozier. In this whole barrage of media coverage, the U.S. Labor Party was not subjected to any kind of serious scrutiny.

Secondly, the U.S. Labor Party directly provided the state with “intelligence” and “security” reports, encouraging local and state prosecutors to investigate a wide variety of progressive organizations and individuals in California and throughout the country. It is of particular significance that George Deukmejian, the California Attorney General, is a leading figure in the right wing of the Republican Party, with close ties to the National Rifle Association, the Reagan Administration and a complex network of “law and order” organizations. Deukmejian, who is currently campaigning to become the next governor of California, has built his career as an “antiterrorist” crusader and is notorious for his reactionary political views. The U.S. Labor Party has potentially given Deukmejian ammunition for both his political career and his fight against “terrorism.”

Thus, the apparent ravings of the lunatic fringe are legitimated and used by the bourgeois media and the state apparatus. The end result is the widespread articulation of the imagery of international terrorism, the use of scare tactics and ideological codes to discredit progressive organizations and individuals, and the possibility of criminal prosecution, witch hunts and other repercussions. In short, it is a classic operation of “destabilization,” the fruits of some thirty years of counterinsurgency experience by the CIA and other intelligence agencies around the world, now being applied inside the U.S. In fact, in 1976 two German newspapers, Die Tat and Unsere Zeit, alleged that CIA Director Colby admitted CIA funding of $90,000 a year to NCLC.

This local incident in San Francisco is, of course, neither an isolated occurrence nor a particularly new tactic by the U.S. Labor Party. Over the years, going back at least to the 1973 CounterSpy exposé of the National Caucus of Labor Committees as “Brownshirts of the Seventies,” there have been many reports and investigations in the progressive and established press. Documentation of the NCLC (and its various front organizations) as a right-wing terrorist organization has appeared, for example, in Rolling Stone (January 1974), New York Times (July 1974), Wall Street Journal (October 1975), Science (November 1975), Seattle Sun (October 1976), Village Voice (June 1977), WIN (July 1977), Guardian (Fall 1981) and Mother Jones (January 1982).

What these investigations suggest is that NCLC (U.S. Labor Party, etc.) is a long-standing organization which has demonstrated considerable staying power; NCLC is a right-wing organization with ties to the state apparatus and the right wing of the bourgeoisie; NCLC is active in a variety of countries through a complex of interlocking organizations; NCLC is very well financed and well connected; and NCLC has a proven track record of “destabilization” against progressive political and labor organizations.

The recent activities of the U.S. Labor Party suggest that it is becoming more active, stronger and bolder. Under the Reagan Administration—with its unshackling of the intelligence apparatus and its collusion with and benign neglect of the ultra-right—the U.S. Labor Party can count on the government to either ignore or cooperate with its policies of right-wing terrorism.

We think that the U.S. Labor Party represents a sign of the times. It can certainly not be ignored; nor can it be regarded as an independent organization of the New Right; nor can we simply regard it as a throwback to McCarthyism. While the U.S. Labor Party uses many of the methods and tactics of the New Right, of the intelligence apparatus,
The excerpts from the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) press release reprinted below are part of an 80-page packet distributed by NDPC to the California State Attorney General's office and the press. The chairman of the Advisory Council of the NDPC is Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., head of the U.S. Labor Party and its presidential candidate. Much of the packet material is from the U.S. Labor Party's Executive Intelligence Review, including security "information" on Tony Platt, Marlene Dixon and other internationally known authors. The NDPC packet contains the Crime and Social Justice and Contemporary Marxism mastheads, tables of contents and back issues lists. It also contains announcements for other ISLEC publications and for Punishment and Penal Discipline, edited by Tony Platt and Paul Takagi.

