



Washington, D.C., April 1968.

**"It is curious but not inexplicable: 1968 was perhaps the worst year in American history, yet it is a year for which many people are nostalgic."**

**George F. Will  
syndicated columnist  
January 14, 1988**

A CALENDAR FROM THE

**1968**

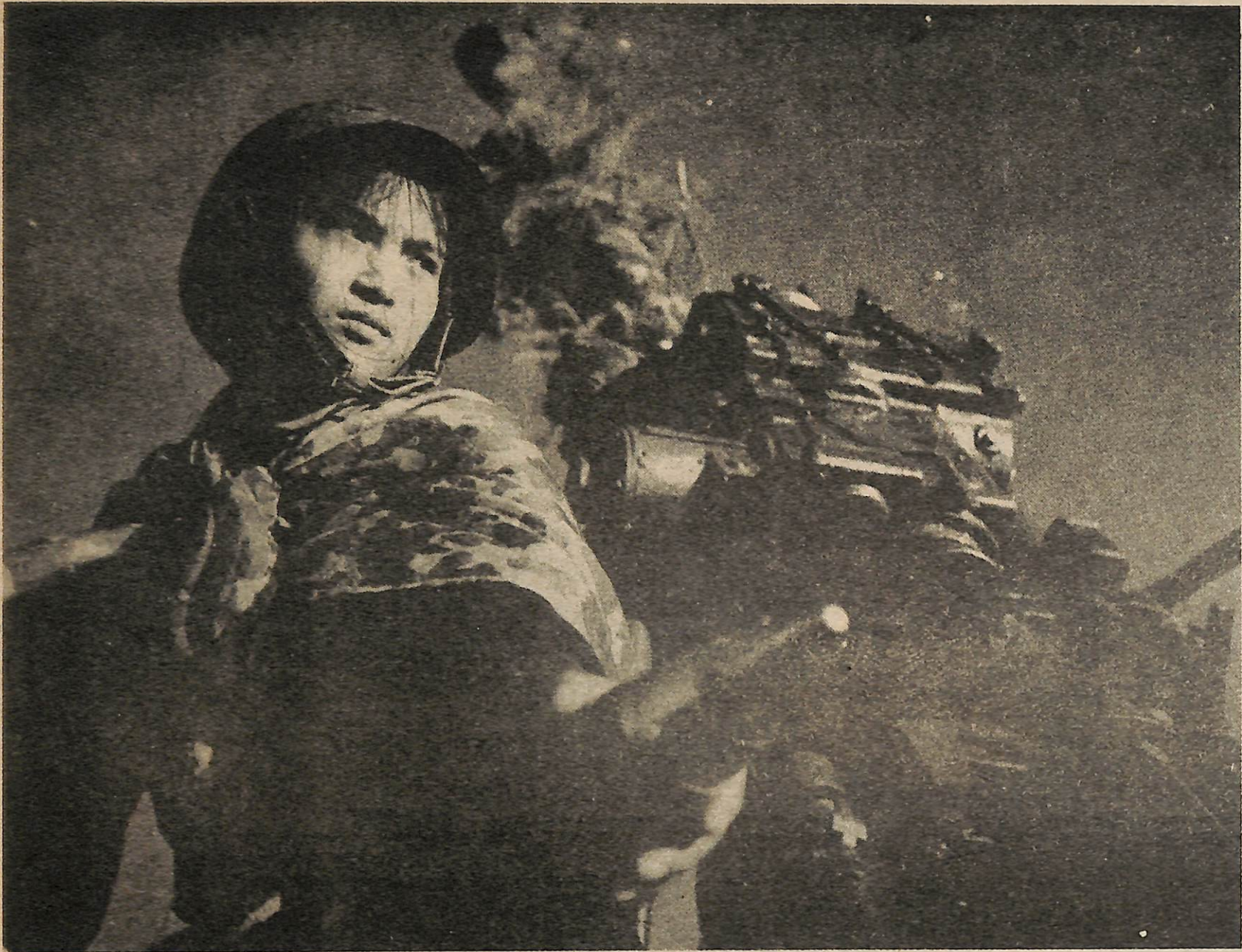
BELLY OF THE BEAST



Twenty years ago this week, Black people rose up in more than 100 cities across the U.S. And from revolutionary China a message was sent by Mao Tsetung. It was a political storm the likes of which had not been seen in the heartland of this cocky empire, the United States.

