

# ANTI-ROTC STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

On March 4, the Womens Student Action Committee at the University of Puerto Rico held an anti-ROTC demonstration led by 300 women. Fighting broke out between demonstrators and ROTC cadets. When a Liga Socialista student leader was shot, students fought back harder and Dean Benitez called in a police squad aided by helicopter.

About 3,000 students joined the demonstration burning the Air Force Headquarters and the ROTC building. During the four hours required by the police to clear the campus one woman was shot to death and 13 wounded. 17 police were hospitalized. Off campus fighting continued for another 5 hours.

The struggle against ROTC has also intensified in the U.S. Last week Stanford students renewed their fight to end ROTC. At Washington University in St. Louis, the students simply boarded up the ROTC building.

The struggle in Puerto Rico demonstrates two ways in which the army and its elite corps, ROTC graduates, are used to oppress workers and Third world people. As in Vietnam, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, in Puerto Rico the US Army is the ultimate force which allows US corporations to strip-off raw materials and cheap labor.

The total value of international production today (the total of all countries sales and production abroad) is around \$250 Billion. Some \$180 billion of this comes from U.S. plants: \$30 billion in the form of exports from the United States and \$150 billion produced by U.S. plants operating abroad (Business Abroad, 10-4-67). The overseas capacity of American firms increased about 150% between 1957 and 1965 while manufacturing capacity within the U.S. rose only 39% during the same period.

The Army's role in this is spelled out by Chase Manhattan's Vice-President for Far Eastern Affairs, Alfred Wentworth: "In the past, foreign investors have been some what wary of the overall political prospects for the (Southeast Asia) region. I must say, though, that the U.S. actions in Vietnam this year, which have demonstrated that the U.S. will continue to give effective protection to the Free nations of the region, have considerably reassured Asian and Western investors."

Puerto Rico also shows how the Army, commanded by ROTC graduates is used to oppress working people and Third world people at home. From manning the searchlight helicopter gunships over the black communities of Newark and Detroit to delivering the mail last month in an attempt to break the strike of thousands of postal workers, the Army is the force which defends the corporate elite when their other strategys fail.

One reason that ROTC has been the target of so many attacks is because of the key role it plays in the Vietnamese War. Over 50% of American officers (and 5 of 6 Commanding Generals in Vietnam) are ROTC products. And Cal, with 450 students enrolled, has one of the largest ROTC programs on the West Coast.

The significance of ROTC in carrying out U.S. policy is perhaps best expressed by a statement (quoted in the Wall Street Journal) by a University President who, as a member of Secretary of Defense Laird's ROTC Advisory Committee said: "Right now the trouble (anti-ROTC demonstrations) is manageable, but if it spreads to such key campuses as Wisconsin, Michigan, and California, then we're in serious difficulties."

What this means is that by building a movement to abolish ROTC, we will be concretely working to end the war and get the U.S. out of Vietnam and Southeast Asia Now!

Come to SMC mass meeting Tuesday night, 7:30, 2000 LSB.  
to make plans to continue the struggle against ROTC

WAR ON AGAINST ROTC AFTER TUESDAY RALLY