One example from the NDPC (U.S. Labor Party) document follows:

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE FACT-FINDING DIVISION PRESS RELEASE
Issued by Khushro Ghandhi, West Coast Coordinator
February 1, 1982

Re-Open Investigation of Berkeley Terrorists

It is a matter of the national security of several nations, that the California Attorney General and the Alameda County District Attorney and other law enforcement agencies immediately re-open investigation of the radical "criminology/sociology" networks centered at the University of California at Berkeley. . . .

There are four principal agencies through which the international criminologist network deploys itself:

1. The International Law Association: the ILA is the oldest "criminology" organization. It is dominated by Major Louis Bloomfield, member of the board of the 1960's "Permindex" company which was implicated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and expelled from France for over 30 aborted assassination attempts on President Charles De Gaulle.

2. The International Institute for Advanced Criminal Sciences: the IIACS is located in Syracuse, Sicily and run by the University of Chicago-based M. Cherif Bassiouni.

3. The International Center of Comparative Criminology: the ICC is headquartered at the Department of Criminology of the University of Montreal and is headed by Professor Denis Szabo, a close collaborator of Louis Bloomfield. Szabo's department was instrumental in the formation of the Canadian terrorist Le Front de Liberation du Quebec (FLQ).

4. The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control: the Euro-Group was a direct outgrowth of the early 1970's University of California at Berkeley. It was formally constituted at a 1973 conference in Florence, attended by representatives of the previously named groups and associates of the Berkeley crowd.

Berkeley and the Euro-Group

The Euro-Group project was run by Dr. Leslie T. Wilkins, a former official of the British Home Office and Tavistock Institute consultant who assumed the post of acting dean of the Criminology School in Berkeley in 1969. Wilkins wrote one of the key texts of the radical criminologists in 1964, entitled "Social Deviance" and published by Tavistock Institute. The theory of "Social Deviance" is a blatant apology for terrorism. In essence, according to the theory, the modern capitalist nation-state is the real criminal institution while criminals and terrorists are forced into "deviance" by a criminal society.

Under Wilkins and a Wilkins protege Professor Tony Platt, a group of Italian, German and British graduate students were trained in behavior modification and deviance control methods of recruiting prisoners, drug addicts and other criminal elements into revolutionary organizations. Among the students in this initial "insurgent sociology" network was Giovanni Senzani, a leader of the Red Brigades, according to Italian authorities.

Also according to sources in Italy, Professor Luigi Ferrari-Bravo was another Berkeley criminologist student during the early 1970's period of the Euro-Group's formation. Ferrari-Bravo set for many years on the board of the International Law Association; his brother is presently in prison on charges that he was second in command to Professor Tony Negri in the Padua command of the Red Brigades.

The Berkeley experiment in training terrorists was aborted in 1976 after investigations by the California State Police and the California Attorney General's office led to public hearings and an outcry against the pro-terrorist activities emanating from the Criminology School.

Subsequently, the Berkeley network re-deployed into the University's Sociology department and into a San Francisco radical printing company called "Synthesis Press." In the context of the public hearings, Tony Platt was identified as a controller of the San Francisco area branch of the Black Panther Party and of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). . . .
and of McCarthyism, it is much more than the sum of its past. Rather, we must understand that the U.S. Labor Party is a prototype of what we can expect from the ruling class and the state in a period of world capitalist crisis and the imposition of austerity policies on the working class. The U.S. Labor Party represents a new kind of counter-insurgency in the U.S.: it combines sinister terrorism (both real and ideological) with sophisticated destabilization; its operations in several countries reveal a high degree of international coordination. It is not to be taken lightly.

We ask for your help and support. Please send us any information that you have about the activities of the U.S. Labor Party (and its fronts) in your community. In the forthcoming issue of our sister journal, Crime and Social Justice, we will have a much more thorough investigation and analysis of the U.S. Labor Party. We welcome your information, observations and analysis. Also, in Crime and Social Justice we will include a discussion of our own experience in combating the U.S. Labor Party and proposals for long-term organizing against right-wing repression.

The Editors
February 2, 1982