So it seems right on the anniversary of this big historic storm to celebrate with a brief calendar of some of the high points of the year 1968. This calendar takes special aim at the belly of this beast, but all over the world things were turning upside down.

Twenty years have passed since 1968, but it was one of those years which left its mark on the planet. Karl Marx once said about world history that "in developments of such magnitude twenty years are no more than a day, though later on there may come days in which twenty years are embodied." And 1968 was full of those kinds of days. It was a very bad year for the men who rule the United States and their allies. It was a very bad year for their act-alike social-imperialist rivals in the Soviet Union. And it was a fine year for the oppressed people of the world.



Vietnamese fighter

**January**

Revolutionary Union, forerunner to the RCP,USA, founded in San Francisco Bay Area

- 1 Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution continues in China — New Year's editorial in Chinese press calls for political rectification of communist party and recruitment of advanced proletarians
- 5 Boston 5 indicted for draft resistance conspiracy
- 18 Singer Eartha Kitt denounces Vietnam War at White House luncheon
- 23 U.S.S. Pueblo captured off Korea
- 30 Tet offensive launched by Vietnamese against U.S. forces marks turning point in Vietnam War

**February**

- 8 Three Black students murdered by state troopers and 27 wounded during protest against segregation at Orangeburg, South Carolina
- 12 Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice published
- 17 International student conference against Vietnam War in Berlin
- 18 Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) merges with the Black Panther Party
- 29 Kerner Commission report on Civil Disorders in U.S. released



U.S. troops during Tet



U.S. embassy, Saigon



The Pueblo



Berlin student conference



Palestinian fighter

**March**

- 9 Westmoreland asks for 209,000 more troops for Vietnam
- 12 Eugene McCarthy upsets New Hampshire primary on antiwar ticket against President Lyndon B. Johnson  
Autonomous student union formed in Czechoslovakia
- 16 U.S. troops commit My Lai massacre in Vietnam
- 17 30,000 demonstrators protest Vietnam War at U.S. Embassy in London
- 19 Secretary of Defense McNamara resigns
- 21 Battle of Karamah, turning point in Palestinian struggle
- 22 General Westmoreland removed from command in Vietnam  
French students occupy University of Nanterre,  
French general strike movement begins
- 25 Foreign policy "Wise Men" meet in Washington,  
LBJ fired by ruling class
- 28 National Guard called into Memphis against Black protesters  
Spain: Madrid University closed because of student unrest
- 30 Police attack Yippie demonstration in New York's  
Grand Central Station
- 31 LBJ announces he will not run again  
Republic of New Afrika organization formed



