

**CAL: "our combat  
is anonymous  
and armed"**

from *Tricontinental*, Havana; September, 1972

**Liberty must be paid for at its just price and it is written with the heroism and sacrifice of the purest and most noble of our nationality.**

**Pedro Albizu Campos**

In Puerto Rico, U.S. enterprises receive a 40% profit on their investment while in the United States they receive only 12%.

Despite the fact that production per man-hour is the same in the Puerto Rican colony as in the Yankee metropolis, the island worker receives a third the monthly salary of a New York worker and the cost of living is 15% higher.

By exploiting the Puerto Rican work force, the investors from the north—who control 85% of the island's imports, and 95% of its exports—have acquired 80% of industrial production, 50% of livestock production, 40% of retail trade, 100% of communications and of air and sea transportation.

The value of the island's monopolistic properties reaches more than \$6 billion, which represents more than half the total U.S. investments on the Latin American continent.

In September of 1967, various U.S.-owned stores located in the commercial center of Santa Rosa de Bayamon were destroyed by fire.

Four million dollars in material losses was the cost of the fire in which the Armed Liberation Commandos (CAL) reinitiated armed struggle "in order to wipe out the rich foreign exploiters who live by our sweat, through an attack on the fundamental and determining base of their colonial power: the economic factor."

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*Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States for two fundamental reasons:*

- 1. Because it can be used by North American imperialism as a base of political penetration and military aggression against the countries of the Third World.*
  - 2. Because of the high economic benefits that the U.S. monopolies take out due to the colonial capitalist system that rules on the island.*
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The head of CAL, Alfonso Beal, declared in an interview that "we are the fighting arm of the Puerto Rican independence struggle and our actions are designed to undermine the stability and colonial peace of the imperialist invaders."

Other sabotages were carried out by the guerrilla organization which, in its first phase, set out to cause North American enterprises losses of \$100,000,000.

A financial crisis took place among the insurance companies which began to refuse fire protection policies for Yankee firms until the colonial government promulgated a law establishing official subsidies for the insurance companies.

In its first clandestine bulletin, CAL stated that "direct action is the principal task and abundantly strengthens our efforts; our actions are already commented on by the public to whom we orient ourselves scientifically in the difficult art of clandestine war in order to place imperialism's interests in our country in check until they leave."

The first zone of guerrilla operations was in Condado, located in the city of San Juan, where U.S. gangsterism and Cuban expatriates control gambling, prostitution and drug traffic.

One of the explosions that shook this area took place in September 1971, when the governors of the United States were meeting on the island.

On that occasion, CAL noted that the action was in protest against the presence of foreign functionaries, and affirmed that "there is nothing that can deter our pledge to drive the Yankees out of Puerto Rico."

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*We feel proud because we have been able to do something for the independence of our homeland. The organization of a small guerrilla army seemed like an impossibility several years ago but today it is a reality.*

*We now have this army and our actions are ever stronger against the enemy: the North American empire. Our discipline is of iron. Our fighters are well trained, they carry out their actions correctly and no one is able to seize them. We have explosives, ammunition and arms to expand the war far beyond what the enemy imagines.*

*We believe that the creation of a liberation army is indispensable to the conquest of independence and we will not cease improving and expanding it constantly.*

*Alfonso Beal, leader of CAL*

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Two shops belonging to the New York Department Store chain were also destroyed by bombs in response to the rightist terrorists who had made several attempts on the lives of Puerto Rican independence fighters and in solidarity with those on strike against that commercial entity.

In a communique issued the day after the sabotage of the electronic switchboard in El Comandante hippodrome, the armed commandos stated that "the struggles that our proletariat is waging for better working conditions are an example for all of us because many of us are members of the working class" and they also reaffirmed their commitment "to cooperate in every way possible with the workers' struggles."

It was to this end that they blew up the refrigeration system of the General Electric branch in Palmer in support of the work stoppage that was being boycotted by a traitor group.

During the strike of 2000 workers at Puerto Rico Telephone, subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT), CAL carried out actions that caused a million dollars' worth of material damages against the imperialist monopoly, and paralyzed internal and external communications on the island

including those at the air base of the U.S. Strategic Command, in Ramey.

After that, the demands of the workers of *El Mundo* were supported by the urban guerrillas with the destruction of five helicopters belonging to the Helicopter Rental Service which were to be used to transport strike breakers to the building where the reactionary daily is housed.

"Our combat is anonymous and armed [the Armed Liberation Commandos state] but we seek the power of the working class, independence and socialism."

Inspired by the Grito de Lares of 1868 and the Jayuya Revolution of 1950, the Puerto Rican guerrillas attack the cornerstones of colonial power in a war of destruction which "we do not desire but which the enemy imposes on us," as Che said, and which is moving toward the conquest of independence of the homeland of Betances, Hostos and Albizu Campos.

**This is nationality intervened and we must give life to the defensive war to which we have a right.**

**Pedro Albizu Campos**

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**In Puerto Rico:**

- The annual personal income of three fourths of the population is 500 dollars.
  - 700,000 persons live in deteriorated houses in the outskirts of the principal cities.
  - For a population of more than 2,750,000 there are only 3000 doctors and 138 hospitals; 52% of the doctors live in San Juan.
  - Unemployment affects 30% of the working population.
  - In five years the deficit in the balance of payments rose 57%.
  - In one year (1969-70), the deficit in the commercial balance rose 43.8%.
  - The foreign debt, public and private, grew 30 times in 20 years. It is currently \$6,861,000,000.
  - The net income earned by the agricultural sector dropped from 31% to 4% in 30 years; 13% of the best cultivable lands are occupied by the Pentagon's military bases.
  - More than \$2,500,000 in merchandise comes from the United States at a price that exceeds that of the world market by 20%; 50% of the food products consumed are U.S.-made.
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