

reader opinion

Protest a move to halt crimes

The March 10 demonstration against campus complicity with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was a big step forward in building a movement to halt CIA and CIA-style crimes. It should hasten the day that the CIA recruiters pledge, "We do not go where we are not wanted," will be applied to Angola, Chile, Iran and elsewhere throughout the world.

Less impressed was noted logician Stephen Karganovic, who took up half the Monday Daily Student opinion page to rant and rave about how horrible the Young Socialist Alliance is for helping build the demonstration and working with the Committee to End Campus Complicity with the CIA (CECCIA). He tells us that we Trotskyists should be "grateful" to the CIA for not having murdered us (not in the United States, at least, although the CIA's record in other countries, notably Chile and Argentina, is less generous) but "only" infiltrates and disrupts our movement. As a law student Karganovic could at least point out that such domestic surveillance supposedly is forbidden by the CIA's own charter. But he is too busy lecturing us about "hypocrisy" to allow facts to get in his way. With equally astounding logic, Karganovic tells us that we should show our "gratitude" to the American government for granting certain civil liberties by not fighting to *expand* those civil liberties and by not opposing the governments *abridgment* of these rights.

Karganovic accuses the Trotskyist movement of a "death instinct" and charges it with "abstention" in the fight against Stalinism and the KGB. Absurd! The Trotskyist movement was born out of a struggle against Stalinism and its police state terror and remains to this day its bitter opponent. Trotskyists have campaigned throughout the world against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, in solidarity with anti-Stalinist upsurges in Eastern Europe, for freedom for all Soviet dissidents, from Solzhenitsyn to Pyotr Grigorenko and Leonid Plyusch, and for freedom for political prisoners in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, the Ukraine, China and elsewhere. We have built rallies, demonstrations, petitions drives and teach-ins in this effort. We do so because we believe socialism and democracy are inseparable and that the anti-Stalinist revolution in the East will deal a powerful blow to capitalism in the West.

Karganovic raises the specter of Stalinism only to white-wash the crimes of U.S. imperialism and police state agencies such as the

CIA -- incidentally these crimes have been going on long before there was a "Communist threat" bogeyman to "save" us from. He doesn't like it being pointed out that the CIA is so cynical that it even murders the errant U.S. hirelings in the Third World such as Diem and Trujillo. There isn't much horror among the thieves Karganovic apologizes for.

Where Karganovic shows his true colors is on the issue of Vietnam. He justifies the sordid record of imperialist bloodletting in Vietnam by bringing up the alleged 1968 NLF "terrorist" massacre at Hue -- a massacre which subsequently has been shown to be the work of U.S. bombers and artillery, the real practitioners of terrorism in Vietnam. Karganovic whines about the exposure of U.S. war crimes in Indochina; "Every aspect of American conduct has been discussed publicly (and magnified) in this rotten country." "Rotten country"? It's amusing how fast Karganovic's assessment of the American people changes once they become upset over governmental wrongdoing. He adds, "One of the culprits has even been court-martialed." Our Daily Student Kremlinologist hardly should need to be reminded that even the Soviets can produce scapegoats when they are needed. The real culprits, or war criminals to be more exact, are men like Nixon, Kissinger, Laird, McNamara and their like who walk the streets as free men.

Karganovic's justification for U.S. involvement in Vietnam during his defense of the CIA is no coincidence. It was revelations about the real nature of U.S. involvement in Vietnam which showed many Americans that the "enemy" was not some foreign power but here at home and headquartered in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, the "enemy" which the U.S. government hides its secrets from turned out to be not some foreign power (they knew about it anyway) but the American public. When the people found out the real nature of the war they forced the government to pull out of Vietnam, and U.S. imperialism lost its first war. And very few persons, Karganovic among them, were terribly shook up when this happened. I suppose that's why he calls the United States a rotten country. And that is why the public has a right to know about the CIA and other sordid police state agencies.

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for the Young Socialist Alliance