

The Spreading Flames of Wrath

— The American Negro Struggle —

by COMMENTATOR

THE Negro struggle in Los Angeles, Chicago and other places in the United States continues to spread. Like a volcano erupting from the trembling earth beneath, the fire of this struggle from the outset has been powerful in intensity and gigantic in magnitude.

This is the largest Negro struggle against violence in the postwar United States. Thousands of Negroes in Los Angeles, undaunted by atrocities and defying death, countered the ruling authority's force with force, fighting heroically and stubbornly against the police. Despite the fact that their casualties ran to several hundred and some two thousand people were arrested, Los Angeles Negroes refused to yield and staunchly carried on the fight wave after wave. In response, Negroes in other cities held street demonstrations, bringing the struggle of the American Negroes against violence to a new peak.

The Chinese people firmly support the just struggle of their American Negro brothers and vehemently protest against the atrocities of the American ruling circles in their bloody suppression of the Negro masses.

The almost 19 million Negroes in the United States make up 10 per cent of the total population. Yet they are in the lowest stratum of the American society, victims of insults and wrongs. **On the surface the Negro question is a racial question, but as Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out: "In the final analysis, a national struggle is a question of class struggle."** Through racial discrimination American monopoly capital carries out monstrous exploitation of the Negro workers. The class contradictions between the Negroes and monopoly capital in the United States are irreconcilable. Fraudulent measures adopted from time to time by Kennedy and Johnson, such as the "civil rights programme" and the "civil rights bill," have not changed the political and economic status of the American Negroes. On the contrary, such trickery is resorted to because U.S. monopoly capital wants to consolidate its rule and perpetuate the enslavement of the Negro people. It is also because of this that the Negroes' fight for democratic rights and better living conditions is bound to continue and develop, no matter what tricks are used by the American ruling circles. The outbreak of the present struggle against violence in Los Angeles and other cities is a continuation of the

1963 American Negroes' struggle against racial discrimination and testifies to the fact that the Negro movement for freedom and emancipation is irresistible.

The Los Angeles Negro struggle has taken on a new character: The Negro people have linked their opposition to the reactionary domestic policy of the Johnson Administration to their opposition to its policy of aggression abroad. Negro demonstrators shouted: "We'd rather fight for the Negroes here than go to Viet Nam and fight." Negroes as well as broad sections of the American people have come to realize that their suffering is inseparable from the policy that the U.S. ruling circles carry out overseas. This signifies that the American Negroes are arriving at a new awakening, and something new has been added to their struggle.

American ruling circles are stupefied in face of the tremendous Negro struggle. The bourgeois press in the United States slanderously calls the Negroes "mobs" and the U.S. Government is sending more troops to heighten its cold-blooded suppression. And Johnson has been raging, saying that he would do everything in his power to "restore law and order in Los Angeles." But everybody knows those using violence against the Negroes are the American Government itself, the Ku Klux Klan and the racists who spare no effort in defending the capitalist system in the United States. Johnson's words foretell that the American rulers will go a step further in violence. The "order" which he wants to restore is clearly the "order" in which the U.S. slavemasters can exploit Negroes at will and maltreat and kill them whenever they wish.

The Negro struggle in Los Angeles and other American cities is a real revolutionary movement. Like the people's revolutionary movement in other lands which is always victorious in the end, the American Negro struggle eventually will be crowned with success. The American Negroes are not fighting alone. The entire anti-U.S.-imperialist force of the world is on their side and fighting shoulder to shoulder with them. United with the peoples of the world and struggling together, the American Negroes and the broad masses of the American people will completely defeat U.S. imperialism!

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