

Translation of editorial note on Argentina in the
"News of the workers movement and the International" section of
the March 1971 Quatrième Internationale

First Actions of the Revolutionary People's Army

People's war continues to escalate, according to El Combatiente, the organ of the PRT [Partido Revolucionario de Trabajadores -- Revolutionary Workers Party, the Argentinian section of the Fourth International]. Notable among the actions carried out by the ERP [Ejercito Revolucionario del Pueblo -- People's Revolutionary Army] was the brief occupation of the FIAT factory near Cordoba where the armed commando group called all the workers together for a general assembly and discussion. The men in the factory warmly applauded the revolutionists.

According to a report by the Cuban press agency Prensa Latina, published in the Cuban magazine Bohemia, "The ERP was born September 18, 1970, with the assault of a commando team on police Precinct House No. 24 in the city of Rosario." According to the same source, the ERP has a six-point program:

1. Abrogation of all military and political pacts binding Argentina to the United States.
2. The establishment of a revolutionary people's government led by the workers and in which the popular masses would participate through mass organizations (committees).
3. Abrogation of the agreements with the International Monetary Fund and all organizations dominated by imperialism.
4. Expropriation without compensation, and nationalization of all imperialist concerns as well as those of Argentinian capitalists who support imperialism.
5. Nationalization of all banks and foreign trade. A deepgoing agrarian reform. A State monopoly of foreign trade.
6. Workers control of all nationalized enterprises.

Among the many ERP actions mentioned by Bohemia, besides attacks on police precinct houses and barracks aimed at getting arms and punishing the torturers, were expropriations of banks, seizures of milk and meat for distribution to the children in poor neighborhoods, occupying theaters to show revolutionary films, etc.

In its January 1971 issue, the Argentinian left Christian magazine Cristianismo y Revolucion published a report on the ERP in which one of the leaders of this organization was quoted as saying that the PRT constitutes the political-military leadership of the ERP, that the ERP is open to all activists and groups adhering to other political tendencies which accept its program, and that the PRT is part "of the Fourth International led by Ernest Mandel, Pierre Frank, and Alain Krivine."