Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

international, movement-driven institution focused on stimulating intellectual debate that serves people’s aspirations.

Religion is the Sigh of the Oppressed Creature: The Twenty-Seventh Newsletter (2019).

celina · Thursday, July 4th, 2019
is often prevented from having a 'clear theoretical consciousness of this practical activity'. On the other hand, the worker has 'inherited from the past and uncritically absorbed' a feeling of real suffering and a sense of the great stresses of our time. Such a praxis of therapy can help to connect the consciousness of the workers and provide a powerful understanding of the world, the clarity to see the chains that had to be broken. Over the years, they have been organizing, fighting, and organizing again. As part of their presentation, they displayed posters from the Organisation of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (OSPAAAL) as well as posters by compañeros Héctor (1924-1992), the Indian communist leader who spent her life building the citadels of the working class in the factories and the fields. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is an expression of the contradictions of life, the force of protest against real suffering. Religion is the opium of the people. This is a powerful statement, one that seeks to understand why it is that people turn to religion. Today, in a world of multiple ideologies, in a world of complex social hierarchies, in a world of globalisation, religion can provide a source of comfort, a sense of community, and a sense of belonging. It is the only answer to the question: How will the working class win? The only answer is to mobilise workers, to organise, to fight for their rights, to build a new world. The workers have the power, the workers have the consciousness, the workers have the strength. The only answer is to mobilise workers.