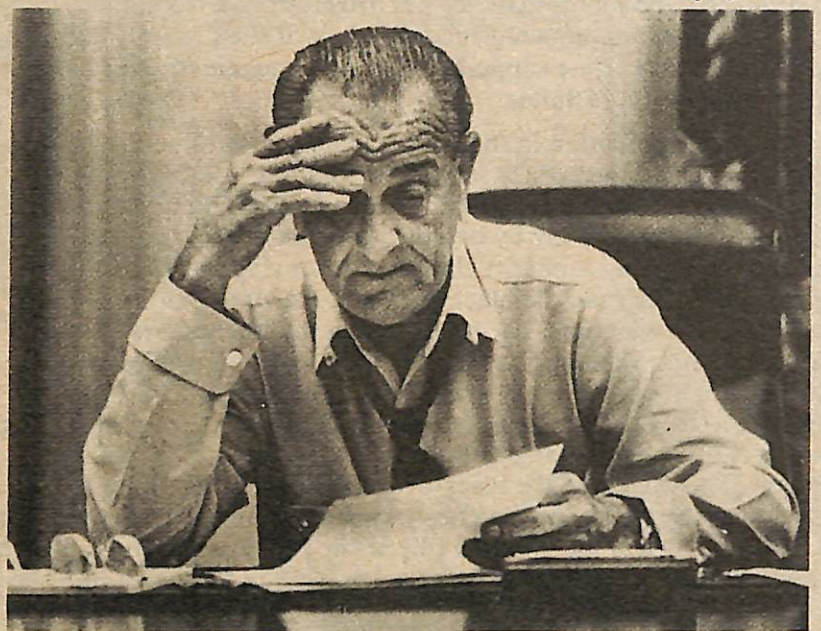
Madrid University, Spain



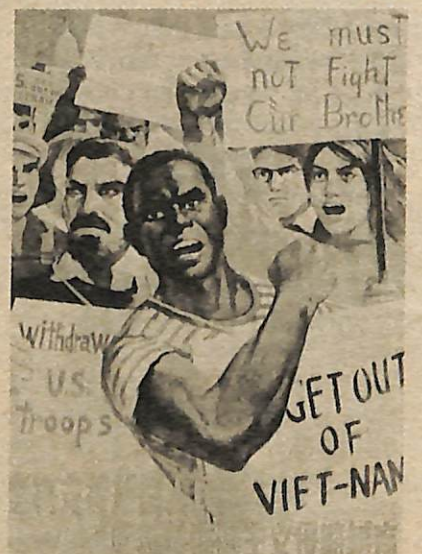
McNamara



Westmoreland



L.B.J.



Chinese poster: "Resolutely support the American people in their opposition to American aggression in Vietnam"



**Statement by Comrade Mao Tsetung,  
Chairman of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party of China,  
In Support of the Afro-American Struggle  
Against Violent Repression  
(April 16, 1968)**

Some days ago, Martin Luther King, the Afro-American clergyman, was suddenly assassinated by the U.S. imperialists. Martin Luther King was an exponent of non-violence. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists did not on that account show any tolerance towards him, but used counter-revolutionary violence and killed him in cold blood. This has taught the broad masses of the black people in the United States a profound lesson. It has touched off a new storm in their struggle against violent repression sweeping well over a hundred cities in the United States, a storm such as has never taken place before in the history of that country. It shows that an extremely powerful revolutionary force is latent in the more than 20 million black Americans.

The storm of Afro-American struggle taking place within the United States is a striking manifestation of the comprehensive political and economic crisis now gripping U.S. imperialism. It is dealing a telling blow to U.S. imperialism, which is beset with difficulties at home and abroad.

The Afro-American struggle is not only a struggle waged by the exploited and oppressed black people for freedom and emancipation, it is also a new clarion call to all the exploited and oppressed people of the United States to fight against the barbarous rule of the monopoly capitalist class. It is a tremendous support and inspiration to the struggle of the people throughout the world against U.S. imperialism and to the struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialism. On behalf of the Chinese people, I hereby express resolute support for the just struggle of the black people in the United States.

