

Why Asians should support PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

Yesterday, Asia, and in particular, the Philippine islands, were colonized by the same act of American jingoism as it had colonized the island of Puerto Rico. The same American battleships, driven by the same frenzied desire for markets, capital and the quest for colonial domination, had gunned down the Philippine people as they had mowed down the patriots of Puerto Rico.

Today, Asians from Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines, etc., and Puerto Ricans from Puerto Rico live under the same roof in the slum of the lower east side, suffer the same animal like treatments in the public hospitals and breath the same stinking air from the dirty streets of New York. Under these conditions, it is no wonder that Asian and Puerto Rican people struggle against the racist educational system which perpetually confines us to the ghetto; march side by side in the same picket lines against the wretched work conditions in sweat shops and their illegal wage scales; and fight side by side for better jobs, for example, in the construction industry. Our Asian and Puerto Rican peoples have faced weal and woe together through thick and thin throughout these struggles.

Colonial subjugation in the past and national oppression here and now tightly bind our two people together with a common destiny. United we stand, divided we fall. That is why we have to support Puerto Rican independence. We must now take up the fight for Puerto Rican independence just as we did for our kith and kin of Indo-China, who have fought long and hard against U.S. imperialism and for independence.

No nation can be free if it oppresses another nation. The strength that the American ruling class derives from the oppression of Puerto Rico, shackles the American working class. On the other hand, the liberation of Puerto Rico helps to weaken the cruel system of American monopoly capitalism and helps the American peoples struggle for their emancipation. Thus our future is bound up with the success of each others struggle and the support we lend to each other.

Why do the Puerto Rican people want independence?

For many years, the fertile islands of Puerto Rico was dominated by Spain. Since 1898, it has been a formal colony of the U.S.

U.S. imperialism, through its corporations, government and military, has suppressed Puerto Rico's political, economic and social development--denying the Puerto Rican people of all their rights as a nation.

- The U.S. controls citizenship, migration, communications, education, radio and television in Puerto Rico;
- The U.S. also has control over all trade and currency. U.S. corporations such as in the oil and copper industries, extract tremendous profits from the natural resources, the labor of the people and by using Puerto as a market;
- The working people in Puerto Rico are exploited as a cheap labor source, while the unemployment rate is 30%. Many Puerto Ricans, kept in such poverty, have been forced to leave Puerto Rico, only to be used again as a cheap labor source here in the U.S.
- 13% of the island's best agricultural land is occupied by U.S. military bases. The presence of the military is also used for political repression of the Puerto Rican people.

The Puerto Rican people have a history of fighting to defend their national rights. Today the independence movement is rapidly growing, with nationwide labor strikes, student struggles, etc. This resistance has brought the colonial situation of Puerto Rico to world attention, including discussion in the U.N.

Puerto Rico's fight for political independence, to break the colonial ties and free themselves from imperialist control, is an important one-- in order that Puerto Rico can rightfully develop its independent economy social system, cultural life, etc.

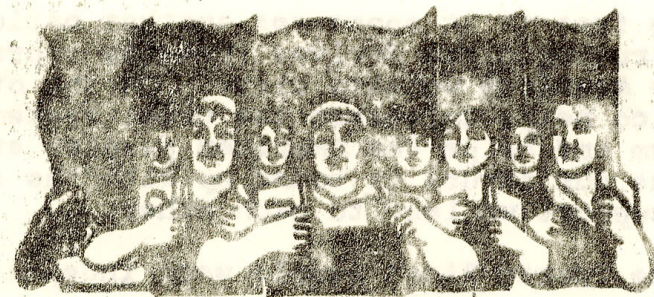
Like Vietnam, the Puerto Rican independence movement is part of a worldwide upsurge of the oppressed peoples against imperialism, particularly in the Third World. Around the world, more peoples, nations, and countries want to determine their futures without imperialist interference or domination.

INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!!

Oct. 27 *****COME TO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN OCTOBER 27 *****Oct. 27
 and
 Oct. 12 ***** FORUM ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE ***** Oct. 12

presented by the Asian Ad Hoc Committee, on the second saturday
 in October--- October 12
 7:30 p.m.
 at United Asian Center, 43 W. 28th Street

ALL OUT FOR
 PUERTO RICO'S
 INDEPENDENCE!!
 ALL OUT ON
 OCTOBER 12!!
 ALL OUT ON
 OCTOBER 27!!



Sponsored by Asian Ad Hoc Committee to Support October 27--Puerto Rican Independence

---a coalition of Asian groups and individuals.