by years of mass struggle of workers, peasants and students; and this remains a historic example even should United States imperialism succeed in temporarily destroying it.

In conclusion, I would repeat that the subject of the article — "the position of the various left wing or left of centre sections of the ALP" — cannot be studied apart from the development of united struggle and the influence of a much strengthened marxist-leninist party.

RALPH GIBSON

THE AUSTRALIAN "URBAN GUERRILLA"

I WAS INTERESTED TO READ the material in your last issue about the struggle in Latin America, and to learn that the views of Carlos Marighela on waging the main battle by guerrilla warfare in urban areas were also to be published. Australian revolutionaries should have attitudes of respect for and solidarity with, the urban guerrillas of Latin America who are engaged in heroic struggle against the repression, torture and poverty perpetrated by present rulers and their US overlords, but I think the different approaches needed in Australia should also be pointed out.

The Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla by Carlos Marighela outlines the methods of the Brazilian urban guerrillas carried out in copybook fashion by the kidnappings of the Ambassadors and subsequent release of a number of left wing political prisoners. The justness and necessity of armed urban revolutionary struggle in such contexts as that prevailing in Brazil seems obvious. Armed struggle, urban and rural, as a revolutionary method is undoubtedly valid in countries where political repression, torture and violence is the order of the day, where grinding poverty and total lack of political rights depress the mass of people.

Armed guerrilla action is only possible, and justified, in specific conditions, when that form of struggle is the only real avenue open, when it can inspire and mobilise masses of people or has that distinct possibility. The Chinese and Cuban revolutions amply illustrate this point. As Martin Oppenheimer puts it "Society must suffer from sufficient strains so as to allow (armed) revolutionary activity to 'make sense'". The Latin American urban guerrilla therefore deals with machine guns, explosives and firing groups as well as leaflets, slogans and political action.

However our Australian urban guerrilla is a revolutionary, a socialist, armed with substantiated criticism of the system and with at least some kind of revolutionary perspective, who protests, demonstrates, speaks and writes, supports the NLF, sits in, fights to organise and educate large numbers of students and workers to an anti-capitalist position and is prepared to wage a many-sided and protracted fight for a socialist Australia.

Our urban guerrilla studies Marx, Lenin, Mao, Marcuse, Guevara, Gramsci, Chomsky and all writers who have contributed to the wealth of social theory, regarding their works as a valuable assistant to the formation of a coherent and viable socialist strategy in Australia. Our guerrilla seeks to assist the development of counter culture and counter structures and strives to pose challenges to the capitalist system which are difficult to absorb and which awaken peoples' consciousness.
Carlos Marighela in his *Minimanual* discusses the seven sins of the urban guerrilla. While the contexts are vastly different the "seven sins" can be considered in an Australian setting too. He lists inexperience, boasting, vanity, exaggerating one's strength, precipitous action, attacking the enemy when he's most angry and failure to plan and organise.

In Australian (and US) circumstances the trends towards elitism are cause for concern. No elite, no small band of determined men can substitute for mass revolutionary action nor manufacture or impose a revolutionary situation. As the Negro ex-G.I. Andrew Pulley observed: "Some people say the American working class is not radical, and so they try to make a revolution for them by holding a weekly insurrection".

Revolutionaries need political organisation, a political party embracing workers, students, academics, etc., whose influence can be widely exerted and reach circles which no elite group can hope to do, whose main purpose, as posed by Christopher Lasch, is to "introduce socialist perspectives into political debate, to create broad consciousness of alternatives not embraced by the present system, to show both by teaching and by its own example that life under socialism would be preferable . . ."

Such a party Martin Oppenheimer (*Urban Guerrilla*, Penguin) suggests "must reflect a genuine movement from the bottom up. It cannot be slapped together by an ad hoc group at the top. It must represent, in a genuine way, local, neighborhood, campus and work-place groups which are already functioning along anti-establishment lines. Furthermore it must seriously orient itself to the problems of white and blue collar workers, for these are the only classes which, due to their relationship to the functioning of modern society, have the potential for making a revolution and the capability of carrying it through on a democratic basis".

If such points are taken into account the *Minimanual* provides an interesting source of study and information.

**AUTHOR'S CHALLENGE**

WITH REFERENCE to Mr. Teichmann's review of *A New Britannia* (*ALR*, 30) there are a number of points I would like to make in reply but in order to secure attention on his allegation of plagiarism I will not do so at *this time*. Instead I want to say two things about this allegation.

One, it is completely untrue.

Two, I challenge Mr. Teichmann to present to a committee of three of our academic peers a fully documented case demonstrating which ideas I took from the B.A. (Hons.) thesis of Dr. J. B. Dalton. In turn I will present a rebuttal and all relevant material. The membership of this committee would be subject to mutual agreement, but (without having consulted them) I nominate Robin Gollan, Russel Ward and Ian Turner.

I would expect this offer to be taken up immediately or for a full retraction (I do not care for an apology from Mr. Teichmann) to appear in *ALR* 32.

**Humphrey McQueen**

Due to the late receipt of the above, any replies and comments will have to be made in subsequent issues.—Ed.