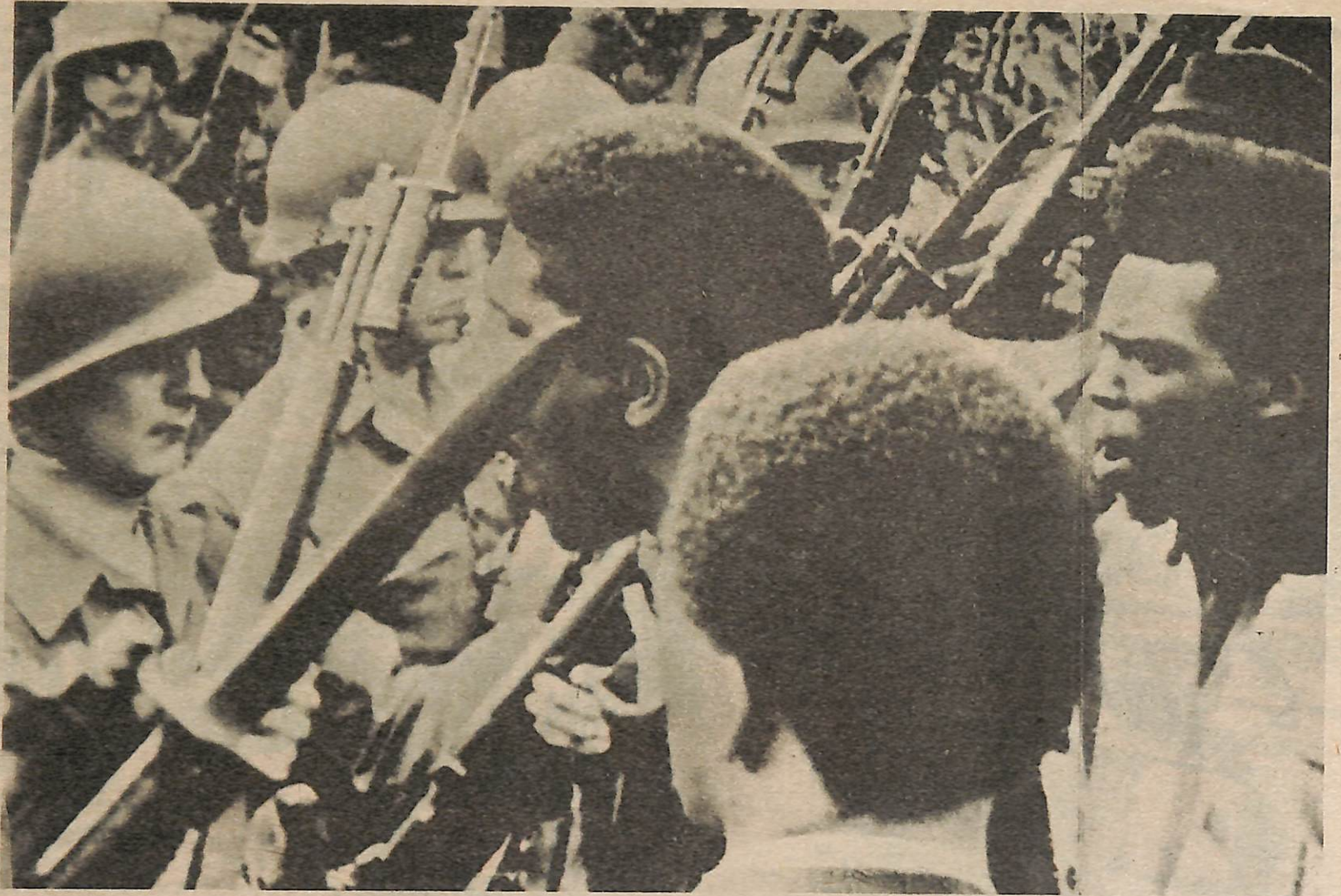
Racial discrimination in the United States is a product of the colonialist and imperialist system. The contradiction between the black masses in the United States and the U.S. ruling circles is a class contradiction. Only by overthrowing the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class and destroying the colonialist and imperialist system can the black people in the United States win complete emancipation. The black masses and the masses of white working people in the United States share common interests and have common objectives to struggle for. Therefore, the Afro-American struggle is winning sympathy and support from increasing numbers of white working people and progressives in the United States. The struggle of the black people in the United States is bound to merge with the American workers' movement, and this will eventually end the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class.

