Yesterday's Brother ... Tomorrows? 

Jim Kennedy Albuquerque, N.M.

I wonder about the resolution of the National Convention last June that reads, "We contend that whenever the government feels that some Left group is so dangerous that the government must attack and destroy it, we will support that group by all the resources at our command, regardless of the group's political ideology." I don't question the resolution — I just wonder if its spirit doesn't require a much wider application — if it doesn't apply to defense of individuals, of American (and also foreign) revolutionaries subjected to attack, slander, lies, etc., not only by the government but also by supposedly "left wing" groups themselves (or by even Socialists governments)? And if it doesn't mean to us all, the right to a fair and honest inquiry — question the strange silence of others in the U.S. left when their foreign comrades are involved — be they the Chinese or Soviets. There are several cases in point.

Case I — hypothetical. A member of a "Revolutionary" (actually social democratic) Party's governing body is accused — on the basis of a letter "found" in another's car — of being a fish, an FBI agent, a traitor, and summarily expelled... without the due process provided for in that Party's constitution. The charges and expulsion are published in the Party's Totalitarian newspaper as well as in the West. The expulsion has a long record of militant activity — 38 years — and also serious differences with the majority of the "leaders" of this Leninist Party — hence the swiftness of his expulsion. Three years later, in a closed session of the Party Convention the Party leadership admits that the evidence isn't coming in as expected and further investigation is warranted. During all this time the expelled "fish" has continued to fight the McCarran Act, opposed the War in Vietnam, and acted as a radical — contrast this with the actions of police agents, such as Philip Abbott Luce. For four years after the expulsion the National Committee of the Party finally decides on the basis of evidence that the charges are in their entirety false... the man is in no sense a police agent... he is fully innocent of the crimes for which he was expelled. But he is NOT to be reinstated in the Party. Four months pass — and still NO PUBLIC exoneration of this man, NO PUBLIC admission of the innocence of a man publicly branded FBI agent four years earlier.

Such a case was it to happen seems to warrant pressure from SDS and others for what is really at stake is political persecution of a man by a "revolutionary" Party because of past differences over that Party's opportunistic and reformist line. Wholows what if the guy involved was framed — maybe it was the FBI who did it, maybe bacteriologists in his own Party who wanted him out of the way? But surely Revolutionaries must come to his defense — demand his public exoneration and a full airing of all the facts and circumstances in the case... or forever wonder about the honesty, veracity, and democracy of the Party involved — of its failure to abide by its own constitution, to protect the innocent, to clear their names, to end bureaucratic disposal of unpopular people — what if our case involved a Party with State power, what then? Could such a Party ever be put on trial? (continued on p. 4)

Concerning the Eventual Radicalization of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Richard Florovanti Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

Forget it. Maybe.

Not knowing what exactly went on in the Army myself, I couldn't work out an effective program for radicalization within it. In case you are approached by other like-minded individuals in the fascist system, here is a short outline of what an organism might expect, assuming my own experiences to be typical. (I'm Na'fi Guard, so I will be out of active duty within two months. Nevertheless I hope to receive exactly the same training and treatment as those going to Vietnam.)

(1) The normal officers and non-commissioned officers (this excludes the minute opposition of medical corpsmen or chaplains like Capt. Levy — actually even most of these are fascists, too) are almost to a man dedicated to the power structure and the war in Vietnam. The hope of free opinion lies not with the career army types but with the draftees. Naturally.

(2) By the time they enter the Army, quite a few draftees' minds are totally closed to discussion. Most, from rural areas and regions like the South and Midwest, have been thoroughly brainwashed by society, environment, and the news and opinions-making machines available to them (which mostly include such trash as Superman and Steve Canyon, or such duds heroes as John Glen's, My Own Ex-Orbit). Some of these people who were confirmed bigots at the tender age of 18. Of course, such stereotyped individuals had stereotyped me as well — I became the company hippie, explaining LSD to the uninitiated.

