

japan

Terrorist Bombing Sets Off New Round Of Attacks On Japanese Workers

Sept. 11 (IPS) — The terrorist bombing Aug. 31 of the downtown Tokyo office of the Mitsubishi Corporation signalled the beginning of a wave of CIA-directed terror aimed at the Japanese working class. The bombing has been linked by the Japanese press and police to ultra-leftists, and has been followed by a string of bomb threats and police mobilizations designed to create an atmosphere of “anti-extremist” public sentiment. The real targets of this campaign are not the ultra-left, already heavily CIA-infiltrated, but the working class — specifically the leftwing-led trade union movement,

which is about to embark on a fall campaign, a “second spring struggle” following the offensive earlier this year which won 30 per cent wage increases.

The bombing followed by less than a week the national convention of Sohyo (General Council of Trade Unions of Japan), which laid out the program for the fall struggle — a program which in itself lays workers open for isolation as “money-hungry extremists” unwilling to cooperate with the austerity plans of Rockefeller and his colleagues in the organization of Japanese big business leaders, the Zaikai.



Evidence of CIA complicity in the bombing is extensive. The ultra-left group most frequently linked by the press to the bombing is the Sekigun-ha, or "Red Army," whose previous terrorist activities include the Lod airport massacre and numerous hijackings carried out in cooperation with CIA-organized Palestinian terrorist squads such as Black September. The Red Army's activities in Japan have conveniently provided the eager and efficient Japanese National Police Agency with abundant excuses to carry out "seal and search" operations, including raids on the offices and homes of leftists. Similar operations were carried out this summer against the leftist Japan Teachers Union.

These psywar operations are aimed at a working class whose leadership is entering the most crucial period in postwar history with its eyes closed to reality. This pathological avoidance of reality — the island ideology of Japan — was nowhere more evident than at the Sohyo national convention held in Tokyo August 19-22. The convention, in stark contrast to stormy meetings in the past, was a carefully orchestrated funeral ceremony, orderly in all respects and devoid of political discussion. The delegates crowded around the television watching the high-school baseball championships showed more enthusiasm than those who dozed on the convention floor.

While rhetoric about the "people's struggle against inflation" and fighting fascism was plentiful, not a word was said about the present depression and Rockefeller's programmed collapse of the Japanese economy, which is totally in hock to Chase Manhattan Bank.

The fall program adopted by the convention calls merely for a repeat of the "successful" spring formula accompanied by a mindless series of militant but im-

potent short strikes paving the way for a leaderless militant upsurge of the working class inevitably followed by demoralization and the full-scale implementation of Rockefeller's fascist cannibalization of Japan.

Japanese-style Chile

Sohyo's call for large wage increases this fall, while clearly justified in light of the continuing 30 per cent inflation rate, in fact leads the working class into a carefully laid trap, opening the way for the Chileanization of Japan. The decision of the ruling class to agree to the 30 per cent wage increase in the Spring Offensive, while due in part to the weakness of the Tanaka regime, was calculated to lay the blame for further inflation and economic collapse on the trade unions.

The CIA strategy also includes the use of the counter-gang rightwing trade union federation Domei (Japanese Confederation of Labor) and rightwing elements within Sohyo to isolate militants in the latter as reckless "extremists" out to wreck the economy of the motherland. The rightwing strongholds in Sohyo, centered on Tekkororen (Japanese Federation of Iron and Steel Workers Unions) and the Chemical Workers union, combined with the majority of private and heavy industry unions which are in Domei, make possible the isolation of the public worker unions which are the major strength of Sohyo. The Chairman of Tekkororen, Miyata, has publicly declared that increased wage rates are "inappropriate at a time when it is feared that Japan's economy will register a zero growth rate." Thus a population suffering from inflation and collapse will be pitted against "inflation-causing" public employees, making the riot of train commuters two years ago against striking railway workers look like a strike support action.