In 1963, in my "Statement Supporting the Afro-Americans in Their Just Struggle Against Racial Discrimination by U.S. Imperialism" I said that "the evil system of colonialism and imperialism arose and thrived with the enslavement of Negroes and the trade in Negroes, and it will surely come to its end with the complete emancipation of the black people." I still maintain this view.

At present, the world revolution has entered a great new era. The struggle of the black people in the United States for emancipation is a component part of the general struggle of all the people of the world against U.S. imperialism, a component part of the contemporary world revolution. I call on the workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals of every country and all who are willing to fight against U.S. imperialism to take action and extend strong support to the struggle of the black people in the United States! People of the whole world, unite still more closely and launch a sustained and vigorous offensive against our common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and against its accomplices! It can be said with certainty that the complete collapse of colonialism, imperialism and all systems of exploitation, and the complete emancipation of all the oppressed peoples and nations of the world are not far off.



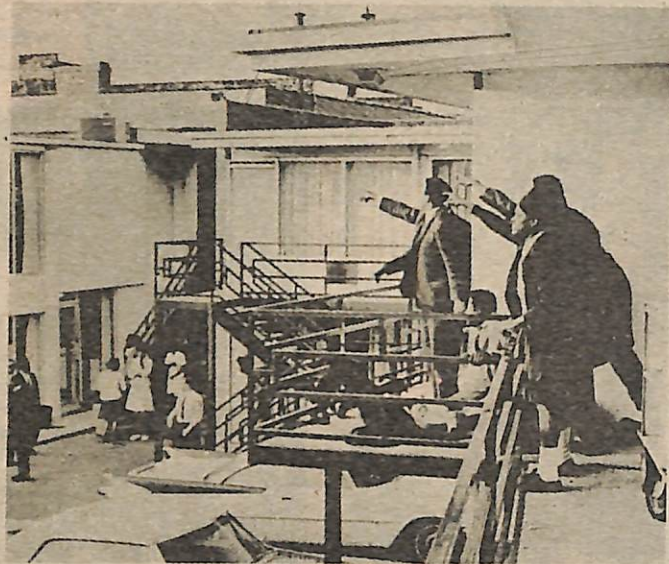
Sian, Shensi province, China: Demonstration in support of the Black liberation struggle



Pittsburgh



Harlem



MLK assassinated, Memphis



Students occupy Columbia U.

**April**

- 3 National draft card burning events
- 4 Martin Luther King is assassinated
- 5 Black rebellions erupt in more than 100 cities across the U.S. 65,000 troops called out; 38 people killed; 15,000 arrested
- 6 Black Panther leader Bobby Hutton, 16 years old, murdered by police
- 10 Civil Rights Bill is passed with "Rap Brown amendment" attached, which makes crossing state lines to incite riot a federal crime
- 11 German student leader Rudi Dutschke shot  
Massive Easter protests in West Germany against Vietnam War
- 16 Mao Tsetung issues Statement in Support of the Afro-American Struggle Against Violent Repression
- 23 Students seize Columbia University in New York
- 26 National Student Strike  
1 million college and high school youth participate
- 27 Police attack major anti-war march in Chicago  
200,000 demonstrate in New York City
- 30 Police storm Columbia University