(3) The prospective clients of a New Left in the Army are another type of professional soldier, sort of an antithesis of the "proletarian" type. Some of them are Negroes who have nowhere else to go for social acceptance, bopper-type escapists who are in trouble with the law or with creditors, etc. All of these are all escaping from a social position worse than the Army, and so they recognize organic to those of us who do want to come to the conclusion the Army is unsatisfactory as an escape. One must systematize (прилагательное) his or her confused thoughts on the relationship of the military system to the corporate liberalism of their civilian life. For my own part, I failed in this respect because the 1984 election of President Ford was a disaster as I am sure was the 1980 election of President Carter. However, I believe that what is really at stake is political persecution of a man by a "revolutionary" Party because of past differences over that Party's opportunistic and reformist line. Wholows what if the guy involved was framed — maybe it was the FBI who did it, maybe bacteriologists in his own Party who wanted him out of the way? But surely Revolutionaries must come to his defense — demand his public exoneration and a full airing of all the facts and circumstances in the case... or forever wonder about the honesty, veracity, and democracy of the Party involved — of its failure to abide by its own constitution, to protect the innocent, to clear their names, to end bureaucratic disposal of unpopular people — what if our case involved a Party with State power, what then? Could such a Party ever be put on trial? (continued on p. 4)

"DEVIL'S ISLAND"

Over 200,000 political prisoners have been taken by the fascist military junta in Greece. According to a news release issued on April 19, 1967, some 1,000 persons were taken in an attack on the house of the first secretary of the Greek Communist Party. The prisoners include 6,500 workers, 5,000 students, 500 members of political organizations, 450 members of the Communist Party, and 350 members of other political organizations. The prisoners are subjected to brutal treatment. The prison camp is called "devil's island.

"...Dawn came but the streets remained empty. The only points where there was some movement were the circuses and the Aek and Karaiskaki stadiums where the prisoners were gathered before being loaded into trucks.

"The desert island was all of a sudden 'inhabited' by 6,500 people on May 15. The climate is very bad and even plants can not grow. The island is 90% barren. The only vegetation is found near the changing rooms under the stands — 7x15 yards and the other 8x4 yards. The prisoners slept in turns because there was not enough room for them all to lie down."

"On their arrival the prisoners setup makeshift tents. In a place called a 'kitchen' they prepared a kind of black soup. This soup was very bad and put on the ground, the fire often went out and the soup was full of sand. For days we ate only bread. We were not allowed to receive parcels from relatives. Any parcels and money sent for us remained in Syros."

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Dear Steve,

The following is a letter received by Steve Halliwell in response to his article "Personal Liberation and Social Change," as it was printed in NCNP's New Politics News. Excerpts from the article were reprinted in the Sept. 4 NLN.

December 18, 1967

Dear NAC Inc.

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Norman O. Brown

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Yours,
Jeff Shero
Austin, Tex.

On the 20th of July, newspapers from Alaska to Argentina bore headlines referring to the "MEXICOBARES PEKING PLOT." Sure enough, the news was true. TheVO's (Venezuela, Ortega's) has been working on the different phases of draft resistance and organizing. The following is a list of points with which a draft counselor should deal when he is trying to help a guy with the Army problem.

1. Make sure that you ask all of the relevant questions with respect to all possible classifications—you may miss an obvious deferment.
2. Draw up a questionnaire or a list of how to test and ween evidence, and cover all of the questions religiously.
3. Make sure that these questions also reflect each of the classification factors. For example, if a registra-
tion indicates that he is a student, he should be cleared before he is inducted in the Army. If he has been to Mexico, he is subject to ten years' imprisonment.

Fortunately, I was able to meet and spend a couple of weeks with some of the thirteen before their arrest. For more information, write to me at 1100 W. 25th St., Austin, Texas 78705, and see next week's continuation.

In the words of the長者, "The Mood In Europe'

In Germany where the organization is bad, the German SDS begins to move, "Fuck the Army."

"Too many hip guys getting drafted. Too many black guys who fought the national guard. Do something real—help them get out of the Army."

In all the places the soldier rests—Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Frankfurt—they are there. The number is growing.

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continued from p. 1
obvious Stalinist view of legality, of inno-
cence, guilt, and self-criticism ever be truly
trustworthy? Can honest revolu-
tionaries ever be sure of alliances with
such parties, if indeed it matters if this is
an old story? Saks in Czechoslovakia, Harich in East Germany, Rajk in Hungary, on
Arendt and Bernstein, a CPUSA, found innocent but not publicly cleared by the
Party of American reformism last June at their National Con-
ceration. Is this the left-wing M cCarthyi
sm?

Has anyone heard anything 0fficially from the CP as yet on the persecution of writers Sinyavsky and Daniel in the Soviet Union? Or what of the Voznesensky inci-
dent?

The Worker, that stalwart defender of the rights of the CP of America, has re-
sumed doing what it does best: producing something that makes the NAC want to
strike! The NAC decided that it should be made clear that space would be devoted to the mobilization’s point of view, and that space should be requested in their paper to present our position,