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 Mininalaul 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 revolu­
tionary 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, sup­
ports 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 manysided
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 workplace 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.

**JOHN SENDY**

**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.