West Berlin, Germany



Li'l Bobby Hutton



Burning draft cards



Morning after the Night of the Barricades, Paris, France



French president DeGaulle



**May**

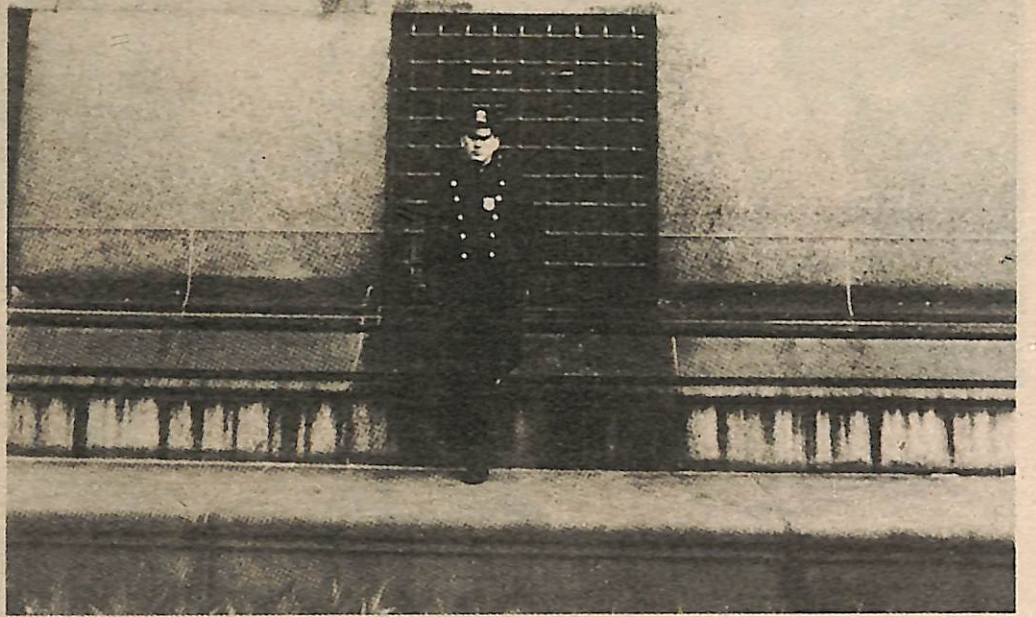
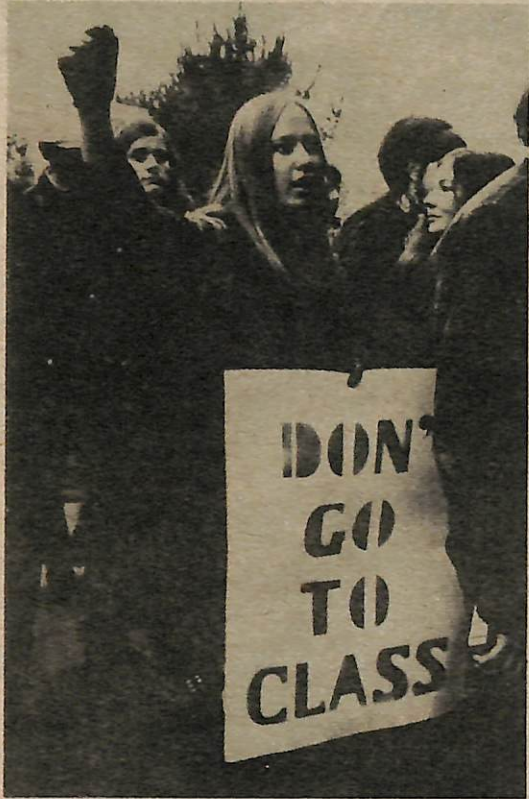
- 10 FBI's COINTELPRO goes into full operation
- 10-11 Night of the Barricades in Paris, France
- 13 French general strike
- Poor Peoples campaign opens Resurrection City in Washington D.C.
- 18 Wedding of South African exile Miriam Makeba and Stokely Carmichael
- Miriam Makeba is practically banned from U.S. concert stages
- 20 State of emergency laws passed by W. German parliament
- 29 Police attack students occupying University of Dakar in Senegal



Street fighting in Germany



FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover



**June**

- 5 Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated
- 15 By June 15 there had been 221 major campus demos, 417 arrests, and 59 building seizures at U.S. colleges
- 29-30 Police attack 10,000 student demonstrators in Zurich, Switzerland, 2,500 are arrested

**July**

- 5 Burning and ruining of the American flag made a federal crime
- 14 Martial law declared in Uruguay in response to Tupamaros
- 23-24 Black rebellion in Cleveland, National Guard mobilized
- 27 Chairman Mao calls for Chinese workers to lead struggle-criticism-transformation in Cultural Revolution — workers are invited to universities to change the education system
- 27-28 Black rebellion in Gary, Indiana
- 29 All schools in Mexico City closed because of student unrest

Building occupation, Columbia U.



Workers' Mao Tsetung Thought propaganda team enters Northeast Industrial College, China



Berkeley



Cleveland Rebellion



Fort Hood.

**August**

- 8 Nixon nominated in Miami at Republican convention  
Six Black people killed in Miami rioting
- 16 Major GI rebellion at Marine brig in Danang, Vietnam
- 21 Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia
- 23-24 Black troops at Ft. Hood refuse to board planes for riot duty  
at Chicago Democratic Convention
- 26-29 Democratic Party National Convention nominates Hubert Humphrey,  
Chicago Mayor Daley sends police against demonstrators
- 30 250 GIs rebel at Longbinh Jail in Saigon (a.k.a. LBJ)  
and take over the prison for almost a month



Chicago Mayor Richard Daley



Prague, Czechoslovakia





Demonstrators arrive in Chicago



Democratic National Convention, Chicago



At Miss America pageant, Atlantic City

**September**

- Revolutionary Union key founding document, "Statement of Principles," is circulated publicly
- 7 Women's liberationists throw high heels, girdles, bras, and other "instruments of female torture" into "freedom trash can" at Miss America Contest in Atlantic City
- 12 Albania withdraws from Warsaw Pact
- 18 Police occupy universities in Mexico City



Catonsville 9 burn draft records



Mexico City



University students at Plaza Tlatelolco, Mexico City

**October**

- 2 Massacre of student protesters in Mexico City
- 7 Trial of Catholic activists, Catonsville 9, begins for destruction of draft records
- 12 Hundreds of GIs take part in San Francisco peace march
- 12-27 Olympic Games in Mexico City climax with Black power salutes
- 31 High party leader Liu Shao-chi is expelled from Chinese Communist Party — a key juncture in Cultural Revolution



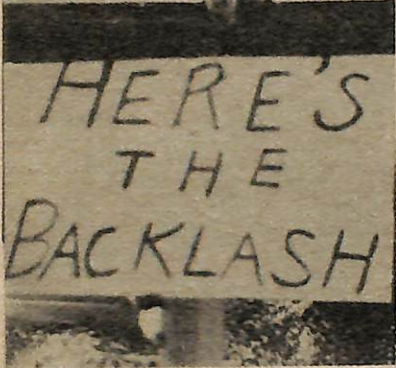
Lee Evans, Larry James, Ron Freeman



Olympic Athletes Tommy Smith and John Carlos



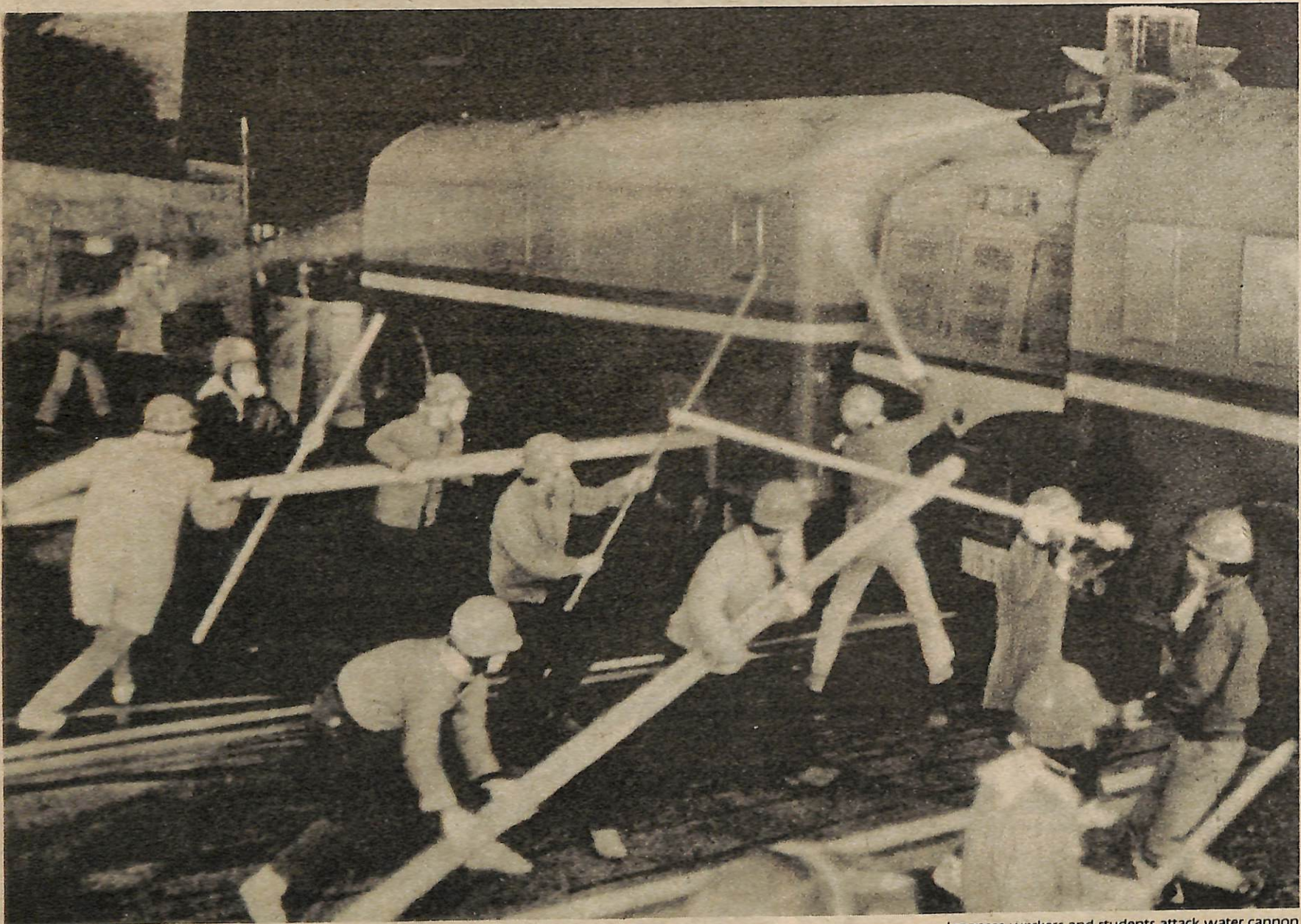
Naxalite revolutionaries in India



Nixon

**November**

- 1 LBJ announces halt in bombing of North Vietnam
- 6 Longest student strike at San Francisco State College demands full status for Black Studies
- 7 Nixon wins U.S. presidential election  
In Japan, young workers and students protest Japan-U.S. "security treaty" demanding the return of Okinawa
- 24 Naxalite revolutionaries launch guerrilla warfare in Srikakulam, India
- 25 Student riots in Alexandria, Egypt
- 27 First National Women's Liberation Conference held in Lake Villa, Illinois.



Japanese workers and students attack water cannon



Panther George Murray at San Francisco State strike

**December**

- Black students form South African Student Organization in Natal, South Africa
- Student demonstrations in U.S. burn ROTC buildings to ground
- Successful National Organization for Women (NOW) campaign to stop newspapers from segregating job advertisements by sex
- 14 San Francisco state suspends all classes
- 20 Gomulka government falls in Poland after strikes and demonstrations
- 26-31 SDS meets in Ann Arbor with 1,200 students as political lines sharpen in student movement over which way forward

